This is an **I-beam**. You might not know just by looking at it, but this simple shape changed everything.
Peter Cooper—inventor, industrialist, social reformer, and founder of The Cooper Union—was one of the first people to see the potential of this seemingly simple structure. He reimagined the railroad tracks manufactured in his iron mill as structural beams—more economical than stone, safer than flammable wood, and strong enough to support buildings taller than any that existed at the time.

Rolling large spans of wrought iron into an “I” was no easy task, but Cooper found a way because he knew that this innovation would literally lift up his city. Some of the very first Cooper beams were used in The Cooper Union’s own Foundation Building, and this early version of the I-beam evolved into a new standard for construction, making it possible to build high-rises and skyscrapers that transformed city skylines around the world.


That’s what education at Cooper is all about: inspiring the what-if’s, the experimentation and discovery, the creation of new approaches and solutions for disciplines and practices—for industry and art—for cities, towns, and nations—for the lives you want to lift up.

It’s your turn to imagine what could be. The Cooper Union.
POTENTIAL TO BUILD : THE IRWIN S. CHANIN SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Architecture education at The Cooper Union is grounded in the belief that exercising individual creativity is a profoundly social act. Students from all years of study work side by side within an open studio, exploring the essential skills of drawing, model-making, and design development along with both analytical and critical uses of digital technologies.

The five-year, studio-based curriculum asks students to engage in research and debate into the role of architecture as a cultural practice with deep societal and environmental implications. Open discussion and rigorous critique are central teaching components and prepare students for their civic duty in the world.
Mireya Fabregas ’19

For her Architectonics class, Mireya Fabregas was challenged to work with classmates on building a six-foot-high scale model of the iconic exterior of Cooper’s Foundation Building, filling the inside with their own interpretations of its spaces. In a display of school pride, the class mounted the model on wheels and pushed it through the streets of Manhattan to various sites with connections to Cooper’s history, from the Lincoln statue in Union Square to the New York Public Library on 42nd Street.

“When the project was presented to us, it just seemed impossible. Then in four months we were able to build this crazy model. We learned so much about the building. We had to go to rooms and measure them. We got to learn how to use the tools in the shop. But the most important part of that project was that we really got to learn to care for and love our school.”

cooper.edu/snap-arch19
Faculty and students in the School of Art can regularly be found in critiques, discussing and exchanging ideas that connect their practices to debates in art, history, and politics. Students do not choose a major but instead begin their studies taking a year of foundational courses, after which, they are offered courses in multiple disciplines: drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, film/video, graphic design, performance, and sound.

This broad, inclusive approach to learning is all part of exposing students to different perspectives on the role of the artist in the public sphere. Through critique, developing technical skills, experimentation across a variety of disciplines and mediums, and a strong intellectual grounding in history, theory, and criticism, students graduate from Cooper as well-rounded creative practitioners working to transform society.
CHRISTIAN CHARLES ’16

Known on campus for dancing in the halls to relieve stress, Christian Charles produced a series of silkscreen collages re-imagining Golden Age Hollywood stars like Sophia Loren and Audrey Hepburn as black women.

“Without coming to Cooper, I couldn’t be making the art that I make. I was already a committed artist before I got here, but the difference is that once I arrived I learned that getting an education that forced me to explore different media had a huge impact on how I make work. I can express ideas with far greater succinctness and specificity than I did before.”

coopers.edu/snap-art16
POTENTIAL TO INNOVATE: ALBERT NERKEN SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

At Cooper, engineering education starts with the faculty’s extraordinary commitment to teaching. Through mentorship from these experts in the fields of chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering, students develop a strong foundation in the fundamentals of their discipline and apply that knowledge for the benefit of society.

Small classes and project-based, experiential learning provide opportunities for students to enhance their education through research and collaboration with peers and faculty. Together, they pursue innovative and responsible solutions to today’s great challenges, such as those related to climate change, automation, alternative energy, artificial intelligence, and drug delivery. The School of Engineering produces lifelong learners and active citizens who endeavor to work within and across disciplines, who lead and empower, who think and take action at Cooper and beyond.
EMILY YASHARPOUR ’22

Engineering freshmen take an introductory project course in which they learn to work together to solve real-world design problems. For her group project, chemical engineering student Emily Yasharpour helped develop a cost-saving, user-friendly alternative to a glucose meter and test strips for people with diabetes in developing countries. A color change upon the application of blood onto the group’s colorimetric paper test strips indicates the level of glucose in the test samples.

“It’s kind of like your first taste of engineering. It’s such a learning experience to actually create something tangible. Being able to come together and make something that would help a lot of people was just extremely gratifying.”

cooper.edu/emily-eid101
POTENTIAL TO QUESTION: FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

A Cooper education doesn’t just prepare you for a rewarding career. A foundation in the liberal arts provides the ethical, social, and humanistic framework crucial to intellectual flourishing and engaged citizenship. It transforms you into a lifelong learner, capable of asking questions, acting, leading, and challenging assumptions in pursuit of a just and equitable world.

All students across Cooper’s three professional schools take a core curriculum of humanities and social sciences courses in which they learn to think, write, and critically investigate their work and its impact on society.

THE CENTER FOR WRITING

Students can work with instructors in small groups or individual sessions to get support focused on reading, writing, and speaking skills.
POTENTIAL TO EXPLORE: NEW YORK CITY CAMPUS

You can study anywhere, but New York City is where you go to be an artist, an engineer, an architect. Our home is the vibrant and diverse East Village, the epicenter of experimental art movements, influential music scenes, and important social activism. Since its founding, Cooper has been a channel for ideas flowing through the city, and its historic Great Hall has stood as a public forum for bold voices and innovative thinkers.

With access to world-class museums, galleries, architecture, cultural experiences, and “Silicon Alley” tech companies and startups, Cooper helps students navigate the city as part of their education, providing opportunities to build networks, get involved in the community, and form professional relationships well before graduation.

THE ALAMO, BY TONY ROSENTHAL (1967), BETTER KNOWN AS “THE CUBE.”

Rotating this public sculpture is usually a group effort, which makes it a popular activity for Cooper students and East Villagers alike.
About Cooper

THE COOPER UNION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART OFFERS AN UNPARALLELED EDUCATION IN ARCHITECTURE, ART, AND ENGINEERING.

The Cooper Union was founded on the fundamental belief that education should be accessible to all members of society without regard to gender, race, religion, or economic status. Today, regarded as one the most prestigious private institutions in the world, The Cooper Union has a public mission: to sustain itself as a free center of learning and civic discourse that inspires inventive, creative, and influential voices in architecture, art, and engineering to address the critical challenges and opportunities of our time. As part of its historic mission to provide fair access to education, the institution is committed to raising scholarship amounts over the course of the next decade with the eventual goal of eliminating tuition for all undergraduate students.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

• Bachelor of Architecture
• Bachelor of Fine Arts
• Bachelor of Engineering:
  Majors: civil, chemical, electrical, mechanical
  (You must declare your major in your application)
• Bachelor of Science: general engineering

The Cooper Union also offers undergraduate minors in Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science to students in all three schools.

GRADUATE DEGREES

• Master of Engineering
• Master of Science in Architecture

BY THE NUMBERS

For the 2019-2020 academic year:*
• 15% admission rate
• 830 degree-seeking undergraduate students
  -55% engineering, 31% art, and 14% architecture
  -42% female and 58% male
• 43 graduate students in the Maurice Kanbar Graduate Institute working toward a Master of Engineering or Master of Science in Architecture (formerly known as Master of Architecture II)
• 92% retention rate for full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates that entered in Fall 2018

Of our undergraduate students: 24% Asian; 16% Black/African American, or Hispanic; 31% White, non-Hispanic; 4% multi-ethnic, non-Hispanic; 17% international
39 countries, 29 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territory of Guam

STUDENT LIFE

• Our Residence Hall offers apartment-style housing to about 170 Cooper students, with preference given to first-year students. Through educational and recreational programming in the dormitory, students build a lasting community.
• The Cooper Union Library provides research and academic support to supplement the architecture, art, engineering, and humanities curricula through its own collection, as well as various consortium agreements within NYC. It also houses an extensive archive of materials related to the origin and history of the institution.
• The Center for Career Development offers resources and organizes events to help students transition from the academic world to the professional world. Mock interviews with alumni volunteers, career fairs on campus, and career counseling are just a few ways the Career Center supports professional development.

*Admissions data as of September 3, 2019

Applying to The Cooper Union

THE COOPER UNION SEEKS INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN ENGAGE WITH AND ENRICH ITS COMMUNITY, WHICH IS EXCEPTIONAL AMONG INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

THE IRWIN S. CHANIN SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

If you are interested in the architecture program, you should build a strong foundation in the humanities and visual arts and challenge yourself in coursework that includes mathematics and science.

Applicants must submit a series of written and visual responses to a faculty-designed studio test, used in lieu of a portfolio submission for first-year applicants. No previous architecture experience is needed—just creativity, an open mind, and a willingness to challenge the status quo.

SCHOOL OF ART

As a prospective art student, you should draw from observation daily, keep a sketchbook, and explore new forms of making. Learn about the historical, political, and social contexts of works that interest you and familiarize yourself with contemporary art by visiting galleries and museums.

Applicants must submit written and visual responses to a faculty-designed studio test, in addition to a portfolio submission for first-year applicants. Traditional academic measures may not show your best creative abilities, which is why The Cooper Union places emphasis on your talent, potential, and ideas in its admissions process.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT APPLYING, VISIT: COOPER.EDU/APPLYING-TO-CU

Affording Cooper

Every admitted student receives a half-tuition scholarship. Applicants will automatically be considered for additional merit and need based scholarships. To be considered for need-based financial aid, students must submit the FAFSA. The Cooper Union FAFSA code is 002710.

PHOTOS: SOPHIA BENNET-HOLMES, LEA BERTUCCI, MARIO MORGADO
Important Dates

2019 OPEN HOUSE EVENTS
ARCHITECTURE: Sunday, November 3
ENGINEERING: Thursday, November 7
ART: Sunday, October 27; Saturday, November 9; Sunday, November 24; Saturday, December 7

DEADLINES FOR FALL 2020 APPLICANTS
UNDERGRADUATE
Early Decision: December 2, 2019
Regular Decision: January 6, 2020
GRADUATE
Master of Science in Architecture: January 6, 2020
Master of Engineering: March 30, 2020

- The Office of Admissions hosts tours throughout the year to give visitors a look at The Cooper Union’s campus and facilities.
  cooper.edu/admissions/visit
- The Cooper Union maintains its dedication to free education and civic discourse through a variety of public events, talks, and exhibitions.
  cooper.edu/events-and-exhibitions
In the words of Peter Cooper:

“...I desire to make this institution contribute in every way to aid the efforts of youth to acquire useful knowledge, and to find and fill that place in the community where their capacity and talents can be usefully employed with the greatest possible advantage to themselves and the community in which they live.”

—from his letter to the Trustees