



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE · OXFORD

**THE LIBRARY &
STUDY CENTRE
AT THE HEART
OF ST JOHN'S**







THE LIBRARY & STUDY CENTRE AT THE HEART OF ST JOHN'S

“ The Library & Study Centre will be an inspiring space for students and scholars now and for centuries to come – a place to think, read, reflect and write, and to enjoy.

This beautiful addition to the fabric of St John's will double the current number of seats available for readers and double the present shelving space for the collections. It will bring the old and new parts of the College together physically and once again position the library facilities at the heart of St John's.

It will be a place of learning and quiet reflection, certainly, but it will also be a forum for discussion and collaboration – with informal and formal areas designed to suit an increasingly diverse group of students and their working styles. It will be the first library at St John's created primarily with the needs of students in mind.

The Library & Study Centre will also be a place where students, scholars and members of the public will be able to share in the excitement of seeing - and learning about - our Special Collections of printed books and manuscripts. These treasures have been given and bequeathed to the College since its foundation, and we wish to make them as accessible as possible.

We want you to be part of this 21st-century development – a once-in-a-lifetime building at the heart of the College. Benefactors have shaped St John's Library from the time of our founder Sir Thomas White to the present day. Without the generous and far-sighted support of those who have paid for buildings and donated collections we would not have the Library we have today. Please join us in supporting this transformational project. ”

Professor Maggie Snowling CBE
President, St John's College



Chloe Dewe Mathews

A TRADITION OF SCHOLARSHIP AND BENEFACTION

The Library has always been at the heart of St John's – both physically and intellectually – serving its scholarly community. From the very start, it has also been the creation of benefactors.

When Sir Thomas White founded the College in 1555 he and his friends presented around 150 volumes – mostly theological, philosophical, and legal works, together with texts by classical authors – to establish the collection.

In 1598 these volumes were moved into the newly created room we now call the Old Library, located on the first floor of a building which has subsequently become the south range of the Canterbury Quadrangle.



Sir Thomas White

This was a very modern space at the time, as it was the first college library in Oxford to be equipped from its inception with shelved bookcases instead of the low lecterns which had sufficed in medieval libraries.

The opening of the Old Library prompted several benefactors to present important collections to the College, such as 800 volumes from Sir William Paddy – including medical and geographical works – and others from Sir Thomas Tresham.

Thanks to the great generosity of Archbishop Laud, an extension to the Old Library was built in 1631-5 on the first floor of the east range of the new Canterbury Quadrangle which he funded at a total cost of £5,553. This room – now known as the Laudian Library – originally housed manuscripts and scientific instruments as well as books, some of which were given by Laud himself.

After the Restoration, a series of gifts and bequests of books and manuscripts enabled the College's collection to grow substantially, including a gift of 1,500 volumes from Nathaniel Crynes containing eleven works printed by William Caxton – some of the earliest volumes printed in England.

For most of their history, the Old Library and the Laudian Library were primarily the preserve of Fellows rather than a resource for students. However, in 1933, undergraduates were permitted to read in the Laudian Library for the first time.

After the Second World War, the College started to admit many more students and to purchase an increasing number of books and learned periodicals. Space for readers became an issue, and in 1975-6 the ground-floor rooms under the Old Library were converted into the Paddy Room, with shelving for an additional 20,000 books and desks for around 30 readers.



The Laudian Library, seen through its newly reopened north entrance

THE PRESENT CHALLENGES

Today, the Laudian Library and the Paddy Room are the principal spaces used by members of the College wishing to read and study.

There are around 385 undergraduates and 225 postgraduates studying a very wide range of subjects. St John's library facilities have simply not kept pace with either the vast increase in student numbers since the mid-20th century or the changing ways in which young people now study.

There are, for example, only 59 reader spaces in the Laudian Library and the Paddy Room combined. The desks are generally small and in cramped spaces, and they cannot easily accommodate readers' laptops in addition to books and note pads. Only 50% of the general collections is on open shelves. Readers do not have 24-hour access because of the need to secure the Special Collections housed in the Old Library and parts of the Laudian Library.

Today, readers sometimes like to sit in more informal spaces than traditional library carrels and to discuss their work with other students. The College encourages this collaborative approach to study in order to stimulate lively discussion and debate among

undergraduates and postgraduates in a relaxed environment.

Our library staff are well known for willingly sharing their knowledge and expertise about the collections and about the various catalogues and databases available. Indeed, the College Librarian and his team are extremely dedicated to helping readers, but the current locations of the enquiry desk and staff rooms are not well suited to assisting users.

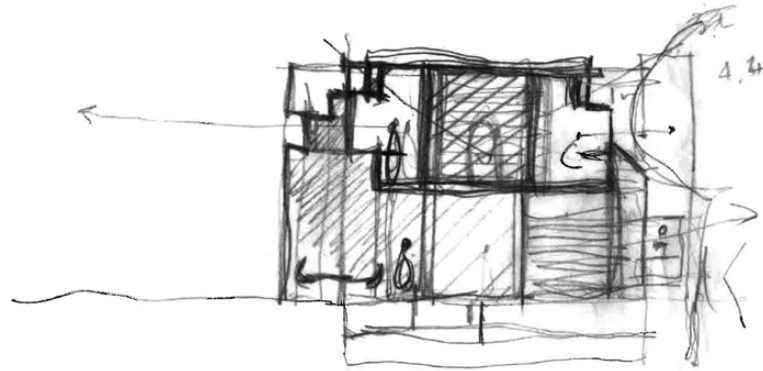
The Special Collections are one of the jewels in the crown of St John's, and are housed in the Old Library and in a number of store rooms dotted around the College. Not only does this make it difficult for staff to access the materials for readers, but also the environmental conditions for these collections are far from ideal.

St John's is committed to making these Special Collections available to all through its extensive Outreach and Access initiatives. The present set-up makes it very hard to accommodate groups of school pupils (visiting the College as part of this programme) or members of the public who have come to see our fascinating books and manuscripts.





AN INVITATION TO BE PART OF THE COLLEGE'S HISTORY



THE SOLUTION

St John's has thought long and hard about how to address these pressing issues of a lack of suitable, modern space for its readers and collections.

The College has developed a plan for a breathtaking new building – the Library & Study Centre – which will be tailored to the needs of its students as well as visiting scholars and members of the public.

This beautiful and highly functional building, on four floors, will be located in the President's Garden and will be linked – through a glass walkway – to the north end of the Laudian Library. It will be bathed inside in natural light, thanks to a combination of tall vertical glazing, roof-lights and internal windows. We describe the building in more detail in the following pages.

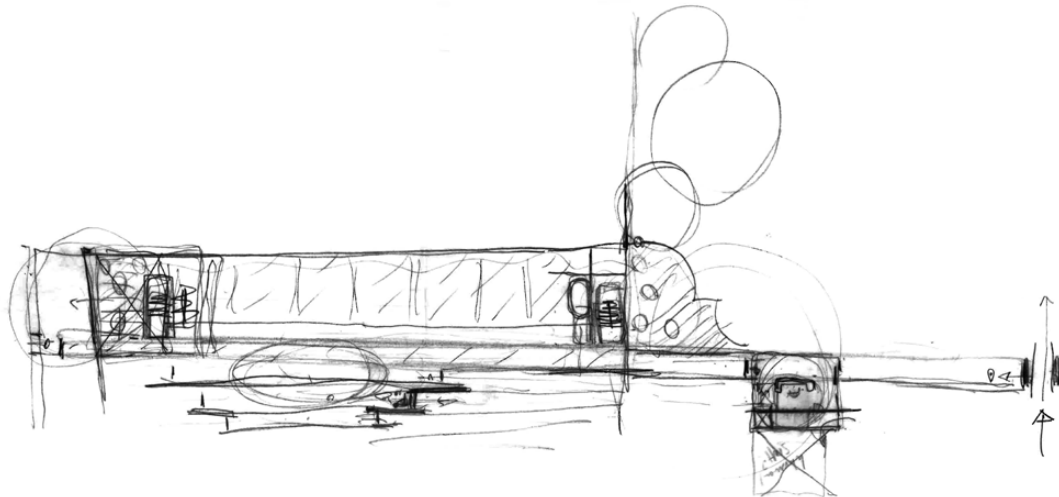
The design, by architects Wright & Wright, is an elegant, pared-down conception, which uses a restrained palette of colours and many fine materials including stone, glass, metal and wood. It will be a light, airy and inspiring space – conducive to study, reflection and discussion.

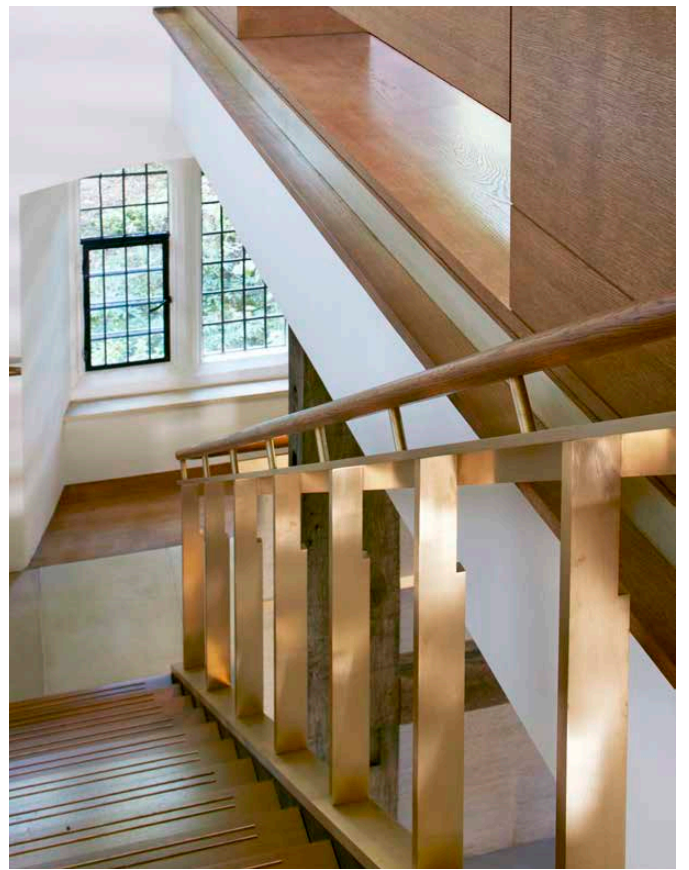
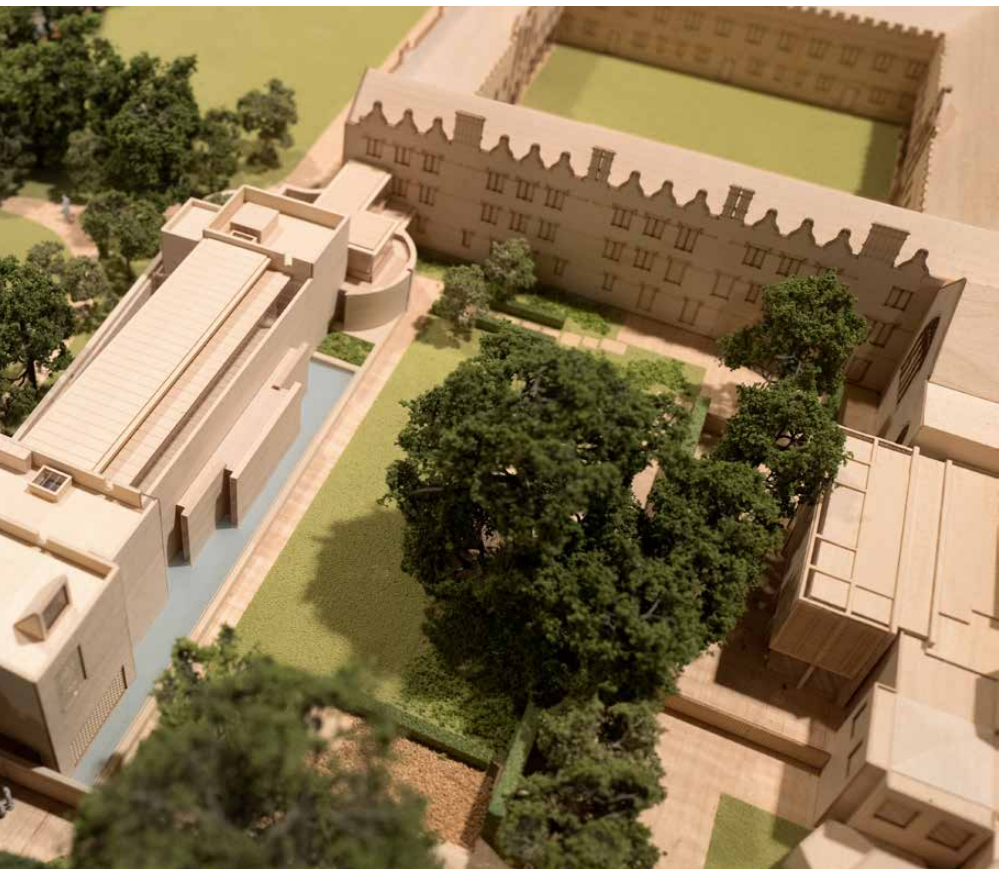
It will also be an environmentally sustainable building, making use of the latest technologies for generating heat (via boreholes in the College's

gardens, producing ground-source heat) and electricity (via photovoltaic panels on the roof of the building). Other measures – including passive ventilation and a high thermal mass – will help to regulate the building's temperature and humidity. From the start, our aspiration has been to create a carbon-neutral Library & Study Centre and to offset carbon emissions from the existing library spaces.

Work has already started on the early stages of the project – including the Otranto Passage entrance and the new staircase leading up to the north end of the Laudian Library. The quality of the finish is exceptional, and the works show the highly sensitive way in which the architects have been able to bring together in a harmonious way the old and the new parts of the building.

The works on the whole Library & Study Centre are due to be completed by the end of 2017, after which the College will undertake important conservation improvements to the Old Library and the Laudian Library; it will also restore the area of the Paddy Room to its original configuration of five Tutors' rooms. These additional works are due to be completed by the end of 2018.

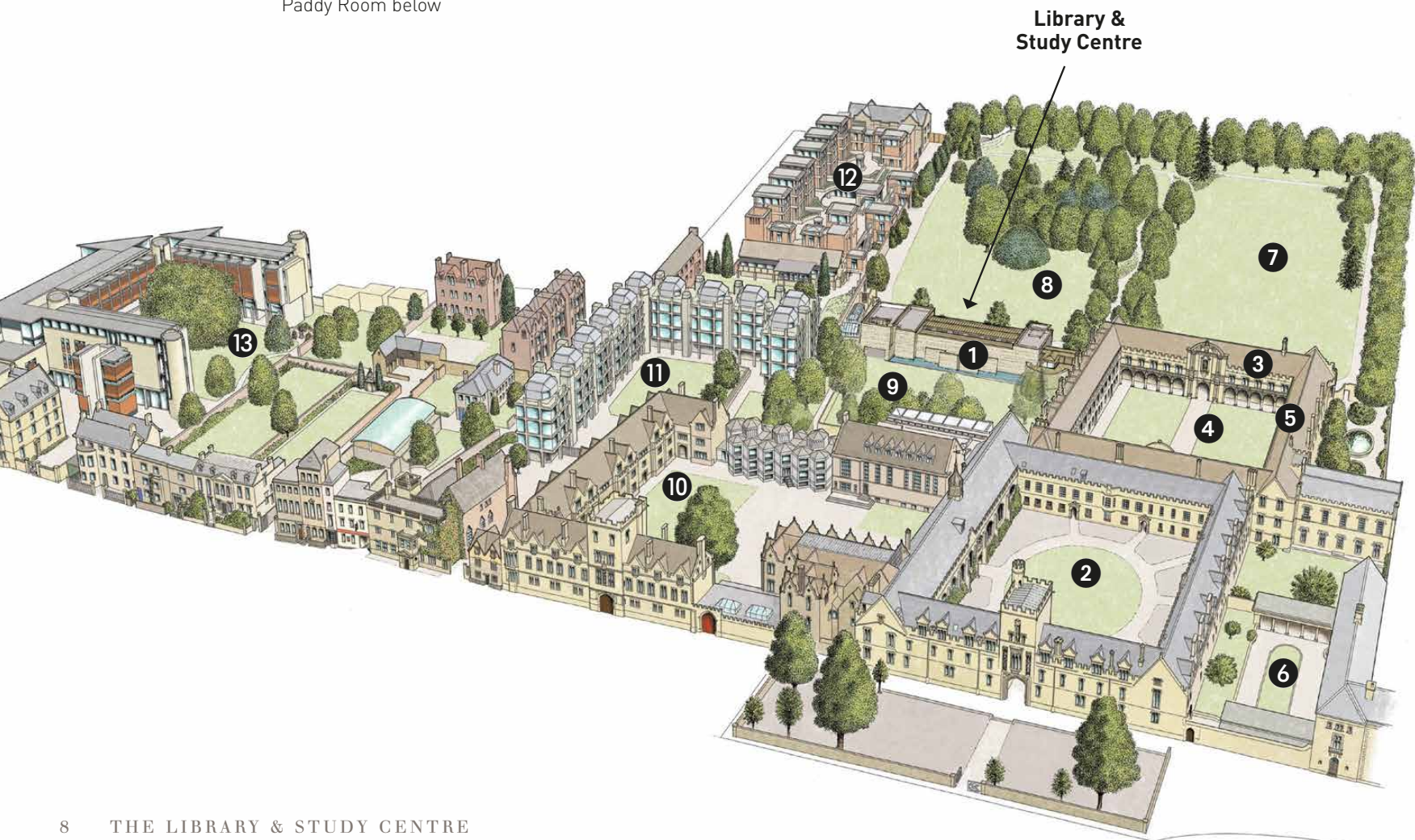




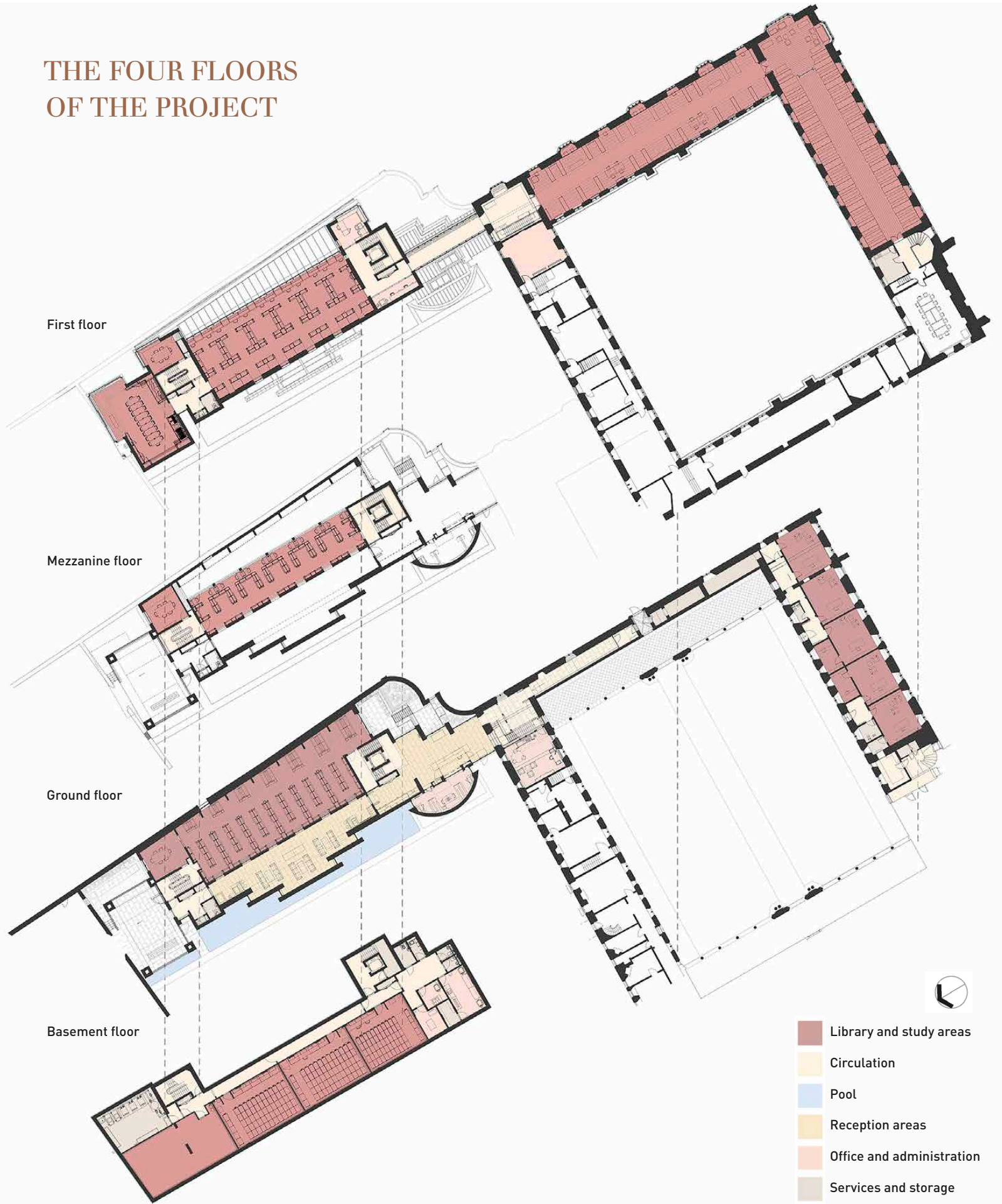
THE NEW BUILDING IN CONTEXT

The Library & Study Centre will sit at the centre of the College's extensive site. It will be linked to the northern end of the Canterbury Quadrangle on both the ground-floor level (via the Otranto Passage and an atrium area) and the first-floor level (via a glass walkway leading to the Laudian Library). New and old buildings will coexist harmoniously within the context of the College's beautiful grounds. The Library & Study Centre will provide a seamless connection between some of the College's earliest buildings and its more recent student accommodation to the north of the site.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Library & Study Centre | 6. Dolphin Quadrangle | 11. Thomas White Quadrangle |
| 2. Front Quadrangle | 7. Great Lawn | 12. Garden Quadrangle |
| 3. Laudian Library | 8. The Groves | 13. Kendrew Quadrangle |
| 4. Canterbury Quadrangle | 9. President's Garden | |
| 5. Old Library with current Paddy Room below | 10. North Quadrangle | |



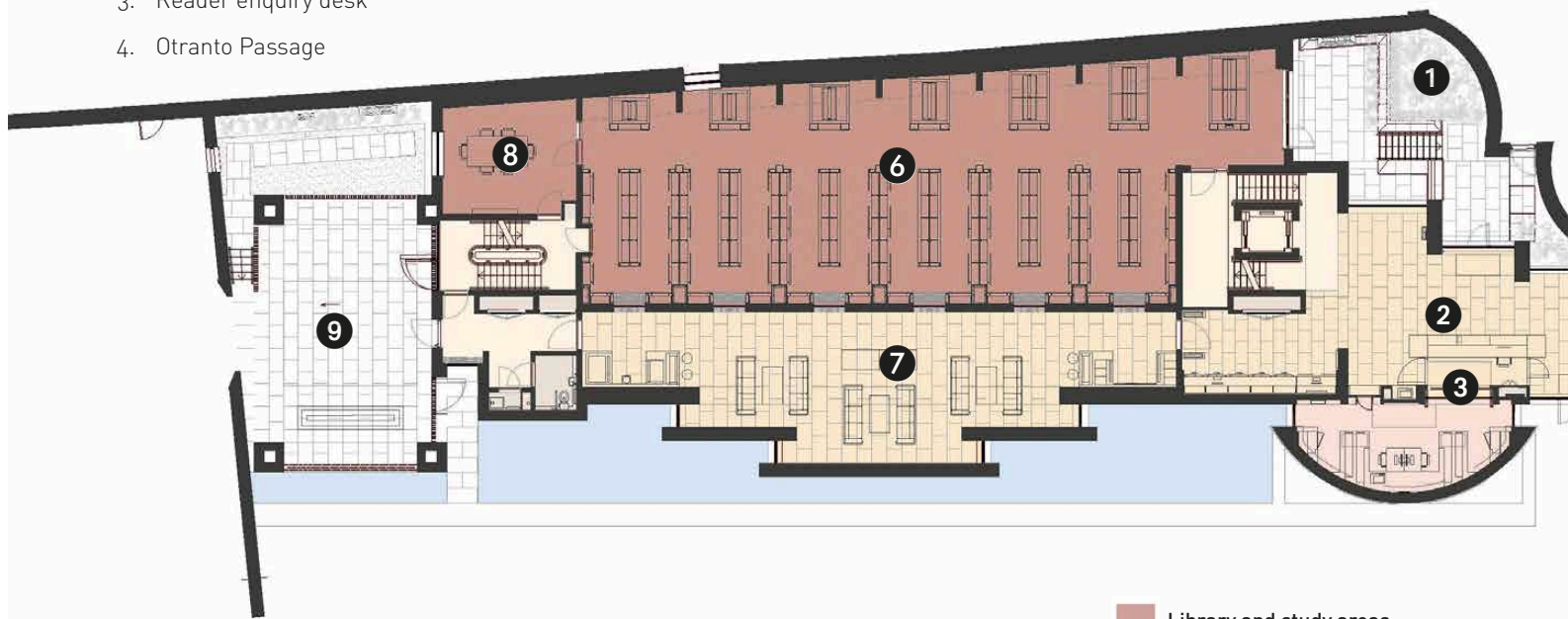
THE FOUR FLOORS OF THE PROJECT



THE PRINCIPAL AREAS OF THE LIBRARY & STUDY CENTRE

GROUND FLOOR

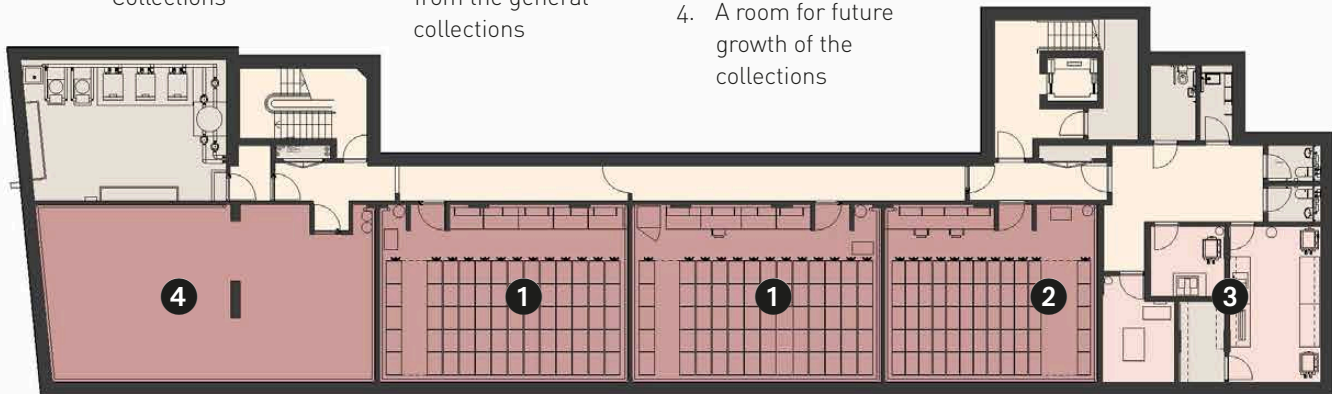
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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Outside courtyard garden | 5. Library staff common room | 7. Informal study area with sofas, chairs and low tables | 9. Portico |
| 2. Atrium | 6. Double-height reading room | 8. Study room | 10. Five Tutors' rooms (in the former Paddy Room area) |
| 3. Reader enquiry desk | | | |
| 4. Otranto Passage | | | |



- Library and study areas
- Circulation
- Pool
- Reception areas
- Office and administration
- Services and storage

BASEMENT FLOOR

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Two state-of-the-art storage rooms with rolling shelving for the Special Collections | 2. Open-access room with rolling shelving for less heavily consulted items from the general collections | 3. Rooms for photocopying and photographing materials |
| | | 4. A room for future growth of the collections |

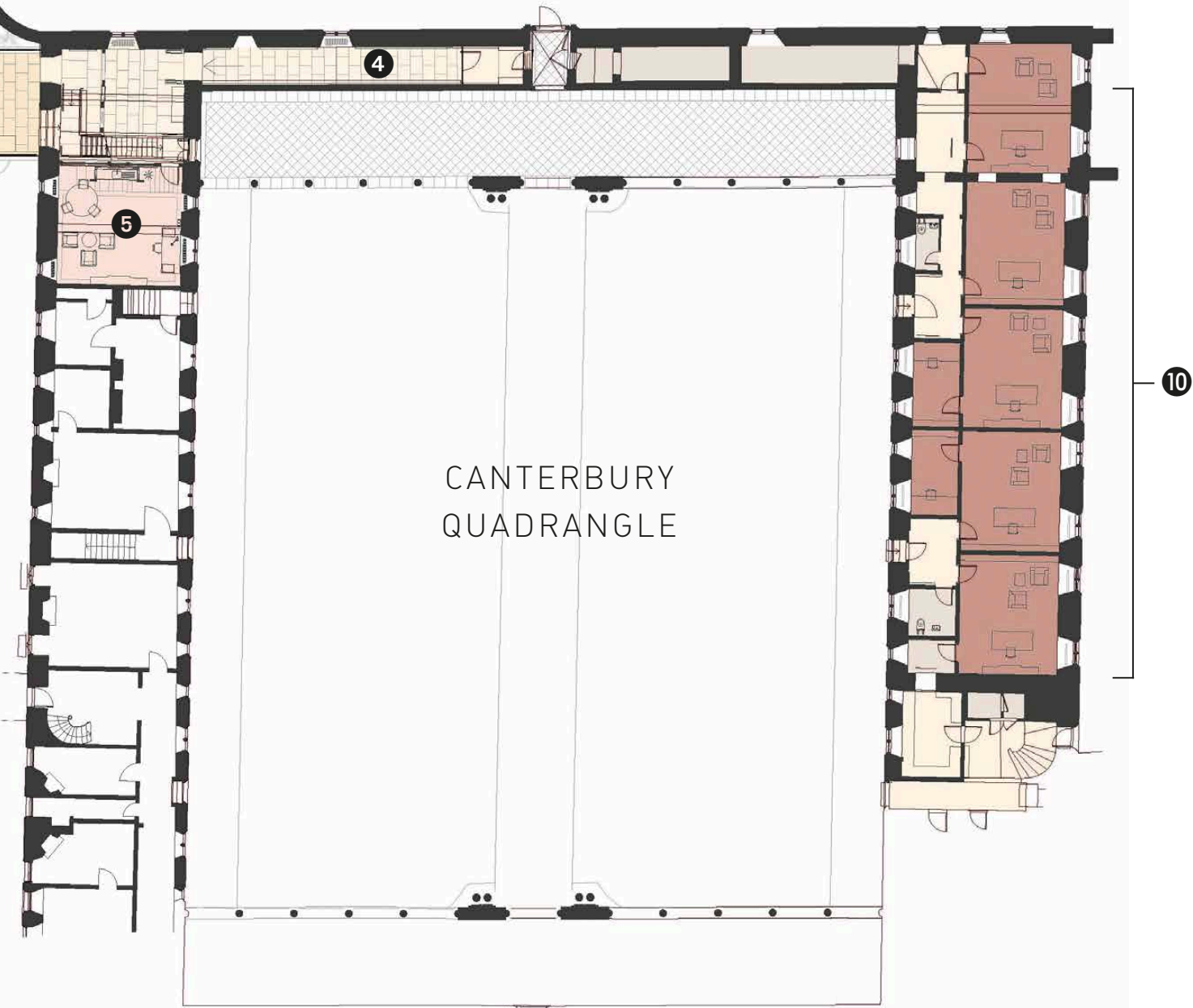




Ground floor (atrium and reader enquiry desk)



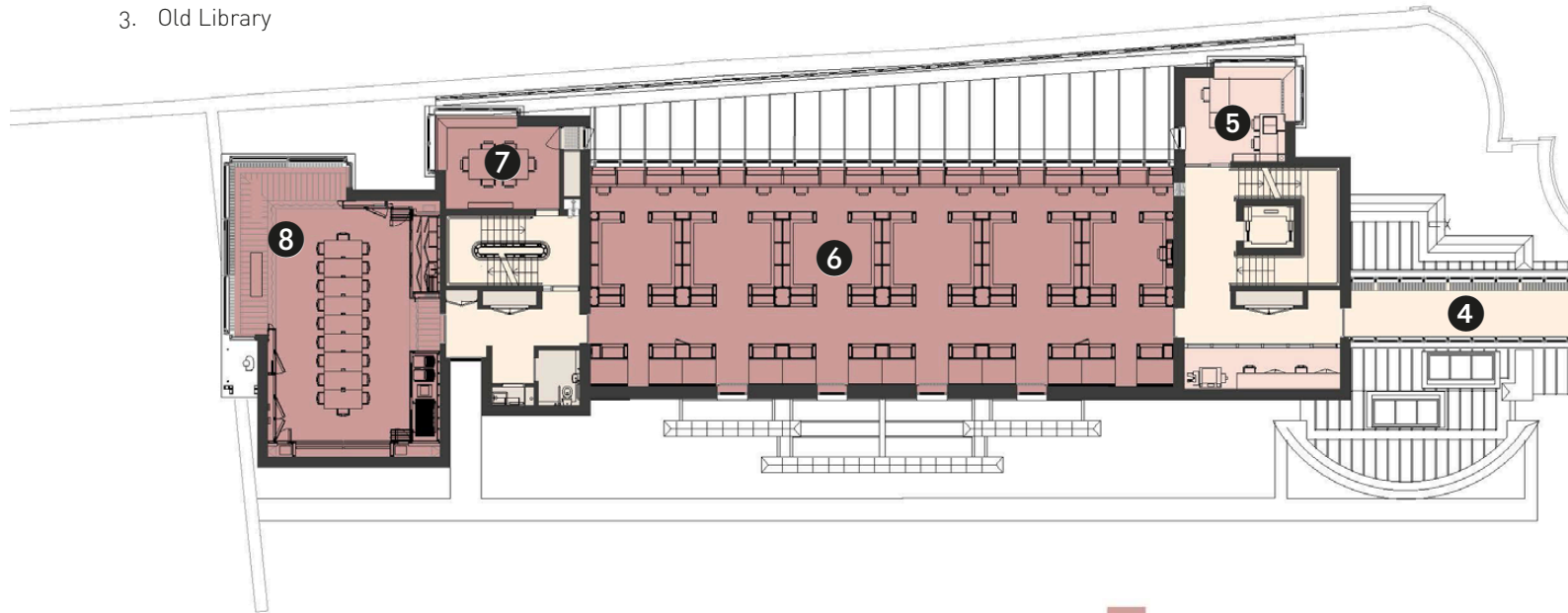
Basement floor (one of the Special Collections storage rooms)



THE PRINCIPAL AREAS OF THE LIBRARY & STUDY CENTRE

FIRST FLOOR

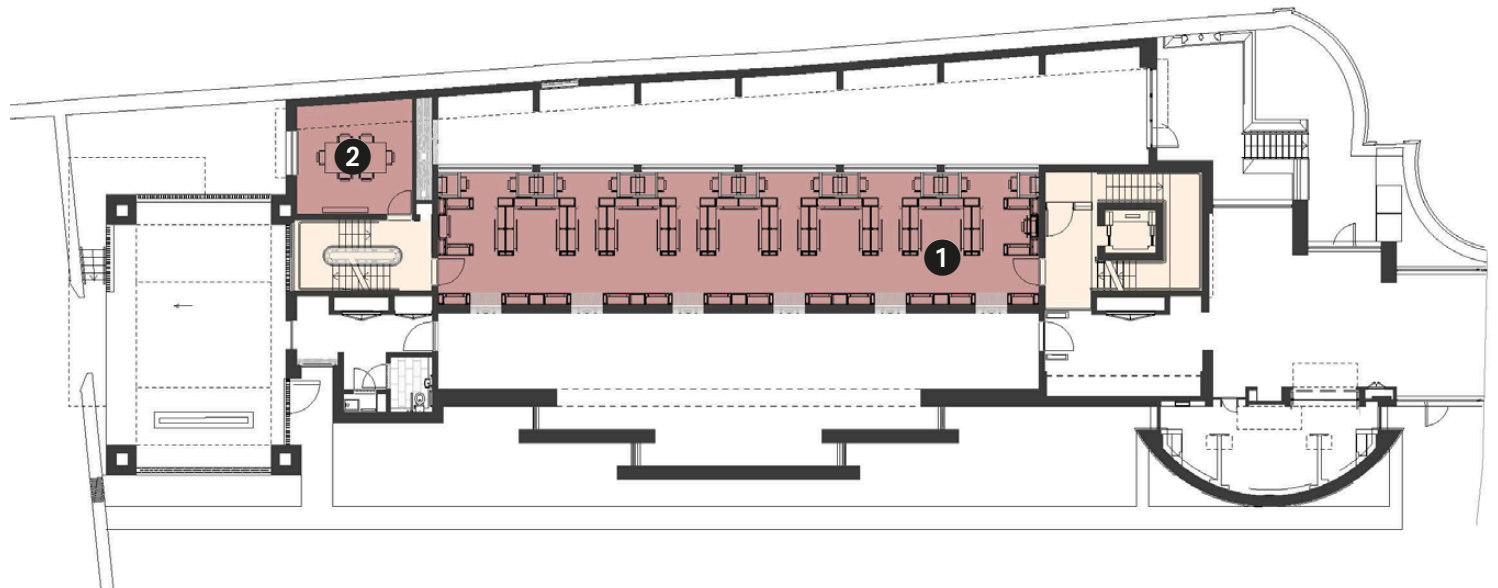
1. Laudian Library
2. Exhibition and display area
3. Old Library
4. Glass walkway
5. Librarian's office
6. Reading room
7. Study room
8. Seminar room



- Library and study areas
- Circulation
- Pool
- Reception areas
- Office and administration
- Services and storage

MEZZANINE FLOOR

1. Reading room
2. Study room

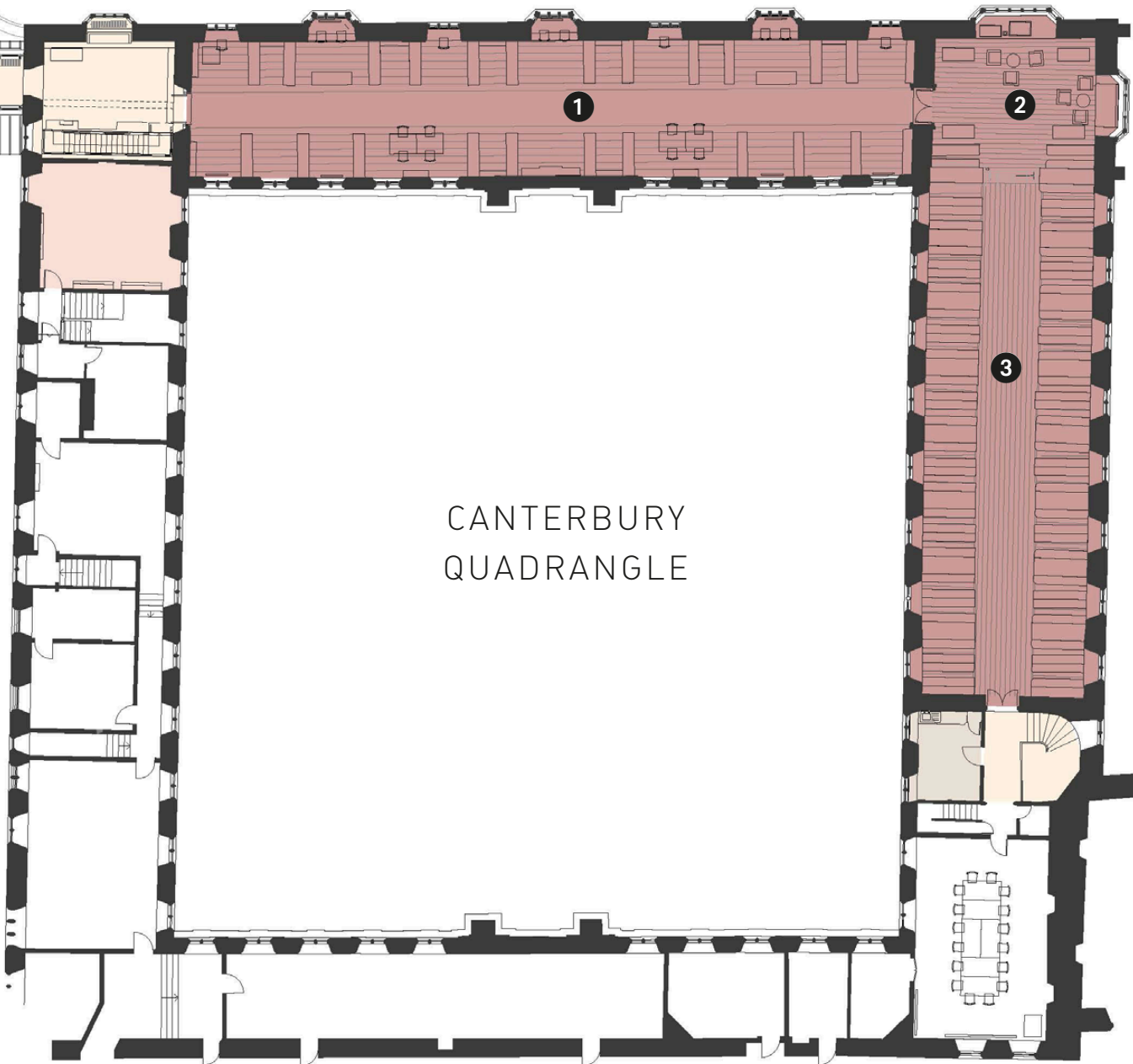




First-floor reading room



Mezzanine floor (with the main reading room below)



A BUILDING AT HOME IN ITS SURROUNDINGS

The Library & Study Centre has been designed to have a gentle presence in its setting of the President's Garden.

The full beauty of the building's exterior will reveal itself on its west side. At the end of the wide lawn in the President's Garden there will be a series of tall windows projecting out over a shallow pool of water, giving the interior of the Library & Study Centre a luminous quality.

The artist Susanna Heron will create an abstract sculptural relief in the stone of this wall of the building. This sculpture will produce an interplay of shadows and reflections in the pool below, helping to generate an ever-changing, rippling effect of light in the informal study area on the ground floor of the building.

The Library & Study Centre will therefore enclose the President's Garden, providing a beautiful space for both private relaxation and public events.

From the east side, where the Great Lawn and the Groves are located, the sense of connection with nature from the first-floor spaces (including the reading room and the seminar room) will be uplifting in any season.

When entering the Library & Study Centre from the north side, you will pass through a wide and boldly crafted opening in the stone wall. As you look up, you will see the floor-to-ceiling windows of the seminar room on the left. There will be a sense of dramatic anticipation as you walk inside the building.



North elevation of the Library & Study Centre





West elevation of the Library & Study Centre, seen from the President's Garden



North elevation of the Library & Study Centre

THE GROUND FLOOR

The Library & Study Centre will link the historic heart of the College to its more recent buildings, helping to bring new life to this part of St John's. On the ground floor, there will be a direct route between Canterbury Quadrangle (entered via the Otranto Passage) and Thomas White Quadrangle.

Readers will be able to enter and exit the new building from either direction (north or south). Once inside, they will reach a large open-plan space filled with comfortable sofas and low tables. Here, they will be able to study and work in a more relaxed environment than a formal library setting – talking to other students and working together on projects.

At the centre of the main axis of the building, there will be a reader enquiry point and, outside, a

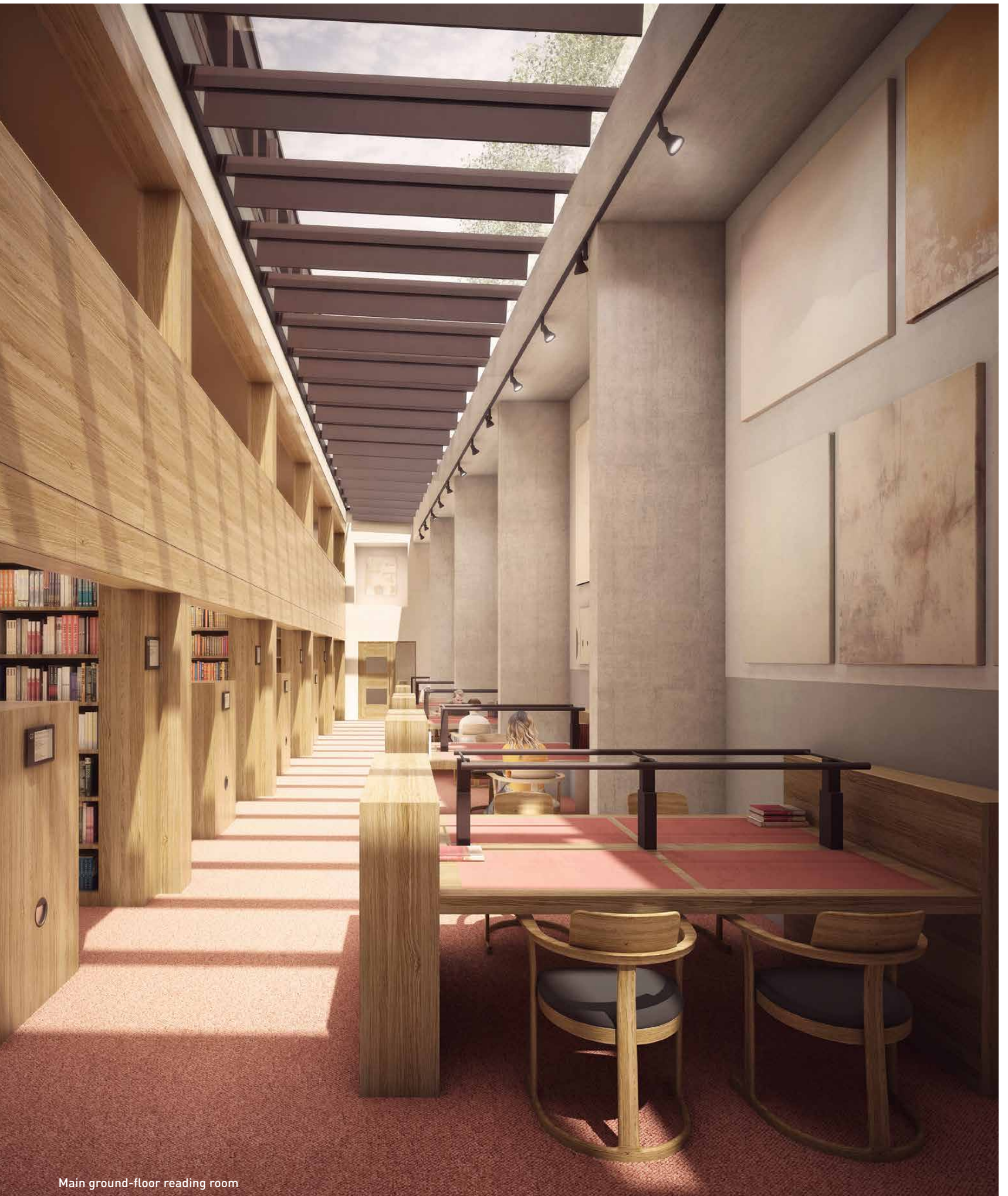
courtyard garden seen through tall windows.

From this welcoming atrium, readers will enter the Library & Study Centre's main ground-floor reading room. This will be a beautiful, double-height space, with natural light streaming down from the long roof-light above.

Here, readers will be able to sit at a number of large desks, with generous accommodation for each student's laptop, note pad and books. The rest of the space will house open-access shelving and a study room.

There will also be a large common room on the ground floor for Library staff, located just beyond the security point in the north-east corner of the Canterbury Quadrangle.





Main ground-floor reading room

THE LIBRARY & STUDY CENTRE – FLOOR BY FLOOR





THE MEZZANINE FLOOR

This will be an airy and attractive space for readers to use. On the east side, there will be desks overlooking the double-height space of the main reading room. Looking west, there will be views down onto the informal study area with its sofas and low tables. A series of bookshelves will house some of the collections, and, at the northern end of the floor there will be a study room.

THE FIRST FLOOR

The main reading room on the first floor will be a bright, open and welcoming space. Readers will have the choice of sitting at a bank of desks looking out eastwards onto the Groves and the Great Lawn or in more informal seating on the west side of the room.

A row of high windows running the full length of both sides of the room will help to flood the space with natural light. Readers will be able to consult the collections housed in the room's shoulder-height bookshelves.

At the northern end of the first floor, there will be a large seminar room and a smaller study room

with floor-to-ceiling windows onto the greenery beyond. The views towards the canopies of trees will be stunning, with a wonderful feeling of being enveloped by nature.

The seminar room will enable us to hold sessions for undergraduates and postgraduates focusing on the Special Collections and on study skills. It will also accommodate groups of up to 20 people at a time – such as school pupils and other members of the public – allowing them to view temporary displays of the College's collections in an attractive and comfortable environment.



Seminar room





First-floor reading room

THE BASEMENT FLOOR

The basement floor will house two large rooms with rolling shelving for the Special Collections, one of which will have space to allow for the growth in these holdings. They will be highly secure spaces, with sophisticated climate controls (to manage heat and humidity levels) and advanced fire-protection technology.

The basement will also house a book stack with rolling shelving for some of the less heavily consulted general collections; this room will be open to all readers. In addition, there will be a room to allow for future acquisitions of books and for the storage of other collections.

There will be spaces for photographing and digitising the collections and a room where users will be able to photocopy books and other materials.





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS THROUGH THE AGES

Over the centuries, St John's has built up large Special Collections of great historical, literary and artistic importance, largely as a result of generous gifts and bequests.

These collections include about 400 manuscripts ranging in date from the 9th to the 20th centuries, with around half being medieval in origin; there are several Middle Eastern manuscripts dating from the 14th to the 18th centuries.

There are about 20,000 books printed before 1850, with the earliest dating to 1465; these cover many subject areas, and form a rich resource for students and scholars.

St John's counts among its alumni a number of prominent figures of modern English literature. Generous donations to the College of authors' personal papers and book collections – including those of A E Housman and Robert Graves – now form an important and growing part of the Special Collections.

Currently placed around the Library are a number of items of historical interest. These range from a 4th-century fragment of papyrus to a 20th-century sculpture, as well as the Founder's Chest. At one time, the Laudian Library even housed two skeletons, used in the teaching of anatomy.

9th century: Gospels

At over 1,100 years old, a set of Gospels, produced in Brittany, is the oldest book in the Library. It came to Canterbury around 100 years after its production, where a picture of St John the Evangelist writing his Gospel was then added.

10th century: Cura Pastoralis

From the 900s comes this guidebook to the duties of the clergy, originally written in 590 by Pope Gregory the Great. This Latin version was produced at St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury. The frontispiece depicts Christ.

11th century: Guido of Arezzo on music

Interesting manuscripts from the 11th century include a Latin grammar written in Anglo-Saxon by Aelfric of Eynsham, and a manuscript by Guido of Arezzo – who developed the familiar doh-re-mi mnemonic for remembering musical notes – with the original form of 'ut-re-mi-fa-sol-la', etc.

12th century: Computus

The College's most celebrated manuscript is a work on medieval mathematics and science, full of maps, diagrams, tables, and alphabets. It was written on the edge of the fens in Thorney Abbey to calculate the future dates of Easter – which it does up to the year 2612.

13th century: York Bestiary

One of the College's most magnificent manuscripts is this bestiary, or book of beasts, produced at Holy Trinity Priory in York. There are pictures of each beast – including elephants, dragons, phoenixes, and bees – together with commentary taken from classical and Christian lore.

14th century: Book of Devices for Wars, Conquest of Cities and Protecting Mountain Passes by Muhammad ibn Mangli

The Library holds several fascinating 14th-century manuscripts, many of a scientific nature, including the following: another bestiary;

an astronomical treatise written for Charles V of France containing horoscopes of the Royal Family; a practitioner's handbook of surgery with illustrations of medical instruments; and several Arabic manuscripts on topics such as siege warfare, linguistics, and astronomy. The Library's manuscript by Muhammad ibn Mangli, a Mamluk officer of the guard based in Cairo, contains illustrations of trebuchets and other engines of war; he tried to pass this work off as a composition by Alexander the Great.

15th century: Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

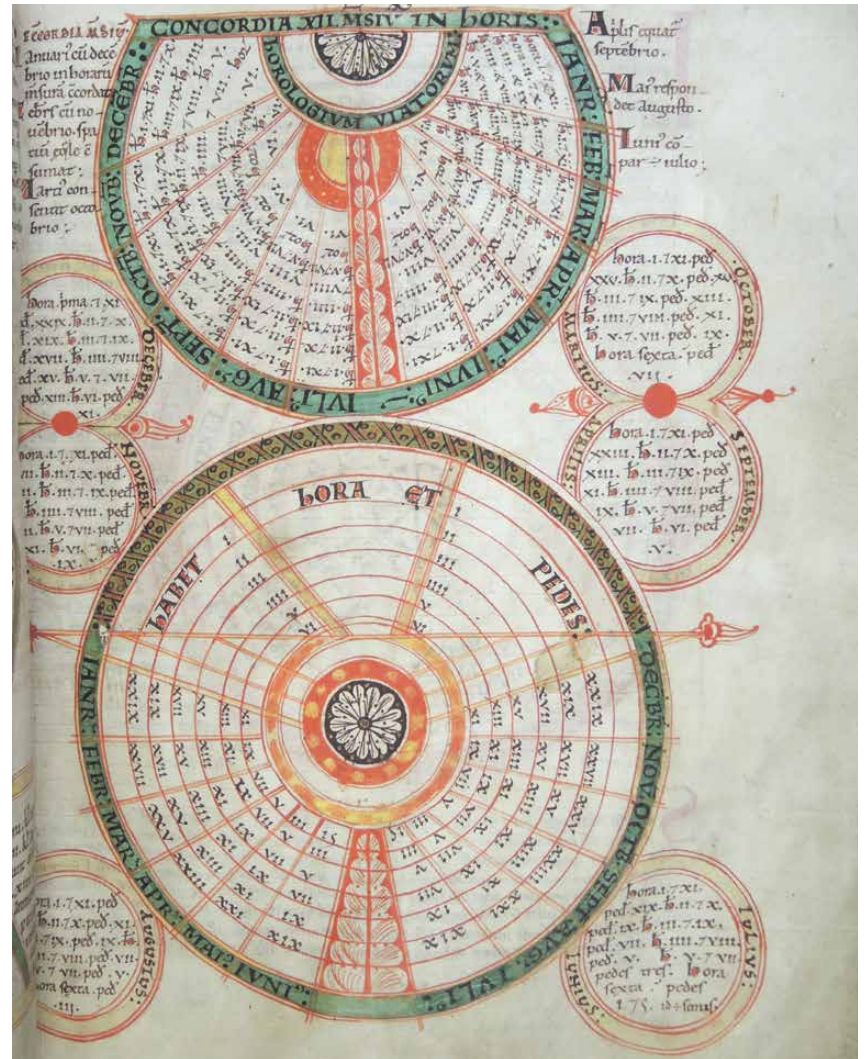
As well as manuscripts from the 1400s, including lavish Books of Hours, the Library holds items from the genesis of European printing. Its oldest printed book is a 1465 edition of Cicero's *De Officiis*, but its most celebrated is its copy of Caxton's second printing of *Canterbury Tales* (1483) with hand-coloured illustrations.



9th century: Gospels



10th century: Cura Pastoralis



12th century: Computus

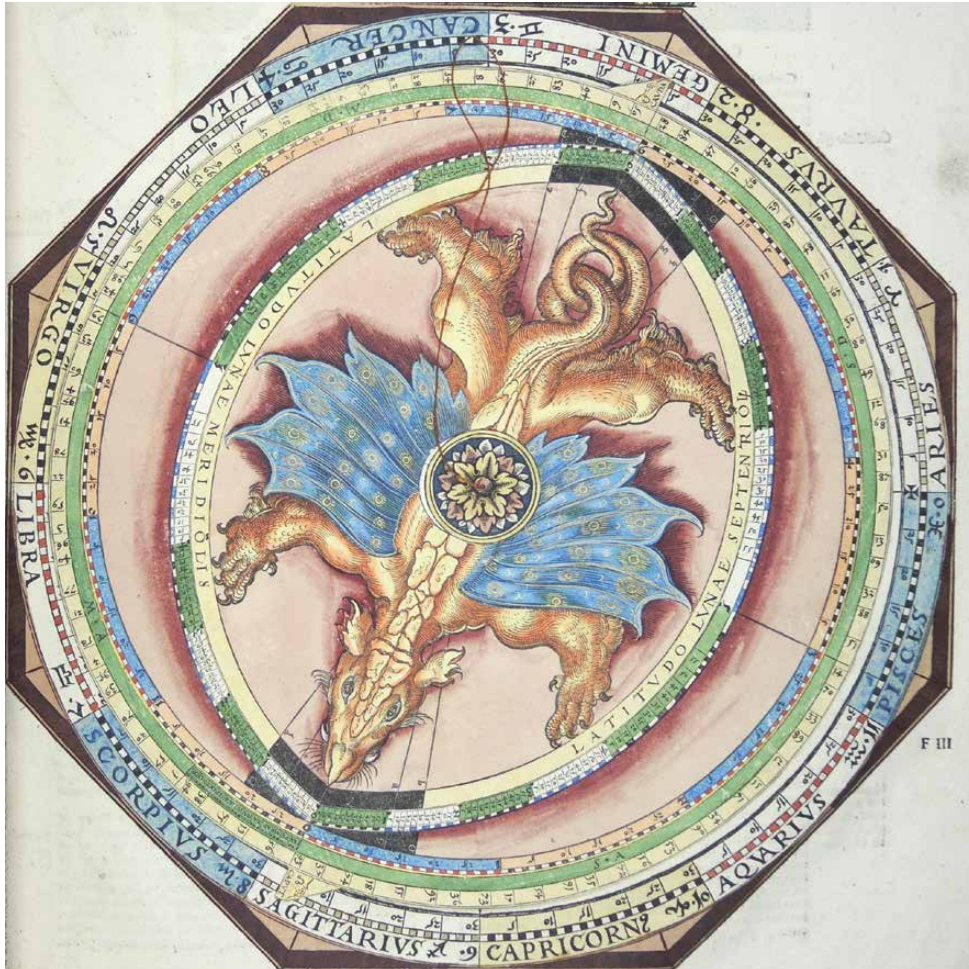


13th century: York Bestiary (image of a unicorn)

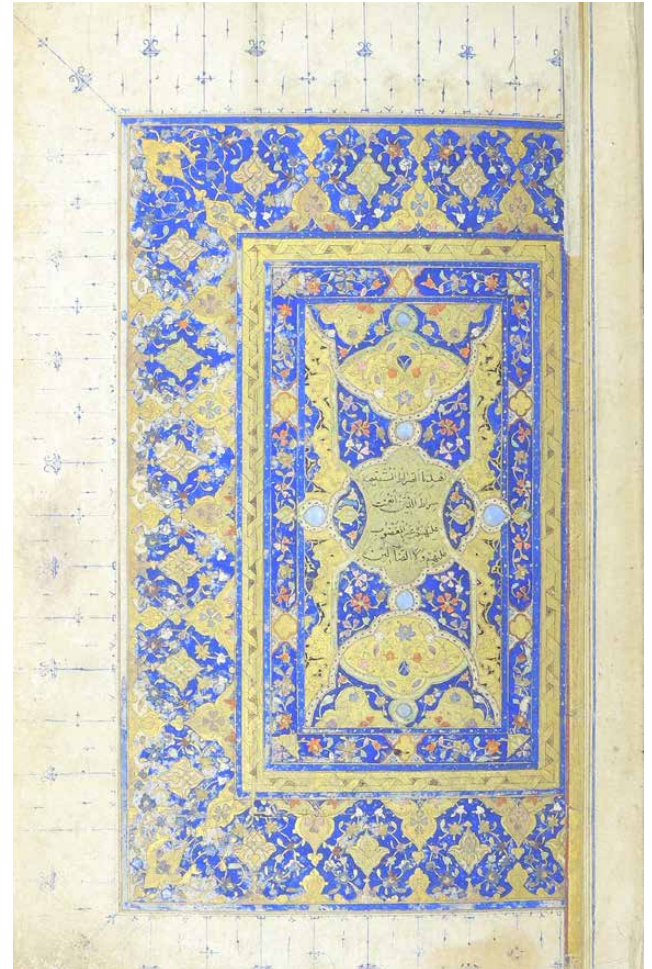


15th century: Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



16th century: Apian's *Astronomicum Caesareum*



16th century: a manuscript Quran

16th century: Apian's *Astronomicum Caesareum*, and hand-written Qurans

Peter Apian's magnificent book was produced to persuade the Emperor Charles V to make its author Royal Astronomer in 1540. Its full-colour diagrams include moving parts. Other 16th-century books in the Library include Qurans, early editions by Copernicus and the anatomist Vesalius, as well as Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*, Gesner's books of animals, and several atlases.

17th century: Mamusse Wunneetupanatamwe Up-Biblum God

One of the first books printed in what later became the United States of America was a Bible in the Massachusetts (or Natick) language, produced by the missionary John Eliot in 1663. Other 17th-century books in the Library are a Second Folio of Shakespeare's works, Hooke's *Micrographia* (on microscopes), as well as first editions of Milton's *Paradise Lost* and Kepler's great work *Astronomia Nova*.

18th century: A Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster, and Borough of Southwark by John Rocque

Amongst the Library's 18th-century holdings are an album of original Hogarth prints, Johnson's *Dictionary*, and a colossal map of London (3.84 x 2.01 metres, when assembled) produced by John Rocque in 1746. Rocque was a former landscape gardener who later rose to become the Royal Cartographer.

19th century: Letters by Jane Austen

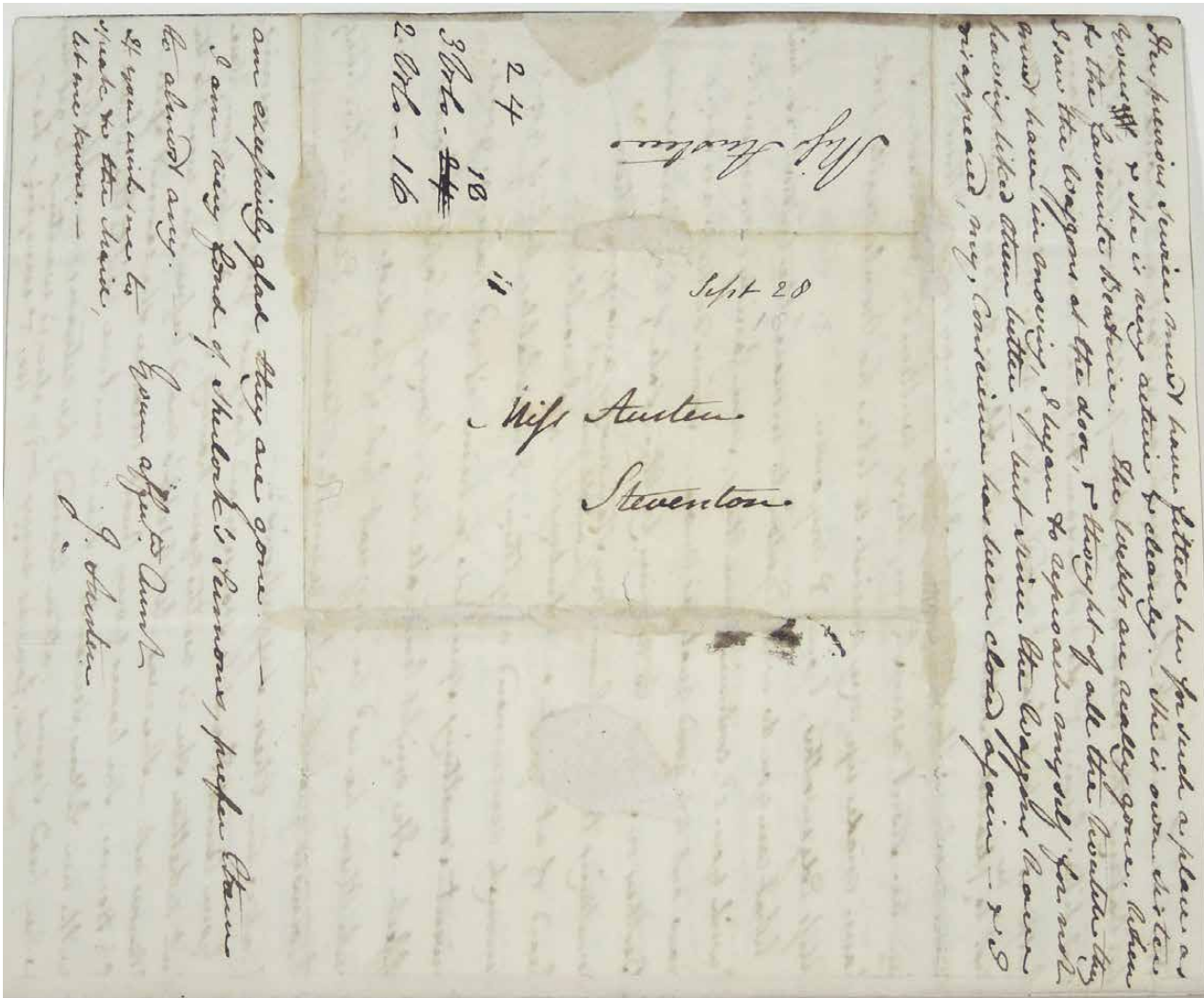
The Library holds 19th-century printed works in all subject areas, including first editions of Dickens and early works by Ruskin. There are five autograph letters of Jane Austen, giving advice to her niece Anna on how to write a novel, and a letter from her father George Austen offering the manuscript of *Pride and Prejudice* to a publisher; it is annotated with the words 'Declined by Return of Post'.

20th century: a highlight of the private press movement

Significant 20th-century collections include the archives and library of the poet and author Robert Graves, letters from Philip Larkin, and manuscripts and typescripts of the comic Spike Milligan. The Library's collection of *livres d'artiste* and fine printing includes highlights from the private press movement such as the Golden Cockerel Press' 1932 limited edition of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* with 29 wood-engravings by the designer, illustrator and war artist, Eric Ravilious.

21st century: C T Lange's *Mechachal*

The Library continues to collect contemporary artists' books and fine printing. C T Lange's *Mechachal* dating from 2011 depicts the market place at Harer in Ethiopia using photographs printed on brightly coloured cloth purchased in the market.



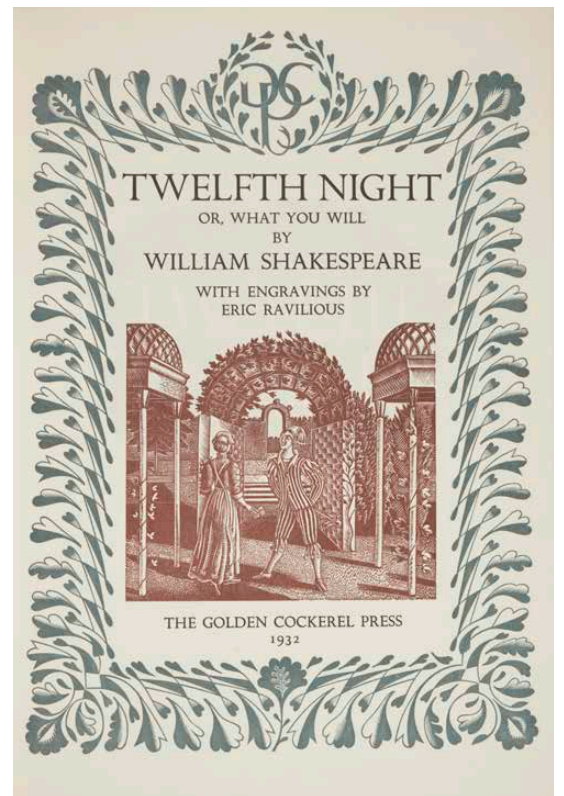
"I have a good many criticisms to make – more than you will like. [...] You are now collecting your people delightfully, gathering exactly into such a spot as is the delight of my life – three or four families in a country village is the very thing to work on."

Letter from Jane Austen to Anna Austen, 9 September 1814

19th century: Letter from Jane Austen to Anna Austen, 28 September 1814



18th century: A Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster, and Borough of Southwark by John Rocque



20th century: a highlight of the private press movement

THE OLD LIBRARY AND THE LAUDIAN LIBRARY

Once the new Library & Study Centre has been completed at the end of 2017, we will make some conservation improvements during 2018 to the Laudian Library and the Old Library.

These improvements will include upgrading the heating, lighting and electrical systems. Discreet wooden-edged double-glazing with internal blinds and UV filters – to help minimise damage to the collections from sunlight – will be installed in the windows of both rooms.

We will also improve considerably the seating arrangements in the Laudian Library, which will continue to house part of the undergraduate collections (with the remainder being kept in the Library & Study Centre). In addition to rationalising existing reader spaces, new desks will be built into the windows of the Laudian Library, looking out eastwards onto the Great Lawn.

The first floor is where the old and the new parts of this project come together. A glass passageway will link the top floor of the Library & Study Centre to the original library buildings via the newly reopened north entrance of the Laudian Library.

A reader will be able to walk uninterrupted from the seminar room and the main reading room on the first floor of the Library & Study Centre via the glass passageway into the Laudian Library – and then into the Old Library beyond.

The junction between the Laudian Library and the Old Library presently contains the main staircase which was inserted into the building in the 1970s. This unsatisfactory alteration to the space will be reversed, helping to return the room to its previous state.

The restored room will house exhibition cases displaying items from the Special Collections, which members of the public will be able to view during visits. These cases will use responsive technology to help manage light levels, as their glass fronts will turn from a frosted appearance to a clear one as visitors approach.

This room will also contain additional, informal seating areas for readers. It will certainly be a beautiful space in which to read and study, providing views westwards down the Old Library and northwards down the Laudian Library – and on to the new Library & Study Centre beyond.

THE PADDY ROOM

Once the book collections currently housed in the Paddy Room (located directly below the Old Library) are moved to the new Library & Study Centre in early 2018, we will restore the Paddy Room area to its original configuration of five teaching rooms for Fellows. This will provide much-needed additional space for undergraduate tutorials and graduate

supervisions, as well as a place for Fellows to write and undertake some of their research.

The number of Fellows in the Governing Body at St John's has increased by over two and a half times since the mid-20th century at the same time as the College's student population has grown by a very similar rate.

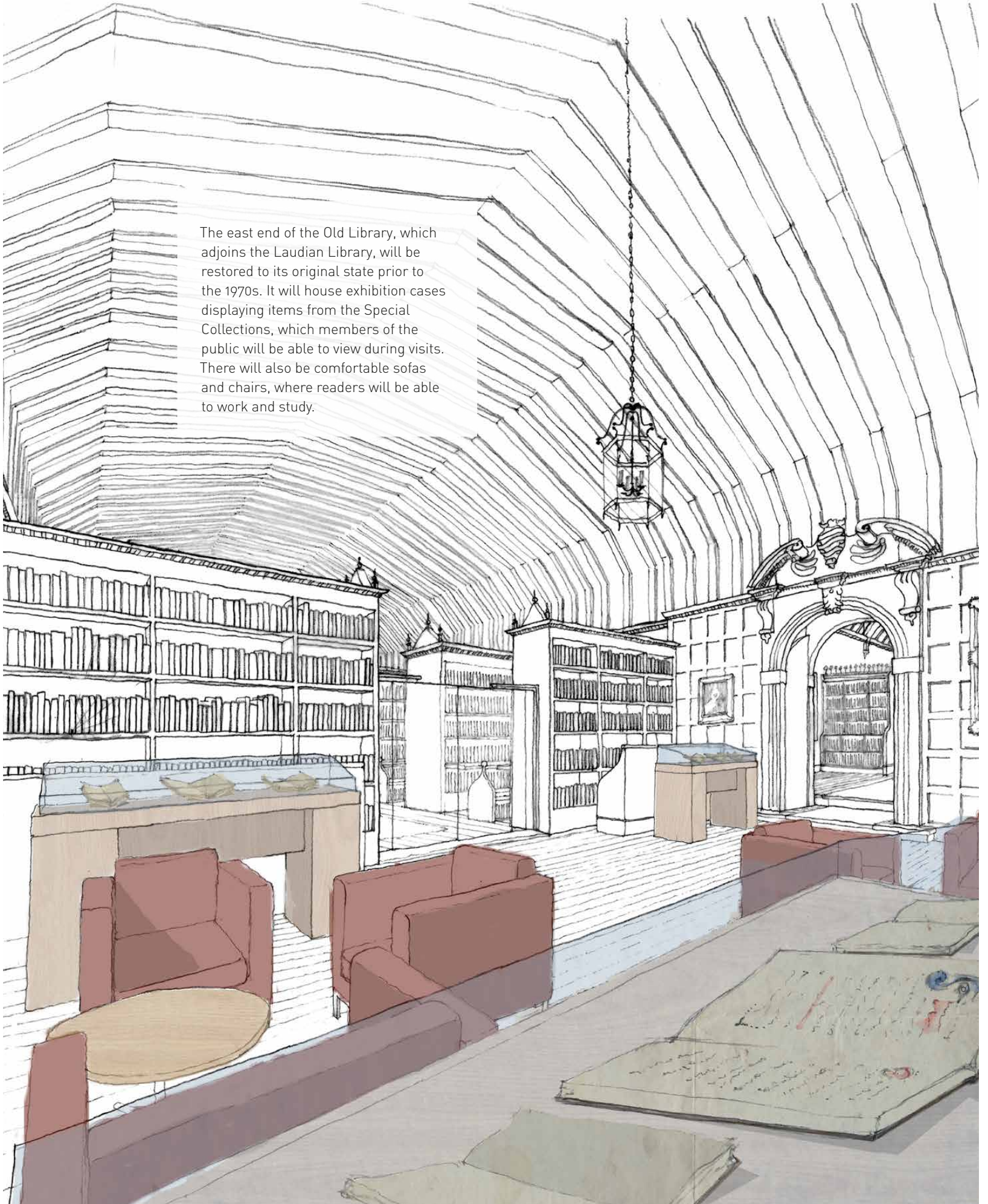




The Old Library, looking east

CONSERVING THE EXISTING LIBRARY BUILDINGS

The east end of the Old Library, which adjoins the Laudian Library, will be restored to its original state prior to the 1970s. It will house exhibition cases displaying items from the Special Collections, which members of the public will be able to view during visits. There will also be comfortable sofas and chairs, where readers will be able to work and study.



TRANSFORMING ST JOHN'S FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE



Accommodating students' changing working styles



Putting all the undergraduate collections on open shelves



Allowing students 24-hour access to study and borrow books



Encouraging discussion and collaboration among students



Putting scholarship squarely at the centre of College life



Protecting, preserving, and making accessible the Special Collections



Creating exhibition and display spaces for visitors



Providing the latest library equipment and IT - including WiFi



Placing the Librarian and his team centre-stage to help readers



Making the Library accessible to disabled people



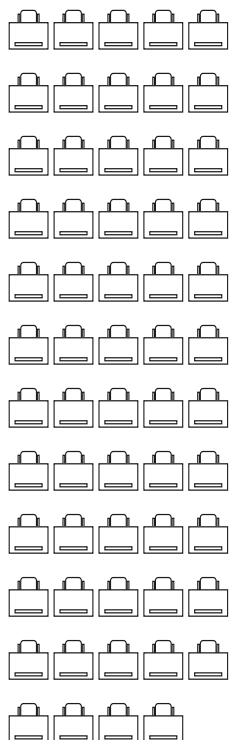
Uniting the old and the new buildings



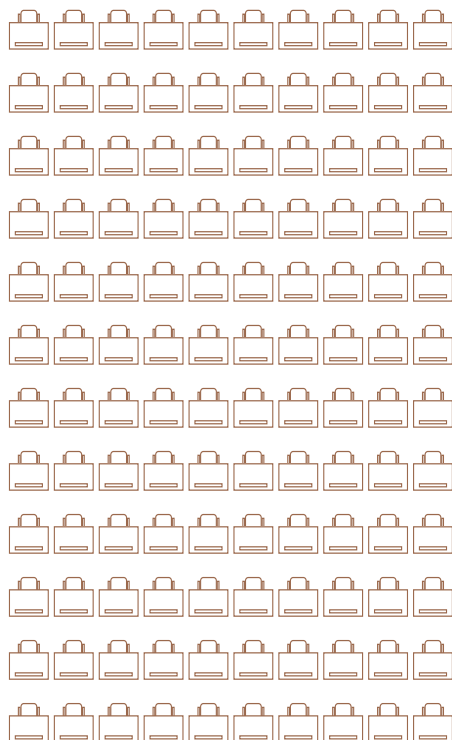
Creating a welcoming space for a diverse group of students

Doubling the current number of reader places

59

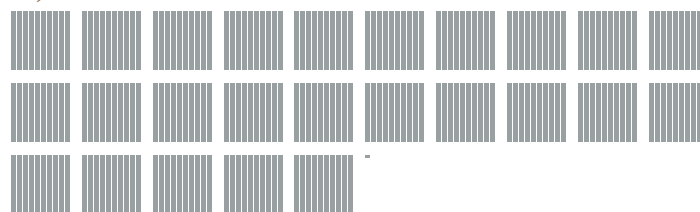


120

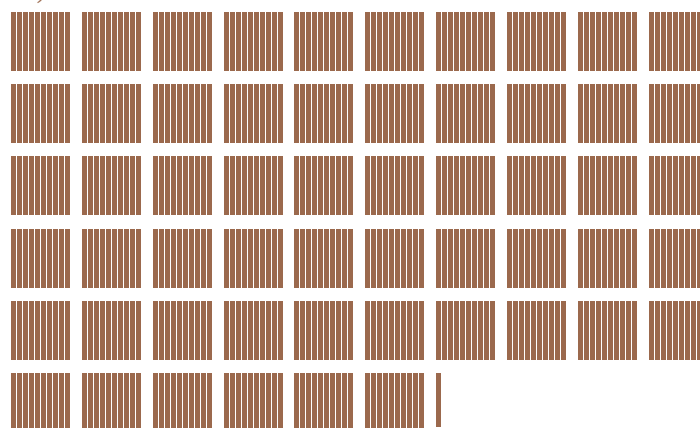


Doubling the current amount of shelving for the collections (linear metres)

2,504



5,692



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE LIBRARY & STUDY CENTRE

The College is immensely proud of the benefactors who have supported its Library over the centuries.

This is reflected in the east window of the Old Library, which contains stained-glass panels commemorating the generosity of benefactors who contributed to the construction of the Library in 1596-8 and gave books and manuscripts to enhance its existing collections.

In the coming years, St John's will honour and celebrate the gifts of all those who contribute to the Library & Study Centre as well as the associated works in the Old Library, the Laudian Library and the Paddy Room.

Benefactors may decide to give to the project as a whole or to support a particular element of it. In the case of very generous gifts, the Fellows may consider naming a space permanently after a benefactor.

We will create a Benefactors' Panel in the Library & Study Centre recording the names of those who have contributed to the project. Whilst this may not be as spectacular as the 16th-century stained-glass in the Old Library, it will be just as heartfelt and permanent a gesture of gratitude by St John's.

All those who contribute to the project will be invited to join the St John's Library Benefactors. Members of this group and their partners will be invited regularly to events at the Library & Study Centre focusing, in turn, on different areas of the Special Collections. They will also receive invitations to Private Views of exhibitions as well as a termly newsletter about the latest library developments at St John's, including details of any new acquisitions.

The total cost of the Library & Study Centre is £19.6M, and the combined cost of the works on

the Old Library, the Laudian Library and the Paddy Room will be in the order of £8.3M.

The College has already embarked on the necessary building works because we regard this project as extremely important for the future of scholarship at St John's. To underwrite the cost we are currently borrowing the necessary funds, which is why the support of benefactors is so important.

There are, of course, many calls on St John's funds, including the income from our endowment. We would therefore like – wherever possible – to use the College's resources to fund a wide range of essential needs at St John's, including providing many more scholarships and bursaries for students.

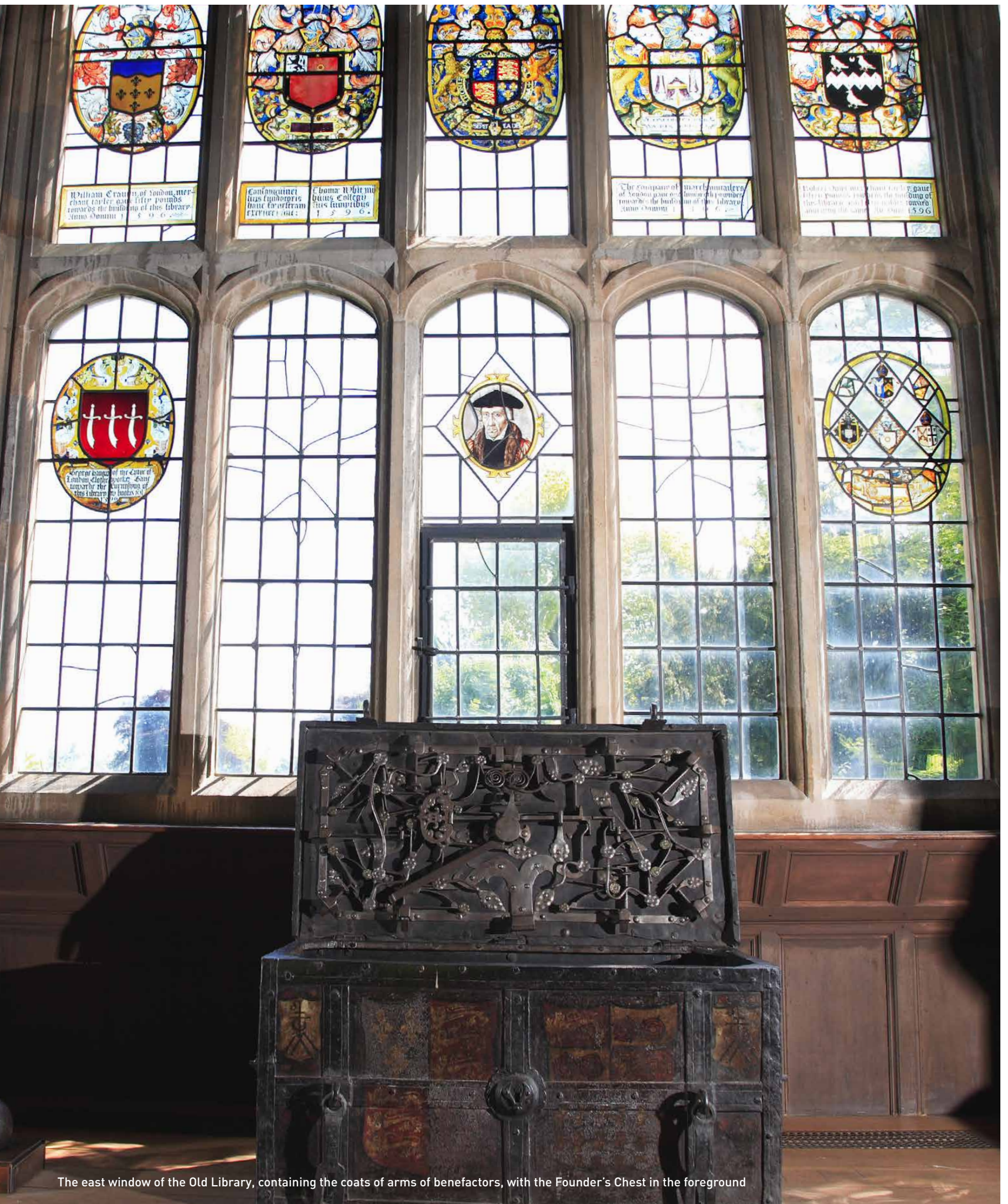
In these difficult economic times, we must manage our core resources as efficiently as possible in order to maintain the highest standards of teaching and research. In taking such financial decisions, we must consider not only our present students and Fellows but also their successors in the years ahead.

Any gift which you decide to make to the project would therefore enable us to replenish our resources, and put them to the best possible use in fulfilling our educational mission.

We have set ourselves the goal of raising up to £10M from donors towards the total cost of the Library & Study Centre project, and we have already received a number of generous gifts towards our target.

We hope very much that you will wish to join the College's long line of benefactors by supporting this unique initiative. Your help would be greatly appreciated by everyone at St John's who will use the Library & Study Centre – both now and in the centuries to come.





The east window of the Old Library, containing the coats of arms of benefactors, with the Founder's Chest in the foreground



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