McMurtry Building, Stanford University

AT STANFORD, THE ART AND ART HISTORY PROGRAMS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF THE SAME department, creating a unique culture in which the study and practice of art are strongly intertwined. In 2015, this distinct connection will attain even greater importance with the opening of the McMurtry Building, the new home for the Department of Art & Art History. By bringing programs in art practice, design, art history, film and media studies, and documentary film under one roof for the first time, the building will maximize interactions among these diverse disciplines. The McMurtry Building will also place the department next to the Cantor Arts Center and the Anderson Collection at Stanford University.

Named in recognition of lead support from Deedee and Burt McMurtry, MS ’59, PhD ’62, the 90,000-square-foot building will physically embody the relationship between the studying and making of art. Equally divided between art history and studio art programs, the design of the building features two L-shaped wings that mirror each other in a loose embrace around an outdoor courtyard. The Art & Architecture Library connects and facilitates these two modes of inquiry, positioned between them in a glass-walled structure comprising the entire second floor.

Giving Opportunities

$5 Million

LIBRARY | The Art & Architecture Library contains one of the leading academic research collections in the country, with over 150,000 volumes housed on site in compact shelving. The library occupies the entire second floor and is the largest space in McMurtry at 15,800 square feet. The library’s Visual Resources Center (a digital image production and processing operation) creates a curriculum-driven online imagebase for instruction and research. The library includes a climate-controlled special collections area with material ranging from a 1549 text to contemporary artists’ books. The design of the library floor facilitates the library-as-laboratory model, containing excellent study spaces, separate graduate student carrels (which can be named separately), a seminar room, multimedia capturing, processing, and viewing stations, and a year-round exhibition program featuring the library’s special collections as well as student work. This facility will set a new 21st-century standard in humanities research.
$2.5 Million

CAFÉ AND COVERED COURTYARD | At 6,000 square feet, the covered courtyard looks out onto the Rodin Sculpture Garden and the lawn shared by the McMurtry Building and Cantor Arts Center. This is an open-air courtyard with a unique design, including a conversation area that seats 60 people. As a prominent, first-floor space, it will be an inspiring place to study or meet over a cup of coffee from the adjoining café. This is where the two strands of the building—making and studying—begin and end, and thus the covered courtyard embodies the collaborative spirit of the building. The courtyard can be named separately for $2M.

$2 Million

FLEXIBLE PRESENTATION SPACE (RESERVED) | This is one of the most transformative spaces in the building—and there is no other place like it on campus. Creative flexibility characterizes this innovative space, which can quickly transform from a lecture hall to a premier film-screening destination to an indoor/outdoor performance venue. This dynamic presentation space is highly visible and located on the first floor close to the main entrance of the building. The space is 1,900 square feet and seats 125 people.

$1.5 Million

GALLERY (RESERVED) | The gallery on the first level will be the heart of the practice program. It will showcase student and faculty work in an interactive space with glass walls. This is located near the main entrance to the building, 1,000 square feet.

LIBRARY READING ROOM | Students will enjoy a special studying experience in this serene space that looks out onto the surrounding treetops from the second floor of the building, 2,100 square feet.

ART YARD | This outdoor art-making and art-studying space is located on the roof of the building. Planters and trees divide the open area into a series of outdoor classrooms and ad hoc studio space for making art. The entire art yard is 10,000 square feet, with a capacity of 250–299 people.

The McMurtry Building will unite programs in art practice, design, art history, film and media studies, and documentary film under one roof for the first time.
$1.2 Million

**LAWN AREA (BETWEEN CANTOR AND MCUMTRY) (RESERVED)** | This is a special opportunity to make a gift in support of shared educational programs and creative interaction between Cantor and the Department of Art & Art History. The lawn will be the heart of these new collaborations.

$1 Million

**PAINTING STUDIOS (RESERVED)** | There is a huge demand on campus for additional painting classes. The new painting studios are designed to meet that demand, potentially doubling the number of students Stanford can accommodate. The impact of this cannot be overstated, as painting is a gateway class for the arts. The studios will also serve as state-of-the-art teaching spaces, and they will be outfitted with presentation screens, dimmable lights, and other capabilities for audiovisual presentations. 1,400 square feet, third floor.

**SCULPTURE STUDIO** | This highly visible studio space is on the first floor, adjacent to the Rodin Sculpture Garden. Sculpture is currently located in the basement of Cummings; this new space will offer greater prominence and access as well as much easier transport of sculpture materials into the studio. The design will enable the painting of sculptures and the creation of larger sculptures, which are significantly constrained in the current facilities. The sculpture studio is directly connected to an outdoor space for spray painting and welding via a glass roll-up door. 1,600 square feet.

**PRINTMAKING STUDIO** | Stanford is one of the few universities that still offers this art form, and this studio will allow that tradition to continue. Because printmaking is currently located in a separate building from most of the art studios, bringing it under the same roof as the other arts will truly enhance its potential. 1,500 square feet, first floor.

**PHOTOGRAPHY SUITE (RESERVED)** | Photography is another area in which Stanford has been unable to meet the student demand for courses. The photography suite will allow the art and art history department to meet that pressing need. Stanford is distinctive because student demand for print photography classes has remained very high, even in this age of digital photography. The suite includes several large group and private darkrooms, a large collaborative workroom, and a print lab. 3,000 square feet, on the lower level.

**ENTRY GALLERY (RESERVED)** | Stretching from the main outdoor entryway to the center of the building and adjacent to the lobby, this space includes bench seating along one wall and an expansive gallery wall for student and faculty works of art. This outdoor gallery will not only provide a showcase for Stanford artists but also a welcoming entryway and compelling gathering place for all who pass through.

**LOBBY (RESERVED)** | This very central, highly-trafficked area will feature small tables and seating flanked by three gallery walls for displaying student and faculty works. Steps away from the main entrance, the lobby will be a natural gathering point as well as a vibrant space for showcasing art.

$750,000

**CAFÉ** | This quick-service café will serve as a social hub for the creative, spontaneous exchange of ideas. It is located on the first floor, adjacent to a gallery space and the covered courtyard and includes a patio with seating for 275 people.
WOOD SHOP (RESERVED) | This highly visible glass-walled studio space on the first floor will be significantly larger than Stanford’s existing wood shop located in the basement of Cummings. The wood shop will add capability of cutting-edge digital fabrication techniques. The space will be connected to the covered courtyard via a roll-up glass door, and also connected to the sculpture studio via a large glass window. 1,000 square feet.

METAL SHOP | Stanford’s offerings in metalworking are extremely limited, due to the size of the current shop. This visible space on the first floor will eliminate that limitation, opening up a whole new area of creative possibilities. 750 square feet.

SCREENING ROOM (RESERVED) | This is a key space for Stanford’s award-winning documentary film program. Because documentary film is currently located in a separate building from the art practice spaces, bringing the programs under the same roof will create new synergies. The screening room will be much more visible than the current space, and it will also be easier for students to access. This state-of-the-art facility is located on the first floor. 600 square feet, with a 35-person capacity.

DOCUMENTARY FILM SUITE | Documentary film is currently located in a separate building from the other arts studios. This is inconvenient in terms of equipment exchange, and isolates film students from the rest of the arts community, making it difficult to enjoy the ease of collaboration that comes with being in a shared space. 2,000 square feet, lower level.

GRADUATE STUDY CARRELS | The carrels will be a key space for art history graduate students. They will be located next to the library to allow easy access to materials during the library’s operating hours, and they will also provide students with a quiet space when the library is closed. Each student “owns” his or her carrel, which features an interesting design with a sloped floor. Glass will be employed to imbue the space with a sense of community. 700 square feet, second floor.

DRAWING STUDIO (2 AVAILABLE AT THIS SIZE) | Drawing is currently spread over two buildings. In the McMurtry Building, the drawing studios will be adjacent to each other, with shared storage space. The studios, both on the third floor, will also serve as state-of-the-art teaching spaces. They will be outfitted with presentation screens, dimmable lights, and other capabilities for audiovisual presentations. The studios will be multipurpose, allowing for work in mixed media, charcoal, collage, and other media. Spaces are 893 and 865 square feet.
$300,000

**CLASSROOM (1 AVAILABLE AT THIS SIZE)** | This classroom is located on the third floor. Many courses taking place in this classroom will be taught by recent exciting faculty hires, including Alexander Nemerov, Richard Meyer, and Fabio Barry. The classroom will have dual-projection and high-resolution projectors for viewing art slides and presentations. The room will also have 16mm projectors for viewing films. 800 square feet, with a 50-person capacity.

**DIGITAL MEDIA STUDIOS (1 AVAILABLE)** | These will be the key spaces for Experimental Media Arts (EMA), which encompass a wide range of arts, including digital, projected, interactive, electronic, and installation arts. Classes taught here will include, among others, digital art, large format printing, art and electronics, and biology and art. Because of their connections with science and engineering, EMA attracts a very broad range of students. The studios will double the capacity and, with its location adjacent to photography and documentary film, enable new collaborations. The critique room will allow students to display their work more prominently than ever before, and one of the studios will be outfitted with surround sound for sound installations. EMA is a one-on-one experience and is extremely popular. 950 square feet, on the lower level.

**DRAWING STUDIO (RESERVED)** | This studio, which is on the second floor, will be identical to the other drawing studios, except that it measures 700 square feet.

$250,000

**CLASSROOM (1 AVAILABLE AT THIS SIZE)** | This classroom is located on the third floor. Many of the courses that take place in this classroom will be taught by recent and exciting new faculty hires, including Alexander Nemerov, Richard Meyer, and Fabio Barry. The classroom will have dual-projection and high-resolution projectors for viewing art slides. The room will also have 16mm projectors for viewing films. 700 square feet, with a 35-person capacity.

**DESIGN STUDIO (RESERVED)** | This space is meant to remain flexible for new directions in design, a joint program with engineering. It includes a critique room (200 square feet) and is located on the mezzanine level. 800 square feet.

$200,000

**GALLERY (RESERVED)** | This corridor runs through the middle of the lower level and will allow for visible, accessible presentations of student work.

**SEMINAR ROOM** | Primarily for photography, this is a 500-square-foot seminar room with a 25-person capacity on the lower level.

$150,000

**SEMINAR ROOM (RESERVED)** | This room will be used for seminars and classes in art and art history. Third floor, 400 square feet, 20-person capacity.
$100,000

**SEMINAR ROOM (1 AVAILABLE AT THIS SIZE)** | Second floor, 350 square feet, can accommodate 15–18 people.

**GRADUATE STUDENT LOUNGE AND TERRACE (RESERVED)** | A lovely, 400-square-foot space on the third floor that will help build community among graduate students. The lounge and terrace also include space for TA meetings. Stanford currently does not have a lounge or TA space for art history graduate students.

**TINKERING LAB** | This functions as a workshop space for digital media studios and will be outfitted with stools and tables for soldering and building electronics. 450 square feet.

**GREEN SCREEN ROOM** | Stanford will have its first green screen room, adding a new capability for filmmaking. The production facilities of this room will enable students to enhance their films like never before.

**RECORDING STUDIO** | This studio is an important space for the documentary film and Experimental Media Arts programs. Stanford currently does not have a recording studio, and it is envisioned that this space will allow students to add sophisticated, well-produced audio to their art or film pieces and also create standalone sound installations.

**GROUP EDIT SPACE** | This will be a greatly expanded space, doubling the size and tripling the current capacity for group editing. The space provides the critical ability for students and faculty to gather regularly to discuss each other’s work.

**PRINTER LABORATORY (RESERVED)** | This will be the first time Stanford has a separate space for printing. This lab will be shared by Experimental Media Arts and photography, promoting crossover.

**CRITIQUE ROOM (2 AVAILABLE)** | “Crit rooms” are interactive spaces where students and faculty can meet together to discuss their work. One is located on the lower level near photography and documentary film. The other is located on the ground floor near sculpture, the wood shop, and printmaking.

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[Architectural rendering of the building exterior from Cantor Art Center Rodin Sculpture Garden.]