

= Main Quad ( Stanford University ) =

The Main Quadrangle , or more commonly Main Quad or simply Quad , is the heart and oldest part of Stanford University in California . The collection of connected buildings was started in 1887 and completed in 1906 . The Quad was damaged in the 1906 earthquake , repaired , less severely damaged in an 1989 earthquake , and repaired again . The exteriors have remained almost the same since the beginning , though the interiors of most of the buildings have changed radically . The Main Quad is still used for its original purposes of teaching , research , and administration .

= = Description = =

The Main Quad is built on a slight slope so that though the back of the structure is level with the ground , the front is elevated . It is oriented slightly east of north along the Memorial Church ? Memorial Court ? Palm Drive axis . The front approach is at the end of a mile @-@ long road , Palm Drive , which leads from the main entrance onto the university grounds and is lined with Canary Island palm trees . At its southwestern ( campus ) end , Palm Drive becomes a one @-@ way loop that encircles a large lawn called the Oval . Immediately in front perpendicular to Palm Drive is Serra Street , which is restricted to official vehicles and bicycles . Between Serra Street and the Main Quad are another lawn , some bicycle parking , a long sandstone balustrade originally built in 1902 , and steps up to the level of the quad : the main steps to Memorial Court , the east steps to Wallenberg Hall ( building 160 ) , and the west steps to Jordan Hall ( building 420 ) .

The Inner Quad consists of a large courtyard surrounded by twelve connected buildings ( numbered clockwise , 1 through 110 ) and Stanford Memorial Church . Around that are 14 additional connected buildings ( 120 through 460 ) that make up the Outer Quad . The Outer Quad buildings create several additional courtyards . Memorial Court , the most important , is the front entrance of the structure . Besides the front entrance there are also the east and west entrances with gatehouses over them where they enter the inner courtyard . The four corners of the Outer Quad are named , clockwise from Memorial Court , the History Corner with its courtyard of citrus trees , the Engineering Corner with the Oregon Courtyard of flowering cherry trees , the Geology Corner with a garden designed by Thomas Church , and the Math Corner . Other than Engineering , which now houses the Division of Literatures , Cultures , and Languages ( hence is often now referred to as the Language Corner ) , the respective disciplines are still in their corners . Besides the gardens in the minor courtyards , the main inner courtyard has eight large raised planting circles with a variety of trees and bushes .

The Main Quad also has open covered walkways around the Inner Quad courtyard , Memorial Court , and around the exterior of the entire structure except for the main entrance , the east and west gateways , and part of the back . Each year 's graduating class buries a time capsule and marks it with a plaque in the walkway around Inner Quad , starting with the class of 1896 right in front of Memorial Church ( the classes of 1892 to 1895 put theirs in later ) ; the plaques now reach nearly halfway up the western walkway . Under the west gatehouse is a time capsule and plaque marking the centennial of the opening of the university , and the cornerstone ( building 60 ) also has a time capsule .

= = = Points of interest = = =

Wallenberg Hall ( building 160 ) on east side of the front ( History Corner ) is named for the Wallenberg family who gave much of the money for renovating it in 1999 . In the early days it housed the University library and was originally built in 1900 with funds from Thomas Welton Stanford , brother of university founder Leland Stanford and uncle of Leland Stanford Junior for whom the university is named . The second story has two white statues of Benjamin Franklin and Johann Gutenberg . The corresponding building on the west side ( Math Corner ) , Jordan Hall , is named for David Starr Jordan , the first president of the university . It has statues of Louis Agassiz and Alexander von Humboldt . The original statues were created by Antonio Frilli , but Franklin and

Gutenberg went missing after renovation work in 1949 and were never found ; recreations were done by a local sculptor , Oleg Lobykin , and installed in 2013 .

Only a few of the other buildings have names . Building 200 is officially the Lane History Corner , named for Bill and Jean Lane in 1998 . At about the same time Building 320 ( aka Geology Corner ) became Braun Corner after the Braun family and Building 260 ( aka Language Corner ) became Pigott Hall after the Pigott family ; both families have long connections with Stanford University . Building 460 is Margaret Jacks Hall , named in 1980 for the daughter ( who died in 1962 and left a bequest to the university ) of David Jacks . Building 120 is named McClatchy Hall .

Memorial Court features several sculptures by Auguste Rodin from his grouping The Burghers of Calais .

Adjacent to the Main Quad at the Math Corner is a casting of George Segal 's Gay Liberation sculpture . The statue , consisting of four life @-@ sized figures , was commissioned in 1979 ( the 10th anniversary of the Stonewall riots ) and created in 1980 . It was the first piece of public art dedicated to LGBT rights . Two castings were made and originally intended for installation in New York and Los Angeles , but the statue proved too controversial for either city . The second casting was offered to Stanford , which accepted it as a long @-@ term loan and installed it in 1984 . The sculpture was vandalized several times over the next 10 years but eventually became an accepted part of the public art at Stanford . New York in 1992 finally installed the first casting in Christopher Park .

Between the church and building 60 is the Amy Blue Garden with benches , a sundial , and a small birdbath dedicated to the memory of Barbara Jordan , daughter of the university 's first president who died aged 9 in 1901 of scarlet fever ; the garden as a whole is in memory of Amy Blue , a university staffer who died in 1988 at the age of 44 . Also in that area is the Frances C. Arrillaga Memorial , named after the wife of John Arrillaga ; it has unusual acoustic properties .

Behind the church is the Keith Memorial Terrace with its roses and fountain , designed by Thomas D. Church who created many other public spaces and gardens at Stanford , and dedicated to the memory of Captain Willard W. Keith , Jr . ( class of 1941 ) , who was killed at Guadalcanal in November 1942 .

= = History = =

Architect Frederick Law Olmsted , who created the university 's first Master Plan , called for the university to be primarily housed in an inner and outer quadrangle . To design the quadrangle itself , the Stanfords in 1886 hired the firm of " the greatest American architect of his generation , " Henry Hobson Richardson . ( Richardson himself had died earlier that year , and his three main associates were carrying on his work as the firm Shepley , Rutan and Coolidge . ) This group of architects are noted for the Richardsonian Romanesque style , and features of that style including " round low arches , sturdy piers , massive walls , simple silhouettes , and sheltering roofs " are prominent in the Quad . The style was adapted to a California Mission theme . The primary building materials were local yellow sandstone and red tile roofs . The sandstone was quarried at the Graystone Quarry in San Jose , California , and transported to the building site via a private railway spur . Hundreds of unskilled laborers received the sandstone , cut it to size , dressed it , and finished it ; skilled stonecutters and sculptors , primarily from Italy , installed it and embellished it with friezes . Over the objections of the architects , the Stanfords insisted that the main entrance to the Quad be " a large memorial arch with an enormously large approach " . The arch was built and was topped with an elaborate frieze representing " The Progress of Civilization in America " ; however , the arch was destroyed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and was not rebuilt .

The cornerstone was laid at what is now Building 60 on May 14 , 1887 , which would have been Leland Stanford Junior 's 19th birthday . The Inner Quad was mostly finished ( except for the church ) by the time the university opened in 1891 . The Outer Quad and Memorial Church were completed by 1906 , but the entire structure was severely damaged in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake . Restoration of the Quad began immediately , but several original features of the Quad that collapsed in the earthquake were never rebuilt : the huge Memorial Arch over the entrance to Memorial Court ,

and a spire on Memorial Church . The Quad , which was originally built of unreinforced masonry , has been seismically retrofitted several times since then .

The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake also damaged some of the Quad buildings . Language Corner and Geology Corner were closed for repairs for more than five years ; most of that time was spent negotiating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency over paying for the repairs . Memorial Church was also damaged but was repaired more quickly via private donations .

Most of the University 's other , more recent buildings echo the Quad 's basic pattern of buff @-@ colored walls , red roofs , and arcades , giving Stanford 's campus its distinctive look . The original university plan was to add additional quadrangles of buildings , initially to the left and right of the Main Quad . However , this part of the plan was put aside for many decades until the Science and Engineering Quad was built to the west , starting in the 1980s and completed in 2013 .

= = Current use = =

The Main Quad now houses many departments and classrooms and also the offices of the President , Provost , and administrative offices of the School of Humanities and Sciences . The main courtyard is used for University functions , in particular the Baccalaureate service held on the day before the main graduation ceremony , departmental graduation ceremonies , and the annual alumni reunion dinner . A long @-@ standing tradition is Full Moon in the Quad . In its oldest form it was an event at which " a Stanford girl becomes a Stanford woman ... when kissed by a senior man in front of Memorial Church under the light of a full moon " ; now it is a party with much kissing held on the first full moon of the school year .

= = Namesakes = =

The university 's annual yearbook is called the Stanford Quad .

The Stanford Historical Society 's journal is called Sandstone and Tile , named for the materials from which the Quad is built .