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Georgia Library Spotlight - Georgia Tech Library Crosland Tower

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GLA SPOTLIGHT

Georgia Tech Library
Crosland Tower

The Georgia Tech Library opened its doors Sunday, January 6, 2019, in the refurbished Crosland Tower, completing the first phase of its ambitious "Library Next" project. The tower, closed for renovations since January 2016, features eight stories of archives, classroom, study, and studio space for Tech's students, faculty, and staff. Included are spaces and technology for data visualization, high-performance computing, multimedia studies, collaboration, and iterative design. "Tech's dream of a Library designed for inspiring future scholarship and learning is finally coming true," said Dean of Libraries Catherine Murray-Rust.

Over the last 36 months, crews removed the brick façade of Crosland Tower, built in 1968 to house a rapidly growing collection of books. Originally, the building was meant to keep out sunlight harmful to the books, housing stacks on seven-foot high, reinforced floors. In its new iteration, Crosland Tower boasts loads of natural light and soaring, multi-floor atriums mirroring the mid-century modern architecture of Price Gilbert Memorial Library, now under renovation until 2020. When complete, both buildings will more than double seating capacity while cutting energy consumption by nearly 60%.

The opening follows a complete overhaul of the Library's collections and business model. In 2016, nearly all of the million-volume physical collection was moved into preservation-quality storage at the Library Service Center, a $26,000,000 facility built through a public-private partnership with Emory University. Students and faculty now request materials online for delivery the next day. The library has also adopted a number of concepts from outside of higher education, including supply-chain logistics and customer-focused retail models, in its commitment to research and learning excellence. The ultimate goal? To become the model research library of the 21st century—connected, responsive to sea changes in academic needs, and dedicated to the stewardship of analog information in a digital age.

In conjunction with reopening Crosland Tower, the library launched a new website this week. For more information about the ongoing transformation, visit library.gatech.edu or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.