Bechtel building is undergoing major renovations to adapt to the changing needs of the ever growing and prospering faculty and student body. The five-story building was originally donated by Stephen D. Bechtel and named the Bechtel Engineering Building. The Bechtel building interior is being renovated by a generous donation from its founders Bechtel Engineering. The fifth and fourth floor are each being renovated into 28 spacious offices overlooking AUB campus and the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, each floor has two state-of-the-art conference rooms and a fully equipped document processing room.

The third floor will also be updated to accommodate all the Faculty departments, the Dean’s office and a spacious faculty lounge and kitchen. The second and first floor will feature thirteen new classrooms, designed to meet the needs of the new millennium while offering all the technology tools used in engineering teaching. The classrooms are designed with proper acoustics, comfortable chairs, advanced audio and video systems, along with fully automated and energy efficient lighting and climate control systems, as well as safety requirement as set forward by the different international standards.

The major renovations of Bechtel building will provide a coherent and unified learning space for the engineering students. The classrooms will easily connect to Ray R. Irany-Oxy Engineering Complex, where six more classrooms are housed, in addition to the anticipated opening of the Khatib and Alami engineering cafeteria.
High profile inauguration of FEA Riad Kamal Structural Engineering Laboratory

The inauguration of Riad Kamal Structural Engineering Laboratory took place in the presence of Princess Ghida Talal of Jordan, former Minister Leila El Solh Hamadeh, AUB trustees, philanthropists and family members and friends of the Kamal family on January 19, 2015 at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture’s (FEA) Irani-Oxy Engineering Complex.

According to FEA Dean Makram Suidan, the lab will house: Final Year Project (FYP) teams made up of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), Mechanical Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering students who will design, build and test a state-of-the-art shake-table that simulates earthquake ground motion for undergraduate and graduate structural engineering teaching and research; a team of CEE and Architecture and Design faculty members designing a state-of-the-art 3-D concrete printer which will be the only large scale 3-D printer outside of Germany; a 4-column material testing system (MTS), reaction wall and strong floor for earthquake research; and a Tinus Olsen machine for testing of tension and compression of construction materials such as steel, concrete, and rock. “We have great plans for this,” said Suidan, before addressing Kamal: “Your generosity will help propel CEE to new heights.” READ MORE
Architecture hall to be remodeled with a generous donation in memory of alumnus Hassan Smadi

The Architecture and Design Lecture Hall will undergo a major remodeling, thanks to the generosity of the Smadi family and their close friends and partners, his wife and AUB alumna Randa Smadi, and alumni Wafic Said, Bisher Azem, Sami Atallah, and Omar Sawaf, who all made a substantial donation on behalf of the late Hassan Smadi, an AUB mechanical engineering alumnus. The hall was dedicated in Smadi’s name during an official ceremony on December 16, 2014, at the Charles Hostler Auditorium. "The donation will be used to remodel the Architecture Lecture Hall into a state-of-the-art auditorium for our faculty and students, and it will also help set up an endowed scholarship fund in Hassan’s name” said Faculty of Engineering and Architecture Dean Makram Suidan in his welcoming remarks at the ceremony. READ MORE

Fawzi Azar Award

AUB architecture students proved that the right design could help rehabilitate and re-assimilate juvenile delinquents into society, rather than leaving them feeling ostracized and in a permanent clash with their environment. Proposing designs for a juvenile detention center – the theme for this year’s Fawzi W. Azar Architectural Award, 10 AUB fourth-year architecture students submitted projects that aimed to help juvenile delinquents reintegrate into society to lead normal, productive lives, once their sentences were served. Instead of one winner, the jury this year chose two: Christina Attiyeh and Ali Khodr, who will split the $15,000 prize that will cover part of their final year in architecture. READ MORE
FEA manufacturing technologies hub floor dedicated in the name of former Minister Georges N. Frem

The American University of Beirut dedicated a 1500-square-meter floor in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture’s Irani-Oxy Engineering Complex in the name of former industry and telecommunications minister Georges N. Frem (1934-2006), who was known for his dedication to his country and for promoting positive change. The Georges Frem Manufacturing Technologies Hub will house high-tech engineering labs that are directly related to the industry, in an effort to establish a long-lasting relationship between academia and the Lebanese industry. READ MORE

AUB and partner universities launch a professional diploma in green technologies

The American University of Beirut (AUB), the American University in Cairo (AUC), and the Lebanese American University (LAU) have launched PROGREEN a Joint/Dual Professional Degree in Green Technologies, offering a diploma in green technologies designed for those already working in the fields of engineering and architecture. The program will offer opportunities to concentrate on sustainability in energy, water and buildings.

PROGREEN can be completed online, making it the first such professional diploma in the region. To obtain the diploma degree in green technologies in any of the offered specializations, the student must complete a minimum of 18 credits of course work depending on the specialization including a project. The study program consists of 55 courses, and 87 credit hours.

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AUB researchers turn a forest fire hazard into a water purification opportunity

Researchers at the American University of Beirut (AUB) have turned dry pine needles—usually a forest fire hazard—into an environmental asset. Led by civil and environmental engineering professor George Ayoub, the AUB group was the first scientific team to use dry pine needles to produce activated carbon, a material that is used to purify water, air filters, and several production processes. The team was also the first to scientifically test the effectiveness of the pine-needle-produced-activated carbon in removing heavy metals from water. In theory, all organic material can be turned into activated carbon, but coal and wood are the most commonly used source materials.

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Remembering Professor Pierre Azoury

Professor Pierre Azoury passed away on 19 November 2014 at the age of 84. Azoury was born in Port Said, Egypt on 15 March 1930. After graduating from Victoria College in Alexandria, he went to England where he earned a BS in mechanical engineering from London University. He continued his studies at the Imperial College where he received his doctorate in mechanical engineering in 1961. That same year, Dr. Azoury joined AUB as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. He was later promoted to Professor and served as Chairman of the Mechanical Engineering Department from 1987 to 1995. His research centered on compressible fluid flow, a field in which he published several technical papers. In 1992, he also published a textbook entitled “Engineering Applications of Unsteady Flow.”

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