Cornell University
Computer Science Theory Center
Ithaca, New York

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The 211,000-square-foot seven-story building is organized into two formal building elements: an elongated office wing and a large cylindrical research facility containing high-tech computer rooms and column free laboratories.

Located at the intersection of these two forms are the entrance and service core, including meeting rooms and a reception area for the supercomputing department.

The building is the largest structure on the engineering campus and is connected to two older buildings in the quad by an elevated pedestrian walkway and underground tunnel.

The generic office space on the lower floors provides valuable "swing space" for future college relocation projects.

The design responds to severe site constraints by presenting a new gateway to the campus as well as establishing a referential architectural image for the entire university.

1 Aerial view from Barton Hall

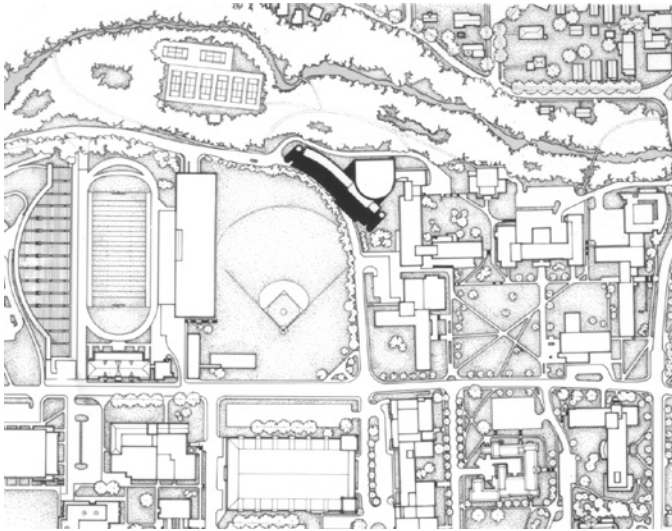Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects *llc*

View from Campus Road

Interior of tower stair

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Key Project Information

- seven-story complex
- cylindrical laboratory building
- lab space totaling 100,000 square feet
- curved linear office building
- operable windows in offices
- glass-enclosed cylindrical stair towers
- campus-wide views
- marks convergence of two campus roads

- completion   1990
- gsf   211,000

Site plan

Intersection of office and laboratory buildings