Sustainable and resilient structure that boasts a unique and innovative design.

One of the most exciting elements of the Undergraduate Academic Building’s design is its use of mass timber construction, a cutting-edge building technology that has never been implemented on the Berkeley campus before. This novel approach to construction supports sustainable design practices while also providing a distinct aesthetic that sets the building apart from traditional structures made of steel or concrete.

The use of mass timber in the building’s construction offers numerous benefits, including enhanced sustainability, increased fire resistance, and improved seismic performance. Additionally, the use of this building material contributes to the building’s overall energy efficiency and helps to reduce its carbon footprint. Mass timber construction is also known for its durability and longevity, making it a smart choice for the long-term sustainability of the building.

The Undergraduate Academic Building is a testament to Berkeley’s commitment to sustainable design and innovative building practices. With its use of mass timber construction, the building stands out as a groundbreaking addition to the university’s infrastructure. Its unique aesthetic and sustainable design practices make it a model for future sustainable building projects on the Berkeley campus and beyond.

Creating a new hub for undergraduate instruction in the center of the UC Berkeley campus.

The Undergraduate Academic Building will replace a surface parking lot adjacent to Dwinelle Hall. It will serve as a centralized home for Letters & Science Advising, offering meeting rooms, office space, and collaboration areas. Moreover, the Undergraduate Academic Building will house more than 10 percent of the general assignment classrooms on the campus when completed. This new building will transform and enhance the undergraduate learning experience at UC Berkeley and foster academic excellence.

The building’s design has been thoughtfully planned to seamlessly blend in with the natural surroundings. The Undergraduate Academic Building is an L-shaped structure with a five-story wing along Campanile Way and a three-story wing facing Dwinelle Hall. A wide esplanade, adorned with shade trees and bicycle parking, will separate it from Dwinelle Hall. At the intersection of the two wings, you’ll find a brand new 400-seat auditorium that’s partially below ground and has a beautifully landscaped rooftop terrace that looks out over Strawberry Creek. The first three floors of both wings will be dedicated to academic instruction. There will be 27 new classrooms of varying sizes, from small to large, with flexible seating arrangements to support various instructional styles. Modern instructional technologies will be incorporated into the classrooms, and large windows will provide plenty of natural light and ventilation.

The Undergraduate Academic Building is scheduled to begin construction in late 2023, at which time the parking lot will close. The projected completion time for the construction is two years, and the building is expected to open in early 2026.

Learn more: capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/undergraduate-academic-building
Our goal: Double UC Berkeley’s student housing.

UC Berkeley houses fewer undergraduate and graduate students than any of the other UC campuses. Due to the high cost and low supply of housing close to campus, a significant percentage of our students are not able to live in Berkeley, undermining their ability to thrive, succeed and fully partake in all that the university has to offer.

These are the reasons our student housing initiative commits us to double the number of beds available in university-owned and -operated residential facilities. That, in turn, means we must build on every university-owned site identified for housing in our Long Range Development Plan.

Since establishing our housing goals in 2017, UC Berkeley has completed two housing projects. As of summer 2023, six more housing projects are in development and in planning. Together, these eight projects will achieve nearly two-thirds of our goal to double our existing student housing.

Housing projects in development include the Albany Village Graduate Student Apartments, Anchor House, and People’s Park. In the planning phase are the Upper Hearst project, as well as two recently announced projects: 2200 Bancroft Way and 2302 Channing Way.

Learn more: housing.berkeley.edu/resources/campus-housing-upcoming-construction-and-redevelopment-projects/

Albany Village will triple our housing for single graduate students.

Adjacent to UC Berkeley’s University Village family housing community in Albany, California, this project will provide 761 single-occupancy bedrooms in apartment-style units for single UC Berkeley graduate students without children. Fully-furnished apartments will feature large windows that allow abundant natural light into bedrooms and living spaces. Each apartment will include a full kitchen with major appliances, as well as an in-unit washer and dryer.

Beyond their apartments, students will discover spaces for social interaction and well-being, including lounges and meeting rooms. A series of outdoor courtyards will provide more than 55,000 square feet of space for passive, social and active uses. A new transit plaza will be added along Monroe Street, directly in front of the apartments. There, students will be able to easily catch a direct ride to campus on AC Transit.

Construction began in September 2022. The apartments are on track to open for fall semester 2024.


One year after the project’s groundbreaking, the structural frame of Anchor House is rising higher by the day. The Anchor House structure is expected to reach its final height of 14 stories this summer.

Meanwhile, interior wall framing has started on the lower levels, along with the installation of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. Installation of the facade panels for the entire building will also be complete this summer.

Despite historic rain storms in early 2023, construction of Anchor House remains on schedule to open for fall semester 2024.

The Anchor House project represents substantial progress toward improving the transfer student experience at UC Berkeley. This will be the first campus housing project dedicated to transfer students, who represent 21% of Berkeley undergraduates; tend to come from more economically disadvantaged families, compared to the general student population; and often face challenges connecting to, and becoming a part of, the campus community.

Each of the 244 fully-furnished student apartments will feature private, single bedrooms, non-recirculated air, and large windows that allow abundant natural light into bedrooms and living spaces. Built-in desks will be situated in front of the windows for access to natural light and air. Each apartment in Anchor House includes a full kitchen with major appliances, as well as an in-unit washer and dryer.

Beyond their apartments, students living at Anchor House will discover abundant spaces for social interaction and well-being: spacious lounges and meeting rooms, a fitness center, and a pantry off the central courtyard where groups can prepare and share meals. The indoor-outdoor living style in Anchor House includes a central landscaped courtyard, a rooftop garden, multiple terraces and balconies with views of the Berkeley campus and the San Francisco Bay.
Valerie has been an invaluable member of our Capital Projects team for over two decades. Her extensive experience, skills, and unwavering commitment to excellence have made her an integral part of the UC Berkeley community.

Her professional journey began with a degree in architecture from UC Berkeley. After honing her expertise at an architecture/engineering firm specializing in diagnostic and remedial design, Valerie found her calling in managing capital projects at Cal. As a project manager, Valerie’s passion for her work shines through as she embraces the collaborative aspect of her role. She believes that the real magic happens when a great team comes together to achieve a shared vision. The synergy generated by this collaboration fuels Valerie’s drive to push boundaries and deliver exceptional results. She excels as a facilitator, negotiator, collaborator, and cheerleader, uniting university clients, design professionals, and contractors to turn ideas into reality.

Throughout her tenure, Valerie has managed numerous impactful projects at UC Berkeley. Some notable achievements include the Foothill Bridge, restoration of Doe Library’s north reading room, the Campanile spire and lantern restoration, Maximo Martinez Commons, and the renovation of Anna Head buildings E and F. Currently, Valerie is excited to be leading the construction of the new Undergraduate Academic Building.

Valerie’s remarkable contributions and unwavering dedication exemplify the values that define UC Berkeley. Her expertise, passion, and collaborative spirit have positively impacted numerous projects and individuals. We are truly fortunate to have Valerie as a member of our Capital Strategies team, and we eagerly anticipate her continued success and invaluable contributions to the UC Berkeley community.
Transforming the West Oval Glade: A Vision for Vibrant Gathering Space and Sustainable Stormwater Management

Today, the West Oval Glade stands as a sprawling lawn nestled within the Central Glade, located to the north of the Valley Life Sciences Building and to the east of the West Circle. Within its southern half, Strawberry Creek meanders discreetly, hidden from view by a dense cloak of vegetation.

Recognizing the immense potential for an awe-inspiring transformation, Capital Strategies’ Physical & Environmental Planning team has outlined a visionary endeavor in the Campus Master Plan to remake the West Oval Glade into a dynamic and inviting gathering space. Anchored by this ambitious vision, the plan proposes the introduction of meticulously designed terraced seating along the northern edge, providing individuals with an immersive experience amidst the breathtaking surroundings. Moreover, the renewal of the vegetated areas is poised to deliver not only improved access to the creek but also an elevated ecological function, fostering a harmonious coexistence with the natural environment.

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, the landscape of the West Oval Glade presents an extraordinary opportunity to realize a significant stormwater management initiative. The integration of the terraced seating will be carefully orchestrated in tandem with the regrading of the lawn, ingeniously devised to enable effective flood management during major rain events. As part of this vision, the plan envisions the daylighting of a portion of Strawberry Creek near the West Circle. This transformative undertaking will breathe new life into the surrounding area, while concurrently enhancing the creek’s capacity to withstand and accommodate increased water flows during periods of intense rainfall. Furthermore, the implementation of a state-of-the-art water quality channel will significantly elevate the overall ecological integrity of the creek, maintaining its pristine condition for generations to come.

Embracing an interdisciplinary approach, these enhancements proposed to the West Oval Glade will serve as an invaluable catalyst for outdoor teaching and research programs throughout the campus. The revitalized space will evolve into a living laboratory, fostering a deeper connection between academia and the natural world. Within this captivating setting, students and faculty will be bestowed with unparalleled opportunities to explore and study the intricate facets of the environment, thereby harnessing the full educational potential that the transformed West Oval Glade has to offer.

The campus community eagerly awaits the West Oval Glade’s captivating and sustainable transformation. Capital Strategies anticipates that the project is poised to commence within the next couple of years. When it is successfully brought to fruition, the project will become a continual source of inspiration and leave an indelible mark on the UC Berkeley campus.

Learn more about the exciting vision for the West Oval Glade’s transformation in the Campus Master Plan: capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/planning-documents