

FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

The Cooper Union comprises five buildings at Manhattan's Cooper Square, between Sixth and Ninth Streets and Third and Fourth Avenues.

The Foundation Building At the center of this educational complex is the Foundation Building, the original structure which was built under Peter Cooper's supervision. Housed in the building are the Great Hall, The Cooper Union's historic auditorium; The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture; much of the School of Art; the library; the Arthur A. Houghton Jr. Gallery, the Office of the President and Office Services (mail, photocopies). The building also includes the Architecture Archive, classrooms, shops and studios.

The building is open during the fall and spring semesters from 8 am to 2 am, Monday through Thursday; 8 am to midnight, Friday and Saturday; and noon to 2 am on Sunday. Hours may be extended during high-use periods such as the last two weeks of the semester. The School of Architecture office is open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. The School of Art office is open from 8:30 am to 6 pm during the academic year. Shops, special labs, the computer studio and other facilities that require supervision are open on a more restricted basis; each facility posts its own hours. A detailed schedule is available from the School of Art office.

During the summer months, the Foundation Building is open from 8 am to 6 pm Monday through Thursday; the administrative offices are open from 9 am to 5:15 pm Monday through Thursday; and all of the educational facilities are closed except to high school students who participate in the Saturday/Outreach Program and participants in the Typography Design Program.

The Cooper Union Library features one of the finest collections in art, architecture and engineering in New York City. The library also provides resources in related areas of the pure sciences, and in the humanities and social sciences.

Located on the ground floor of the landmark Foundation Building, the library houses over 100,000 volumes of books and periodicals, and provides licensed access to more than 70,000 e-books and over 10,000 e-journals, in addition to thousands more open access titles, including U.S. government reports. The library's electronic resources, including its many specialized databases, are accessible from any computer on campus as well as to authorized users off campus.

Special collections include the Visual Resources Collection, which makes available films, maps, and thousands of digital images, and the Cooper Archives, which preserves materials relating to the history of The Cooper Union, its founder Peter Cooper and the Cooper and Hewitt families.

Professional librarians are always available during library hours. The librarians advise users in research techniques and regularly provide individual and group instruction.

The Cooper Library is a member of a consortium of academic libraries that includes New York University's Bobst Library, the libraries of The New School, and the New York School of Interior Design. These libraries share a combined online catalog, and students and faculty of The Cooper Union have access and borrowing privileges at the consortium libraries. Cooper faculty and students also have borrowing privileges at the library of the Polytechnic Institute of New York University and access to the Cardozo School of Law library.

When classes are in session, library hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday 8:45 am to 9 pm, Friday 8:45 am to 6 pm, Saturday noon to 5 pm and Sunday 2 to 8 pm. The Visual Resources Collection is open Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm. The Cooper Archives is available by appointment.

The Great Hall of The Cooper Union has stood for over a century and a half as a bastion of free speech and a witness to the flow of American history and ideas. When the hall opened in 1858, more than a year in advance of the completion of the institution, it quickly became a mecca for all interested in serious discussion and debate of the vital issues of the day. It has continued in that role ever since.

41 Cooper Square In September 2009, The Cooper Union opened 41 Cooper Square, its newest facility. The building was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne, and features state-of-the-art laboratories, classrooms and studios along with conference rooms, lounges, the 41 Cooper Gallery and the Frederick P. Rose Auditorium. It houses the Albert Nerken School of Engineering, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Louis and Jeannette Brooks Computer Center, the Herb Lubalin Study Center, the Saturday Outreach Program and provides student and teaching studios. In the fall of 2010, the U.S. Green Building Council awarded 41 Cooper Square the LEED Platinum rating, its most rigorous level of certification that acknowledges the building's array of green features which reduce energy use and enhance the environment. 41 Cooper Square is the first academic building in New York City to achieve the LEED Platinum status.

The building is open from 8 am to 2 am Monday through Thursday, 8 am to midnight Friday and Saturday, and noon to 2 am on Sundays. The Albert Nerken School of Engineering office and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences office, are both open from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, and 9 am to 5:15 pm Monday through Thursday during the summer. The Brooks Computer Center is open from 9 am to midnight Monday through Friday, and noon to 8 pm on Saturday and Sunday.