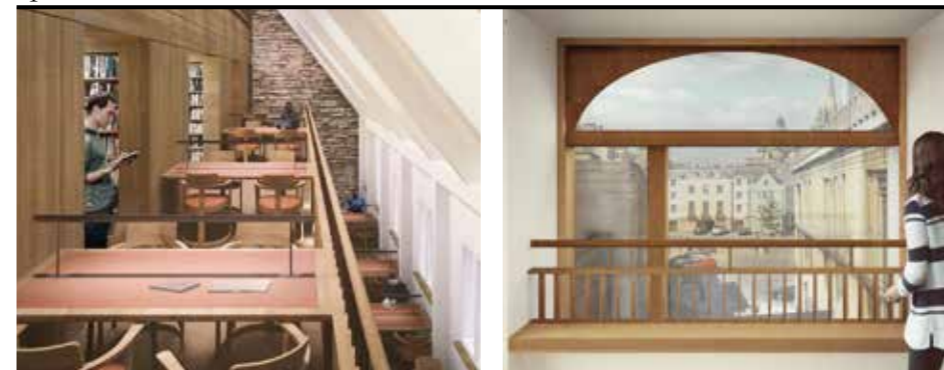


Fundraising

Special Collections Centre



efficient and experientially uplifting conditions for readers and staff. A new entrance to the enlarged Library will be created at the current entrance to Staircase 6, affording first floor access to the existing Library for users with mobility needs. In expanding user provision, the remodelled building will create sixty new reader spaces for Corpus members and six additional spaces within the Special Collection's area for researchers. An additional 1200m of shelving will be added for the storage of manuscripts and early printed books.

Split over three floors, the new Reading Room has been designed to ensure that all of the desks are in the brightest part of the plan, overlooking Garden Quad. This reduces the need for artificial lighting and provides excellent views, ensuring that there is no overlooking of neighbouring Christ Church. Each of the floors has a different character and will provide a range of working environments, from the monastic sequestration of individual carrels to larger shared desks for group collaboration. Beautifully detailed bespoke furniture and lighting enhances the reader experience. Despite the rise of digital media (and looking beyond the current proscriptions of the coronavirus pandemic), there is still a need for physical engagement, both with people and objects, in spaces of study and contemplation.

The Design Team has worked to ensure that the scheme is designed with very effective passive energy solutions throughout. A small amount of mechanical intervention is required but the building will work very effectively with minimal mechanical and electrical services. The current design is the first building in Oxford, other than a café at Kellogg College, to meet Passivhaus standards.

The relocation of books currently stored in the lower rooms in the old Library will free up these areas for use as high-quality teaching spaces. They have the potential to become delightful historic rooms, with windows letting in light on both sides. Throughout the project, existing elements and conditions are a jumping-off point for reciprocity and transformation, the new emerging out of the old to generate unexpected synergies and breathe life into assemblages created over time.

We are delighted that the scheme has been positively received by the planners and Historic England and that planning permission and listed building consent were granted in November.

LEFT: Exterior North Elevation
ABOVE CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Proposed Reading Room, Internal looking to Oriel Square, Exterior Garden Quad

Fellowship

Investing in Economics

In 2008 the College began to endow our Fellowship in Economics in the name of former Economics Fellow Andrew Glyn.

Andrew taught at Corpus from 1969-2008 and tutored more than three hundred and fifty of our alumni including many of our more prominent names in the fields of politics and journalism as well as others who have made their careers in the City. The campaign got off to a great start: £300,000 was raised in very short order and the money placed in the College accounts where it has been growing happily ever since.

Following discussions with a number of PPEists from the 1990s, it has become apparent that the students' love for Andrew and high regard for his teaching remain as strong as ever. Each and every one of them has a story to tell about how Andrew helped, from putting them at ease during the interview to settling into College life, and then throughout their studies in Oxford.

A while ago, it was suggested that the campaign be reopened and we have just reached £667k, almost exactly two thirds of the way towards our goal of £1m. Placing a ringfenced million pounds in the College Endowment would allow drawdown to happen at a rate which would cover most of the costs of the successive Economics Fellowship holders' salaries in perpetuity and thus ensure that there will be forever an Andrew Glyn Fellow at Corpus Christi College.

As it happens, 2020 sees the 100th anniversary of the teaching of PPE at Oxford and we hope (Covid permitting) to take advantage of the centenary by holding an event in the summer to mark Andrew's contribution to the discipline for nearly forty of those one hundred years.

If you would like to contribute to the Fellowship Fund and join us at Corpus for that celebration, please do pick up the phone or email Ben Armstrong in the Development Office.

A modern library

Architects Clare Wright and Kirsty Shankland explain how the project to extend and redevelop the Corpus Library respects the heritage of the site and buildings.

With works by Galileo, Erasmus and the Venerable Bede, among others, the library collections of Corpus Christi are among the finest of any Oxford college. Yet though its sixteenth-century Library is of national architectural and historical significance, it no longer meets the needs or expectations of students and staff at a modern, world-class university. Designed to meet these needs and safeguard the College's Special Collections, the remodelling project by Wright & Wright Architects, whose previous work includes libraries at Magdalen and Corpus Cambridge as well as Lambeth Palace, extends and redevelops the Library, while respecting the heritage of the site and buildings.

As one of Oxford's oldest and smallest colleges, Corpus Christi is characterised by a spirit of architectural and academic intimacy. "At Corpus, everything is on the small side; that is what makes it so lovable", declared the architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner. Wright & Wright's proposals carefully unpick, restore and augment the existing building fabric, while adding distinctive contemporary elements. Notably, a new ashlar stone facade on Oriol Square replaces the existing garage and flat originally designed in the 1950s. A large glazed opening alludes to the historic notion of the 'library window', acting as a new marker for the College, consolidating its civic presence and reframing its relationship with the wider urban realm.

As well as creating more suitable conditions for holding and maintaining the College's valuable archive, the project also improves accessibility to the Special Collection and creates more spatially