On the cover: The four murals in the Yang and Yamazaki Environment and Energy Building—including this one from the Red Atrium—together represent a constellation of people, ideas and projects. They consist of three concentric rings of points. Each point in the outermost ring represents a person working on a project in the building. Each point in the center ring represents a specific academic discipline. Each point in the innermost ring represents a project of interdisciplinary study and research. By following the lines, visitors can see a dynamic network of people and the trajectories of their thoughts, all devoted to the discovery of new and bigger ideas.

Photo by Tim Griffith, courtesy BOORA Architects
The Zohar—a compendium of enigmas that forms the basis of the Kabbalah—gets a renewal thanks to Stanford University Press’ new translation, which earns a Koret Jewish Book Award.

The Hansen Experimental Physics Laboratory, home to the world’s first full-scale linear accelerator, is torn down to make way for new buildings in the Science and Engineering Quadrangle.

The bicycle race Tour of California brings thousands of spectators to campus to watch the end of the time trials on the Oval.

Bill Gates, chairman and co-founder of Microsoft Corp., launches his college tour before a Memorial Auditorium crowd and discusses the role software-driven technology plays in the developing world.

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Graduate student Jennifer Martinez is named the 2008 Daniel Pearl Memorial Journalism Intern and will work in the London bureau of the Wall Street Journal.

The Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, headed by Claude Steele, the Lucie Stern Professor in the Social Sciences (below), becomes part of Stanford.

Ron Fedkiw, associate professor of computer science, wins an Academy Award with two collaborators at Industrial Light and Magic for computer-generated action used in such films as “Pirates of the Caribbean.”

Provost John Etchemendy announces that parents with incomes less than $100,000 will no longer pay tuition as a result of trustee approval of the largest financial aid increase in Stanford’s history.

U.S. National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley discusses the challenges of the United States and its allies with faculty and students affiliated with the Freeman Spogli Institute’s Center for International Security and Cooperation.

Stanford archeologist Laura Jones and her students (above) excavate the site of the men’s gymnasium, which was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, in preparation for construction of a new concert hall near Frost Amphitheater.

Stanford joins a team of universities collaborating with the new King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, which will be a major international and graduate-level research university in Saudi Arabia.

David Luenberger, professor of management science and engineering, and J. Michael Harrison, the Adams Distinguished Professor of Management, are elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

Yahoo! co-founder Jerry Yang and his wife, Akiko Yamazaki (below), both alumni, and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom are on hand for the dedication of the new environment and energy building.