

Knowlton — School

Student Services

Knowlton Hall Self-Guided Tour

The Knowlton School offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and City and Regional Planning. Knowlton Hall, named after Austin E. Knowlton, was designed by Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects to provide artistic inspiration and showcase architectural possibilities. Surrounded by green space designed by Michael van Valkenburgh Associates, the land creates rooms of relaxation while gently guiding individuals forward toward the building.

Experience Knowlton Hall by utilizing the system of ramps that run throughout the building. Enter the building at the east (Neil Avenue) entrance. Before you step inside, look up and take notice of the oculus, a reference to historical buildings.

1. Student Services Office

As you enter Knowlton Hall, the school's Student Services Office will be on your right. Our staff looks forward to returning to the office in person later this year. Typically, a student assistant will greet you and can help answer questions, schedule an advising appointment, or offer peer advising.

→ The elevator, on your left, will take you to our 4th-floor library and our roof garden, if you prefer to start your tour in reverse. Continue straight through the main entryway to the Banvard Gallery on your right, under the Big Stairs.

2. Banvard Gallery

The Banvard Gallery, located on the first floor of Knowlton Hall, is dedicated to thought-provoking exhibitions with relevance to the disciplines of Knowlton. In the spirit of the broad reach of these professions, this includes sculpture, photography, and site-specific art in addition to professional work, materials and technology, and contemporary practice. Exhibits typically rotate throughout the year.

→ Continue up the ramp, or continue through the first floor to experience the Center Space and the KSA Café.

3. Center Space / Big Stairs / South Cut-Out Garden

In the center of the first floor of Knowlton Hall is the Center Space, an area used for reviews, lectures, career fairs, fashion shows, club meetings, and more. On the east end, the Big Stairs are used for study, lunch, hangout, and relaxation space, and as seating for large events. Notice the walls of windows that allow you to see entirely through the building. Grab a bite to eat from the KSA Café, take a seat, and relax! Or, strike a pose on the Big Stairs for an amazing photo op!

The KSA Café is located on the first floor of Knowlton Hall on the northwest corner of the Center Space. The Café is part of University Dining Services and provides a gathering place, access to fresh food, grab 'n go items, and a full espresso bar.

→ As you proceed up the ramp, notice the south cut-out garden outside the windows to your left. Notice how the garden is cut into the shape of the building. On a sunny autumn or spring day, you might find a class here, but it's also a popular lunch and meeting spot.

4. Quiet Room / Jury Space / 170s Classrooms

To your left, just past the garden and opposite the Center Space, the Quiet Room (178) provides a space for individuals to engage in quiet reflection, de-stress, and participate in prayer and other wellness activities. The other classrooms in this area are used for Knowlton courses and recitations. The carpeted area, known as the jury or review space, serves a similar purpose to the Center Space. We look forward to the return of student pin-ups and reviews as classes and studios return to in-person arrangements.

→ As you continue up the ramp to the second floor, notice the faculty offices that circle the center and jury spaces.

5. Columns

Five decorated marble columns representing classical orders of architecture stand on the west end of Knowlton Hall. The 23-foot columns were donated by Austin E. Knowlton during the building's construction. The order of the columns goes from the least detailed to the most detailed: Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite.

6. Knowlton (KN) 250

The Knowlton Hall Auditorium, or Knowlton 250, is located on the second level of Knowlton Hall. This auditorium is the building's lecture hall, and students from Knowlton and around campus use the space for large classes. Most larger classes will also include a small recitation section of 12-20 students that meets on another day or the week in a smaller classroom. On Wednesday evenings, Knowlton hosts the public Baumer Lecture series invites prominent researchers and practitioners of architecture, landscape architecture, and city and regional planning to present their work.

→ Continue up the ramps until you reach the third-floor studio spaces.

7. Architecture and Landscape Architecture Studios

The third floor features varying offset levels, highlighting the studio spaces. Students in year two and up are assigned a studio desk and computer with software to use throughout the year. The curriculum for architecture and landscape architecture students is structured around studio instruction, allowing students to develop their graphic and conceptual skills. Studios typically include 12–15 students per faculty member. Studios are supported by courses in technology/construction, digital representation, and history/theory to offer a well-rounded professional education.

→ Continue up the ramps to the fourth floor.

8. Knowlton Library

The east end of the fourth floor features the Knowlton Architecture Library that holds over 50,000 volumes and a listing of 150 periodicals. The library also houses many pieces included in the School's Classic Furniture Collection, a collection of furnishings created by renowned architects.

9. Rooftop Garden

Views from the library lead to the Knowlton Rooftop Garden, a stop that many on campus don't even know about. Do you see the top of the oculus?

→ Continue to the west end of the building on the fourth floor.

10. Computer Labs

Rooms 430 and 448 contain additional computing resources just for Knowlton students. One is a teaching lab for computer-focused instruction, and the other is an advanced computing lab with flatbed scanners and large-format plotters.

11. City and Regional Planning Studio

The far west end of the fourth floor is home to the City and Regional Planning studio space. City and Regional planning students learn by practice, and planning studio courses engage students with real-world clients in the Columbus area. Planning students often work alongside professionals to create solutions for micro and macro-level planning problems.

↓ From here, take the west elevator down to the lower level to reach our Mat/Fab Lab.

12. M/I Homes Foundation Materials and Fabrication Laboratory (Mat/Fab Lab)

Located on the ground floor (or lower level), the Mat/Fab Lab is provided exclusively for students in the Knowlton School. Woodworking, metalworking skills, and digital production skills are integrated into design studio curricula. Students learn material properties and gain hands-on experience with construction practices using traditional equipment and the latest technology.

→ From the lower level, follow the ramps back up to the first floor to conclude your tour. Thanks for visiting!

For more information, visit: knowlton.osu.edu