



*Celebrating the renovated*  
**John Hay Library**  
 OCTOBER 25, 2014  
 REOPENING CEREMONY & RECEPTION



Adjacent to the Willis Reading Room is a new **Reader Services** area which leads into an enhanced and significantly expanded **Exhibition Gallery**. The modern Gallery allows the Library to open and display its collections as never before and provides comfortable seating for students and researchers as they view the exhibitions or quietly pursue their studies.

Directly beyond the Gallery is the **Gildor Family Special Collections Room**, a state-of-the-art research environment for those who come to the Library to use special collections materials and access the University's many archival resources. Overlooking the front campus green and the Carrie Tower, the Gildor Family Room is a serene, yet technologically sophisticated service center specifically outfitted to meet the research needs of scholars at all levels.



BROWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



AFTER BEING CLOSED FOR MORE THAN A YEAR for extensive renovations, the John Hay Library opened its doors in early September 2014 to welcome students and faculty into the beautifully restored spaces. Today, we welcome you as we celebrate the official reopening of the John Hay Library and the dedication of the **Willis Reading Room**.

The \$15-million renovation led by New York-based architectural firm Selldorf Architects has reconfigured the Library's main floor to provide

expanded and more functional study and research spaces that not only will revitalize the use of one of Brown's most historic landmarks, but also will renew interest and use of the Library's special collections as a foundation for teaching, learning, and research. Featuring an elegant transformation of the Library's main reading room, the Willis Reading Room, the renovation has returned this grand space to its original configuration and purpose — an inspirational refuge for quiet study and contemplation.



Also included in the first floor renovation are a new **Consultation Room** and a **Student Lounge**, along with a handicap accessible entrance on the north side of the building. Additionally, cosmetic improvements have been made to other parts of the building, as well as enhancements to safety and infrastructure systems, increasing protection for the building's occupants and its contents.



“It has been a great pleasure to work on the renovation of the John Hay Library,” said Annabelle Selldorf, principal architect and founder of Selldorf Architects. “It is such a beautiful building with wonderful proportions and historic details. We hope that the Brown community will find the newly restored Reading Room and other public spaces a welcoming and stimulating environment for study.”



**BUILT IN 1910** with funding jointly provided by Brown University and Andrew Carnegie, the John Hay Library is one of the few Carnegie libraries still fully in use as an academic library open to the public. Carnegie helped fund more than 2,500 libraries across the United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries at the beginning of the 20th century. Over the years, the John Hay Library has undergone various configurations, with an expansion project completed in 1939 that added six floors of stack space to the rear of the building and increased seating for users through the addition of a two-story wing on the north side of the building. The 1939 project also significantly impacted the main reading room as the space was divided into three sections by bookcases, with a reference room in the center, a periodicals room on the west side, and a general reading room on the east side.

The Hay remained the University's central library until 1964 when the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library became the repository for the Library's humanities

and social sciences collections. When the University's Sciences Library opened in 1971 and the physical sciences collections were moved to that building, the John Hay Library became Brown's special collections library and home of the University Archives. In 1981, another renovation of the Hay was completed at which time air-conditioning and environmental controls were added along with the installation of conservation facilities. Some public spaces were aesthetically improved, but the main reading room remained in three sections.

The 2014 renovation of the John Hay Library is an inestimable gift to Brown, and to the larger community, that was made possible through the generosity of many donors, especially the 2012 members of the Brown University Library Advisory Council. Following Carnegie's belief that libraries are “the people's university,” the John Hay Library will provide twenty-first century students and scholars with a link to Brown's proud past and a bridge to their bright future.