



## A NEW FOCUS FOR THE TOLMAN- BACHER HOUSE

by Kimm Fesenmaier



The on-campus house where Caltech chemist and mathematical physicist Richard Tolman once conversed with such eminent scientists as Albert Einstein and Robert Oppenheimer has been spruced up and repurposed as the new home of the Keck Institute for Space Studies (KISS).

With support from the W. M. Keck Foundation, the Tolman-Bacher House, a single-family home located northeast of the Beckman Institute, was recently renovated to provide KISS with office space and small meeting rooms while maintaining the historical integrity of the original 1920s home. A second, complementary building (top) has been constructed to the west of the house and accommodates a large conference room.

The entire complex, dubbed the Keck Center, will provide a central location for KISS workshops, symposia, and idea-stimulating activities, with the conference building also serving as a meeting place for Caltech's Board of Trustees.

"We are so thankful for the generosity of the W. M. Keck Foundation," says Tom Prince, professor of physics and director of KISS. "This new facility will enable KISS to continue to bring together groups of scientists and engineers from diverse backgrounds to attack the most exciting problems in space science and engineering."