



A. & T. COLLEGE'S NEW BLUFORD LIBRARY

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As visitors enter the main lobby of the new F. D. Bluford Library with its natural finish wood paneling and terrazzo floor, they are conscious of an atmosphere of spaciousness and warmth.

Two aluminum framed plate glass museum cases, with concealed fluorescent lighting and monkscloth backgrounds are on either side of the entrance hall. The cases are used predominantly for student work. Currently, the School of Engineering is represented by an exhibit of perspective drawings, building materials, architectural periodicals and a beautifully executed scale model.

Two large philodendron plants are striking against the blond paneling. Opening off the lobby on the right is the general collection room with gray-green walls, and upholstered chairs and sofas in red and green. Light wood shelving lines the walls, and study desks, chairs, and round tables of blond maple are placed around the room. Conferences and committee meetings are held here at the present time. Eventually, it will be used as a Browsing Room. At the far right of the lobby is the impressive main stairway, with a marble wainscot, opal rouge walls and massive hand rails made of cast aluminum.

The reserve book reading room next to the stairway is a long tranquil room with pale green walls, blond maple tables, and chairs with green upholstery. There is a double counter with book drops and recessed book trucks. Light wood shelving follows the wall around the entire room. Steel shelving with light wood and uprights provides a reserve stack area behind the counter. The reserve librarian's office, glassed on one side, is at the lobby end of the room.

At the back of the building on the first floor level is a loading platform which opens into a delivery area. Adjoining this is the catalog department and book preparation area. Here is installed a room length counter with a sink. Below the sink, enclosed by

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sliding doors, are shelves for supplies and work materials. Also on this floor are rest rooms, a cloak room and storage closet.

The basement floor has a special appeal to the campus in that it serves as an activity center. There are four comfortably furnished lounges, rest rooms, and a large central

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hall with lockers for day students. Opening off the hall is a spacious art exhibition room, equipped with museum aisle cases, wall cases and table cases all with fluorescent lighting. The room is painted in a soft neutral background color and is hung with student work. Comfortable chairs upholstered in red are placed to invite conversation and relaxation. A small room adjoining the exhibition room is being equipped as a North Carolina room and will house materials pertaining to the state and literature by North Carolina authors. At the rear of the basement are found the book repair room, gifts and exchange room, boiler room, stacks and carrels.

The main reading room and the serials room, two of the most attractive areas in the building, are airy and vast with blond tables, and red draperies. The walls here are pale green with shrimp trim. These rooms are on the second floor along with the librarian's office, secretary's office, processing area and staff lounge. The latter is happily equipped with a small kitchenette and tiny dining area where lunches may be enjoyed. The mezzanine floor is reserved for government documents and the bound volumes of the *New York Times*.

The third floor has an auditorium with a stage, a graduate study room, two listening rooms, three seminar rooms, and an audio-visual center. The auditorium has pale green walls, green upholstered opera seats with light wood trim, gold draperies and gold stage curtains.

The new million dollar library opened its doors to the campus in June, 1955. It has the most modern equipment available and such labor savings devices as a book lift, a pneumatic tube and an incinerator with chute openings from each floor. Micro-card and microfilm readers, projectors and other audio-visual materials are available for student and faculty use. Carrels are located in the stack areas of all five floor levels. The library is also equipped with a service elevator.

The exterior of the building is of contemporary design, having straight lines with full length windows allowing the fullest possible use of natural light.
