



Mathematics

The Simons Building Dedication

Friday, October 7, 2016



Scenes from the dedication

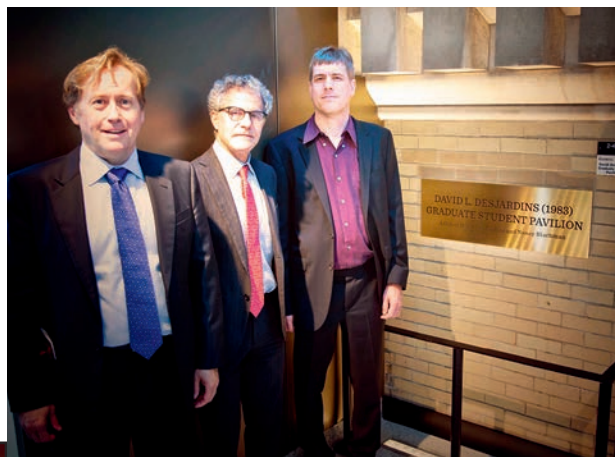
an outpouring of support from our MIT math alumni, staff and family



At the dedication, Antony Gormley's 3D winding polyhedra steel structure *Chord* (2015) was unveiled. In mathematics, the term 'chord' describes a straight line joining the ends of an arc; fittingly, this sculpture connects the ground floor to the 4th floor skylight in the Simons Building's busy intersection of the departments of mathematics, physics, chemistry, and the humanities.



Dedication attendees gather in the expanded Common Room (2-290). Named in honor of the late MIT math professor Norbert Wiener (at right, a student poses as him), the space is an example of one of several community spaces designed for group interaction.



Above, the Graduate Student Pavilion (2-490) was a gift from David L. desJardins '83 (XVIII), right, and Nancy Blachman. At left is Head of Math Department Tom Mrowka and Dean of Science Michael Sipser. DesJardins is a member of the MIT Corporation.



Ted Kelly tours the Edmund F.A. Kelly (PhD '70) Seminar Room, a gift of the Kelly Family Foundation, at 2-255.



From left, Tom Mrowka, Michael Sipser, Akamai Technologies CEO Tom Leighton PhD '81 (XVIII), Leighton's father, David T. Leighton '48 (VI) SM '53 (XXII M), Bonnie Berger PhD '90 (VI), and Tom and Bonnie's daughter Rachel, an MIT student. Said Tom Leighton, "The renovation made it a much more welcoming physical environment in which to work."



The building's benefactors James '58 (XVIII) and Marilyn Simons lead the Simons Foundation to fund math and science research. He is a life member emeritus of the MIT Corporation.



Robert Reitano PhD '76 (XVIII) and Lisa Reitano supported the new 2-190, a tiered lecture hall named in memory of his doctoral advisor, Alberto P. Calderón.

Perfect for warm-weather gatherings, the new wraparound terrace is part of the fourth-floor renovation, which won awards for its design to blend in with the building's exterior profile.





Celebrating the Simons Building Dedication

The Building

Scope: 97,000 gsf

Design Features

- Built in 1916 as designed by William Welles Bosworth, as part of Main Group Beaux-Arts building complex
- Limestone façade restored and preserved
- New fourth floor adds 14,000 square feet of office, seminar, and collaborative space; careful expansion process provides model for future renewal of other Main Group buildings
- Shared space was one common space, a math library, and undergraduate lounge; post-renovation, the department gained an expanded common space, new undergrad lounge, 3 math seminar rooms and 16 meeting rooms
- Accessibility upgrades include the addition of an elevator and new sloped walks at exterior entrances

Sustainable Design Elements

- Window replacement improves energy performance and comfort of the occupants; windows replicated to maintain historical integrity of building design
- Projected energy savings annually: Electrical kWh savings 206,000 kWh and heating/cooling savings 9,900 therms

The Project Team

- Architect: Ann Beha MArch '75, Ann Beha Architects
- Exterior Architect: Wessling Architects with Speweik Preservation Consultants
- Construction manager: Bond Brothers
- MIT team: Arne Abramson, William Colehower, Martin Deluga, Frank Higson, Sonia Richards, and Gary Tondorf-Dick

Awards

- 2016 Cambridge Historical Commission preservation award for rooftop addition and creative adaptation of interior spaces
- Society for College and University Planning/AIA-CAE Award for "excellence in architecture for building additions or adaptive reuse."

Department of Mathematics
617.253.4381 math@mit.edu

Photos by Dominick Reuter