



Fittingly adjacent to Max Westheimer Field, the Aerospace Building gives the University a leap forward in engineering.

AEROSPACE GETS A NEW PAD

A research and classroom building is the latest addition to the University's new look

OU's North Campus, conspicuously endowed with sprawling, gray temporary structures left by the Navy after World War II, is gradually getting its face lifted. Although some of the wooden legacies are still being used by the University, modern brick and steel replacements are also making an appearance.

The most recent rectification of war leftovers is OU's new aerospace building which opened for business this semester. The \$440,000 graduate research center, part of the University's current building boom, houses the permanent laboratories to be used by the School of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering. These laboratories are especially designed for radiant heat transfer studies, stress analysis, non-destructive testing, aerodynamics research and experiments on advanced propulsion systems.

The two-story structure contains 24,000 square feet of floor space, and facilities include two classrooms, a library-conference room, five individual laboratories and 14 faculty offices. A hangar-like high bay area connected to the building is where large-scale structural research and free-fall experiments involving weightlessness can be conducted.

Any part of the building is a far cry from Aerospace's old home at Building 210 at the North Campus. Dr. Tom J. Love Jr., director of the school, believes the new facility

will enable OU to develop one of the Southwest's outstanding graduate study centers in various disciplines associated with aerospace engineering. "I think we have had and are in the process of building an outstanding faculty in engineering," Dr. Love says. "Our graduate program in the past has been restricted only because of lack of space. The building should contribute to our standing as a leading university research center."

The building is being used primarily by graduate students, most of which are working toward Ph.D. degrees. Graduate-level courses this semester deal with hypersonic aerodynamics and aircraft power units, and several Oklahoma City engineers seeking advanced degrees are enrolled in a night course in mechanical behavior of materials.

Specific projects under way in the new structure's design and experimental laboratories include one dealing with vibrations in a J-33 engine, sponsored by Tinker Air Force Base, Midwest City. The Chemical Research and Development Laboratories of the Army is assisting in an experiment concerning radiative heat transfer from flames, and the Aerospace Research Laboratories of the Air Force and the National Science Foundation are co-sponsoring a project dealing with radiative heat transfer from clouds of dust particles.