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October 11
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Dedication

A Mecca for Scholars

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Mansueto
Dedication
Edition

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*“A place of beauty, serenity, openness and light
inspires research, teaching and learning.”*

— JUDITH NADLER, DIRECTOR AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

news.lib.uchicago.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Library



The University community is invited to celebrate

THE DEDICATION OF THE MANSUETO LIBRARY

at Harper Memorial Library Commons
Tuesday, October 11, 2011
4:00–5:15 pm (doors open at 3:30 pm)
Reception following

Keynote Speaker

Anthony Grafton, AB'71, AM'72, PhD'75,
Henry Putnam University Professor of History,
Princeton University

Remarks

Robert J. Zimmer, President
Thomas Rosenbaum, Provost
Judith Nadler, Director and University Librarian
Joe Mansueto, AB'78, MBA'80, Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer, Morningstar, Inc.

World premiere of the Mansueto tribute,
“Double Helix” for two violins. Composed by
Augusta Read Thomas, University Professor
of Composition

Seating is limited and on a first-come,
first-served basis



A MECCA FOR SCHOLARS

THE JOE AND RIKA MANSUETO LIBRARY

“Researchers can be confident that any research lead can be followed, digital or physical, without having to wait for retrieval of materials from off-site storage.”

—PROFESSOR ANDREW ABBOTT

A Mecca for Scholars

By Andrew Abbott, the Gustavus F. and Ann M. Swift Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Sociology and the College; Chair, Board of the University of Chicago Library

The Joe and Rika Mansueto Library gives the University's research community reason to celebrate. By locating this new facility at the heart of campus, adjacent to Regenstein, the University of Chicago has repeated the success of the prior library, again creating the most research-effective academic library system in the United States—one that will be a mecca for scholars from around the world.

more easily. At the same time, the physical materials contained quality judgments unavailable online and for most purposes were more rapidly scannable. In practice, expert researchers work steadily between the two. A new facility had to accept and further this synergy, not fight against it.

The Importance of Browsing

Traditional library research has relied very heavily on browsing at all levels: in the

monograph browsability that is central to scholarly work. Under one roof, researchers can be confident that any research lead can be followed, digital or physical, without having to wait for retrieval of materials from off-site storage.

Avoiding the Self-fulfilling Prophecy

A great danger with off-site storage—as the experience of peer libraries had shown—is the self-fulfilling prophecy. Material looks unused, so it is sent to storage. But then it is even less likely to be used, because scholars, although often seeking out specific rare materials, base most of their research—and all of their browsing—on materials readily accessible, material that does not have to be waited for but that can be used when needed. This is particularly true for tracing bibliographical and research trails through multiple sources. An item stored off-site is often wanted not for itself, but simply for some further reference it contains—quite possibly to something not in storage. Off-site storage of material thus has a multiplicative negative effect on library research.

Keeping an Open Mind about Research Practice

As we look to the future, we know research practices will continue to shift. By building a facility that can be reconfigured to handle all of the University's physical library needs, if future research practices become purely digital, thereby releasing Regenstein for other scholarly uses, we are not committed to any one vision of the research future. Rather we are prepared to deal with a broad range of possible trajectories of research practice.

The Mansueto Library embodies these basic principles in a facility that will serve the University and its library-based researchers for at least two decades. There will, of course, be changes in those decades, new worlds of material and possibly new modes of research. But by designing a flexible building that complements Regenstein and that reflects the realities of current research practice, we are uniquely prepared for them, even as we are uniquely positioned to facilitate the forms of library research that scholars have evolved over the last century.



Professor Andrew Abbott consults dissertations in a Mansueto research cubicle.

The decision to build such a structure when so many of our peer institutions are shipping materials off-site was not reached lightly. Rather, it resulted from serious intellectual inquiry and collaboration between faculty and librarians. Four central principles emerged in this process.

Decision-making Based on Research

The concept of Mansueto was based on actual study of the research habits of faculty and graduate students. Our surveys and other research showed that research online and research in physical materials were highly complementary in the practice of researchers. Powerful online tools increased the use of physical materials—and of esoteric physical materials in particular—because scholars could find things much

stacks, in reference tools, in bibliographies, in the books and articles of other scholars. This browsing is a continuous activity that constantly renews research, not an occasional matter that on rare occasions leads to serendipitous discovery. We knew therefore that any storage plan must maximize opportunities for browsing and in particular for the browsing of the most rewarding materials: traditional monographs. We had to keep those on the shelves at all costs.

Mansueto uses the best of technology to protect and enhance this core research activity. By concentrating material that cannot be browsed or that is browsed only rarely into a high-density system, Mansueto frees space on open shelving in Regenstein and other campus libraries for millions of new monographs, preserving the

Enabling Preservation

Construction of the Mansueto Library made it possible to expand the space available to the Preservation Department and, as a result, to acquire additional, state-of-the-art equipment for the conservation and digitization of collections.

“The kinds of things we can do now were almost unimaginable before Mansueto,” says Preservation Librarian Sherry Byrne. “From washing paper to safely and more rapidly scanning fragile bound manuscripts, our new equipment will allow us to make the Library’s collections more usable and more widely available to students and scholars, here and around the world.”

Conservation: Preserving Materials in Their Original Formats

Charged with meeting the conservation needs of millions of print volumes in the Library’s collections, as well as maps and other flat works on paper, Head of Conservation Ann Lindsey is delighted by what she can do with her new equipment.

A recently acquired suction table is allowing Lindsey to clean, flatten, and mend large materials, such as a map of Fuzhou, China, printed between 1860 and 1911. By laying the item on the table’s flat, perforated metal surface, covering it with a clear plastic dome-shaped top, and connecting it to a powerful vacuum, she is able to control humidification precisely and undertake aqueous and solvent-based treatments while protecting the original paper and ink.

New fume hoods allow for the use of organic solvents to remove tape and reduce stains. A special sink allows staff to wash degradation products from paper.



Ann Lindsey works with an interactive Soviet children's book, *Sever, iug, vostok i zapad* (North, South, East, and West: 1932), on one of her large, new tables.

And, as a result of the expanded space, the Preservation Department has been able to obtain 7 ft by 11 ft tables that allow staff to clean, stabilize, repair, and otherwise treat very large materials on library premises for the first time. A 19th-century map of Paris's *arrondissements*, early 20th-century maps of Chicago neighborhoods, and giant Soviet propaganda posters from the 1930s are a few items treated since these tables arrived.

This new equipment supplements other tools long held by the Library that have remained substantially unchanged in their design since the 19th century or earlier—book presses, a board shear, and sewing frames are used to repair or create new bindings for books, often with historically sympathetic materials.

Digitization: Scanning Collections and Making Them Freely Available Online

Preservation staff members are part of the Library team that is facilitating the digitization of UChicago volumes as part of a partnership between Google and the Committee on Institutional Cooperation.

But not all of the Library’s materials can be digitized by Google. Rare books, manuscripts and archives from the Special Collections Research Center and oversized and fragile materials from the Library’s general collections are among the items that are candidates for the Library’s own local digitization program.

The Library began digitizing materials using flatbed scanners and making them freely available online in 1997. In 2005 it acquired a Better Light 4x5 digital scanning back camera, allowing it to undertake digitization of rare and fragile materials such as the *Goodspeed Collection* of 5th- to 19th-century papyri fragments and New Testament manuscripts, and the *Speculum Romanae Magnificentiae* engravings of Rome and Roman antiquities.

With the opening of Mansueto, Head of Digitization Kathleen Arthur added a Zeutschel scanner that can more rapidly digitize large bound volumes in a face up position, preventing damage to a book’s pages and spine. A number of major projects using the Zeutschel will begin in the 2011-12 academic year, including the scanning of bound manuscripts from a number of archival collections held in the Special Collections Research Center.

Among those underway are Lincoln manuscripts from the William E. Barton Collection of Lincolniana and bound manuscripts from the Chicago Committee of Fifteen—records gathered for an investigation of Chicago crime focusing on prostitution and the illegal sale of alcohol (1908-1911). A collection of more than 300 Russian satirical journal issues published during the Russian Revolution of 1905-1907 and currently held in Special Collections will also be digitized.



Lindsey uses her new suction table to treat large maps.

Mansueto: Where from Here?

*“As they filled the room,
I caught a glimpse of Mansueto’s future,
but I also knew our work had just begun.”*

At 8 a.m. on May 16, 2011, the Mansueto Library Grand Reading Room officially opened its doors to the University of Chicago community and scholars from around the world. A group of early risers were in position, waiting to claim the first seats under Mansueto’s magnificent dome, and more students streamed in throughout the day and late into the night. As they filled the room, I caught a glimpse of Mansueto’s future, but I also knew our work had just begun.

The process of loading materials into Mansueto started soon thereafter and continued throughout the summer so that nearly 1 million volumes could be loaded into Mansueto by the fall.

The formal dedication of Mansueto will be held on Tuesday, October 11. This highlight will mark the completion of the construction phase and the starting point for the next phase of programmatic developments.

By Judith Nadler,
Director and University Librarian



The genius of Mansueto is in its beauty and functionality; its power is in its enabling features. Unless we mine these enabling features, we will have wasted its powerful promise.

Mansueto is first and foremost about discoverability. Shelf browsing and serendipitous discovery by roaming open shelves is the surest way to stumble upon unexpected information, and Mansueto enables this type of discoverability by freeing the open stacks of materials that cannot or do not need to be browsed. As our collections continue to grow, we must sustain the careful and continuous process of collections management guided by the principles of discoverability: move to Mansueto what is not to be browsed, keep in the open stacks what is.



Mansueto enables both disciplinary and interdisciplinary collocation. Collections in all disciplines will be housed in the high density facility. At the same time, our automated discovery tools support virtual browsing by disciplinary classification regardless of where the material is physically located. We must sustain and further develop this capability as our collections grow in number and diversity.

Mansueto enables physical accessibility. It supports delivery within minutes of materials that can only be virtually browsed.

Mansueto enables flexibility. The random location of materials in high density is more conducive to collection rearrangement than the classified arrangement of materials in the open stacks. We must continue to rationalize the location of collections as we monitor their use.



Mansueto enables preservation. It functions as a trusted print repository in a high-density storage vault. And it highlights the importance of conservation to ensure that materials can be safely used over time. We must respond with a preservation program that is commensurate with the needs of our collections and the expectations of our users.

Mansueto enables virtual access through the dissemination of content in digital form. We must build up our local digitization capacity to complement mass digitization efforts towards a program that will open our collections to users here and around the world.

Mansueto enables education, teaching, and outreach. We must equip all vacated library spaces with state-of-the-art equipment to support study and teaching with library resources and in library environments. And we must maximize the beauty and programmatic capabilities of the new Special Collections Research Center Exhibition



Gallery by extending the breadth of our physical exhibition program and complementing it with a rich virtual exhibition program.

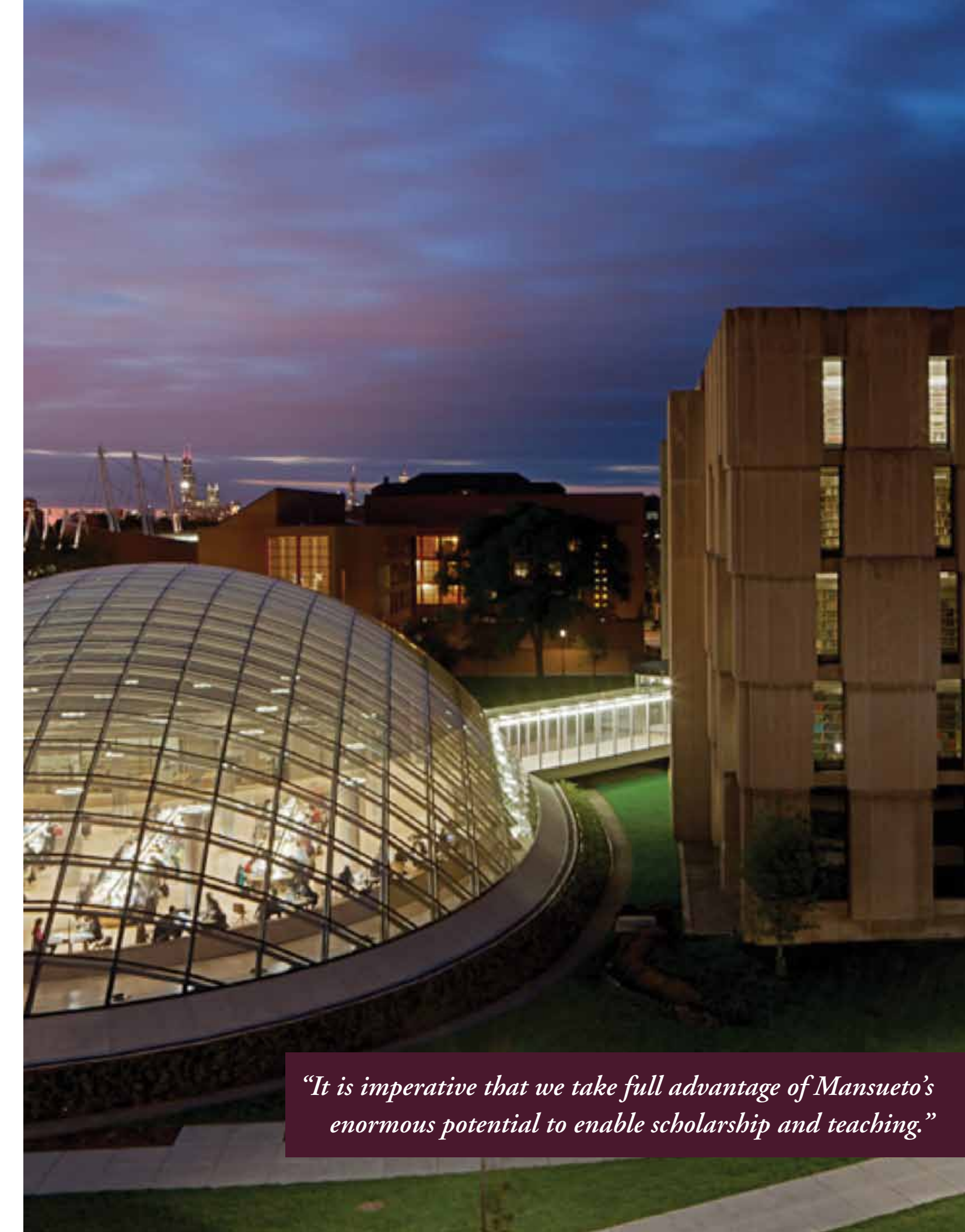
Mansueto enables partnership and collaboration. It frees space throughout the library system for shared, collaborative cross-university initiatives. We must invest in cultivating affinities and collaboration with different units on campus that contribute to the information enterprise.



It is imperative that we take full advantage of Mansueto’s enormous potential to enable scholarship and teaching at the University of Chicago. We are eager to meet this important challenge, but we cannot do it alone.



Our friends and advocates have been with us as we built the case for Mansueto, and as we built its walls. Your foresight, generosity and investment have supported our achievements thus far. Together, we have built a magnificent frame and a powerful infrastructure for the forward-looking programs of a great library. I now invite your continued engagement and support in realizing the full potential of Mansueto as we build Library programs that further fuel research, study, and teaching at this greatest of universities.



“It is imperative that we take full advantage of Mansueto’s enormous potential to enable scholarship and teaching.”

A Paradox of Contextualism

By Steve Wiesenthal, Associate Vice President and University Architect

How does one possibly add onto the formidable Regenstein Library? That was the question posed to architects once the University made the unique commitment to keep its amazing collection of books and archives on campus.

The University had already made a singularly bold statement in the Regenstein 40 years ago when it replaced its football field with one of the nation's largest university libraries. Its design is in stark contrast to the preceding campus architecture in the Quadrangles immediately across 57th Street to the south. The Quads are all about shaping and containing space and the activity within. They are comprised of 33 buildings linked around one primary and six secondary courtyards.

In contrast, Regenstein is all about a singular object commanding its space. Surrounded by lawn, its rough hewn "Brutalist" limestone panels separated by vertical bands of windows create an enormous abstract composition of solid and void. The setback from Ellis Avenue, a primary campus artery, served as a vast foreground to the limestone piles of Regenstein.

A traditional approach to urban and campus planning would suggest correcting the "problem" of Regenstein

by re-establishing the street wall. That is in effect what the Max Palevsky residence hall does to the north. Imagine a new rectilinear building, perhaps connected to Regenstein by tunnel, south of Henry Moore's "Nuclear Energy" sculpture that would be big and solid enough to house and protect 3.5 million volumes of books.

In a paradox of contextualism, the futuristic spaceship-resembling Mansueto Library actually works as a light and airy foil to Regenstein and as an elegant landscape object set askew both to point on axis to the Henry Moore sculpture to the north and to deflect away from Ellis Avenue to reveal the corner of Snell-Hitchcock in the Quadrangles to the south.

The 3.5 million volumes are stored where they belong: below ground in a high-density, 60 ft deep volume with stable climatic conditions and an automated retrieval system that brings requested materials up to the light of day in three to five minutes.

The space above ground is for people—a vast winter (and summer) garden for study. A product of creative architectural genius and precision technical engineering, the 240 ft long, 35 ft high dome of the Mansueto Library provides a dynamic, transparent presence on the revitalizing Ellis Avenue.



"I think [our design for the Mansueto Library] has been embraced by the leadership of the University, because it represents the mission of the University of Chicago as catalyst for the advancement of knowledge. It is interesting that this happened at an Institution where the disciplines of Architecture and Engineering are not taught, but a spirit prevails to go beyond where others stop."

—ARCHITECT HELMUT JAHN





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