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New library a perfect example of public-private cooperation

The circular floors of the new library at the **University of Cyprus**

THE STELIOS Ioannou Information Centre and Library that was unveiled at the **University of Cyprus** on Wednesday is an astonishing example of modern architecture. Renowned French architect Jean Nouvel designed it as an artificial hill, similar to hills of the surrounding area, but it also has a futuristic look with its white metal dome that allows the light in. Consisting of five levels it is as impressive on the inside, the top level offering a stunning, panoramic view of the surrounding area.

The building sets an example of the good things that can be done when people with vision and a commitment to excellence work together. The late Elli Ioannou had donated €8 million, in memory of her late husband Stelios Ioannou, while the architect was chosen by the Ioannou family, who also paid his fee. Outgoing Rector Constantinos Christofides played an important part, also securing funding from the European Fund for Regional Development, and it was fitting the building was opened three weeks before he was set to step down.

Elli Ioannou's generous donation started the trend of securing financial support from private donors for university projects. Christofides has secured funding from private donors for the buildings that would house the Medical School, the Biological Sciences and the Institute for Cancer Research, showing the way for his successors, who should not expect the taxpayer always to pick up the bill for new buildings and facilities as is the mentality at public organisations.