DESIGNING LIBRARIES
IN 21ST CENTURY
LESSONS FOR THE UK

Gemma John
Senior Researcher, Foster + Partners
Vancouver Chicago Aarhus
Halifax Seattle Helsinki
Calgary Almere Copenhagen

Seattle Espoo
Halifax

Calgary Almere Copenhagen

Espoo

Estonia

USA
Harold Washington Library Center
Albany Park Branch
Chinatown Branch
Seattle Central Library
West Seattle Branch
Northeast Seattle Branch
Rainier Beach Branch
Capitol Hill Branch

Canada
Vancouver Central Library
Calgary Central Library
Crowfoot Branch
Forest Lawn Branch
Shawnessy Branch
Southwood Branch
Fish Creek Branch
Judith Umbach Branch
Halifax Central Library
Woodlawn Branch
Keshen Goodman Branch

Finland
Opinmaki
Library Apple
Entresse
Sello
Library 10
Råhardsinkatu

Denmark
Black Diamond
Aarhus DOKK1

Netherlands
Almere Stad
Almere Buiten
Almere Haven
Delft Library Concept Center

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> **Functions**: Inspiring Libraries

> **Principles**: Designing Libraries

> **Lessons**: Evolving Libraries
> Functions: Inspiring Libraries

Meeting  Learning  Reading
URBAN MEDIASPACE
AARHUS, DENMARK
2015

“A place where the life of the city unfolds.”
- Lead Architect, Schmidt Hammer Lassen
“Everything is aimed to encourage people to meet each other”

- Policy and Projects Consultant
meet / learn / read

LIBRARY 10
HELSDINKI, FINLAND

“We like to think of ourselves as the urban office”
- Manager
“Children’s lives have been overprogrammed - they need time for spontaneous play”

- Consultant
meet / learn / read

ALBANY PARK
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, USA
2014

“We want a place to connect people to other places in the community”

- Adult Services Manager
KESHEN GOODMAN
HALIFAX, CA
2002

“We need another floor for adult learning spaces”
- Branch Manager
“We’ve experienced a growth of e-books, but this is plateauing...”

- Director of Programmes and Services
DE NIEUWE BIBLIOTHEEK
ALMERE, NETHERLANDS
2010

“IT was designed on the basis that 80% people are browsers”

- Communications Manager
“Tell me what collections doesn't deserve real estate so we can make more space available.”

- Regional Manager
CHALLENGE: MAKING SPACE FOR PEOPLE
SOLUTION: ‘WEED’ COLLECTION

FOREST LAWN
CALGARY, ALBERTA, CA
2016
SOLUTION: SHARE COLLECTION

LIBRARY CONCEPT CENTER
DELFt, NETHERLANDS
2007
SOLUTION: HIGH-DENSITY STORAGE

HUNT LIBRARY
RALEIGH, SOUTH CAROLINA, USA
2013
SOLUTION: EXTEND BUILDING

CENTRAL LIBRARY
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CA
1995
> **Principles**: Designing Libraries

**Accessibility**: Library is convenient to access and use.

**Visibility**: Library is a place where people can freely interact.

**Flexibility**: Library can be modified to reflect changing interests.
ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

An ‘accessible’ public library:
- located near a transport hub for easy access to and from the city
- located on a main city square
- located near a shopping mall for convenience
- co-located with other services, such as health facility and citizens advice bureau
- offers some kind of outreach service
CHALLENGE: SERVICES NOT INTEGRATED
VISIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY

Public library with ‘visibility’:
- an atrium providing customers with a good view of all floors
- a generous reception area (or landing area) with clear circulation routes
- a simple furniture layout for ease of navigation
- good display techniques – e.g. lighting
- few visual obstructions – e.g. low shelving

GOOD NAVIGATION

LOW SHELVING

CLEAR CIRCULATION

ATTRACTIVE DISPLAY

SIMPLE LAYOUT WITH ZONING

EFFECTIVE LIGHTING
CHALLENGE: BUILDING IS NOISY

CENTRAL LIBRARY
Halifax, Nova Scotia, CA
2014
A ‘flexible’ public library has:

- an adaptable structure – e.g. columns or demountable walls
- an adaptable furniture layout – e.g. zoning
- a neutral décor – e.g. not gender and age specific
- amenable staff – e.g. responsive and pro-active
CHALLENGE: CUSTOMERS ARE UNPREDICTABLE
Lessons: Evolving Libraries

NO FORMULA.

KEEP IT...

REAL

INTERESTING

SIMPLE
Full Report (available 20th January)
Please download from:
www.designinglibraries.org.uk
www.inspiringlibraries.com

Contact
Please get in touch:
gemma.l.john@gmail.com
gjohn@fosterandpartners.com
@gemma_john