



UT Austin

Engineering Teaching Center

In 1952 a group of University of Texas engineering students, who earned the name “Gophers,” began digging out the basement of Taylor Hall on the UT Austin campus to create a space where they could study and interact. Using shovels and pick axes, the students dug out more than 67,000 cubic feet of dirt to create a community space known as the “T-Room.”

Nearly 50 years later, as the School of Engineering began efforts to modernize the Engineering Teaching Center, a goal was to incorporate the collaborative community and learning spaces embodied by the original T-Room. In response, O’Connell Robertson created a design to support the School of Engineering’s comprehensive educational delivery with interactive learning spaces. The renovation transformed the building, creating more openness and encouraging collaboration.

A new building entrance helps strengthen the school’s identity, along with a “Da Vinci” wall that exemplifies engineered artistic expression. A new T-Room suite provides views through the learning resource center, multiple collaboration spaces and open study tables. A curved learning lab off the main corridor provides gathering spaces that facilitate impromptu student and teacher conversations. Clean lines, large expanses of glass and modern finishes reinforce the progressive feel of the facility.

Seeing how the new space encourages learning, interaction and collaboration would make the Gophers proud.

