Kresge To Undergo ‘Roof-Lifting’ Next Spring

By Tom Maugh ’63

The egg is going to get a new shell! However, “the egg” refers not to the product of a chicken, but to the product of Eero Saarinen, who designed the unusual Kresge Auditorium. “The shell” refers to the proposed new roof for Kresge. Or, more correctly, the new roof covering.

Original Of Stone

The original covering of the roof was a combination of stone and concrete, which had been subjected to a very sudden temperature change, causing it to contract suddenly, and oftentimes cracking it. Thus, over the six years the dome has been in existence, it has weathered very much and is in very poor condition.

New Materials Slated

Before repairing the dome, the Institute wanted to test the proposed materials before putting them on and risking the waste of more money. Thus, two mock-ups have been built.

The covering of two of the corners of the auditorium has been stripped away and a framework built on top of the roof. On one of the corners, lead plating was applied over the framework and molded together by heating it. On the other corner were placed shingles made of copper covered with a lead coating.

Nothing Definite Till Spring

These mock-ups will be left on the roof all winter to determine how they stand the framework and molded together by heating it. On the other corner were placed shingles made of copper covered with a lead coating.

Unmatched three exposure shows Data 1 communications satellite (long trail) entering the heavens right to left. Shorter lines are dus "in rotation."

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Shown above is one of the mockups of the proposed new roof for Kresge Auditorium. The materials are being tested for future use.

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