

Study centre for the School of Engineering

The School of Engineering has embarked on a growth strategy over the last decade in view of the shortage of engineering skills in South Africa. This resulted in a significant increase in engineering student numbers.

The creation of additional teaching and research facilities for the School of Engineering was supported by the University and the Department of Higher Education and Training, resulting in the construction of the new Engineering 3 Building and Parkade on the Hatfield Campus. This development provided additional lecture halls, laboratories, an access road and entrance, as well as parking for a thousand cars.

The study centre is a vital part of the School of Engineering's strategy to increase the success of engineering students by providing facilities to support learning and especially groupwork. Such a facility has become a necessity due to the complexity of the lecture timetable and the changing demographic profile of students. There are many students who travel far on a daily basis and who do not have adequate facilities for study or groupwork at their homes or on campus.

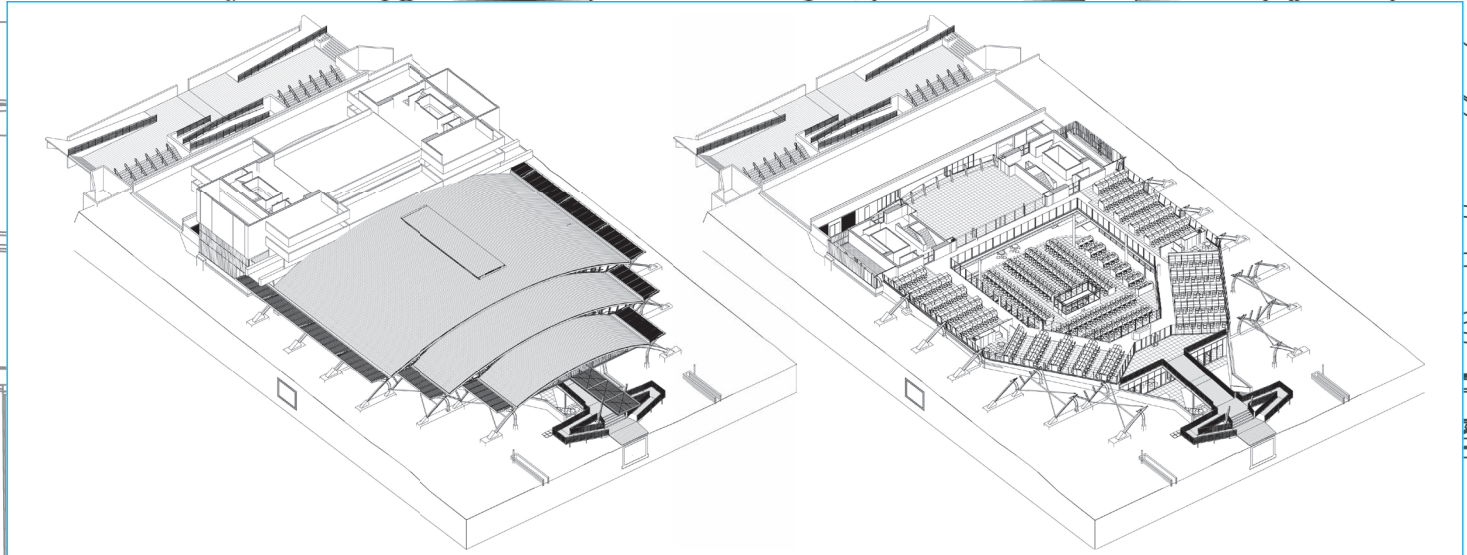
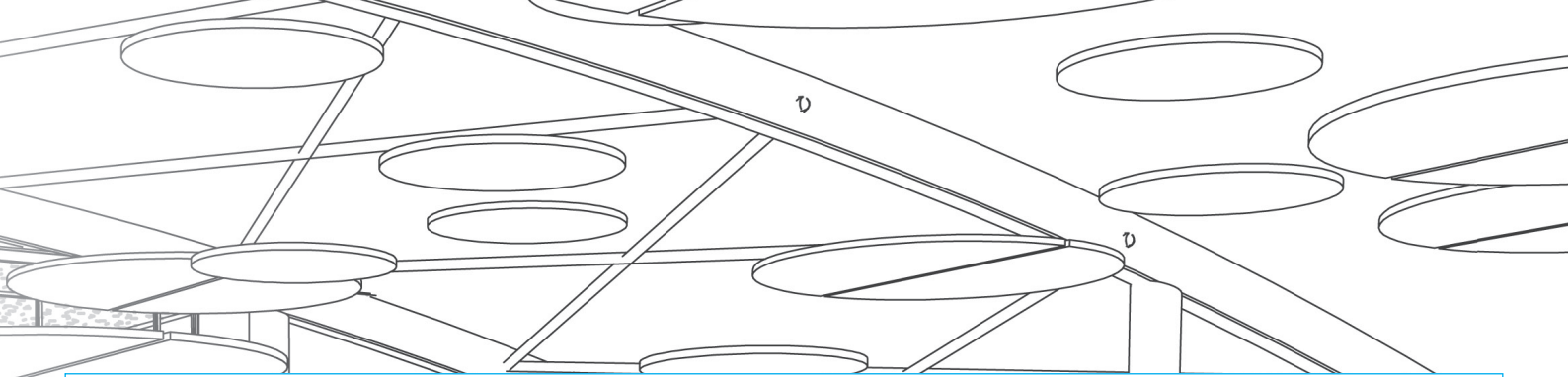
The development of the study centre, situated immediately west of the Engineering 1 Building, was financially supported by Xstrata and the Anglo American Chairman's Fund. The contract for the project was allocated to Robenco Construction. Work on the project started in April and is scheduled for completion in May 2013. Progress on the project may be viewed at <http://web.up.ac.za/building>.

The study centre will accommodate 758 students in the following configurations on two levels: On Level 3, there will be 252 individual workstations accessible to students on a first-come basis. There will also be 30 conceive, design, implement and operate (CDIO)-type venues where groups of seven students may work in a private cubicle equipped with a table and flat screen. These venues will be reserved through a computerised booking system.

On Level 4, there will be 296 seats without workstations.

The study centre is situated at the old entrance to the Engineering 1 and Engineering 2 buildings off University Road, which was closed when the new entrance to the parkade was opened. A new 'drop off and go facility' will be constructed at the old entrance, which will be convenient for dropping off or picking up students in a safe environment adjacent to the study centre. ➔





→ Level 6 cut away (left) and Level 4 cut away (right) of the new study centre as designed by ARC Architects.



Graphics
courtesy of: 