



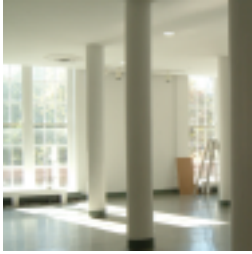
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a college community that is never more prolific than when challenged to create, The Cooper Union has spent the past two years building the infrastructure for its future. Acting on the Strategic Plan that was completed at the close of 2002, the institution has mobilized over the joint imperatives of tradition and transcendence: maintaining the “education second to none” that was promised by Peter Cooper almost a century and a half ago, while embracing the rapid advance of pedagogy and technology that is fundamentally reshaping higher education. *History in the Making* recounts the extraordinary achievements of students, faculty and alumni during a concentrated period of actualization, as The Cooper Union began implementing its plans to preserve its academic preeminence, to modernize its facilities and to provide for enduring fiscal strength.

With the intense introspection that drives academic renewal, the deans and faculties of the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, the School of Art, the Albert Nerken School of Engineering and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences combed their respective curricula, pruning, adding pedagogical innovations, expanding the use of digital technologies and creating new interdisciplinary opportunities.

Their work also has led to a new Bachelor of Science in Engineering program that will enhance traditional study with concentrations in such rapidly growing fields as biomedical, environmental and materials engineering; faculty approval of the curriculum for an MArch II degree in the Chanin School; and the introduction of a Summer Residency Program by the School of Art, extending its reach and resources to the post graduate community.

Rapid change in technology, politics and society shaped the demand to build new structures for undergraduate research, across the disciplines. The Institute for Urban Security and Protective Design—created to strengthen urban systems and infrastructure in a world altered by terrorism—offers courses to undergraduates, master’s candidates and practicing professionals. The Center for Environmental Design unites architects and engineers to define and promote new and best practices for sustainability in the built environment. And the Maurice Kanbar Center for Biomedical Engineering and the Kanbar Program in Environmental and Transportation Graphics focus research on addressing real world problems with breakthrough solutions.



The timeliness and relevance of the academic programs we've created were quickly reflected in the response of potential students with a 20 percent increase in applications this year, likely making Cooper Union again the most selective college in the nation.

When these young people enter Cooper Union, they'll have the comfort of knowing that, for the first time in the College's recent history, plans to secure one of its most treasured traditions—the full-tuition scholarship—have been lifted from the drawing board and realized as a set of dynamic, resource-producing actions in progress. There is no sign more manifest of Cooper Union's movement toward financial vitality than the sight of a Gwathmey Siegel designed building rising on the College's property at 26 Astor Place, where The Related Companies broke ground at the close of 2003. Planned at 22 stories, this residential building will be home to 40 families and a source of ongoing income for the College.

Less visible but equally crucial, we won approvals from the Manhattan Borough President, the City Planning Commission and the City Council for zoning and related changes needed to erect a new academic building on the Hewitt Building site, followed by a

commercial/academic building on the current engineering building site. This latter building, designed to attract tenants that can benefit from the intellectual capital at The Cooper Union, such as high tech, biomedical and design firms, will also contribute to the stable, secure stream of income that other institutions might achieve through tuition.

Key to the plan is a new academic building—nine stories and almost 200,000 square feet—that will be home to the Nerken School, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and some facilities of the Chanin School and the School of Art. So it was with great expectations for the future that the entire Cooper Union community welcomed internationally acclaimed architect Thom Mayne of Morphosis, who was selected by a distinguished committee after a rigorous international search that reviewed 150 nominees. Mayne is charged with creating a technologically advanced, pedagogically sophisticated building, as important to higher education as our Foundation building was in the nineteenth century and as important to the architecture of New York City as our Chrysler building was in the twentieth.



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All that we have achieved—and must continue to achieve—is based upon the support of Cooper Union's committed alumni and friends. Your generous contributions have driven our fund raising total to an all-time high for any three-year period in the college's history, literally building the underpinnings for our ambitious plans for Cooper Union's future.

And throughout this remarkable period of transformation, The Cooper Union's students, faculty and alumni continued to be a source of pride and inspiration. As you read the pages that follow, I urge you to note the disproportionate mark that our small institution continues to make in the realm of those who are honored and those who create. During this brief time period, faculty members have published more than a dozen books; four young alumni were selected for the Whitney Biennial; five students won Fulbright Scholarships; alumni or faculty were included in six of the seven teams selected as finalists for the World Trade Center redevelopment, and the ultimate winner was an alumna. Outsized and often astonishing, such achievement forms the core of The Cooper Union's legacy and its future—history in the making for the next generation.

George Campbell Jr., Ph.D.