The New Neilson

Fall 2016
Our Vision

• The intellectual heart of the campus

• The hub of a rich learning and research ecosystem

• Designed with the complementary spirits of continuity and transformation
Library Program Engagement AY15-16

Nearly 2,000 students, faculty, staff, & alumnae
What We Heard...

Top 12

- Neilson library is the most used and (currently) least liked study space on campus.
- Improve wayfinding inside and outside!
- Students want beauty: light, natural materials.
- Some rooms are beloved: Collacott, Caverno, NBR ...
- Collaboration spaces are crucial and in short supply.
- Quiet spaces are essential.
- Smithies are studious; they hold books, browsing, and deep study very dear.
- A holistic view of studying: the library should see students through the whole process of learning: procrastination, rest, and long, intensive hours.
- Food and nutrition are very important: overwhelming support for a café!
- Smithies use a rich technology ecosystem, blending print and digital.
- Give greater visibility to diverse topics and authors to support access and inclusion.
- The building should reflect a commitment to sustainability, with a minimal or net negative carbon footprint.
A Digital Library that Transforms How We Make, Share, and Experience Knowledge

- Designed for users
- Sustainable for the future
- With world class resources for teaching and learning ...
- Fostering innovation
Design Timeline

- **Programming**
  - 2015-16 (completed)

- **Conceptual Design**
  - **Create**: massing of building within the site, overall materiality explored; interior organization and big ideas blocked out

- **Schematic Design**
  - **Develop**: building exterior and landscape; interior planning and design concepts

- **Design Development**
  - **Refine**: building exterior and landscape; interior planning and design

- **Construction Documents**
  - **All major design, planning and detail decisions completed**
  - Design and details documented for use during construction

- **Construction Begins**
  - 2017
East Perspective
West Perspective, at Night
Site Plan
Program Highlights

Public Space

• Multiple entries
• Café seats
• Event space
• Exhibit areas
Program Highlights

A “test kitchen” for innovation:

• Conway innovation center
• “Labrary”
• Digital hub
Program Highlights

Unified Special Collections

Distributed General Collections
• Compact & traditional shelving
• Five College annex
Program Highlights

Distributed Seating: Solo

Distributed Seating: Collaboration
Program Highlights

**Landscape**
- Revitalizing Olmstead’s design
- Accessibility and flow
- Sustainability
Old and New: Additions and Renovations

Morgan Library

Bodleian Library
Jewel Boxes: Positive/Negative Space

as reading spaces that are surrounded by books

as a jewel box surrounded by reading spaces
Inside and Outside

A hidden courtyard set into the landscape, creates additional space, maximizes energy and insulation, and adds a new intimate softly lit reading environment.
Connection and Contemplation: Quiet to Active
Guiding Principles for Design

• Beauty and welcome
• Intensiveness of use
• Co-location and sharing
• Versatility and flexibility for changing ways of working: known, emerging, and aspirational
• A test kitchen for innovation
• Commitment to a sustainable future
Long Section / East Perspective