Two new architectural engineering laboratories, one an illumination laboratory that may be the best in the United States, opened November 7 at the School of Architecture and Urban Design.

The Bob Foley Illumination Laboratory was dedicated in room 232 of the Art and Design Building before an audience of about seventy. The laboratory was constructed with donations of nearly $100,000 from twenty-nine companies. The university donated the labor. The laboratory is named for Bob Foley, chairman of Bob Foley Co., Inc., a Kansas City lighting company. Foley, a leader in the illumination industry, played a major role in soliciting donations for the lab.

According to Ronald Helms, chairman of the architectural engineering program, the lab will add a new dimension to the education of illumination engineering students at KU.

"It will give students firsthand experience with state-of-the-art lighting systems," he said.

The laboratory demonstrates basic principles of lighting such as visibility and color of objects. Students also can set up various systems for research in the lab. They can use moveable panels in the lab's ceiling to demonstrate the effects of different types of lights and varied physical arrangements.

According to Helms, the illumination lab is the "premier" facility of its kind in the United States.

"There's a similar one at Penn State University, but it's not nearly as extensive or complex as this one," he said.

A laboratory for construction management studies also opened during the November 7 ceremony. This facility, located adjacent to the illumination laboratory in room 231 of the Art and Design Building, will allow construction management students to use the most up-to-date techniques and equipment for estimating, planning, and other aspects of construction management.

Helms said he didn't know of any university that had a comparable facility for construction management science.

According to James Rowings, assistant professor of architectural engineering, the lab is designed both for teaching and research. "We're using it now primarily for teaching and demonstration purposes for undergraduate classes," Rowings said.

In the lab, mechanical and electrical equipment has been left exposed so that students can see what the equipment in a large building looks like and how it is installed.

"This allows us to demonstrate various aspects of construction technique," Rowings said.

Rowings said that in the future, the facility also would be used for construction management research.

"We hope to get some computers — probably microcomputers — for construction simulation research. We plan to work on the development of computerized management tools for construction.

"We also want to get some video equipment that will allow us to do research in automated data acquisition," Rowings said.

Both the construction management lab and the illumination lab will help ensure KU's role as a leader in producing top-quality engineering graduates.

W. Max Lucas, dean of the school, said: "These facilities will be a major asset to architectural engineering education in the future."

Send Us Your Old Stuff

The School of Architecture and Urban Design will celebrate its seventy-fifth year in 1987.

If you have photographs, drawings, stories, information, etc., relevant to the school's history, we would like to consider them for use in a commemorative publication.

Please contact Assistant Dean Lois Clark, 206 Marvin Hall, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.