The Tech, this will confirm your suspicion: The May 14, 1972 edition reported a fall 1973 finishing time. It also set construction costs at $11 million — a figure close to the actual cost as it is now seen. Did The Tech get its original figures wrong? Not this time — the building is being completed ahead of schedule and within the budget. Plans for the building were first announced in 1967 by the then-Dean of Engineering, Gordon Brown. As with any project like this, inputs to what was needed and what was possible came from many sources — faculty, students, alumni, Planning Office and administration. The administration planned a ceiling on overall cost at $14.5 million — this to include such costs as architect fees, moving costs and air conditioning along with the actual construction contract.

It now appears that overall costs will fall within the vicinity of $16 million and that construction costs will run in the neighborhood of $30,000 over the original estimate, which was slightly less than $11 million. This percentage of excess is very low indeed and can easily be absorbed within the budget. The EE Department will move starting May 29, 1973, hoping to complete the shift by the summer session. Research labs and the RLE will move over the summer, and the process should be completed by August of next year.

The early completion date and the cost comes about mainly because changes have been kept to a minimum. The project has remained the same in terms of overall design, interior layout, and occupancy. In the words of Dean A. Powers, EE facilities officer, this "comes about by [everyone involved] agreeing to live with the building as designed and not make costly changes." Major changes, such as those that occurred during the construction of the Center of Space Research, can often add huge percentages to the final cost.

Other than undergraduate registration, the EE department, particularly in terms of the faculty, has stayed the same or been on the decrease in recent years. Powers sees the size of the building as "adequate for several years to come" and being able to easily accommodate an increase in the department size in terms of personnel. Strikes, another potentially expensive variable, have not added appreciably to either cost or delay. The two strikes so far, by the Elevator Installers and the Instrumentation Installers, have not done any significant damage. A few things, such as a jump in the annual increment of cost per square foot, have added some excesses to the project.

The building, located between Buildings 24 and 26 and Vannevar Bush, consists of two towers comprising 220,000 square feet of floor area. The west one (Building 38) will be six stories high and will house the EE Department — the headquarters will be located on the fourth floor. One-half of the teaching faculty and the RLE will move into this building as being "adequate for several years to come." The EE department, has stayed the same, or been on the decrease in recent years. Powers sees the size of the building as being "adequate for several years to come" and being able to easily accommodate an increase in the department size in terms of personnel. Strikes, another potentially expensive variable, have not added appreciably to either cost or delay. The two strikes so far, by the Elevator Installers and the Instrumentation Installers, have not done any significant damage. A few things, such as a jump in the annual increment of cost per square foot, have added some excesses to the project.

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