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Shawmut Design and Construction completes 36,000 s/f renovations of Brown University bookstore

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164 Angell Street, Brown University - Providence, RI

Providence, RI Shawmut Design and Construction completed renovations at 164 Angell St., a Brown University building.

In partnership with Architecture Research Office (ARO), the 36,000 s/f project included a gut renovation of the second, third, and fourth floors, transforming the space into a vibrant multidisciplinary hub. The reimaged building, originally built in 1970, was formerly characterized by its narrow and dark interiors, but is now highlighted by a design that focuses on natural light.

“Our team was honored to revitalize such an important Brown University building to create a contemporary, state-of-the-art space for interrelated academic groups,” said Ron Simoneau, VP at Shawmut.

“Our long-standing partnership with Brown University resulted in a coordinated approach that upholds the original design of 164 Angell St. while promoting greater synergies and opportunities for collaboration.”

Creating a hub for high-impact research, education and innovation, the renovation improved the interior design and work environment for its occupants, allowing for several centers, institutes, and departments to move into the same building. 164 Angell St. now houses occupants from five entities from across the Brown campus: the Carney Institute for Brain Science, the Center for Computational Molecular Biology, the Data Science Initiative, the Department of Education, and the Annenberg Institute for School Reform.

The renovated space features all-new work, social, shared, and support spaces for the relocated academic groups, including conference rooms that feature updated technology and video conference capabilities. Additionally, the building’s systems and structure were substantially overhauled, including replacement of 40% of the precast façade with curtainwall, new MEPs and elevator systems, and an updated enclosed lobby space off Angell St. The Brown Bookstore,

located on the ground, mezzanine, and basement floors, remained operational throughout the project, requiring careful planning and coordination.

The renovation to Brown University's 164 Angell St. represents that latest in Shawmut's extensive portfolio with the institution, including recent work at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs and the School of Professional Studies, as well as ongoing work to the university's under-construction Performing Arts Center. Other recent projects for Shawmut in Rhode Island include the Wexford Innovation Center and River House Apartments part of the I-195 redevelopment.

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