



GEORGE PEABODY LIBRARY

*If this library is anything
to go by, Baltimore is
a byword for hospitality*

DESIGNED BY EDMUND LIND AND NATHANIEL MORISON
BUILT IN 1878
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, USA

Sunlight streams down through the huge skylight, illuminating the six floors of the George Peabody Library. With its lovingly sculpted columns, arches, and cast-iron balconies, this library has a deserved reputation as one of the most beautiful in the world. In the 19th century, George Peabody, a patron of the arts, donated the Peabody Institute and Library to the citizens of Baltimore in gratitude for their “kindness and hospitality.” That ethos informs the running of the library to this very day: Instead of keeping the enchanting space for scholarship and research alone, the team rents out the vast reading hall and the exhibition areas for private events such as weddings, receptions, and parties. On such occasions, string lights, bar tables, and music transform the George Peabody Library into a peerless party venue, complete with trained waitstaff. In turn, the venue’s reasonable rental fees help preserve this unique Baltimore landmark for the future. It’s a win-win concept that is now being adopted by libraries all over the world.