

LIBRARIES OF THE WORLD

BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA





Designed by Snøhetta, an architectural firm based in Sweden, and opened in 2002, this library commemorates the famous library of antiquity.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Opened in 1911, the flagship building of the NYPL was designed by architectural firm Carrère and Hastings in the Beaux-Arts style.





BRITISH LIBRARY

The Round Reading Room at the British Museum was designed by Sydney Smirke and opened in 1857.





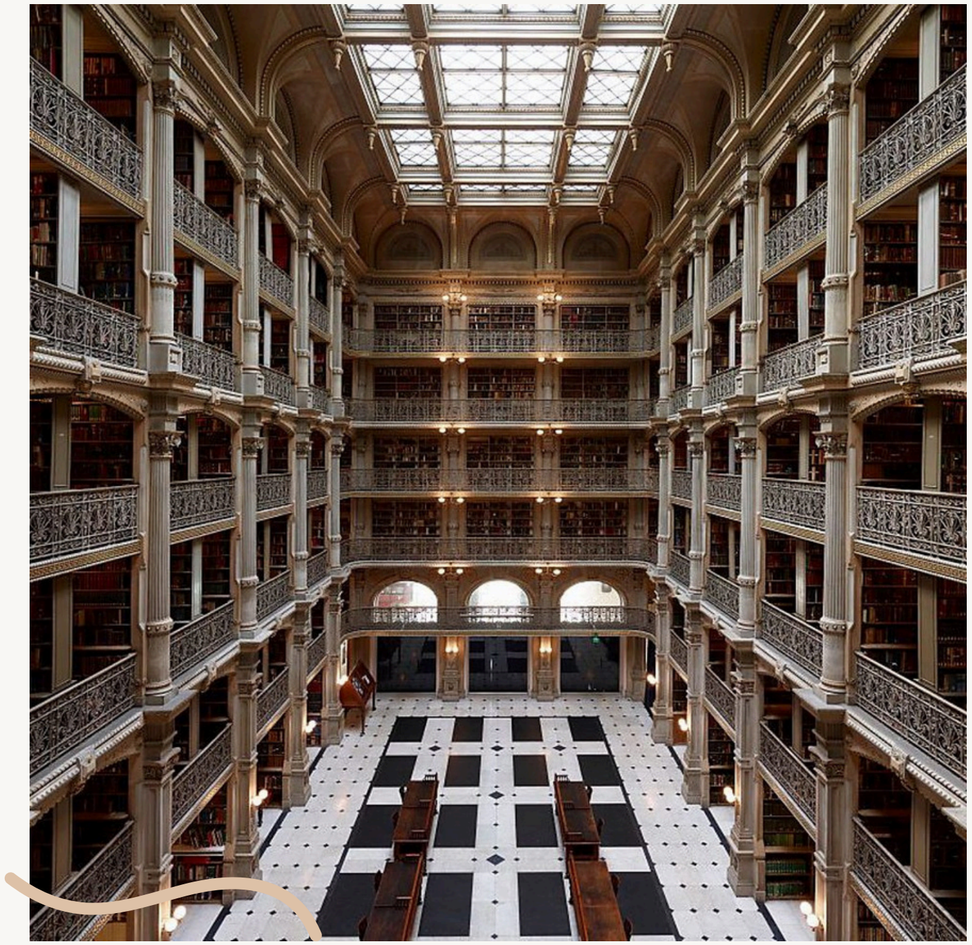
140 years later it was superseded by the British Library, designed by Colin St John Wilson and opened in 1997.

BAROQUE LIBRARY, PRAGUE

The Clementinum in Prague was founded by the Jesuits in 1556 and named after the former Dominican monastery of St. Clement.
The Baroque Library contains works such as the writings of Johannes Kepler.
In 1775, meteorological data began to be collected here regularly.



GEORGE PEABODY LIBRARY, BALTIMORE, USA



Often known as the “Cathedral of Books”, this library opened in 1878, funded by the philanthropist George Peabody and designed by local architect Edmund G. Lind.

ROYAL PORTUGUESE CABINET OF READING, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Portuguese architect Rafael da Silva e Castro designed this library, which was completed in 1887 and holds the largest collection of Portuguese books in the world outside Portugal.



TIANJIN BINHAI LIBRARY, TIANJIN, CHINA

Nicknamed “The Eye”, this library was designed by a Rotterdam firm in consultation with a local company, and opened in 2017.
Despite there being space for 1.2 million books, time constraints meant that the upper shelves were not accessible; aluminium “books” were installed instead.



CENTRAL LIBRARY OF VANCOUVER, CANADA



Safdie and DA Architects won a design competition with their Roman Colosseum-inspired design. The library opened in 1995 and has a rooftop garden designed by landscape architect Cornelia Oberlander.

STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

The library contains much material on Australian heritage and history, with a large selection of books by indigenous authors.

It was built in 1910 to designs by Walter Liberty Vernon.



RAMPUR RAZA LIBRARY, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

Established in 1774, and featuring multiple rare Indo-Islamic manuscripts, the Library was moved into this building in 1957.



