

Designing Libraries

The gateway to library buildings past, present, future

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What is it?

Designing Libraries provides a freely accessible resource for everyone interested in design and innovation in libraries. It is a not-for-profit organisation funded through sponsorship from companies with an interest in building development and design.

SCONUL along with CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals), SCL (Society of Chief Librarians) and SLA (School Library Association) are partner organisations and all are members of the Advisory Board. Given the nature of the Designing Libraries enterprise, the SCONUL representative on the Advisory Board is drawn from the User Experience and Success Strategy Group and is currently Liz Waller from the University of York. The Advisory Board meets twice a year in May and November.

A bit of history

The Designing Libraries project in the UK came into being in 2003 as part of the Government's strategy for the future development of the public library service in England over the next ten years. The pilot website was initially granted funds from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) to go live and this was carried out by the Information Services department of the University of Wales Aberystwyth under the direction of CILIP's Library Buildings Project Steering Group. At a later date the SCONUL database of library buildings was also added to the Designing Libraries database. Designing Libraries is now a self-financing not-for-profit organisation funded through sponsorship from such companies as Bisset Adams, Demco Interiors and Harrow Green.

Features

Designing Libraries has a lot to offer, whether you are thinking about a new library or refurbishment and want to get to grips with the latest developments,

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are looking for suppliers or just want to keep up to speed with library buildings such as the new £11m steel clad building for the Middle East Centre at St Anthony's College, Oxford.

- Designing Libraries Database will give you key facts about a development, the David Wilson Library at the University of Leicester entry can be seen below. Key facts can include such gems as student numbers, m², architect, interior designer and number of study spaces. Many entries also provide photos – inspiration if you are trying to identify libraries to visit.

The screenshot shows the 'David Wilson Library' entry on the Designing Libraries website. The header includes the 'Designing Libraries' logo and 'demcointeriors' branding. The navigation menu includes Home, About us, Database, Featured libraries, Resources, Marketplace, News, Events, and Contact. The 'Database' section is active, showing search options and a Twitter follow button. The main content area displays the library's name and address: 'David Wilson Library, PO Box 248, University Road, Leicester, LE1 9QD'. Below this is a 'Library building record' section with metadata: 'Originally added: 19th June 2009, 5:06pm' and 'Last revised: 1st February 2012, 4:04pm'. A 'Suggest changes to this record' section follows, listing details such as Sector (Higher Education), Parent institution (University of Leicester), Name of member organisation (SCONUL), Address (PO Box 248, University Road, Leicester), Postal code (LE1 9QD), Library URL (http://www.le.ac.uk/library/), Library email (libdesk@le.ac.uk), Country (England), Category of library (Central/Main library/LRC), Population served (23,000), Student numbers (21,000), Nature of project (Refurbishment, Extension), Size of library (square metres) (15,500), Number of floors (5), Year of completion (2008), Architect and architect category (Associated Architects), and Project consultant (Faithful & Gould). On the right side, there are four small images with captions: 'David Wilson Library Image 3-5, Photography: Martine Hamilton Knight', 'Extension atrium', 'Atrium and central street', and 'Graduate School Reading Room'.

- Featured libraries and case studies is Designing Libraries' own selection of library design projects from around the world, and individual library case studies from sponsors and advertisers.
- Resources is a directory of web links and sources of information on libraries, library organisations, library buildings, library design, technology and innovation.
- Marketplace is a guide to architects, designers, library furniture suppliers, technology companies and other providers of products and services to libraries.

The screenshot shows the 'Marketplace' page on the Designing Libraries website. The header includes the 'Designing Libraries' logo and 'Library and archive moves, storage and retrieval' branding, along with the 'harrowgreen moving professionals' logo. The navigation menu includes Home, About us, Database, Featured libraries, Resources, Marketplace, News, Events, and Contact. The 'Marketplace' section is active, showing a list of categories: 'Designing, planning, moving', 'Furniture and shelving', 'Library technology', 'Library materials', 'E-content and digital services', 'Consultancy and training', 'Sponsors', and 'Advertisers'. The main content area features the title 'A marketplace of suppliers and services for libraries' and a description: 'A guide to architects, designers, library furniture suppliers, technology companies and other providers of products and services to libraries.' Below this are three images with captions: 'Designing, planning, moving Library architecture, building', 'Furniture and shelving A guide to the main suppliers of', and 'Library technology A directory of suppliers of library'.

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- News will keep you up to date with new libraries across the world
- Events lists selected events relevant to the sector

Contributing to Designing Libraries

Designing Libraries is always keen to add new library records to the database, particularly from the academic sector. You can add your project to the site from this link <http://www.designinglibraries.org.uk/index.asp?PageID=15> – just look for the Help documents on the right to download the pdf which will tell you what information you will need to gather before you begin to create a new online record.



Designing Libraries **BISSET ADAMS** Unique library design

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News

Public library with indoor garden
Pork Pie library reopens
Billingham Library gets building excellence award
Canadian public library wins building award
Rethinking the staff workplace
Steel-clad library for Oxford college
Fiction library for primary school
The library on the beach
Northants library opens in community hub
Library wins Development of the Year award
Libraries as the 'third place'
Reinventing the modern library
Public Library of the Year Award
China Centre gets new mobile shelving
Refurbishment for French Institute
Wakefield's dementia-friendly library
Archive is a gateway to history
Bodleian's Weston Library opens
Library and community hub for South Tyneside
The new libraries of Singapore
Mapping mobile shelving in

Steel-clad library for Oxford college

Zaha Hadid Architects has completed a new £11 million building for the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College, Oxford.

1 June 2015




Photo: Luke Hayes

It provides 1,127sq m of extra floor space and a 117-seat subterranean lecture theatre, doubling the space available for the centre's expanding library and archive.

The building, known as the Investcorp Building, was commissioned by the College to meet the demand placed on its resources by a dramatic increase in student numbers.

The design weaves through the restricted site to incorporate the existing buildings and trees.

The interior shelving was designed and supplied by Bruynzeel.

News links

Zaha Hadid adds a shimmering steel tunnel to an Oxford University college
Report and photo gallery from Dezeen.

Zaha Hadid's modernist library inspires shock and awe in Oxford
Review in the Independent.

Zaha Hadid bridges Oxford University campus with reflective library
Report and image gallery from designboom.

RSS

This page can be found in the following news feeds:
Designing Libraries

As you will see from the news feature above, Designing Libraries is also keen to report on new buildings or developments. If you think you can add to the news content you can contact Designing Libraries via the following page <http://www.designinglibraries.org.uk/index.asp?PageID=74>. Or if you are organising an event relevant to Designing Libraries why not get in touch to have it featured in the Events listing?

Future plans

Over the past few years the main site has been developed to increase the number of news stories and a wide selection of case studies – along with a more international perspective. Work still in progress is the development of the 'Architects Archive', inviting major architectural practices to submit designs and plans for some of the world's iconic new library buildings and interiors.

Currently the database of library buildings is held on a separate server with its own search mechanism. The plan is to transcribe the database records into 'natural language' records within the main site content, making the entire site searchable by keyword, using Google search. There will also be a new

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searchable image gallery with photos drawn from site content. These are both considerable development projects for a 2016 launch.

Contacts

You can keep up to date by registering for the free e-mail newsletter from the Designing Libraries home page www.designinglibraries.org.uk. If you would like to comment on Designing Libraries or suggest developments for the future you can do this via the website or contact me: liz.waller@york.ac.uk.

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