University of S. Alabama Sphere



Architect

Barganier Davis Sims Architects Associated

Date

Completed in 2012



A decorative 18-foot stainless steel geodesic sphere fills the three-story atrium of Shelby Hall, which houses the Engineering School and School of Computing at the University of S. Alabama. This organic architectural accent—created, manufactured and installed by DSI Spaceframes—is composed of 132 nodes and is a shining example of the power and elegance of space frames. Weighing in at 3,000 pounds, the sculpture is suspended by four "invisible" cables for a floating effect that demonstrates the artistic nuances and lightness space frames afford. Natural light flows through the sphere and floods the atrium, creating a bright and welcoming gathering place for engineering and computer science students. Also referred to as the "orb," this organic architectural accent is a symbol of science and technology…and it reflects the relationship between mind and world.w



