REIMAGINING THE GLUCKSMAN LIBRARY

The reimagined and extended Glucksman Library, opened in 2018 was designed to transform the Library and the University for scholarship in a digital age.

SEATING FOR 2,200
GENERAL COLLECTION STORAGE 950,000
SPECIAL COLLECTION STORAGE 265,000

PROJECT GOALS DESIGNING FOR CHANGE

- Reaffirm the University library as an important academic building at the formal “front door” of the campus
- Foster a vibrant learning community with spaces for academic, cultural and disciplinary engagement
- Build on scholarly library traditions with more quiet and silent study space
- Enable project and group work with flexible co-working spaces
- Extend the library’s traditional role with facilities for digitally enabled scholarship
- Make our unique and distinct collections more accessible for research and research teaching and community engagement
- Provide collection storage for current and future needs
- Infuse the building with technologically rich learning spaces
- Learner orientated

DESIGN CONCEPT

The dynamic New Glucksman Library, which has been dramatically reimagined and extended, was designed and successfully realised by RKD Architects led by their design principal Denis Brereton.

The new library enjoys natural light and a wonderful outlook with a sequence of interlinked, handsome, light infused and beautifully proportioned spaces, all technology infused each with a distinctive character, allowing for mixed mode and individual work, providing more open, informal, interactive, and collaborative spaces. The introduction of double height spaces means that floors are interlinked vertically, ensuring a sense of communication connecting all areas and all levels. Great effort was made to articulate the building which incorporates a whole series of break-out spaces some quiet and calm, some busy and vibrant. These design features open the study areas up to offer dynamic and beautiful spaces, each with its own character.

The pivotal decision to replace the proposed compact shelving from the library floor with a state of the art retrieval system (ARC) significantly impacted the design, by releasing fluid and flexible space where whole new ways of using the facility could be exploited. This storage ARC provides a spine for the building and presents as a backdrop to the central stairway and light-well which acts as a triumphal connector between all levels and spaces.

The building operates as a single entity with a new centrally located entrance that acts very successfully as a visual link to the original and new parts together in a seamless manner. Allied to the entrance are a series of spaces which allow users the opportunity to interact with the facility in terms of orientation and understanding while providing access to key services and community spaces.

Externally, marrying the original and new parts of the building seamlessly was achieved by a sympathetic choice of materials and by introducing a canopy which not only serves the entrance but forms a visual tie between the two entities and acts to mask the scale difference where the original and new elements of the building meet.

LIBRARY DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The new library is designed to respond to the need of change in information delivery, teaching and research practice and reader behavior. Drawing on aspects of design from libraries of antiquity with space for the exchange of ideas and from traditional libraries with space for solitary scholarly work, we sought to add to this spaces that support itinerant, on-demand interaction, spaces that encourage collaboration, and spaces that encourage study and research practice with new technologies, all with a view to the future and the inevitable change that will bring about.

The design shows how the growing evidence of the important relationships between the library and teaching which demonstrates that library use increases student success and library instruction builds student skills and contributes to retention and persistence. Equally, the design responds to the growing importance of unique collections, digital scholarship, data analysis for research and the role library space has in fostering social and academic community. These principles underpin the Library’s provision of a range of spaces, measures and expertise that fit student and faculty needs.
Study Zones
/ Inspirational spaces
/ Interactive and collaborative spaces
/ Silent study
/ Social spaces

Graduate Commons
/ Dedicated space for postgraduate students
/ Space for faculty and staff
/ Individual and collaborative spaces
/ Computer workstations
/ Social and interactive space

Group Study Rooms
/ Whiteboard
/ Internet connection
/ LCD screen
/ WiFi

Popular Reading
/ New literature collection
/ Newspapers
/ Current affairs journals
/ Comfortable seating for reading

Special Collections and Archives
/ Supervised reading room
/ Display and exhibition areas
/ Climate controlled storage facilities
/ Lockers
/ Dedicated classroom

Technology infused
/ Discovery wall to showcase content
/ Laptop lending
/ On-line room booking
/ Air Display
/ Power & data at each desk
/ WiFi
/ PC Clusters

Training Events and Meeting Spaces
/ Information and digital skills training
/ IT based training
/ Large and small meeting rooms
/ Event space for lectures, readings, mini-conferences

Ask Us
/ Flexible information and engagement space
/ Welcoming and safe environment
/ Immediately adjacent to the entrance
/ Collaborative learning space
/ One stop for ease of access to Library IT, Disability assistance
/ Base for Peer Advisors
/ Access point for visiting services
/ Short Loan Collections
/ Self-service circulation

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Digital Scholarship
/ Open technology rich spaces
/ Tools and staff to enable engagement with digital scholarship
/ Consultations, instruction and expertise on the use of digital technologies relating to scholarly communication
/ 3D printing
/ Multimedia production
/ Practice presentation room to record and replay presentations

The Edge
/ Data-driven research workspace
/ Data visualisation lab
/ Events and workshops
/ Expanded technology and training facilities

Moot Appellate Court
/ Space designed for moots and a wide variety of academic and cultural events
/ Five judge benches
/ Dual facing podium for addressing the bench and the audience
/ Council table
/ Audience seating, a real courtroom
/ Up-to-date audio visual equipment linked to VLE and for external broadcast

The ARC
/ Automated book storage and retrieval system
/ Capacity provided for future collection growth
/ Storage for lesser used books
/ Additional capacity of 500,000
/ All collections easily accessible on site