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**McGILL**  
**LIBRARY**  
—  
**REIMAGINED**

FIAT LUX:  
LET THERE BE LIGHT



**McGill**

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# FIAT LUX: LET THERE BE LIGHT

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As McGill University approaches its 200th anniversary in 2021, we have developed a bold vision to transform the Library into a cutting-edge nexus for teaching, learning and research in the digital age.

The words inscribed above the entrance to an early library building, **Fiat Lux: Let There Be Light**, reflect the goal of this ambitious undertaking: to create a new Library complex that will accommodate exciting advances in technology-based learning and pedagogy, proactively positioning it to meet the needs of current and future McGill students, faculty and researchers.

The ambitious plans outlined on the following pages will create a vibrant Library space that is a vital centre of campus life: convenient, comfortable, safe and available, offering a wide array of virtual and on-site programming to support research and learning, including rapid access to print media.





Fiat Lux is a hugely exciting \$140 million endeavour that is being realized through a combination of philanthropy and institutional support. Principal Suzanne Fortier and McGill's academic leadership are united behind the project and have committed significant funding. A visionary donor has stepped forward and made a landmark gift to the Library. This leadership donation has inspired a core group of supporters to make significant contributions to this vital project.

We are now reaching out to the Library's loyal and committed community and inviting you to lend your valued support to this signature project of McGill University's Bicentennial celebrations.



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# A BOLD VISION FOR THE FUTURE

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**“** *Our vision is for a transformed environment for teaching and learning, and for conducting research and scholarship – an environment that is sustainable, accessible, state-of-the-art and healthy.* **”**

– Suzanne Fortier, Principal and Vice-Chancellor

With an entrance at the corner of Sherbrooke and McTavish streets, the redesigned Library complex will serve as a new gateway to McGill’s downtown campus and open the University to the entire community.

Incorporating a rebuilt 1950s Redpath and renovated 1960s McLennan buildings, the modernized and expanded Library will be reconfigured to suit the study requirements of 21st century library users – nearly doubling the spaces for undergrads, graduate students and faculty to study, learn, research and succeed. The new complex will feature a light-filled atrium, an iconic reading room with views of Redpath Hall, the campus and Mount Royal, along with a multi-functional stepped-forum. A completely reimagined Rare Books and Special Collections will be accessible to the McGill community and the public at large.

The new McGill Library will be at the forefront of pedagogical developments, with state-of-the-art learning spaces that foster creativity and collaboration, and establish the benchmark for other academic research libraries.



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# PROVIDING INNOVATIVE SERVICES AND VERSATILE SPACES FOR STUDENT LIFE AND SCHOLARSHIP

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The McGill Library is the busiest spot on campus and a home away from home for thousands of students each year. The reimagined Library will feature physical and virtual spaces that facilitate student innovation and teamwork, with varied seating that accommodates solitude, conversation, immersive research or social interaction, coupled with open, flexible environments that reflect the dynamics of modern work and study.



## STEPPED FORUM

When in use for lectures, a multi-functional stepped forum will allow for projections on accompanying large screen displays. The forum's flexible seating configurations can be quickly adapted to accommodate a variety of uses.



## ICONIC READING ROOM

Situated on the upper floor of the reimagined Library, the main reading room and mezzanine will provide a unique and inspiring setting for scholarly work. McGill students and researchers will benefit from the room's light-filled ambiance and dazzling views of the McGill campus, Mount Royal and downtown Montreal.





## **SUSTAINABLE TERRACE GARDEN**

A peaceful natural oasis in Montreal's downtown core and a beautiful complement to the newly-built Library complex, the Sustainable Terrace Garden will serve as a meeting place, outdoor study area and tranquility zone all rolled into one. With various seating options and a range of landscape elements, the space will offer views of Lower Field and iconic McGill landmarks.

## GRADUATE STUDENT ZONE

The new Library will feature a flexible, interdisciplinary area designed for graduate students. The space will include various seating options, with individual and group study zones, open discussion areas, lounge spaces and computer workstations.



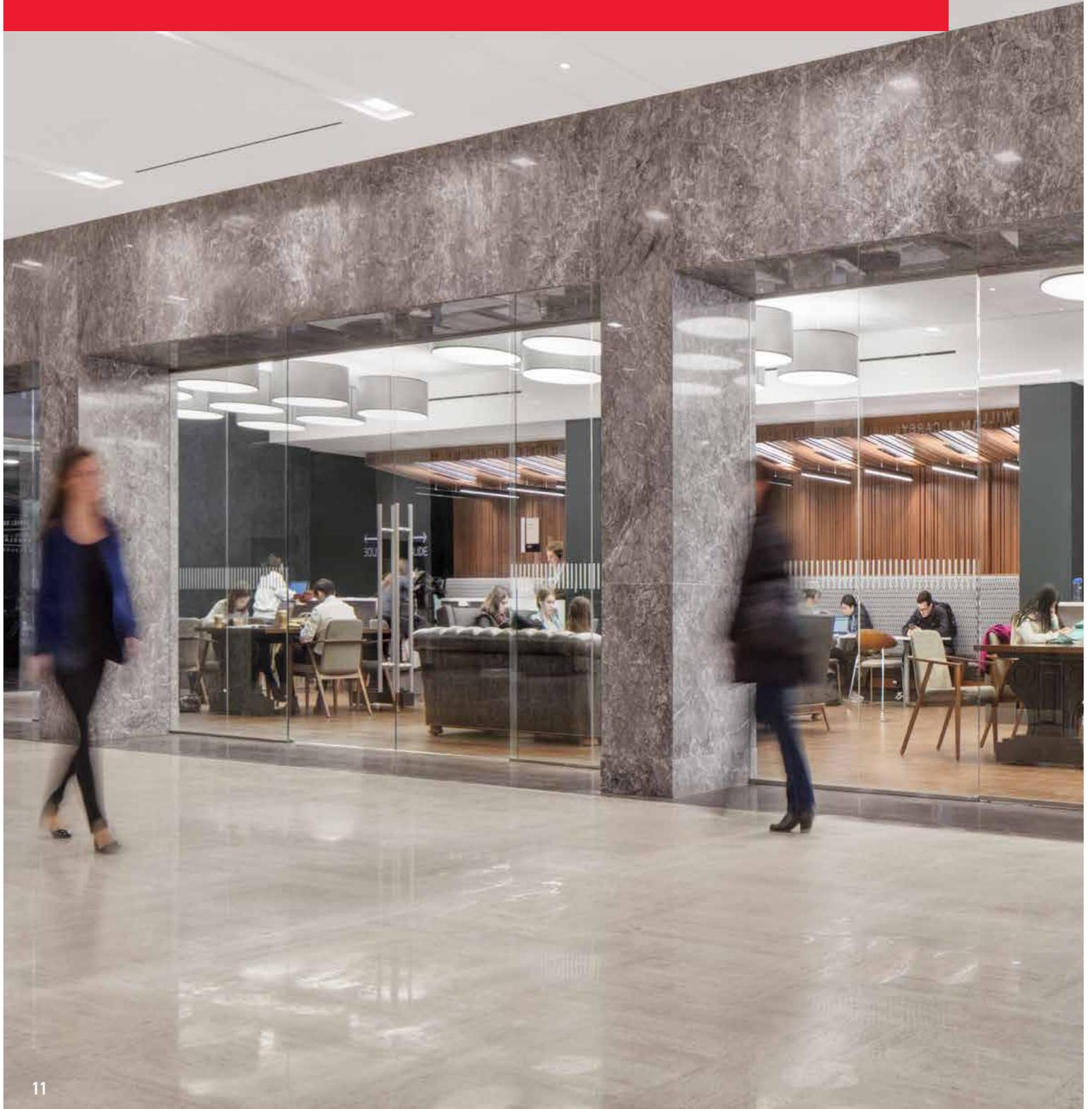
## **LIBRARY INSTRUCTION CLASSROOM**

The Library has grown in value in the digital age because libraries – and librarians – help users make sense of it all. Information literacy instruction will be the primary focus of this flexible learning space. A variety of participatory events, including workshops on fake news, open access and copyright, will be held in this important space. Students will also be able to share their findings with others, using breakout spaces equipped with white boards and projector technology.



## CONFERENCE ROOM

A 50-seat conference room will host community and academic activities including classes, screenings, webinars, training sessions and special events. It will be a flexible and collaborative space and technologically equipped to support different types of presentations and video conferences.





## MEETING ROOMS

The reimagined Library will offer a wide range of study and teaching spaces, including meeting rooms uniquely designed to promote an open exchange of ideas. Rooms will be equipped with high-tech communications tools, including audiovisual technology for practicing and recording live presentations, and a telepresence video collaboration suite to facilitate meetings with others anywhere in the world.



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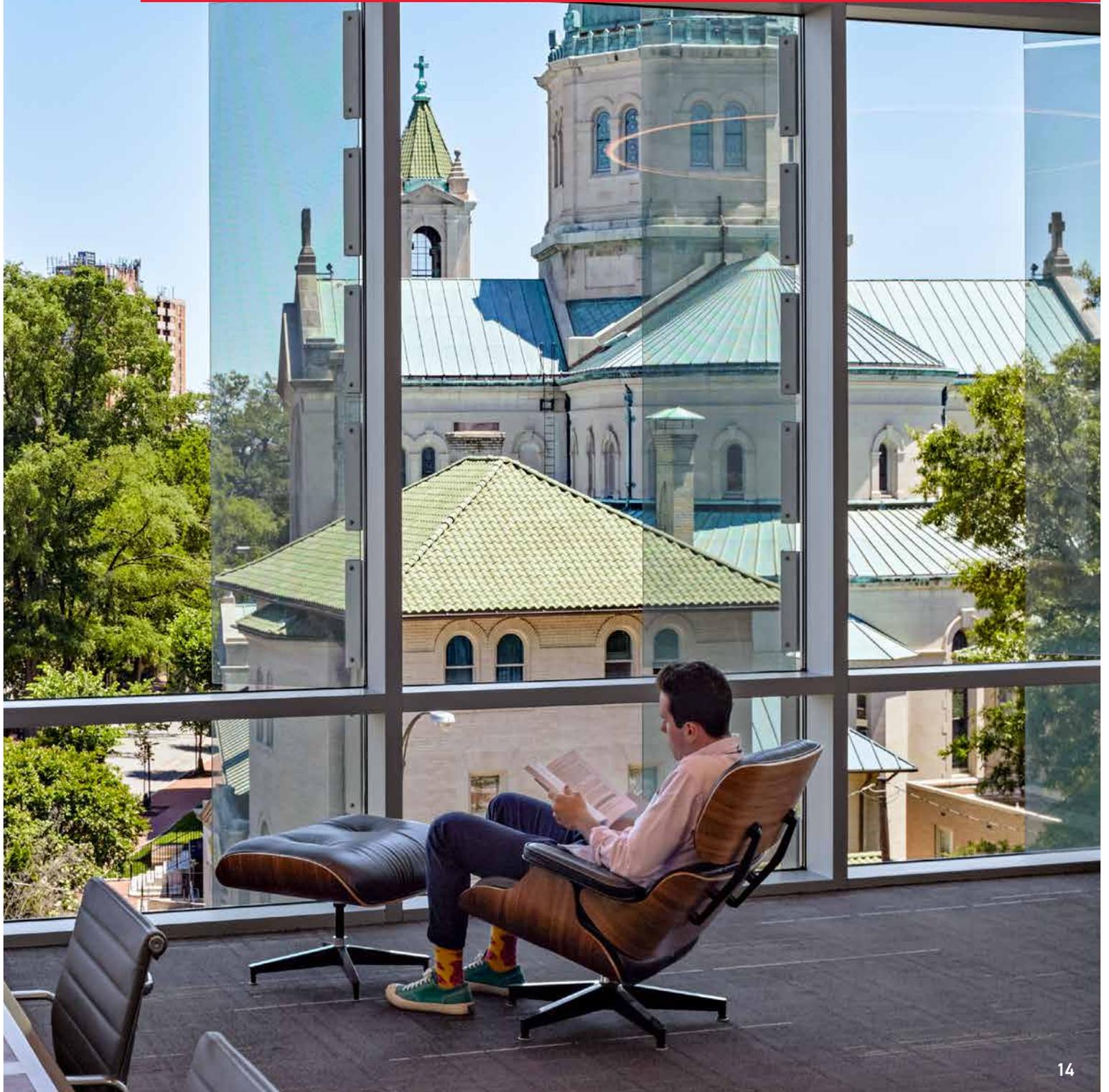
Group Study

## GROUP STUDY ROOMS

These versatile group study rooms will enable students to work together in a more private environment. Each of the planned spaces will seat up to 10 people and offer flat-screen monitors with wireless keyboards and wall-mounted audio-visual panels that allow students to connect personal devices. Tempered glass whiteboards and seating will be configured in various layouts.

## READING NOOKS

The four corners on McLennan Library's floors will be transformed into relaxing reading nooks, equipped with comfortable chairs and ottomans, and offering breathtaking views of campus, downtown Montreal and Mount Royal.



# UNLEASHING OUR FULL RESEARCH POTENTIAL

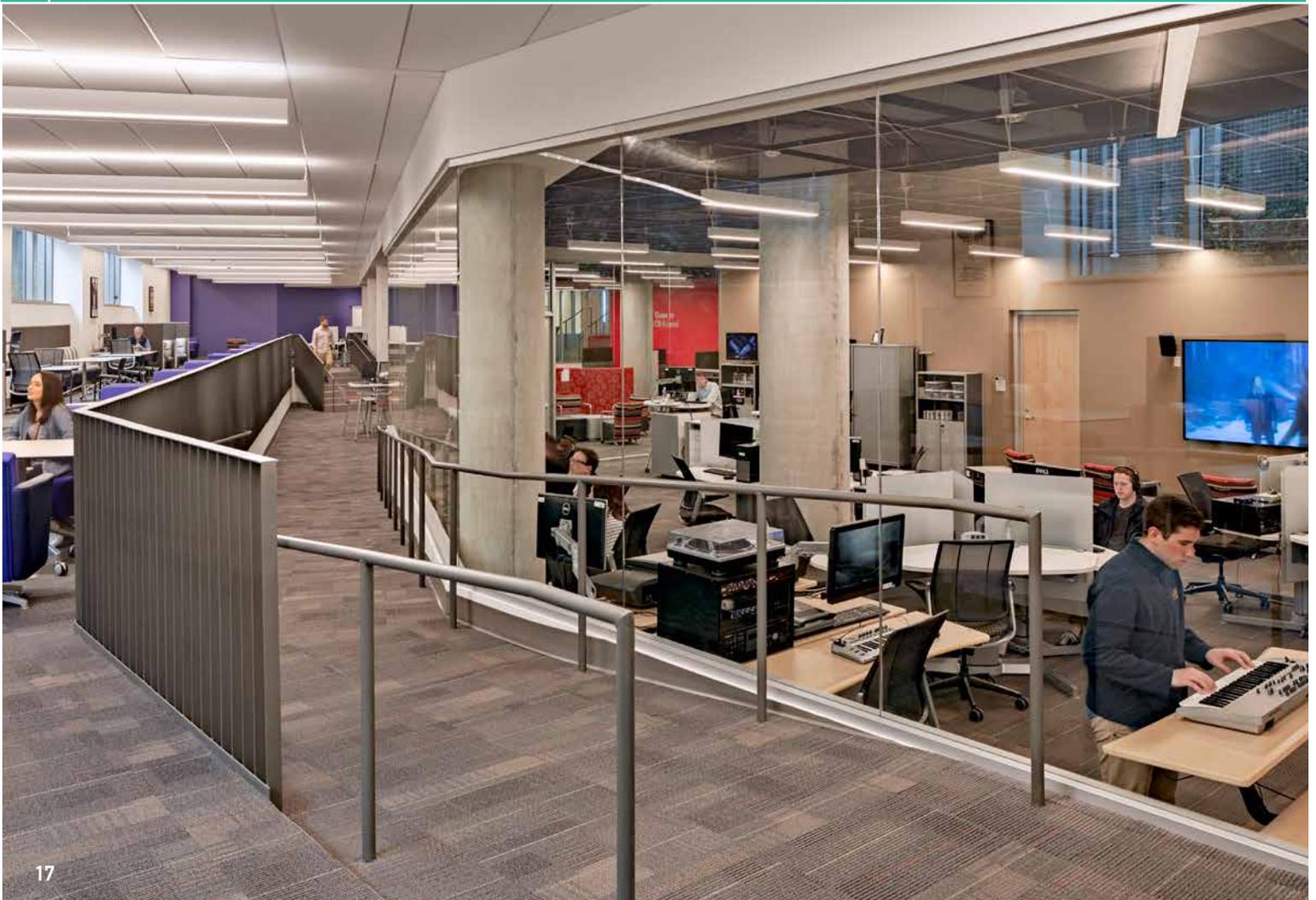
The digital age has completely transformed how students and faculty use libraries – how they seek information and connect with each other. The reimagined McGill Library will address these evolving user needs. A collection of flexible spaces will incorporate new and emerging technologies, providing the entire University community with the resources needed to tackle the toughest issues and inspire the next generation of innovative minds.





## DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP CENTRE

A new Digital Scholarship Centre will provide students and faculty members with the space, resources and assistance they need for complex, multidisciplinary projects, especially those involving geospatial analysis; video and audio recording and editing; data, textual and image analysis; and web production/design. Users will have access to the latest digital tools to analyze complex information and represent it in unique ways. Consultation services will support digital projects and grants, linking researchers with potential funding opportunities and partners, both at McGill and beyond.



## INNOVATION LAB

A new Innovation Lab will provide an open, co-working space where students, faculty, staff and researchers can explore how to grow their ideas. The space will provide print and electronic resources and organize various activities, including mentorship and advising sessions, entrepreneurship workshops, case competitions and presentations by industry experts.



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# ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY WITH MCGILL'S EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTIONS

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With a luminous new face on lower campus, bridging downtown, the river and the mountain, the new McGill Library will be more than just a crucial resource for the campus community; it will be a treasure for our city and our community. The reimagined library will facilitate the sharing of McGill's rich collection of current and rare materials, allowing users to embark on a journey of inspiration, curiosity and life-long learning. Custom-designed spaces will host exhibitions, colloquia and events, drawing in a diverse group of users and scholars from across the city and around the world.

The impressive holdings of its Rare Books & Special Collections – ranging from Babylonian tablets to Canadian fur trade documents, wildlife materials, priceless McGill archives and extensive collections focused on art and architecture – offer students, faculty and researchers illuminating scholarly opportunities. The Visual Arts Collection is the custodian of more than 2,500 works of art on display across McGill's two campuses. Expanded facilities within the new Library complex will foster new outreach, education and research initiatives and serve as an active laboratory.

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## RARE BOOKS & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Within the new library complex, enlarged facilities for Rare Books & Special Collections will provide optimal scholarly access and ensure proper stewardship for McGill's diverse holdings. World-class digital teaching and learning facilities will offer new, interactive ways to explore the collection and contextualize it with other materials held at sister universities and libraries around the world. The expanded space will also include additional classrooms and consultation areas that will foster interaction between curators and scholars. A welcoming reading room and research space will showcase the University's impressive collection of rare books, literary manuscripts, maps, archives, private papers and prints, and allow the Library to build on the success of its popular events for alumni and members of the larger community.



## ATRIUM

Linking McGill's past to its future, a new double storey atrium will represent a shared signature spot unlike any other at McGill. The rebuilt Redpath Library Building, adjacent to the magnificent Redpath Hall, will be designed to "unwrap" and reveal the elegant south-facing façade that has been covered for the last 70 years. This stunning location will feature a dramatic window view of the campus and will be a go-to destination for gatherings, special events, presentations and exhibitions. Students will have a tranquil environment in which to study, surrounded by galleries showcasing rare and special materials.



## VISUAL ARTS GALLERY

Unlike many universities that house their art collection in a separate building, McGill chooses to display items from its Visual Arts Collection across its two campuses, thereby allowing them to be viewed and appreciated by students, faculty and visitors. By creating a new exhibition gallery, the new Library space will provide more access to contemporary and historic artworks, curated and showcased in a climate-controlled, secure space. The inspirational gallery space will serve as a creative laboratory, enhancing the teaching, research, and working environments of faculty, staff, students, and visitors.



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# STEWARDING AND DELIVERING THE LIBRARY'S RESOURCES

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## **COLLECTION MANAGEMENT FACILITY**

A disproportionate amount of the Library's floor space is currently dedicated to book storage, severely limiting study space for users. While the utilization of digital resources has risen steadily, printed material continues to be an important scholarly tool. The new Library will replace old-fashioned stacks with a unique and modern storage solution for its extraordinary collection. A robotic retrieval system will securely house and render accessible some 2.7 million volumes and the rich archives of McGill University, while still allowing for future collection growth. The new high-tech collection management facility will include spaces for conservation treatment, digitization and archival storage of fragile documents.

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## **OFF-SITE STORAGE ROBOTS**

The robots used to access books and documents will be mesmerizing to watch and easy to use. Within minutes of receiving a request from a user's cell phone, one of the mechanized "book-bots" will retrieve the requested material for prompt delivery to one of the Library's branches.



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# OTHER LIBRARY ESSENTIALS

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The role that the McGill Library plays in supporting teaching and learning has never been more important. It is a place where people gather to read, share ideas and conduct research. Equipped with an array of essentials that enhance the user experience, from high-tech message boards, to light-filled study spaces and plenty of comfortable seating, the reimagined Library will offer an environment that nurtures enquiry and spurs on productivity.

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## ASK US CENTRE

Located on the main floor of the revitalized Library complex, the Ask Us Centre will be the go-to destination for visitors who are seeking assistance. Whether it's checking out a book, arranging for an in-depth research consultation, or finding one's way around the Library's buildings and services, users will get the information they need quickly and efficiently.







## **McLENNAN ELEVATOR LOBBIES**

On each floor of the McLennan Library Building, bright, inviting lobby areas will provide a welcoming area for countless visitors every day.

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# NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

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As a loyal and committed member of the McGill community, we hope that you will support this signature campaign of the University's Bicentennial through a philanthropic gift. We would be pleased to recognize your generosity by naming one of the assets on the following list after you or a person of your choosing.

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## SPACES FOR STUDENT LIFE & SCHOLARSHIP

Stepped Forum	\$3 million
Iconic Reading Room	\$2.5 million
Graduate Student Zone	\$1 million
Library Instruction Classroom	\$500,000
Conference Room	\$300,000
Meeting Room (x5)	\$200,000
Sustainable Terrace Garden	\$200,000
Group Study Room (x50)	\$100,000
Reading Nook (x 16)	\$50,000

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## HIGH-TECH RESEARCH SPACES

Research Commons	\$5 million
Digital Scholarship Centre	\$1 million
Innovation Lab	\$1 million

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## McGILL'S EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTIONS

Rare Books & Special Collections	\$15 million
Atrium	\$7.5 million
Visual Arts Gallery	\$3 million

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## STEWARDSHIP LIBRARY RESOURCES

Collection Management Facility	\$2.5 million
Robots for offsite storage (x 20)	\$25,000

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## OTHER LIBRARY ESSENTIALS

Ask Us Centre	\$500,000
Video Wall (front entrance)	\$250,000
McLennan Elevator Lobby (x4)	\$250,000

[mcgill.ca/lib-reimagined](https://mcgill.ca/lib-reimagined)



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# FIAT LUX: LET THERE BE LIGHT

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## IMAGE CREDITS

All Fiat Lux renderings represent the architectural design work of Shepley Bulfinch.

**Pg. 08**

Philips, Hager and North Garden, Vancouver Public Library  
Courtesy: Vancouver Public Library

**Pg. 09**

Pagliuca Harvard Life Lab, Harvard University  
©Robert Benson Photography, Courtesy: Shepley Bulfinch

**Pg. 10**

Active Learning Classroom, Burnside Hall, McGill University  
Courtesy: EKM Architecture

**Pg. 11**

Learning Commons, Xavier University  
©Anton Grassl/Esto Conaton, Courtesy: Shepley Bulfinch

**Pg. 12**

L.L.C. Hesburgh Libraries, University of Notre Dame  
©Darris Lee Harris Photography, Courtesy: Shepley Bulfinch

**Pg. 13**

James B. Hunt Jr. Library, North Carolina State University Libraries  
©Brent Brafford, Courtesy: North Carolina State University Libraries

**Pg. 14**

James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University  
©Robert Benson Photography, Courtesy: Shepley Bulfinch

**Pg. 15+16**

James B. Hunt Jr. Library, North Carolina State University Libraries  
Courtesy: North Carolina State University Libraries

**Pg. 17**

James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University  
© Robert Benson Photography, Courtesy: Shepley Bulfinch

**Pg. 18**

Harvard Innovation Lab, Harvard University  
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**Pg. 20**

Ray & Kay Eckstein Law Library, Marquette University  
Courtesy: Shepley Bulfinch

**Pg. 22**

Perlman Teaching Museum, Braucher Gallery, Carleton College  
Courtesy: Carleton College

**Pg. 24**

Warehouse of Euro-Friwa GmbH, Courtesy: Euro-Friwa GmbH

**Pg. 26**

James B. Hunt Jr. Library, North Carolina State University Libraries  
Courtesy: North Carolina State University Libraries

**Pg. 27**

James B. Hunt Jr. Library, North Carolina State University Libraries  
Courtesy: North Carolina State University Libraries

**Pg. 28**

Riddell Library and Learning Centre, Mount Royal University Library  
Courtesy: Mount Royal University Library

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