THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Future Ready

Inclusive experience. Digital transformation.

Over the past 50 years, Centennial Hall has aged, the student population has quadrupled, and the digital age has changed the way we study, research, and learn. Working with Indigenous Design Lead and Senior Architect Ryan Gorrie of Brook McIlroy Inc., the library is being redesigned to create an inclusive, accessible space for future generations of students.





"Renewing this space will breathe new life into Centennial Hall, double our current capacity for student seating, and create flexible, accessible, digital spaces that support teaching and research."



Gabrielle Prefontaine
Dean, The University of Winnipeg Library

Inclusive space
The library's redesign takes a holistic view of accessibility and inclusion, considering the many ways that programming, collections, and digital services interact with your physical space to create a more inclusive experience overall.

- *Accessible washrooms*
- *Ground level entry*
- *Lower shelf heights*
- *Wider aisles*
- *Connected mezzanines with elevator access*

Cultural preservation
The Archives and Gallery 1C03 are committed to facilitating dialogue with local communities and systems of knowledge. By sharing space, they will be able to combine programming, storage, and equipment needs, making it possible to acquire and maintain unique collections, such as the Two-Spirit Archives.

- *Gallery and archives reading room*
- *Cultural Education Workshops*
- *Environmentally-controlled storage*

Research and study
Improvements to storage capacity, layout, and a new addition at ground level will open up the space, increase occupancy, and ensure access to study areas that can operate with extended hours. Thoughtful sound design throughout the library will ensure that the right acoustic environment – quiet or collaborative – is available when and where it is needed.

- *Research support*
- *Longer hours and service availability*
- *Meeting spaces for presentations and events*

Indigenous design
Working with an Indigenous design firm, we are listening closely to the perspectives of local Indigenous nations, integrating land-based knowledges and worldviews throughout the planning process.

- *Space for smudging*
- *Indoor/outdoor teaching and gathering lodge*
- *Indigenous-inspired wayfinding*

Digital transformation
All spaces will be designed with long-term adaptability in mind, including digitally connected instructional spaces, robust wireless service for mobile devices, and collaborative spaces set up to keep pace with academic requirements and rapid technological change.

- *Increased Wi-Fi*
- *More electrical outlets*
- *Digital media lab*
- *Sound-proof spaces for audio and video creation*

Environmental sustainability
A commitment to sustainability has been integral to this design, from the ground up. The new exterior will include access to natural light and improved thermal retention. Major upgrades to the heating air systems will make it ready for future geothermal upgrades across campus, and the project includes a number of building code, fire safety, and mechanical improvements.

- *New insulated building exterior*
- *Geothermal energy plan*
- *Heating, cooling, and electrical upgrades*

"You'll see a lot of features that are the result of open hearts and open minds wrestling with the question of what it takes to create an inclusive space."



Ryan Gorrie
Indigenous Lead and Senior Architect, Brook McIlroy Architecture





Library renewal at a glance

Project Cost:
$65 million

Architect:
Ryan Gorrie, Brook McIlroy Inc.

Total Size:
8,515 square meters (91,661 sq. ft)

More Space:
1,236 sq. m (13,300 sq. ft.)

Seating Capacity:
1400 students (+800 seats, +133%);
400 group study, 1000 individual study

Book Capacity:
250,000 volumes;
Quick retrieval storage and offsite solutions

Washrooms:
16 universal and gender-neutral

Art and Archives Storage:
495 sq. m (5334 sq.ft)

Sustainability Investment:
$16 million; LEED Gold or equivalent rating

Efficiency Upgrades:
31% better than Manitoba Building Code

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