

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR CHOU HALL

- Q. Is Chou Hall **open** now? Can I walk around and **look at everything**?
- A. Chou Hall is still under construction. We have been opening it a floor at a time, starting with the classroom floors. Currently, classroom floors one through five are open, with the exception of the cafe area on the second floor. The sixth floor event space and the cafe seating space will follow the classroom floors shortly, but are not currently open to students, faculty or staff. Because the building is under construction, please keep to the designated areas only, for your safety as well as that of the workers. Please also note that we are still finalizing our A/V installation, and doing some final touch-ups, so you may see construction workers and/or intermittent marked off construction areas.
- Q. What **hours is Chou Hall open**?
- A. Chou Hall is currently open from 7:30 am to 10 pm Monday through Thursday, and from 7:30 am to 6:30 pm Fri and Saturday, closed Sunday. After August 21, Chou Hall will be on the same schedule as all other Haas buildings (Sunday through Friday 7:30 am to 10 pm, Saturday 7:30 am to 8 pm).
- Q. What happens if there is an **emergency**?
- A. The extreme ends of the buildings each have stairways that are approved fire exits, and are labelled as fire exits. They are being kept closed currently to lessen construction noise, but they push open for use. The northwest wing stair exits the building on the first floor onto Cheit Lane. After you exit, please meet on the sidewalk between Minor Hall and the Women's Faculty Club for further instructions. The southeast wing stair exits on the second floor, onto the courtyard. Please walk up the courtyard, through the Fisher Gate, and gather at the bottom of the stairs near Minor Hall.
- Q. **Why can't we use all three elevators**?
- A. One of the elevators can't be used until some finishing work is done on the 6th floor and an inspection is completed. When this is completed, all three elevators will be in use. When you push the button to call the elevator, either the one on the far left or the far right will arrive. The elevator on the far left has plywood on the walls as it is being used to move equipment, furniture and supplies while the building is under construction. This will be removed when construction ends. But in the meantime, it can still be used by students, faculty and staff.
- Q. Can I **use the central stair** to get from the first and second floor entries to the third, fourth and fifth floors?
- A. The central stair is now approved for use. You can also use the stairs at the northwest and southeast ends of the building to move from floor to floor and to exit the building.
- Q. I've got garbage, but I **don't see any landfill garbage cans**.
- A. Chou Hall is a Zero Waste building. We hope you are recycling and composting your waste in the appropriate bins near the restrooms. If you have landfill garbage, please carry it out of the

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building and use the Landfill bins on the courtyard at the entrances to Cheit and the Bakar Faculty buildings.

- Q. What about the **Café**? When will it open? Where can I get food until then?
- A. The Café will be the last part of the building to open. Until then, please visit FIFO Café in the Faculty Building, which is gearing back up for fall; or one of the other cafés on campus, (at the Law School, Faculty Club, etc.)
- Q. Where are the **restrooms**? Are there any **gender neutral** restrooms?
- A. The restrooms are to your right as you exit the elevator, across the hall from the classrooms numbered N170, N270, N370, N470 and N570. (Note: The restrooms are in the same location on floors 1 through 5). The restrooms on the second floor are gender neutral.
- Q. Why does the **water in the toilets** look dark?
- A. We are using our rainwater system to provide water for the toilets, so the color is natural and nothing to worry about. Please note that this is non-potable water.
- Q. How do I know where my classes are? Are there **floor plans** somewhere?
- A. There are floor plans on the facilities website (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/facilities/campus/index.html>). The building has a consistent numbering system (for example, N170, N270, N370, N470 and N570 are all located in the same position in the northwest wing), and the floors are very similar, so navigation is relatively simple.
- Q. **How many classrooms** are in Chou Hall?
- A. There are 8 tiered classrooms, and 4 flat/flexible classrooms. All classrooms should be available by start of fall semester. N300 is also being used for training.
- Q. **How many group study rooms** are there in Chou Hall?
- A. There are 28 group study rooms with A/V. There are also four open gather areas on the northwest end of the building on floors 2-5, and seating in the elevator lobby on each floor.
- Q. Can I **reserve a Group Study Room**?
- A. Currently, the Group Study Rooms can be used on an informal basis. If they are empty, feel free to use them. Please note that we are still doing some of the A/V install, so if the A/V crew needs access to a Group Study Room while you are using it, you may need to leave. We plan to start using EMS to reserve the rooms on the same schedule as the rest of Haas group study rooms, depending on the final A/V work being done. When the reservation system is activated, you will also be able to make an on-the-spot reservation for group study rooms not in current use.
- Q. **Where are the offices**?
- A. Chou Hall is devoted entirely to students. There are no faculty or staff offices within the building – only classrooms, group study rooms, meeting/event space, and eventually, a cafe.

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- Q. How did Haas have the **money** to build a new building like this?
- A. Like the existing Haas buildings, Chou Hall is completely community funded. This building is a wonderful gift from many generous donors, who formed a partnership called “Partnership for Haas Preeminence” (or PHP). Founding donors who led the way include:
- Dr. Connie Chen and Kevin Chou, BS ’02 – The building was named after this couple in recognition of their donation, the largest personal gift by an alumnus under the age of 40 in UC Berkeley history. Connie Chen is a physician and co-founder of the digital health startup Vida Health. Kevin Chou is the co-founder of mobile game company Kabam.
 - Carol and Ned Spieker, BS ’66 – Ned Spieker is the managing partner of the private real estate firm Spieker Partners and lead partner for the building. He found ways to cut costs and construction time, provided funding, and encouraged others in the Haas community to support the project.
 - The Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund – Douglas Goldman, MD, BA ’74, is chairman and founder of Certain Inc. and a philanthropist.
 - Sue and Robert G. O’Donnell, BS ’65, MBA ’66 – Bob O’Donnell is a retired senior VP and director of Capital Research and Management Company.
 - Sharon and Barclay Simpson, BS ’43 – The late Barc Simpson, who passed away in 2014, was the founder and chairman of Simpson Manufacturing Co.
- Q. How much did it **cost**?
- A. The building cost approximately sixty million dollars to build.
- Q. Who **designed and built** the building?
- A. The building was designed by architectural firm Perkins + Will, and is being built by general contractor Vance Brown Builders.
- Q. **How big** is the building?
- A. The building is six stories tall plus a basement, and includes approximately 80,000 square feet of total space.
- Q. How did they **find enough space** to build this building here?
- A. This site used to be occupied by Girton Hall, a building designed by famed Berkeley architect Julia Morgan. The building was being used as a childcare center, until it was moved in 2014 to its current location in the Botanical Garden, where it functions as an event space. Chou Hall was specially designed to make the most of the available space.
- Q. What drove the **design** of the building?
- A. The desire was to build a building equipped to teach students now and in the future. It was built on a flexible floor plan, where tiered classrooms could be changed to flat spaces and vice versa. It was designed to meet LEED platinum standards, be WELL certified, and Zero Waste certified.

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Chou Hall has the latest technology for learning. The design of the building is meant to inspire collaboration.

Q. There seem to be a lot of **windows**.

A. There are approximately 24,300 square feet of exterior windows, bringing sunlight, fresh air and stunning views to the building.

Q. And lots of **whiteboards** – how many are there in the building?

A. Upon completion, there will be 17,000 square feet of writeable surfaces, including whiteboards, writeable paint, and writeable glass. So please, don't write on anything that isn't specifically meant to be erasable! The signal that a wall is writeable is that it will have a pen tray with the appropriate markers and erasers for the surface. If you don't see a pen tray on a wall – PLEASE DON'T write on it!

Q. Are those **cameras** in the classroom? What are they for?

A. The building was designed to fully support audio/visual needs of the students and faculty, including video capture (either live-streaming or recorded) for filming classes, broadcasting classes, facilitating "virtual" speakers, and teleconferencing in all classrooms.

Q. What are those **buttons on the desks** in the tiered classrooms?

A. Those raised buttons are microphones so that your instructor and the rest of the class can clearly hear your questions and discussions. If you gently tap the bottom of the button, it will light up, which means the mic is "live." The microphone and light will turn off if you tap it again, or after you stop speaking. Please resist the urge to "play" with the mics by tapping them on and off repeatedly. There is a "pop" sound that isn't very noticeable when the microphones are used correctly, but which can be very annoying to the rest of the class if everyone is tapping on and off.

Q. I'm not sure **the classroom is at the right temperature for my comfort**. What should I do?

A. The building has a very advanced chilled beam technology in place, which tries to maximize building comfort while minimizing energy usage. Because the building is brand new, we are still optimizing how this system works. We ask your patience while the building systems are fine-tuned. If you are too hot or too cold, please let your instructor know, and they can contact Facilities.