Four new modern-designed buildings, constructed at a cost of $65 million with more than one million square feet of usable space, have opened at Brooklyn College as almost 34,000 students began a new academic year on the college’s Flatbush campus.

The four new buildings, for which ground was broken in 1969, represent the first expansion construction at the college since 1962 when the college’s Student Center was completed. The construction was performed under the direction of the State Dormitory Authority.

The additional footage will nearly double the amount of usable classroom space on campus and give Brooklyn College, the largest of the 20 units within The City University of New York, some “breathing room” for the first time in years. With mounting annual student enrollments, Brooklyn College has been experiencing a severe “space crunch” in recent years.

Freshly-inaugurated this fall is William James Hall, a six-story classroom building that houses the college’s School of Education, the Departments of Psychology and Sociology, the Dean of the School of Social Sciences and the bulk of the School of General Studies (the college’s evening division). Served by elevators and an escalator system, James Hall also includes food service facilities and a group of staff offices.

The new Plaza Building is connected to the main campus quadrangle by a soaring, 34-step pedestrian bridge over Bedford Avenue. Its roof is a spacious plaza about the size of Lincoln Center Plaza, with sitting areas, greenery and an impressive view of the college’s quadrangle and landmark, the LaGuardian Hall tower.

The Plaza Building contains classrooms, lecture halls, a six-lane Olympic-size swimming pool, handball and squash courts, rifle ranges, an art department exhibition hall and the college’s Computer Center. One five-room auditorium complex has a total seating capacity of about 750 students.

Additions to Ingersoll Hall, the science building, and Roosevelt Hall, the physical education building, were partially opened last year but should be in full use during the term. The Ingersoll Hall addition—with color-coded corridors over 600 feet long—houses new laboratories, research areas, lecture halls, a rooftop greenhouse and space for a planetarium. The physical education building features new men's and women's gymnasiums, classrooms and offices and novel facilities such as a dance studio with television filming capabilities.

Also expanded this year is the college's Downtown Brooklyn campus, officially opened last fall to house two of the six new academic schools. The three buildings in the Borough Hall area represent a return by the college to the section in which it was founded back in 1930.

The School of Contemporary Studies is located in the former St. John's University Buildings at 72 and 96 Schermerhorn Street, while the School of Liberal Arts is located a few blocks away at 210 Livingston Street, a former Internal Revenue Service structure that has been completely renovated by the college.