

Rebuilding Engineering at U of T

HOW THE CENTRE FOR ENGINEERING INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS CHANGING THE CONCEPTIONS OF ACADEMIC BUILDINGS

The Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering (FASE) continues to advance its mission to: encourage students and faculty to spearhead research, enhance teaching and learning methods, and create a diverse, thriving community. The physical spaces that FASE occupies, however, have remained relatively static since 2002, when the Faculty opened the Bahen Centre for Information Technology on St. George Street.

In need of a space that reflects the changing needs of its research and education, the Faculty will unveil the Centre for Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CEIE)—a building designed to foster collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship—in the autumn of 2017.

Mechanical and Industrial Engineering's Prof. Ron Venter, chair of the CEIE Project Planning Committee, gives us a glimpse into the CEIE's genesis.

CHOOSING A SITE

The ideal spot for the new building had to balance cost and convenience with approval from both the University and the City of Toronto. Initial considerations for the location included the Engineering Annex, but as a developed site with a network of underground pipes and utilities, construction would have been too expensive. Site 17, located behind the Mechanical Engineering Building, posed construction access challenges.

The final choice: Site 10, a surface-level parking lot located just north of the Galbraith Building and west of Simcoe Hall on St. George Street. The location was chosen for ease of construction and its proximity to public transit.

DEFINING THE PURPOSE

The building will combine technology, community, and efficiency for the benefit of the Faculty and the University of Toronto.

The CEIE will not be a conventional academic building; it will catalyze innovation in engineering, and encourage people to rethink how they learn, work, teach and communicate. The building's open concept was designed to encourage cross-disciplinary community and research, one of the Faculty's goals. Programs and institutes will not be isolated from each other. Faculty, staff and students will inhabit the same areas to enhance research and interdisciplinary networking.

After assessing the space requirements of the Faculty and auditing the use of its existing space, the CEIE Project

Décor inside the CEIE will be clean and elegant, mainly using white concrete with Douglas fir and bronze accents.