

# UC Berkeley

## Places

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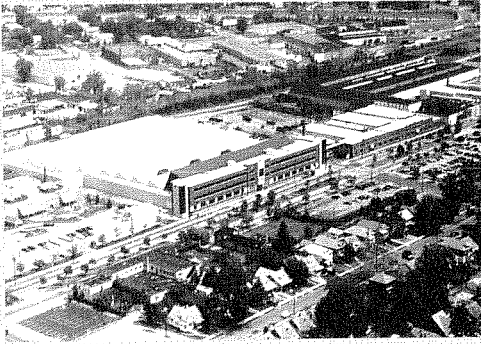
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## Focus: HOPE Center for Advanced Technologies

A deteriorating factory can be a sore reminder of troubled economic times. In Detroit, an abandoned, 50-year-old Ford engine plant is now a sign of hope — a Center for Advanced Technologies at which up to 175 students learn how to use state-of-the-art machinery and make components for the automobile and aerospace industries. CAT is part of a vigorous community and economic development program sponsored by Focus: HOPE, a Detroit civil rights organization.

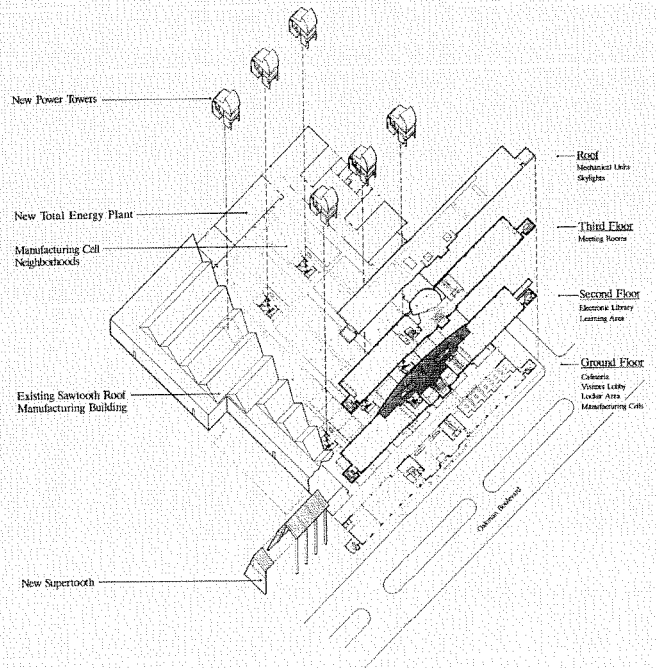
CAT's program is supported by the building's design, which seeks to dispell the notion that factory work is a dusty, grimy dead end. Architects Smith, Hinchman & Grylls connected the lobby and conference area to the production floor by raising the first sawtooth, creating a visual connection that reveals the work process. Screens suspended in this triple-story "super-tooth" are used for video displays. The production floor is punctuated by black "power towers," each of which includes a glass-enclosed meeting room, amenities and mechanical space. These dramatic structures anchor "neighborhoods," or clusters of work stations.

Viewed from the outside, however, the building offers few clues about this transformation. Monitors poke through the sawtooth roof above the power towers; a glass-enclosed, saw-

tooth-shaped enclosure was added behind an office block and two new stairwells were appended. "It's more important to look at the building's entire 60-year existence, rather than each chapter of its life," project designer William Jay Hartman said. The plant symbolized progress when it opened, discrimination when African-

Americans who moved to the neighborhood couldn't get jobs there and decline when it closed, he said. "It seems shortsighted simply to undo the last impression, because there certainly will be others in the future."

— Todd W. Bressi, Galith S. Marcus



Top left: CAT occupies a former Ford plant in a west side Detroit neighborhood where the unemployment and labor force dropout rate averages 45 percent.

Top right: The plant is divided into six manufacturing and teaching cells ("neighborhoods") anchored by dramatic, landmark "power towers."

Right: Each "power tower" includes glass-enclosed training and conference rooms that look out to the production floor, as well as restrooms, drinking fountains and local temperature and power controls.

