

Dearborn College of Engineering and Computer Science University of Michigan

Dearborn, Michigan

The University of Michigan – Dearborn College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS)'s 46,000 sf building will house the Institute for Advanced Vehicle Systems (IAVS) dedicated laboratories for vehicle electronics, auto safety, ergonomics, electronic sensors, computer science and powertrains.

This precast structure includes a flexible open high bay to accommodate equipment used for teaching and research on manufacturing issues. These spaces will allow undergraduate students to design and assemble projects for national competitions and provide electronically mediated instruction.

The 30-foot-tall high bay space for the IAVS has a circular form to accommodate an efficient rotating overhead crane. Adjacent to the high bay are specialized laboratory spaces, separated from the high bay space by glazed walls to share light and showcase the activities within. An atrium bisects the building, creating links to exterior and interior campus pedestrian paths, while highlighting the manufacturing, research and public functions.



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“This building was originally bid with conventional masonry and bids came in 12 Million Dollars over budget; with curved precast panels it came in under budget. We proved that precast is more economical for a large building with complex geometry.”

Aaron J. Vermeulen, AIA
Project Architect

