



# Newsletter 2012 No 1

## Section on Library Buildings and Equipment



Agave Library (Phoenix Public Library, Arizona), one of the New Landmark Libraries.  
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## Editorial

The digital age has become a golden age for the construction of libraries – the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the first of the 21 century have seen more new libraries than ever worldwide. An impressive collection of flagship buildings have been completed or are well under way. The new libraries mirror the ambitions of their architects and funding bodies: Rem Koolhaas in Seattle with the Public Library, Santiago Calatrava's Law Library in Zürich, the Rolex Learning Center in Lausanne by the Japanese architects Kazuo Sejima and Ryne Nishizawa (SANAA), Zaha Hadid's library building for the University of Economics and Business in Vienna, the new Chinese National Library in Peking by Engel and Zimmermann or the University Library of Aberdeen by the Danish architects schmidt hammer lassen, to name but a few. They all add with their outstanding buildings to the urban character of a city and demonstrate its ability to provide a defined and sustainable place for knowledge, information and communication.

Libraries are in the process of adjusting their roles in the cultural landscape, which is very much determined by information led societies that rely on modern technologies and new formats of media. 2011 was the year in which the retailer Amazon announced that it sold more e-books than hardcover and paperback books combined. So we observe an apparent paradox: the media and services we use become increasingly electronic and virtual, whereas physical space for libraries is still in demand as well as finding its expression in the development of new distinguished and remarkable building and design forms. There are many examples of rather unknown and small libraries which respond to the new trend as well. In this issue of our

Newsletter Jeffrey Scherer will introduce you to the *New Landmark Libraries* in the United States, which are worth discovering.

You will also find on the website of our Section examples of libraries and their models that you can study in order to get a sense of current or coming trends. And, of course, we are always interested in your proposals for featuring a particular library building. So, please, let us know your discoveries and share them with our global community devoted to library buildings and design. We have developed a template for describing featured buildings, which you can use.

You will also find two reports about activities of our Standing Committee last year. In August we held a successful Satellite Conference at Emory University in Atlanta, which dealt with the effect of technologies on library design and we organized the Open Session during the main conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico under the topic "Sustainability issues in the design of libraries: the importance of creating environmentally responsible library facilities and spaces in the 21st century". Rieke Overbeeke, a former member of our Standing Committee and Bernadette Patte, a new member, have written the reports for you.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank again all former members of our Section for all their work, including in particular our Chair, Karen Latimer, from whom I took over after having been secretary for the previous two years. I am looking forward to sharing with you information and experience in the inspiring field of library architecture and wish you all a very happy New Year!

Dorothea Sommer, Chair, Library  
Buildings & Equipment Section

# The New Landmark Libraries: *A Library Journal* Quest Inaugural Year Wrap-Up

By

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*Library Journal* (LJ) announced the first ten winners of its New Landmark Libraries (a.k.a. NLL) competition, in May 2011. New Landmark Libraries is LJ's quest to showcase the best U.S. library building projects completed during the previous five years. This first set of ten new landmark public libraries and ten honorable mentions were featured as a cover story in the May 15, 2011 LJ, "The New Icons," and in its supplement, *Library by Design*. Here is the link to the article: ["The New Icons"](#).

By showcasing these building projects *Library Journal* attempted to answer the question "where is the next great idea for library design?" While the 2011 inaugural year featured public libraries, the 2012 competition will feature U.S. academic libraries. Equally important in planning this recognition program was a current paucity of awards that look deeper into what makes a great library. Too often, the current array of award programs focus primarily on the visual nature of design. While great design is certainly a paramount consideration, it

was felt that a more holistic look at the library was needed for it to be truly a "landmark library."

The term landmark may imply that the buildings should first, as stated by one judge, "stand the test of time" before it is recognized. For this reason, this program is referred to as "New Landmark Libraries" with the clear expectation that, over time, these projects will stand the test of time and continue to be inspirational and informative.

By identifying and naming these New Landmark Libraries, it is hoped that they will create a catalogue of best practices that can be used as prototypes or think tanks to inspire the next generation of library buildings. The New Landmark Libraries will be especially relevant to library stakeholders seeking inspiration for their upcoming building projects. Stakeholders can visit these libraries and experience the latest design ideas, construction methods, and evolving service concepts. They offer a plethora of new ideas in response to the

social, technological, economic, and global changes impacting the world of library design. Ideally, they will serve as exemplary think tanks for the next "next generation" library.

Public libraries reflect a community's deepest desires, changing needs, and most difficult challenges. The decision to undertake construction, renovation, or expansion requires considerable deliberation and effort on the part of all stakeholders. And while there are the few iconic library buildings that get the lion's share of the media attention and visits, there are many others, not as well known, that stretch beyond the commonly shared boundaries of what a library is thought to be and provide the clues necessary for planning future libraries. These are the libraries that LJ sought to identify and share with the library world. These projects are often more fully integrated and deeply thought through—accounting for not just great aesthetics but also new organizational strategies for service, sustainability and collaboration.

For the first go-around of New Landmark Libraries, the competition was limited to new construction and major renovations and expansions of U.S. public libraries completed during the 2005 to 2010 time frame. Submissions were solicited over several months in late 2010 from libraries, architects and others via advertising, emails, social networking and state libraries. A panel of sixteen judges included public library administrators, consultants, LJ staff, architects and an academic library administrator. A commercial online review system was customized to receive applications and judge's scores and comments.

The set of six criteria used to judge entries are: (1) overall design and construction excellence; (2) response to community context and constraints; (3) sustainability; (4) functionality; (5) innovation; and (6) beauty and delight. A highlight of salient issues for these six criteria follows:

- 1. Overall Design and Construction Excellence**  
As public buildings libraries should represent the society they serve. To be considered as 'landmarks' they must meet three levels of permanence. These are: (1) material integrity; (2) functional propriety; (3) civic representation. They must also be an exemplar for other libraries planning new or remodeled facilities.
- 2. Response to Community Context and Constraints**  
Any project can work outside of given restraints—and many library designs are simply a reflection of an architect's point-of-view rather than a sensitive acknowledgement that design, which respects the community context, can transcend the singular vision of an architect. In this program, there was a search for projects that did both—expressed a clear and innovative vision but seamlessly respected the local context and constraints.
- 3. Sustainability**  
The world of sustainable architecture has made great progress in the past 10 years. This criterion is, however, not often scrutinized in design award programs. For the New Landmark Libraries program, it was felt that good design must be founded on sound sustainable practices for it to be recognized.

#### 4. **Functionality**

Given that libraries can spend between 60-75% of their annual budgets on salaries, and that budgets are under constant scrutiny by governing bodies, a library that can not be operated efficiently through lack of functionality is not, in this program, worthy of recognition. If these libraries are to serve as best practices, great design must be coupled with space that is functional, flexible and capable of supporting the service mission of the library. A key question that was asked when reviewing submission was “How does this building maximize functionality in the delivery of library services? What specific design elements improve the service delivery, experience, and accessibility for the public and staff?”

#### 5. **Innovation**

This program expressly looked for design with deeply embedded innovation. The innovation could be in the materiality, the spatial organization or new ways to solve old problems. It was felt that to be truly landmark status, the project had to push the boundaries while at the same time balance all of the “normal” aspects of library architecture.

#### 6. **Beauty and Delight**

While the adage that beauty is in the eye of the beholder still holds true, it is also recognized that architecture, which successfully balances all of these criteria and is guided by a gifted designer, is likely to transcend the ordinary. Each juror, of course, had to make his or her own determination if the library was both beautiful and delightful. Was there a “wow” factor and would it transcend time? The projects that won demonstrate that great library

architecture is beautiful and delightful because it is not focused solely on clever form making or one-liners.

LJ editors eliminated submissions that were not lending libraries or that had already achieved iconic status in the profession.. Ten winners emerged from approximately forty entries. After the ten top projects were selected, the next ten submissions were placed in the honorable mention category.

#### **Emerging trends**

Many of the now common library building ideas, such as flexibility, self-service, automated material handling, wireless, cafes, and sustainability emerged in the late 90s and early 2000s. The second half of the decade solidified those ideas and brought forward some new ones. The New Landmark Libraries, while expressing library ideas of the past, refine those trends of the past decade and showcase some embryonic ideas. These new trends, gleaned from the winners, are:

##### 1. **Get greener.**

Six of the libraries are or will be LEED® certified and all incorporate and exemplify ample green principles. Some new green strategies are dual flush toilets; preferential parking for hybrid vehicles; operable windows; new materials (the Appaloosa branch library’s use of mica encrusted siding, furniture from recycled yogurt containers and insulation made from used blue jeans); recycled rubber flooring; reimagining of an existing building; geothermal heating and cooling; alternative power; collecting storm water run off for use in irrigation; lower power use information technology solutions; reusing existing parking.

2. **Flexibility for an unfolding future.**  
This was fully embraced by the NLLs. Open floor plans, expansive and strategic sight lines; lower shelving for enhanced browsing and visibility; freestanding and adjustable service desks; demarcation of zones via furniture, shelving etc. instead of less flexible and more costly construction.
3. **Use fewer and smaller service points.**  
The greatest shift in service is away from the single point of service and getting staff members to get out from behind the desk. The best examples need no signage.
4. **Win with self-service.**  
Self-service is, at least in the U.S., a continually growing trend. There is no clear consensus, however, about where to place the self-service kiosks.
5. **Think collaboration.**  
There is a strong and growing trend toward spaces that encourage collaboration as well as furnishings and technology that enhances collaboration. This collaboration is not limited to the traditional demographic: teens. These projects demonstrate the demand for and the importance of great collaborative space for adults. The newsroom for adults at the Appaloosa Branch is a good example.
6. **Borrow from museums.**  
Since bookstores are becoming scarce, where else can we borrow ideas? Museums offer a lot with their awe inspiring, sacred spaces. They also have, over the past decade, reinvented themselves through innovative interactive displays, careful attention to their customer's needs and more fully integrating collecting with learning.
7. **Be more retail like.**  
While the use of retail shopping strategies in public institutions emerged

in the early 90's, US libraries have not fully understood how to translate and integrate the best aspect of retailing. Poor imitations of bookstore display tables and mall facades are simple-minded and shallow imitations. Many of the best examples presented here offer some great retailing ideas. These include transparency, innovative signage, lower shelving and smart organization related to how people naturally move through space.

8. **Apply a minimalist ethic.**  
A clear trend was a "pared down" approach to design. Use of self-finishing materials or white backdrops with vibrant accents of color are a refreshing change to those warm-toned walls and craftsman style libraries of the early 2000s. The integrity, honesty and matching of form and materiality is a welcome new trend. In addition, the simple, honest minimalist ethic allows for maximum flexibility.
9. **Save the neighborhood.**  
Libraries are economic development tools and some of the projects do this very well. Locating a well-designed library in blighted or underserved area has transformative effects including reducing crime, increasing retail traffic and enhancing property values.
10. **Reimagine an existing building.**  
Some of the winners consciously chose to remodel and expand because it is generally greener to reuse rather than tear down and build new. The top winner, Poplar Creek, is an example of how an uninspiring, out-of-date building can give birth to a whole way of designing libraries.

### The Winners: 10 Icons

The projects are presented in order of the number of votes received.



- 1. Poplar Creek Public Library (Streamwood, IL):** The number one winner was Poplar Creek Public Library. This project is an expansion of a Brutalist style building from the late 60s. The judges were clearly taken with its bold interiors, sensitivity to the community, splashes of color yet as cool as a museum with its “wow” spaces like the Green Zone of the Amoeba along with its 100’ long LED panel light wall providing opening and closing ceremonies. **2009: Frye Gillan Molinaro Architects, Ltd.**



George Lambros © Lambros Photography Inc.

2. **Palo Verde Library/Maryvale Community Center (Phoenix, AZ):** Set in a tough inner city neighborhood, this collaboration of Parks and Libraries has served to quell crime and create community. The buildings mirror the theme of mind-body connection and provide a place to learn, grown and play. The result of this shared use project is the highest foot traffic of any park facility and the second highest for the library. **2006: Gould Evans Associates + Wendell Burnette Architects**



© Gould Evans Associates + Wendell Burnette Architects



3. **Cesar Chavez Branch Library (Phoenix Public Library, Arizona):** Buried in an earth mound, large cantilevered overhangs and proper solar orientation give this LEED Silver library the best chance at reduced energy use. It is designed around the notion of library as community living room and aims to meet the needs of a rapidly growing community with a high percentage of young families. Teens call their area “R3” for read, relax, and rejuvenate and have mp3 listening stations and a TV for DVD viewing. An open design plan gives this library long-term flexibility and an advantage when responding to changing needs and service models. **2007: Line and Space, LLC**



Photo credits: All photos except children's area © Bill Timmerman, Timmerman Photography Inc.; Children's area photo by Henry Tom, AIA, NCARB

4. **Hamilton Mill Branch (Gwinnet County Library System, Georgia):** This LEED Gold branch, set to reduce energy use by 25%, is sited on the edge of a skateboarding park. Naturally it offers both skateboarders and drivers of hybrid and high efficiency vehicles priority parking. An open floor plan with a single help desk along with properly oriented 60" shelving keep sight lines open. Several booths and collaborative workstations with large monitors and lightweight configurable seats and tables are designed to enhance group work. The building is clad in what looks like traditional brick, but is actually a new brick made entirely of materials that would otherwise end up in the waste stream. **2010: Precision Planning, Inc.**



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5. **Durango Public Library (Durango, Colorado):** This is a LEED Gold library in a scenic resort and college town serving a rapidly growing population of 16,000. Its location on the Animus River next to a narrow gauge train track may be why the community holds the environment as one of its most important values. The building is projected over its first twenty years to use 40% less energy than conventional buildings. This library exudes a warm feeling and is designed with a raised floor to allow for easier future changes. **2008: Barker Rinker Seacat.**



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6. **Sammamish Library (King County Library System, Washington):** Built as a key part of a new town's vision, this library is located near the city hall and a network of bike and pedestrian paths. It possesses a minimal aesthetic with a big focus on majestic views, copious day lighting and sustainable features like radiant heating, reclaimed wood countertops and operable windows. Scaled down and adjustable circulation and reference points plus reliance on RFID, self-check out and an automated materials handling system relieves staff workload. Wayfinding consists of large brightly colored signs, as well as a color-coding system that links color, font and material type. **2010: Perkins + Will.**



© Benjamin Benschneider Photography



7. **Appaloosa Branch Library (Scottsdale Public Library, Arizona):** Another LEED Gold library the Appaloosa Branch is covered in iridescent mica that shifts color throughout the day and helps to repel heat. Other features contributing to the building's reduced energy use are a solar photovoltaic system; ample day lighting and a building skin that helps keep the building cool because it is separated by an inch from the rain screen to form airspace that carries warm air up and away by convection. This library is designed around social spaces, such as a "newsroom" – a place for adults to chat, read newspapers and magazines and watch TV; a separate club space for teens with their own meeting room; and interactive children's displays where even crawling infants can learn by manipulating the displays. **2009: DWL Architects and Planners Inc.**



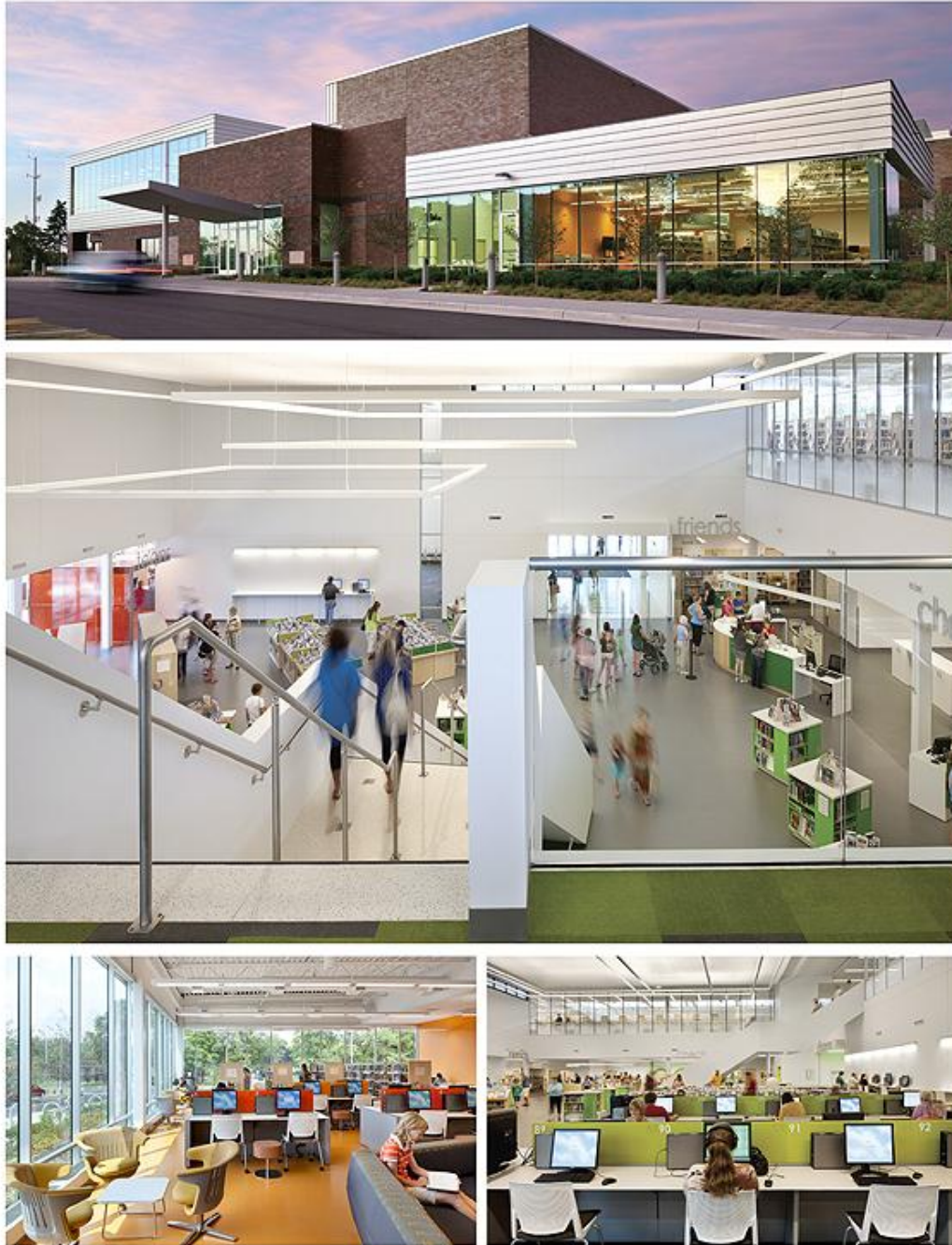


- 8. Agave Library (Phoenix Public Library, Arizona):** This “less is best” project was the last of several from a single bond issue. With its budget reduced due to overages in the earlier projects the designers had to make the most of a suburban blighted site. An economical and attractive false front evokes the area’s frontier town cowboy roots and gives the library scale. But behind the soaring façade is the same basic inexpensive masonry shell as the library’s retail neighbors. Self-finishing materials, like exposed gang nail trusses and self galvanized hat channels, decreased cost and added a lot of design power. **2009: will bruder + PARTNERS LTD**



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9. **Roseville Library (Ramsey County Library System, Minnesota):** This LEED Gold building expansion and renovation transformed a boring government building into a shock wave of minimalist aesthetic and pops of color. Color zoned for discovery, the main floor is an active “marketplace” of most used services. The designers broke through the design template of the 21st Century’s first decade. With its white walls, punctuated by frameless windows and the pop of color-themed areas, Roseville is a graceful, light and spare environment. This is next-gen library design and a veritable shopping cart of ideas. **2010: Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle LTD.**



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**10. Anythink Wright Farms (Rangeview Library District, Thornton, Colorado):** Another LEED GOLD project that leaps ahead of many libraries through its “Anythink” concept, which was invented to reconnect communities with their libraries. This Anythink building repositions the library as a new breed of community institutions with a focus on comfort and self-service. A park setting plus amenities like an indoor-outdoor fireplace, staff “concierges,” an Anythink Café, an oasis-like environment and the lack of the Dewey Decimal system make this library feels more like a luxury bookstore. This new and unorthodox spin on library services definitely fits the bill for this rapidly growing and young community. **2010: Humphries Poli Architects.**



**Photo credits (counter-clockwise):  
Marcus Farr; Stacie Ledden; Kent Meireis; Kent Meireis.**

## The Runners Up

Ten additional submissions received Honorable Mentions. They are listed below.

1. **Anacostia Branch (District of Columbia Library System, Washington, DC):** A vibrant, futuristic beacon among brick duplexes, the Anacostia Branch stands where the old library did, but with a whole new approach. It brings a revitalizing, transparent, and forward moving energy to the neighborhood. **2010: The Freelon Group Architects**
2. **Eastern Ave Branch (Davenport Public Library, Iowa):** A LEED Silver building that is carefully sited to maximize sunlight and features special parking for low emissions vehicles, connectivity to neighborhoods through new bike and walking trails and city bus service and a 140 well geothermal HVAC system to keep energy costs down. **2010: Engberg Anderson Architects**
3. **Kilton Public Library (Kilton, New Hampshire):** This LEED Gold library is an economic driver given its Main Street location on an abandoned used car lot. Its flexible, stunning interiors blend New England sensibility and warmth with a clean, modern ethic. The radiant floor slab pleases story hour patrons while a front door/back door approach to access highlights the best of small town living. This library, paid for with private donations, also sports a biomass boiler that takes advantage of a waste product such as wood pellets to generate heat. **2010: Tappé Associates Architects**

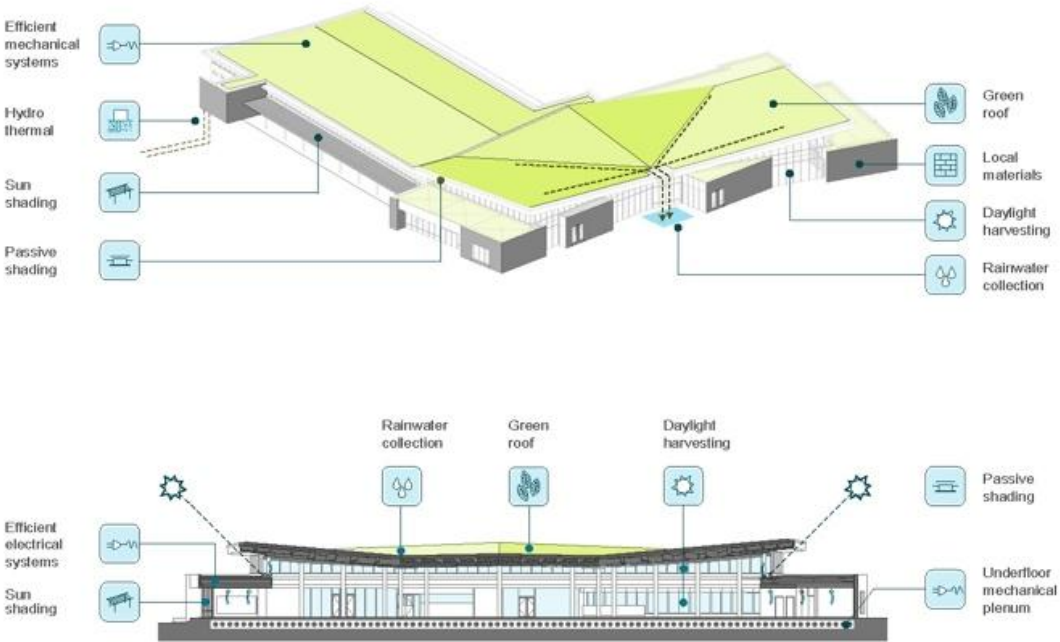


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4. **Library! At Cole& Ustick (Boise Public Library, Idaho):** This new branch is a revitalizing force in a downtrodden retail center, now named "Library Plaza." The LEED Gold building, with 50 percent of its space devoted to youth, is proof that libraries transform lives and businesses. **2010: Fletcher Farr Ayotee, Inc., Architects**



5. **Maple Grove Branch (Hennepin County Library System, Minnesota):** This branch was built for one of the fastest growing Minnesota communities—with over a million checkouts in 2009. It includes a 350 space parking ramp, green roof with plantings, a gravel pit based geothermal heating and cooling system, the flexibility of raised flooring for shifting service, needs, mobile display units and interactive panels for children that draw kids in, Serpentine-shaped booths in the teen area that can be rearranged to create new spaces and a hip computer bar for teens. The warm wood tones juxtaposed against the white walls echo the region’s early pioneer spirit. **2010: Jeffrey Scherer of Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd (IFLA Building and Equipment Committee member)**





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6. **Mission Bay Branch (San Francisco Public Library, California)** is an exemplar for how mixed-use libraries can be an integral part of urban redevelopment efforts that are revitalizing America's cities. The branch shares the building with affordable senior housing, retail, an adult day health center, and a shared community space. Custom window displays for books draw in passers-by, as does dynamic public art enabled by the city's two percent for art program. **2006: Santos Prescott and Associates, Architects**
  
7. **Plainsboro Public Library (Plainsboro, New Jersey)** is the anchor to the community's new "Town Green" and features some spaces generally not seen in libraries, such as classrooms, a health education center, an arts resource center, and the first children's science lab to be located in a U.S. public library. A number of interior design choices—hand woven seating by a Thai artisan, fabrics by a Dutch industrial designer, and a text-based graphics program created from the first lines of an international group of famous novels submitted by library patrons—reflect the ethnically diverse community. **2010: BKSK Architects**
  
8. **Richmond/Senator Milton Marks Branch Library (San Francisco Public Library, California):** A major renovation and expansion to protect the historic integrity of this Carnegie library originally built in 1914 also brought it up to date. Contemporary glass enclosures added a cool 4000 square feet of usable space. Other cool factors are induction lamps that have a 100,000-hour lifespan, operable windows, raised flooring, jargon free signage, the conveniences of a modern library such as a teen area and study rooms, and seismic protection that support and celebrate the classic design. **2009: San Francisco Department of Public Works Bureau of Architecture**
  
9. **Westhampton Free Library (Westhampton, New York)** built a green library on the pedestrian friendly site of the former library—proving with its 71 photovoltaic panels that harvest 16 kilo watts of solar power that an eco-building can look as historic as its setting. Since opening, it has implemented a green cleaning program and only buys Green Seal consumables. **2010: Ward Associates, PC**
  
10. **White Tank Branch (Maricopa County Library District, Arizona).** Certified LEED Platinum, White Tank Branch is located smack dab in a regional park. The vast interior, with one central service point, connects to the desert with continuous views of the desert landscape through walls of windows that block the hottest rays of the sun. The building generates 30 percent of its power from solar and houses the park's Nature Center, further multiplying its value to visitors. **2010: DWL Architects and Planners, Inc.**

## Next Steps

With the successful publication of the first set of NLL winners in May 2011, *Library Journal* proceeded with additional web content, a webinar featuring architects from several of the winning libraries, an

ALA mini-celebration and lots of press in the cities of the winning libraries. In 2012, LJ continues New Landmark Libraries with a U.S. academic library competition. Submissions will be solicited early in the year with announcement of the winning libraries in summer 2012.

# Satellite Conference in Atlanta – Report

This year the IFLA Standing Committee on Library Buildings and Equipment, together with the Standing Committee on Information Technology, organized a satellite meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme was “Effect of Technologies on Library Design: building the 21<sup>st</sup> century library.” In total 55 members participated in the meeting held at the stately Emory University.

During the meeting attention was given to the impact of technology application on the library building and design, user expectations on service delivery, changes in use of libraries, and the so-called new landmark libraries.

Some compelling presentations were given by inter alia Jeffrey Hoover, Tom Pinkin, and Janine Schmidt. In his presentation entitled “Not your dream library – the one after that: creating the library as place suffused with appropriate technologies”, Jeffrey Hoover (Principal Tappe Associates, Boston), observed that to libraries the storage of digital information can be a challenge. This is particularly due to digital information’s use of less space, therefore changing library use.

Tom Pinkin (MK Sorting Systems USA) dealt with the topic “Integrating Automation Plans into Facilities Planning – implications and synergies”. The aim of automation is inter alia to establish a relationship between self-service and workflow regulation (and efficiency). This

**Rieke Overbeeke**

would lead to cost saving and the improvement and extension of services (e.g. longer opening hours and less staff).

Janine Schmidt (Murkata Consulting Australia) spoke on the topic “Accommodating Shifting User Expectations”. The current generation of library users are digital natives. They communicate the whole day via twitter, facebook, youtube, sms, and e-mail, using iPads, iPhones, and Google as source of information. Work and private life constantly mingle with each other and social networks have become very important. They want modern and attractive buildings with lots of space in which they can relax, as well as extensive technology. Such users wish to make use of services when needed, and on their time. Users want to socialize in the library, talking to friends, eat, drink, working in groups, using their mobile phones, and using the library 24 hours a day. Everything must be “a la minute”. This all means that the library of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, through its services, needs to take cognizance of the changing usage. Interior design also need to be changed according to the wishes of these new users.

The meeting also spent much time on the building and design of new leading US libraries such as the Appaloosa Branch Library, Scottsdale, the A-Z, Poplar Creek Public Library, and the Phoenix Public Library. On the whole, the Atlanta satellite meeting was very interesting and compelling.

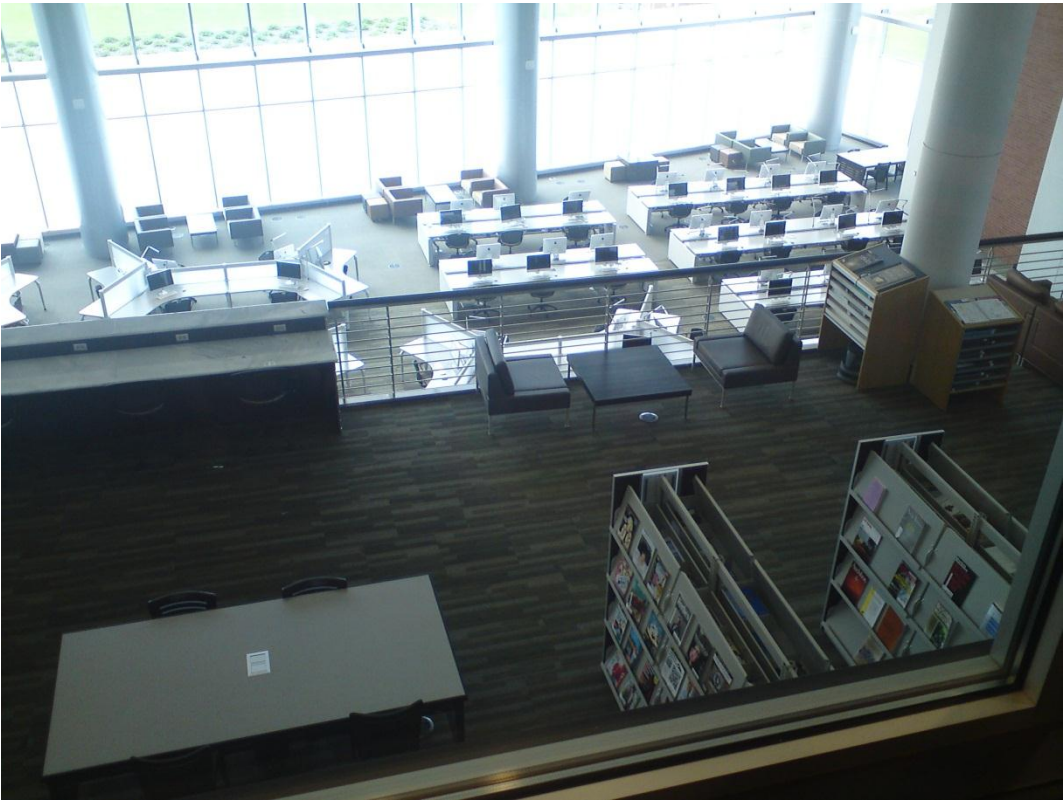


# Pictures from the library tour in Atlanta

Gwinnett County Public Library, Hamilton Mill Branch. Photo: Ingvild Monsen



Georgia Gwinnett College Library. Photo: Ingvild Monsen



# Section's session in Puerto Rico – Report

The Library buildings and equipment section held its Open session in San Juan, Puerto Rico on the theme: *Sustainability issues in design of libraries: the importance of creating environmentally responsible library facilities and spaces in the 21 th Century.*

The session was focused on libraries reaction of this “hot topic”, that is to say, environmental impact which in fact, does concern all of us, librarians.

Four papers illustrated the topic:

- ***Sustainable libraries, sustainable services: a global view*** Peter Genovese and Patricia Albanese (Global Library Consulting, Rochester, NY, USA),
- ***The second hand library building : sustainable thinking through recycling old buildings into new libraries***, Petra Hauke (Humbolt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany) and Klaus Werner (Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany),
- ***Energy saving and green building design of libraries : a case study of Zhengzhou Library***, Xuan Wang ( Library Society of China & National Library of China, Beijing, China) and Hongyan Li (Zhengzhou Library, Zhengzhou, China),
- ***Building a “storehouse of wisdom” with an environmental conscience: a work in progress***, Karen Kealy and Jenny Ellis (University of Melbourne, Vic, Australia).



Puerto Rico Convention Center. Photo: Ingvild Monsen

First of all, P. Genovese and P. Albanese answered to the question: what is a green library building project? They gave a definition of sustainability as a practice of creating structures and using environmental responsible processes in the matter of built environment, consumption of energy, water and other resources combined to occupants' health protection. Sustainable library building includes developing sustainable services.

Through two case studies illustrated by interviews of famous architects, Jack Polling & Sean Wagner on one hand and Lars Stanley on the other one, who all obtained an award winning for design. They also showed a large set of examples and features of sustainable library buildings, mainly in the United States but also in Singapore with pictures of the Tapei public library, Beitou branch located in Singapore.

The second part of this paper was dedicated to sustainable services: in these times of climate changes and economic uncertainty, there is an increasing necessity to develop strategies in order to deliver services on the issues of sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation and natural resources used in management. Two inspiring examples were showed with the Marifa centers in Central Africa, involved in developing internet access and computers uses, providing trainings, and critical information about books, digital items, videos ....and quite a different experience with Veria public library, the first electronic library in Greece. The aim is here to listen to the community needs and to be innovative by offering new services such as programs about visual narratives on youtube, mobile services ... As a result, 41% of the city population are library users.

P. Hauke and Klaus Werner presented "the second hand libraries" like a challenge and a chance offering a way of reducing the ecological footprint, and to bring green aspects in old buildings. They stressed also upon the fact that libraries, as public establishments, should give good examples.

The context of sustainability knew a remarkable evolution from the seventies, when the common idea was summed up with this assertion: "you should never accept an old building!" In 1985 whereas emerged the idea that you could take some advantages of an old building. Finally, Santi Romero's typology displays nowadays a set of conditions and positive aspects of an old building, such as the "symphonic" value, the central location in the city, the importance of architectural heritage. Sustainability presents some main advantages, referring to ecology, cultural heritage, urban regeneration and finance. However, second hand should not be idealized, but this option is always better than waiting for a new building.

With the case study of the new Zhengzhou Library, which is to open at the end of 2011, was discussed the economic issue: how to solve high energy cost? By choosing green technology and products. As we know, new libraries need more energy with artificial lightening, they rely on mechanical ventilation, using central air conditioning and more lifts in the buildings. The energy saving and green building design of the new building of the new Zhengzhou library lays upon five main points : integrating energy management system in monitoring and control systems, complex vacuum glazing of building environment, energy saving illuminating system, convertible frequency air-conditioner of HVAC and rain water utilization system.

Last but not least, the fourth paper presented the action plan of the University of Melbourne. Released in July 2008, Melbourne's Scholarly Information Future is a ten-year strategy to lead the development of the University services, collections, systems, technologies and infrastructure. This plan focuses on Libraries refurbishing Projects with a stream on several main points such as lighting, heating, ventilation, air conditioning...

This paper shows some significant examples of sustainable library buildings located in this University such as Baillieu



library and a soon to be built library: The Research and Cultural Library.

These innovative projects show the great attention given to sustainable building design and to reducing the building footprint with the automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS) and other environmental sustainable measures such as reducing the building footprint, choosing double height spaces, saving energy consumption since lighting, heating, ventilation and cooling are reduced.

All new buildings at the University of Melbourne are required to reach a minimum 5 Green stars rating, a national system used to evaluate the design, construction and ongoing maintenance of

buildings, which is equivalent to Australian excellence.

To conclude on this experience, the main idea is that a developing program is really stimulating, and sustainability targets are still to be kept.

Sustainability issues in design libraries are indeed a hot topic. In this open session was reaffirmed the main role librarians, architects and politicians have to play in being environmentally responsible in designing new libraries, in refurbishing old buildings and, last but not least, in providing sustainable facilities and services.

## **Bernadette Patte**



**Fort San Felipe del Morro, San Juan.** Rising 140 feet above the entrance of San Juan Bay, this multilevel fortress is one of the city's most dramatic landmarks. The fort is one of the oldest remaining fortresses under the US flag.

World Library and Information Congress

## 78th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

11-17 August 2012, Helsinki, Finland

The Library Buildings and Equipment Section is holding its Open Session in Helsinki, Finland, in 2012 on the theme:

### ***Session title: Making the case for change through evaluation: post-occupancy evaluation of library buildings.***

The architectural realisation of a building and its opening to the public with a range of services are central components of the building and design process of libraries. Post-Occupancy Evaluation (POE) is the final step in this process. It provides a useful opportunity to assess whether the construction and design of the building has indeed met the library's and users' requirements and how effectively the building functions for both users and library staff as well as how easy it is to maintain.

As buildings age and as various external and internal changes impact upon them, it is necessary to be able to provide an objective and empirical assessment of how such buildings and the spaces within them function as well as identifying problems and proposing solutions to the governing bodies.

For further information, look at our website: <http://www.ifla.org/en/node/5223>



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