The Campus

In 1916, MIT moved from its Boston location to Cambridge, and the current campus now encompasses 168 acres that extend more than a mile along the Cambridge side of the Charles River Basin. The heart of campus is anchored by a historic group of interconnecting buildings, designed by architect W. Welles Bosworth (Class of 1889), which facilitate interaction and communication among MIT’s schools and departments.

In addition to the Bosworth buildings, the MIT campus now showcases a range of architectural styles, from neoclassical through modernist, brutalist, and deconstructivist. Among the remarkable landmarks on campus are buildings designed by leading architects such as Alvar Aalto, Frank Gehry, Steven Holl, Fumihiko Maki, I.M. Pei ’40, and Eero Saarinen. Meticulous renewal efforts have preserved the iconic structures on campus and have resulted in no fewer than nine preservation awards from the Cambridge Historical Commission.

Student life on campus is anchored by 19 undergraduate and graduate residence halls, each with its own distinctive personality and community. MIT opened two new residences in 2021: The Graduate Tower at Site 4, a 454-unit residence in Kendall Square, and the 450-bed undergraduate New Vassar Residence Hall (Building W46). In their academic and research endeavors, students benefit from state-of-the-art facilities ranging from wet labs and clean rooms to collaboration areas and makerspaces. Specialized equipment on campus includes 3D printers, laser cutters, wind tunnels, and drone and robot test labs. In every field, innovation and entrepreneurship are fostered by cross-disciplinary facilities like the MIT Media Lab (https://www.media.mit.edu), the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research (https://ki.mit.edu), and MIT.nano (http://mitnano.mit.edu), the Institute’s nanotechnology and advanced imaging center. At its edges, the campus merges with vibrant Cambridge neighborhoods, including Kendall Square, where the close association of industry and research expertise has made this area the most innovative square mile on the planet. MIT is developing a new campus “gateway” at Kendall that provides an innovation and entrepreneurship hub adjacent to the graduate tower, a large landscaped plaza for campus and community events, and new homes for MIT Admissions, the MIT Museum, and the MIT Press Bookstore.

In light of its commitment to decrease its carbon footprint (http://climateaction.mit.edu), MIT encourages a multi-modal approach to transportation around campus. As a whole, the campus is urban and walkable, with more than 40 gardens and greenspace areas and more than 60 publicly sited works of art to enjoy along the way. MIT also offers free shuttles around campus, bicycle benefits including a bike-share program and fix-it stations, carpool and rideshare incentives, and public transportation subsidies.

As the campus continues to evolve, MIT actively pursues measures that improve sustainability and conservation. To date, two building projects on campus have achieved LEED-Platinum certification (the Morris and Sophie Chang Building, E52, and MIT.nano, Building 12) and 13 building projects have achieved LEED-Gold certification, including Fariborz Maseeh Hall (W1), Building E62 (home of MIT Sloan), the Simons Building (2), and the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research (76). For existing buildings, MIT’s proactive Capital Renewal program (http://capitalprojects.mit.edu) is engaged in continuous renewal and renovation projects that promote energy efficiency while ensuring that the campus will support the community’s broad spectrum of educational, research, and student life activities.