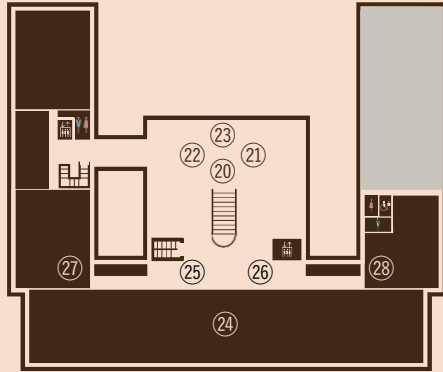


3rd Floor



②①Hall

The lighting devices were restored to their original design. The carvings on the ceiling and the posts have the unique designs on each place.



②①Reliefs on the ceiling

There are 450 reliefs of 6 kinds of flower motif. Their models are not identified.



②②Medallion

In 1929, the following year the library building was completed, the four medallions were made by Takezo Shinkai. They express each of the four seasons in Japan.



②③"BiblioPlaza" Works

Section for the books from the UTokyo BiblioPlaza (website where UTokyo faculty members explain about their own works).



②④Grand reading room

The lighting was restored to the original design. The desks have been repaired and used for 90 years.



②⑤Bust of Victor Hugo

The bust of Victor Marie Hugo, a famous poet and novelist, was donated by University of Paris in 1933.



②⑥Bust of Louis Pasteur

The bust of Louis Pasteur was donated by University of Paris in 1933. He was a chemist and microbiologist, succeeded in vaccination.



②⑦Relief of Lafcadio Hearn

Lafcadio Hearn (Yakumo Koizumi) taught in Faculty of Letters of the University of Tokyo. This relief was donated from Greece in 1935.



②⑧Relief of Edmund Blunden

Edmund Charles Blunden taught English literature in the University of Tokyo for about 3 years from 1924. He made a poem about the reconstruction of General Library.

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②⑨Calligraphy "Seishu Collection" (1st Basement Floor)

Hirobumi Ito, the first Prime Minister, wrote the name of the collection held by the Watanabes wealthy family of Koshu (Yamanashi prefecture).



③①General Library Annex

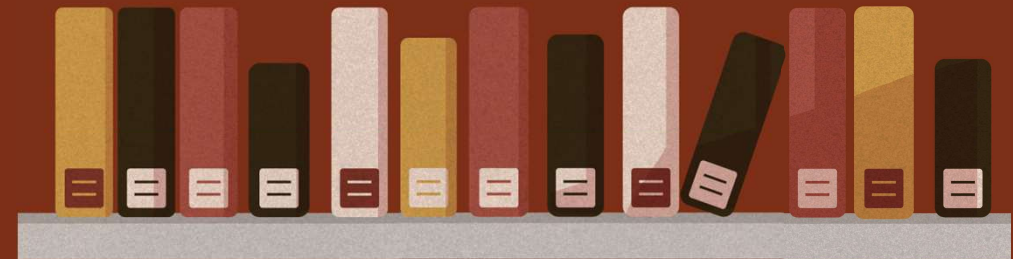
Library Plaza (LP) is a round place for group learning. Automated storage under LP holds a lot of containers with materials, which are retrieved to the Main Building through the robotic system.



③①Decorative Ceiling (4th Floor)

The decorative ceilings has been preserved as the original design to allow natural light to pour in through the glass.

General Library Architectural & Cultural Objects Map



Outside



① Main Entrance
The shape of the entrance portrays of books in bookshelf. The eight relieves on the wall were carved by the sculptor, Takezo Shinkai in 1930.



② Remains of the old library
The benches are placed where the old library used to be. The remains of the old library building are placed near the entrance of the annex (on the side of Faculty of Letters Bldg. 3).



③ Remains of the Kaga domain residence
The paved stones are remains of the residence where the lord of Kaga Province (Ishikawa and Toyama prefectures) lived. They were discovered during the construction of the annex.



④ Fountain
The fountain used to be served as a fire cistern. It was temporally removed during the construction of the annex and rebuilt on the original site.

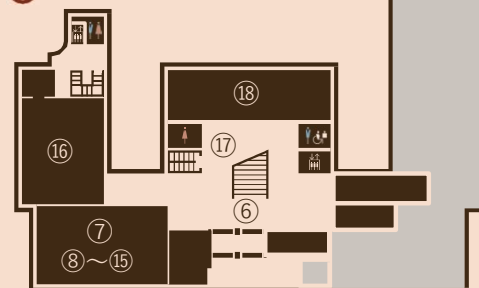


⑤ Porch light
The lights were removed in the World War II to supply the metal. They were restored in 2009, with other lights on the library building.

1st Floor

Objects with are restored to the original design.

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①~⑤



⑥ Grand staircase
Sunlight is poured through the restored atrium. The wall around the stair is made by Italian marble with a lot of ammonite fossils.



⑦ Memorial Room
This room commemorates the reconstruction of the library after the Great Kanto earthquake. The chandeliers were restored to their original design in 2017.



⑧ Deer Taxidermy
George V, who was the King of the United Kingdom, donated the taxidermy deer head to the University of Tokyo in 1913. It was rescued from fire on the Great Kanto earthquake.



⑨ Portrait of Tagore
Jawaharlal Nehru, the first president of India, visited the University of Tokyo in 1957, and donated the portrait of Dwarkanath Tagore.



⑩ Letter from J. D. Rockefeller Jr.
The letter was sent from John D. Rockefeller Jr. to Yoshinao Kozai, the university president of that time. It says that he would donate 400 million yen to the University of Tokyo.



⑪ Model of General Library
The University of Tokyo presented Mr. Rockefeller with a model of the General Library in return of his donation. This model was made of the same mold.



⑫ Model of Guhyesvari Temple
This model was donated by Prince Birendza Bir Bikra III Shah Dev of Nepal on his visit to the University in 1967 as a gift of gratitude for his study at the University. The temple is located in the suburbs of Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, and dates back to the 1700s.



⑬ Plaster cast of Chopin's hand
This plaster cast was donated by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to University of Tokyo after a visit to Warsaw by former director Urata.



⑭ Calligraphy "Nanki Collection"
Yoshinobu Tokugawa, the last shogun of Tokugawa shogunate, wrote the name of the collection donated by the feudal lord of Kii Province (Wakayama prefecture).



⑮ Wooden mosaic floor
The floor was polished and coated to restore to the original design.



⑯ Open Area
This area introduces the intellectual assets of the University of Tokyo.



⑰ Card catalog box
Before we started using computers to search for books, we have used catalog cards. There used to be about 60 libraries at the University of Tokyo, and the cards could search the entire collections.



⑱ Staircase in the stacks
You can see the steel staircase in the preservation stacks.



⑲ Oil Painting "Women Gathering"
A work by Nakamura Takuji (1897-1988), which was exhibited at the 4th Ministry of Education Art Exhibition in 1941 and won a special prize. After receiving the award, it was donated to the University.

How the General Library was built

The current library building was built after the Great Kanto earthquake in 1923. The earthquake and following fire destroyed the old library building and almost all of the library materials. In 1924, the next year of the earthquake, John D. Rockefeller Jr. offered to donate 4 million yen for the reconstruction of the library. The University of Tokyo immediately decided to accept his offer and to reconstruct the library building.

The reconstruction started in 1926 and completed on December 1st, 1928.

The building was made of steel-reinforced concrete so that it could be robust over disaster and composed of four-story open-shelf area and seven-story stack area.

The library building was, along with a lot of buildings of Hongo Campus, designed by Yoshikazu Uchida, professor of Faculty of Engineering. The appearance of the library is characterized by the walls clad with tan tiles and the entrance with "Uchida-Gothic" arches and decoration to be matched with the other buildings in the campus.

UTokyo Library System and General Library

The University of Tokyo Library System is composed of General Library, Komaba Library, Kashiwa Library, and 27 libraries attached to departments or related research institutions. The libraries hold 10 million volumes in total and provide a large variety of services as a single, integrated system. General Library is the central library of Hongo campus and the biggest library in the University of Tokyo.

The wide range of materials, equipment and service are provided to all of the university affiliates, while

libraries of departments or institutions support study and research specialized in their research area. The University of Tokyo Library System has formulated the "New Library Plan" and has renovated the main building of the General Library and built a new annex to form a center for learning, education, and research. All construction work was completed in 2020 and the building had its grand opening. In the annex, there is a library plaza on the basement level and automated storage that have capacity of 3 million volumes on the second to fourth floors.