



# Newsletter 2013 No 2

## Section on Library Buildings and Equipment



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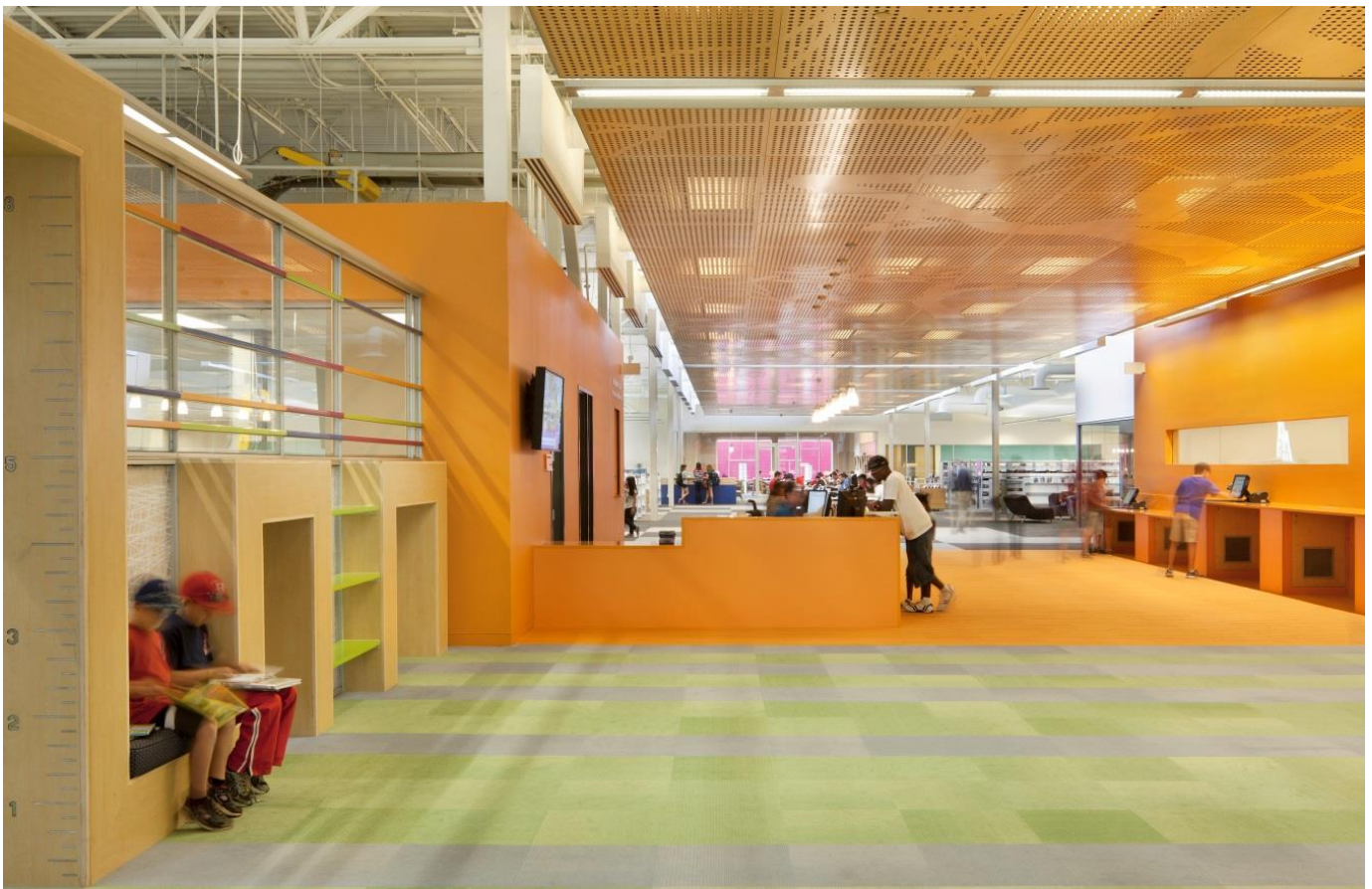
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# **BIG BOX LIBRARY**

## **The McAllen (Texas) Main Library**

By Jack Poling, AIA LEED AP, with Jeffrey Scherer, FAIA

All photos are copyright Lara Swimmer except for the before photo of the big box store.



*View of primary service point from library entry*

According to the 2013 American Institute of Architects (AIA) Honor Awards jury, “the McAllen Main Library represents an important shift in American cultural attitudes toward tolerating big box, suburban structures. The interior spaces have been dramatically transformed from a warehouse to a place with a sense of intimacy.”

## BACKGROUND

The City of McAllen, Texas, is a rapidly growing community in the Rio Grande Valley in south Texas, about 10 miles from the Mexican border and approximately 60 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico. The city's population has doubled in the last 30 years to its current population of approximately 135,000 people. Including Reynosa and neighboring communities, the metropolitan area currently has a population of approximately 1.5 million people. In the past 5–10 years, increasing unrest and violence in northern Mexico has resulted in an influx of new residents to the area.

The population is over three quarters Hispanic, and accordingly a significant percentage of the population is non-English speaking. Nearly a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line. Unemployment and illiteracy are chronic problems. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has greatly increased the availability of skilled and higher paying jobs available in McAllen and surrounding communities since its ratification in 1994.

Built in 1950, the old McAllen Main Library was housed in a 3,700 square-meter building in downtown McAllen. It had become too small, outdated, in need of significant repair and upgrades to the mechanical and electrical systems, and incapable of accommodating the Library's collection and storage needs. Recent development was also shifting the geographic center of town to the north, rendering the existing building no longer centrally located. At peak times, parking (largely accommodated on the street) was inadequate.

In the early 2000s, the City of McAllen and the McAllen Public Library identified the need to upgrade its library space. A building program was developed identifying library needs of approximately 11,600 square meters. In June 2006, the City purchased a vacated Walmart store on the city's north side with the intention of renovating the vacant big box store into a new library for the city. The Library also operates two small branch locations. The city chose the Walmart store as the site for the new library for several reasons. The location was closer to the evolving geographic center of the city. The site was located at the intersection of two major thoroughfares and offered good visibility and access. And by redeveloping the site as a library, the city was able to insure that the site would not sit vacant for an extended period of time.

Big box structures lend themselves very well to reuse as public libraries. As retail centers, they are typically located in high-traffic, desirable areas. In McAllen's case, the location was still highly desirable; Walmart selected a site immediately adjacent to the original building (which would become the library) for their new store. The original location and site were not sufficient to accommodate the larger store that Walmart wanted for the location. Constructing a new facility adjacent to the original allowed Walmart to remain open at that location throughout the construction of the new building.



*Before image of big box interior.*

Big box structures also have ample (or more than ample) parking, and the parking is always conveniently arranged in the front of the building with easy and clear access to the building entry.

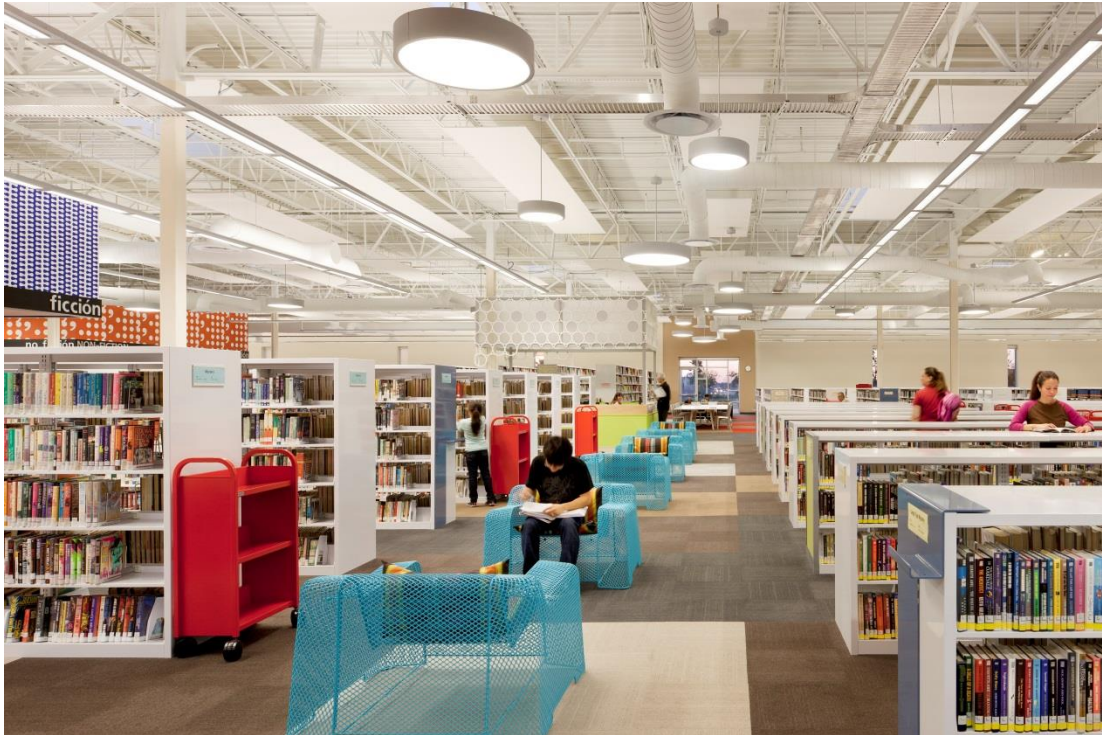
#### ARCHITECT SELECTION

Through a two-step selection process in 2006, the City hired the team of Boultinghouse Simpson Gates Architects of McAllen with Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd., of Minneapolis, Minnesota, to design the new library. Also on the team were a series of other consultants providing engineering (civil, structural, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing), landscape architecture, and technology design services. The design team selection was finalized in May of 2007.

Due to other City activities and concerns, design work for the project did not start until late 2008. Funding for the project was in place, unlike many American public library projects, but generally declining economic conditions beginning in late 2007 and the economic crisis of 2008–2009 made the City more cautious in using City funds for the project. Ultimately, the City decided to proceed with the project and design work started in late 2008 and continued into 2009.

## PROJECT GOALS

At the outset of the project, the design team worked with the City and Library to establish a series of goals for the project:



*Seating areas visually break up the expanse of the public areas*

- Functional efficiency. A particular challenge was to effectively utilize a floor plate on a single floor as large as the Walmart store for an efficient public library, which would become the largest single-story library in the country.
- Cost-effective design. The project was to be constructed on a modest budget of approximately €915 per square meter. The average cost of renovation for public library projects in the United States is approximately €1,450 per square meter.
- Building and site transformation. The building exterior and the site were to be transformed, to the greatest extent possible, to not resemble a Walmart or big box store. The goal was to give passersby the impression that the City built a new library building—not that they reused an old big box store for the library.
- Interior transformation. The building interior was to be transformed from a dark, uninviting space into a bright, open, welcoming one.



*Open, cost-effective construction using furnishings to reduce scale and for place naming.*



*Children's are is organized into distinct areas around age-related subject groupings, illustrating transformation of building interior.*

#### TEAM'S RESPONSIBILITIES

As the project began and the respective responsibilities were determined, Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle's role on the project was defined as designer for the building interior. Boultinghouse Simpson Gates' role on the project was overall control of the project and design of the building exterior.

#### DESIGN

As the project began, the design team investigated a series of concepts for both the building interior and the building exterior. The two architectural members of the team, Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle (building interior) and Boultinghouse Simpson Gates (building exterior) worked independently on concepts for their respective portions of the building and worked together on coordination of their work where the two met at the building shell.

#### *BUDGET*

The budget and existing building created limitations that the design team would need to address. The construction budget of approximately €915 per square meter required constant understanding of the cost implications of all design decisions at every scale, especially early conceptual decisions. Early in the process, Boultinghouse Simpson

Gates organized an overall project construction budget. This budget assigned allowances to each component of the building construction budget, which were used throughout the design phases as a guide for conceptualization and decision-making. It was based on historical construction data, as well as an understanding of the condition of the existing building and the remedial work required to make it suitable for reuse as a library. It was understood that the early budget was not strict and that allocations for specific components of the design would be flexible, while maintaining the total budget as a limit. As a result of this early construction budgeting, opportunities for the design of the building interior emerged that shaped the design thinking throughout the entire project. The budget for the building interior architecture, which is basically what one can see when inside the building, fell in the range of approximately €290 per square meter to €330 per square meter. Additional components of the budget accounted for required mechanical and electrical systems. Based on the interior budget, it was very clear from the beginning that conceptual ideas must be very simple and allow for a clear and efficient organization of the building within very modest means.

As the design was developed, it was constantly checked against the established budget—and conversely the established budget was continually evolved to reflect the design. The City identified a baseline project budget and added to that a series of what they called WOW items—desirable enhancements to the design that could be included or not, depending upon the final cost of the building.

As a result of the economic downturn in 2008–2009 and decreasing cost of construction, bids on the project were favorable, enabling all of the WOW items to become part of the project.

The WOW items included:

- A book conveyor and material handling system (both an efficiency item and a WOW item since it was planned to be visible from the children’s area of the library).
- Landscaping and other exterior site enhancements.
- An enhanced entry canopy.
- Additional skylights.
- Additional new windows on the building exterior walls.
- Enhanced interior finishes.

Most importantly relative to the budget, the design team understood from the beginning of the project that the budget would be a defining factor of the building design. Building concepts had to be very simple, straightforward, and efficient and inexpensive to construct in order to stay within the existing budget.



## THE EXISTING BUILDING

Big box structures have large, open floor plates. The floor plates generally range from 1,800–2,800 square meters for former (small) grocery stores and pharmacies to 11,500 square meters (the size of the McAllen Walmart) or larger for newer superstores.

The former McAllen Walmart was suitably located in the city and had an appropriately sized floor plate for the library's building program. However, the existing building did create design challenges. Responding to these challenges and the budget constraints became defining factors for the design.

The building's exterior walls could be minimally modified because only small portions of the exterior wall could be removed without introducing costly structural steel framing to maintain the structural integrity of the walls. While it would have been even more spectacular to create a number of large openings in the exterior wall (allowing for views and additional natural light), it was cost prohibitive. This limitation was one of the factors that led to the basic design concept for the building.

Similarly, the building's roof could not accommodate skylights without significant structural reinforcement to the roof structure. The design team therefore could only locate skylights in a few areas, primarily around the center of the building.

The structural capacity of the floor was a big concern. Required structural capacity for library loading for dense shelving arrangements (213 cm high shelving arranged 152 cm from center of range to center of range) is 65 kg per square meter. It was determined after coring and testing samples of the original slab that the slab was originally constructed in a very inconsistent manner and that some areas of the slab would not support that structural loading. Ultimately, planning for the library determined that shelving would be arranged with greater spacing to lessen the load on the floor.

Mechanical and electrical systems, as is usual with former big box structures, were inadequate and required replacement. The roof had outlived its useful life and also needed to be replaced.

These existing conditions, along with other factors, helped guide the design of the building.

## BUILDING PROGRAM

The greatest single challenge of the project was to design an 11,500 square-meter library that would work efficiently on a single level.

The Library had completed a building program prior to the selection of the design team. The first task of the design team was to review that program with the Library and make necessary and desirable modifications. With the purchase of the Walmart store, the City and Library allowed the program to define and be defined by the existing building. The

amount of square feet available for the project was set by the size of the existing building. Unlike a new construction project where the size of the building is flexible, the Walmart store offered an existing and predetermined amount of space. It was most efficient to make use of the existing space without going to the extra expense of eliminating floor area from the existing building (thereby resulting in less space at added cost). The program review led to only minor alterations to the program.

As was common in library planning at the time, the library planned for an increase in their collection size. Currently, the library houses about 350,000 items, a 10% increase from their prior building, and the building has the capacity to increase that collection by at least an additional 10%. (Current library planning most often results in a static or decreasing collection due to the advent and increasing use of electronic books and other materials).



*Public study rooms within orange element.*

But most importantly, the Library planned for greatly increased space for people:

- The old building had two public meeting spaces. The new library has 16.
- The old building had three public study rooms. The new library has 14.
- The old building had 29 public computers in the computer lab. The new library has 82 in three distinct spaces.



*Self-checkout machines (more have been added since photo was taken) across from the primary service point with view into the adjacent computer lab.*

The size of the library roughly tripled from the existing building to the new library. While the size of the collection increased modestly, the space allocated for it increased significantly due to generally lower shelving heights and a greater range of spacing and aisle widths. The most significant difference in the two structures is the amount of computer and gathering space made available. The new building provides plentiful inviting space for library patrons to interact with information and one another. It is the only significant public space in McAllen where residents can go for such interaction.

#### FUNCTIONAL

Determining the arrangement of the building solved the biggest challenge—how to make efficient use of such a large floor plate. The location of the building entry was predetermined. Facing east, toward the parking lot, the building entry could not be moved from its original location with direct visual and physical access to the parking areas.



*Public meeting room and auditorium lobby.*



*Public auditorium.*



*Interactive elements in the children's area.*



*Interactive elements for small children.*



*View from children's area into children's courtyard and art installation*



*Study areas in adult services area beneath wood ceiling*



*New books and special collections.*



*Pendant designating seating and computer area.*



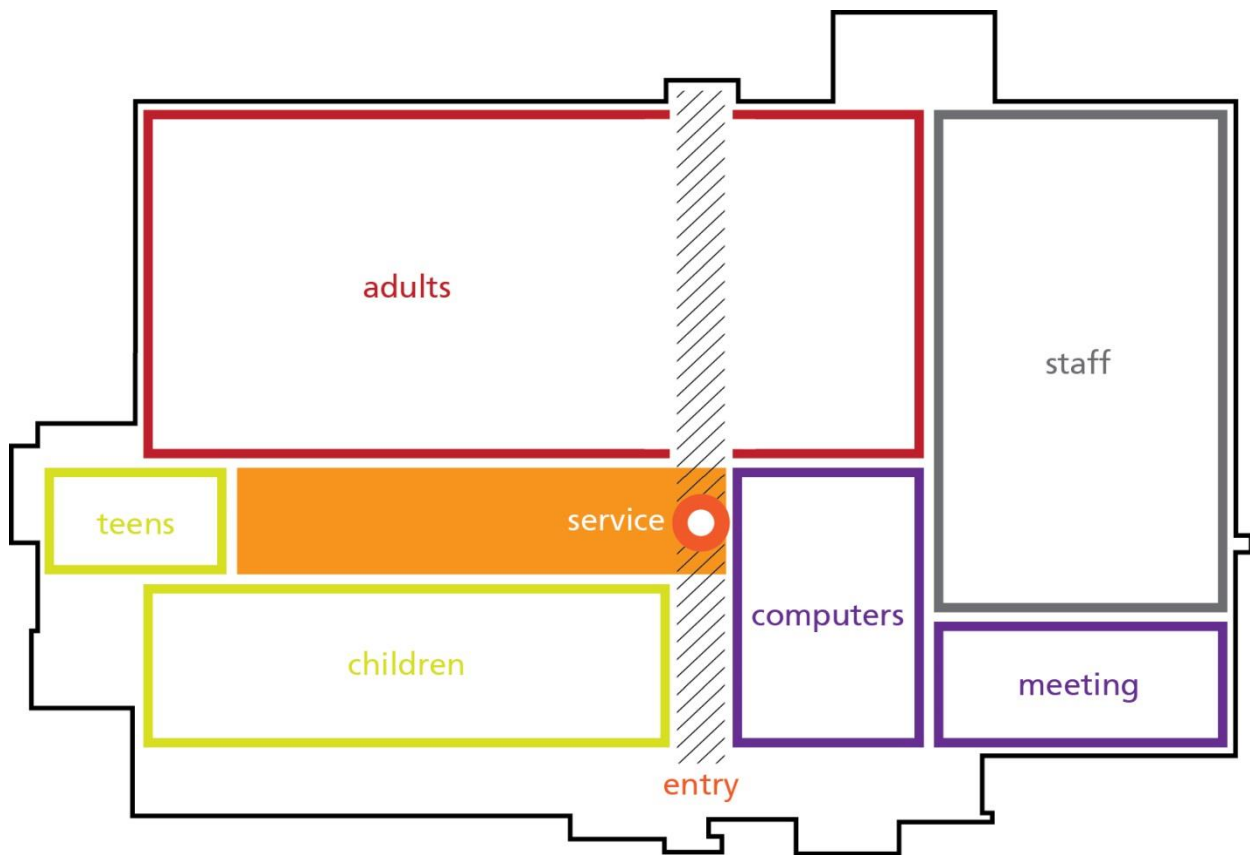
*Automated materials handling system visible from children's area.*



The building program includes four primary components:

1. A suite of public meeting rooms. While there were a series of public meeting spaces within the old library, this suite of spaces includes a dividable public meeting room, an auditorium, and a smaller meeting room. A café has also become part of this grouping of spaces. Because the Library wanted these spaces to be accessible when the library is closed, the public meeting room suite is located adjacent to the building entry.
2. Children's services area. This area of the building was to be readily accessible from the building entry, allowing children easy access to their area without having to go through other parts of the library (resulting in increased safety for the children and decreased distraction for other patrons). Accordingly, the children's area is located in the front portion of the building near the building entry.
3. Adult services area. This portion of the building is located toward the back of the building. It is the single largest portion of the building.
4. Staff areas. The staff areas are concentrated in the rear of the building, providing easy access to loading and truck access and adjacent to the adult services area. Some children's services and circulation staff are also located near the children's area. The automated materials handling equipment is also located near the children's area in a glass enclosure so that children can view library materials being conveyed to the materials handling machine and sorted.

While this basic functional arrangement worked well, it created a significant problem with access to the various public areas of the building. Because the building entry was fixed, access to the adult services area in the rear of the building would require passing by the public meeting and children's areas, creating a perceptual problem with the location of the basic areas and how they are utilized. The designers solved this problem by creating a central point of service in the building at the four-cornered intersection of the four major spaces. A building entry and lobby were created, from which patrons enter the library through a separate and securable set of doors. From that building entry, the central service point is very visible and directly ahead of library visitors, and that point serves as the center of the public portion of the library. This organization is critical to the success of the building. While the actual distances within the library could obviously not be reduced, the entry sequence takes visitors to the central service point, from which the major areas open, thereby reducing apparent travel distances within the library and condensing the spaces visually.



*Building plan diagram.*

The teens' (young adults') area of the library is also a critically important component of the building. This space offers local teens an oasis from the numerous distractions that commonly plague teenagers and gives them access to a public space, information, equipment, and other teens, which they would not have otherwise. The teens' space succeeds largely because of its location behind the adult services area. The space offers a distinctive visual identity, visual shielding from the adjacent areas, and a very clear disassociation from the children's area. A service point is located in the teens' area to maintain control.



*Entrance to the children's area with age/size appropriate portals, illustrating use of wood ceiling and orange elements to delineate major use areas.*



*Teens' (young adults') area.*



*Teens' (young adults') area.*



*Building entry and lobby showing primary wood ceiling element extending into building entry.*

## CONCEPT

With a strong functional arrangement established, the design team worked to lend the layout a strong visual clarity. Given the inability to introduce abundant natural light through new openings, the decision was made to lighten the building by painting all of the interior surfaces, structure, and equipment white. The designers added colorful, geometrically intricate elements to this bright and neutral shell, which define paths through the building as well as places of interaction and various functions within the building's vast public areas.

Two primary methods were used to develop these concepts:

1. First, the four quadrants of the building are divided by two primary visual elements. These two elements intersect at the central service point, thereby very clearly leading visitors to that service point. The first is a laser-cut natural finish wood ceiling element located below skylights that leads visitors from the building entry, through the library entry, past the entry to the children's area and the central service point, to the rear of the building and the adult services area. This very strong visual element serves as a key navigational and organizational element. The pattern of this wood ceiling is derived from the patterns of local mesquite trees. The second element is a dynamic orange element that bisects the building perpendicular to the wood ceiling. This element divides the children's services and adult services portions of the building, allowing access between the two and also housing some children's staff functions, the automated materials handling system, group study rooms, the teens' room (accessible from the adult services area), and other support spaces. It is the strongest and most apparent element in the building and clearly delineates major programmatic portions of the building.
2. Second, and auxiliary to the primary building elements, color and pattern are used to further delineate functional areas within the building. Colorful pendants are located throughout the children's and adult services area to allow for easy identification of major elements of those areas and to provide for more intimate scale in areas of study and activity. These pendants organize the building's collections and allow patrons to guide themselves to the materials they seek. Carpet patterns and color, as well as colorful and dynamic furnishings, also serve as visual clues to spatial organization. These colors and patterns are informed by the abundant color and pattern found in the Rio Grande Valley area in both plant and animal life and the seasonal migration of birds and insects.



*View of wood ceiling and dynamic orange elements, which serve as primary elements in transformation of the building.*



*Orange organizational element folded to create more intimate work/reading space.*



*Pendant designating seating area.*



*Pendant marking auxiliary service point.*





*Primary service point.*

## CONCLUSIONS

Several conclusions can be derived from the design of the McAllen Main Library and the success of the project.

- First, big box retail stores can be successfully reused as public library buildings. Their location, sites, parking, and general size and arrangements adapt well to the needs of the public library building.
- Second, a very simple and straightforward arrangement of major building elements can create a visually clear organization for the library and result in a very efficient public library building.
- Third, a very successful transformation of a big box building can be completed on a modest budget. Increasingly, public library buildings are designed around people and interaction rather than stacks and materials. These spaces can be very economically designed and constructed within a larger shell and result in beautiful, functional, and adaptable public library buildings.

The success of the McAllen Main Library is unquestionable. “Normally there’s a line outside waiting to get in every day—at least 30 to 40 people. It really picks up in the afternoon,” Kate Horan, director of the McAllen Public Library explains about the popularity of the city’s new Main Library.

The McAllen Public Library has posted a compilation of articles on the Library and the new Main Library on its website: <http://www.mcallenlibrary.net/about/newmain.aspx>

# IFLA Library Buildings and Equipment Section

## Midterm Meeting 25-28 April 2013

By / Ingvild Monsen

This year the midterm meeting was held in Stockholm and Umeå in Sweden, and was excellently hosted by Stefan Clevström and Inger Edebro Sikström, both members of the Standing Committee of the section.

The members of the group who was able to participate in this meeting was Dorothea Sommer (chair) from Germany, Karen Latimer (corresponding member) from Great Britain, Jeff Scherer and Sharon Bostick (corresponding member) from the USA, Santi Romero from Spain, Stefan Clevström and Inger Edebro Sikström from Sweden, Bernadette Patte from France and Ingvild Monsen from Norway.

The meeting was hosted by the Swedish National Library and Umeå City Library. The committee had two meetings, planning both the satellite meeting and the open session in Singapore, and next year's satellite meeting in France.

### [The National Library of Sweden](#) (Kungliga biblioteket)

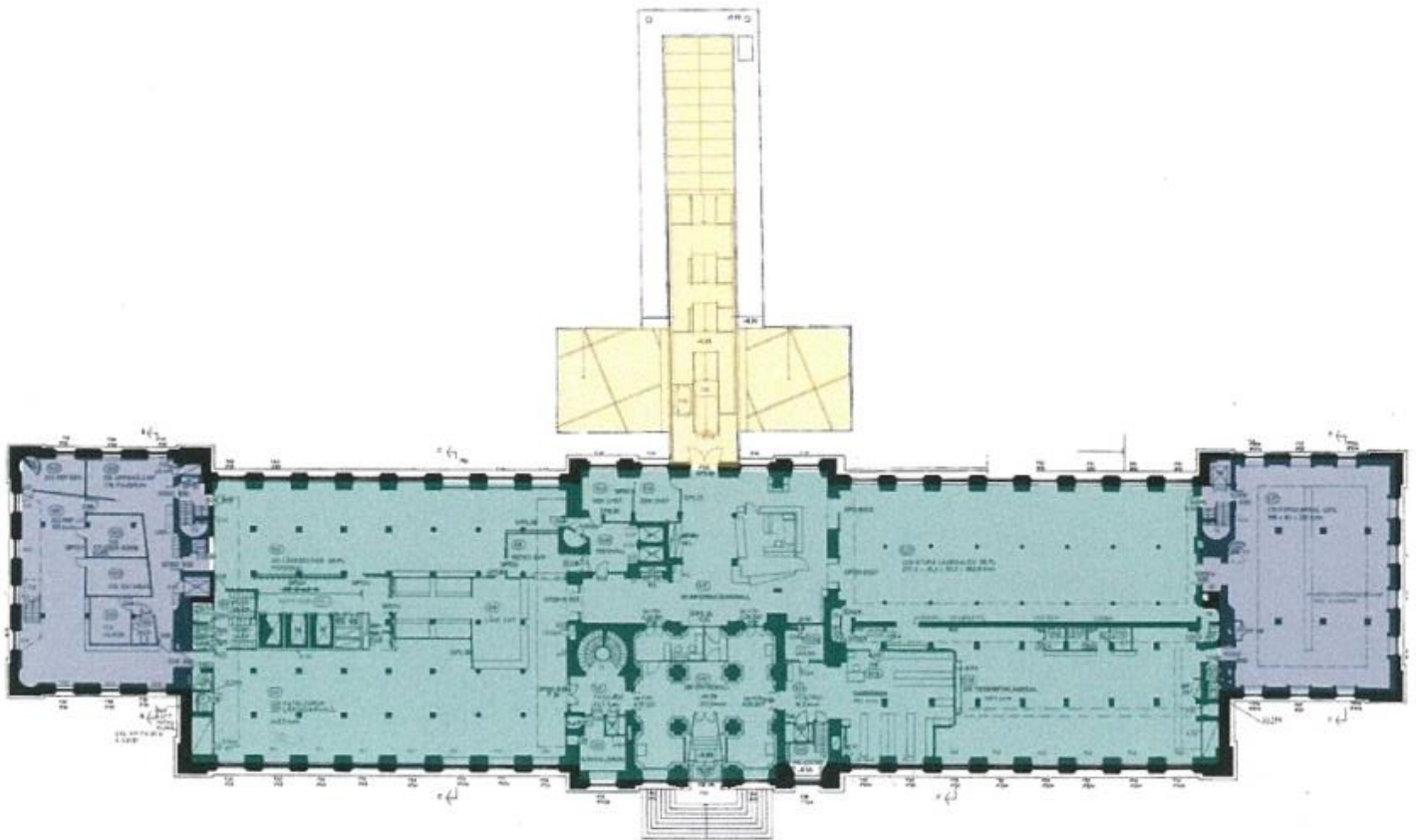


The National Library of Sweden has been collecting virtually everything printed in Sweden or in Swedish since 1661. They also collect TV and radio programs, movies and videos distributed in Sweden, Swedish music and computer games.

**Stefan Clevström** and **Hans Murman**, Murman architects, guided us through the history and the rehabilitation of the library, and illustrated and visualized all their thoughts about how to do the whole library more usable and likeable for both the users and the staff.

The first cornerstone of the current building was laid in 1871, and seven years later the building was finished. The inspiration of the building was taken from London and Paris. The interior of the reading rooms were decorated in the Greek style and composed by the architect Gustaf Dahl who was inspired by the Crystal Palace in London.

*Illustration from Hans Murman's presentation*



The original building is the blue-green part.

Two wings were added in 1926-1927 as a temporary solution (the blue part).

In 1960's, an underground storage chamber for the book stacks was built. Already then it was obvious that more place was needed, and in 1990's two large underground caverns

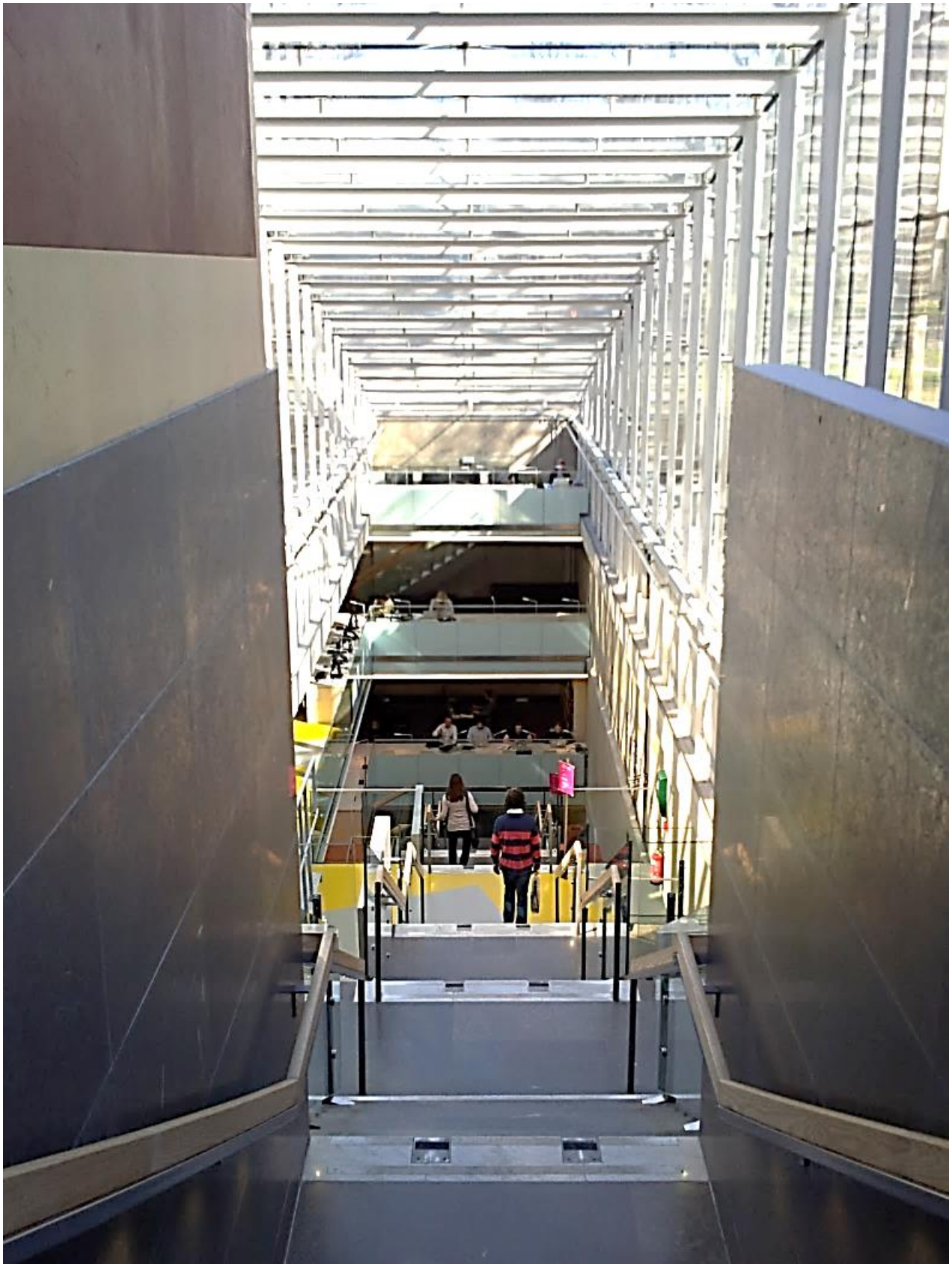
were excavated. And in 1968-71 a three floors book storage was built in the park under the ground (the yellow part).

In 1990's the library was rebuilt and extended. Two huge depositaries were built under ground, each 5 floors and 150 m long and the main building was changed to house public areas and workspaces.

The Annex (the yellow part) was turned into public areas.



*Members of the group visiting the underground caverns. Photo: Ingvild Monsen*



*The Annex*

*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*



*The door to the "Treasure Chamber".*

*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*



*The  
Research  
Reading  
Room*

*Photo:  
Ingvild  
Monsen*

During these days we also had interesting orientations about several aspects of the National Library.

**Gunilla Herdenberg**, the National Librarian gave us an introduction to the National Library. The main goal is to be a place for everyone, without membership, without payment and without borders. With the new rebuilding, the library will be a place to cover all these elements.

The library is located in the middle of the city, and hopefully it will be used by both old and new users when it is finished, something (among others) the new café in the entrance hall will lead to.

Her belief was that the physical library will be very important for the society in the future.

By now, they are focusing on the rebuilding, but also on the long-time preservation of all sorts of information, both printed and digital.

**Agneta Holmenmark** had a very interesting introduction to the library's operations and tasks;

- collect and preserve the Swedish cultural heritage concerning *text and audiovisual media*, and make the material available to the public
- serve as a research library, with a primary emphasis on the humanities and social sciences
- serve as the infrastructure for the Swedish research community & promote cooperation for the Swedish library sector

**Håkan Adenkrantz** talked about the library's audiovisual medias. In 2011 the collection received

- 5 058 records, audiobooks, cassette magazines
- 3 476 films/videos
- 560 games
- 523 200 hours radio/tv

**Ingrid Svensson** guided us through the National Library's Manuscript Collection and Archives which covers a wide range of subject areas and stretches over almost 2,000 years. The most renowned is the Västergötland legal manuscript, the "Äldre västgöotalagen" (B59) dating from circa 1280 and the oldest preserved book in the Swedish language.

Another item is [Codex Gigas](#), The Devils bible, 310 parchment leaves, which is probably the biggest European latin manuscript to have survived. This is soon to be seen in real life, in the small exhibition hall in the newly rebuilt part of the library.



*"The Devil's Bible"*

*Photo: Ingvild Mosen*

Ingrid Svensson also guided us through the reproduced two-room flat of [Nelly Sachs](#), a German-Swedish author who escaped from Nazi Germany to Sweden in 1940, and stayed in Sweden for the rest of her life.



*The Nelly Sachs' room*

*Photos: Ingvild Mosen*



## [Stockholm Public Library](#)

Stockholm Public Library was designed by the Swedish architect [Gunnar Asplund](#), and is one of the city's most notable structures. The planning of the library started in 1918, a design scheme was proposed in 1922, and construction began in 1924. The building was finished in 1928.



*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*

Partly inspired by the *Barrière Saint-Martin (Ronde de la Villette)* by [Claude Nicolas Ledoux](#), Asplund abandoned earlier ideas for a dome in favour of a rotunda whose tall cylinder gives the exterior some monumentality. In the course of its planning, he reduced elements of the classical order to their most abstract geometrical forms, for the most part eliminating architectural decor. ([Wikipedia](#))

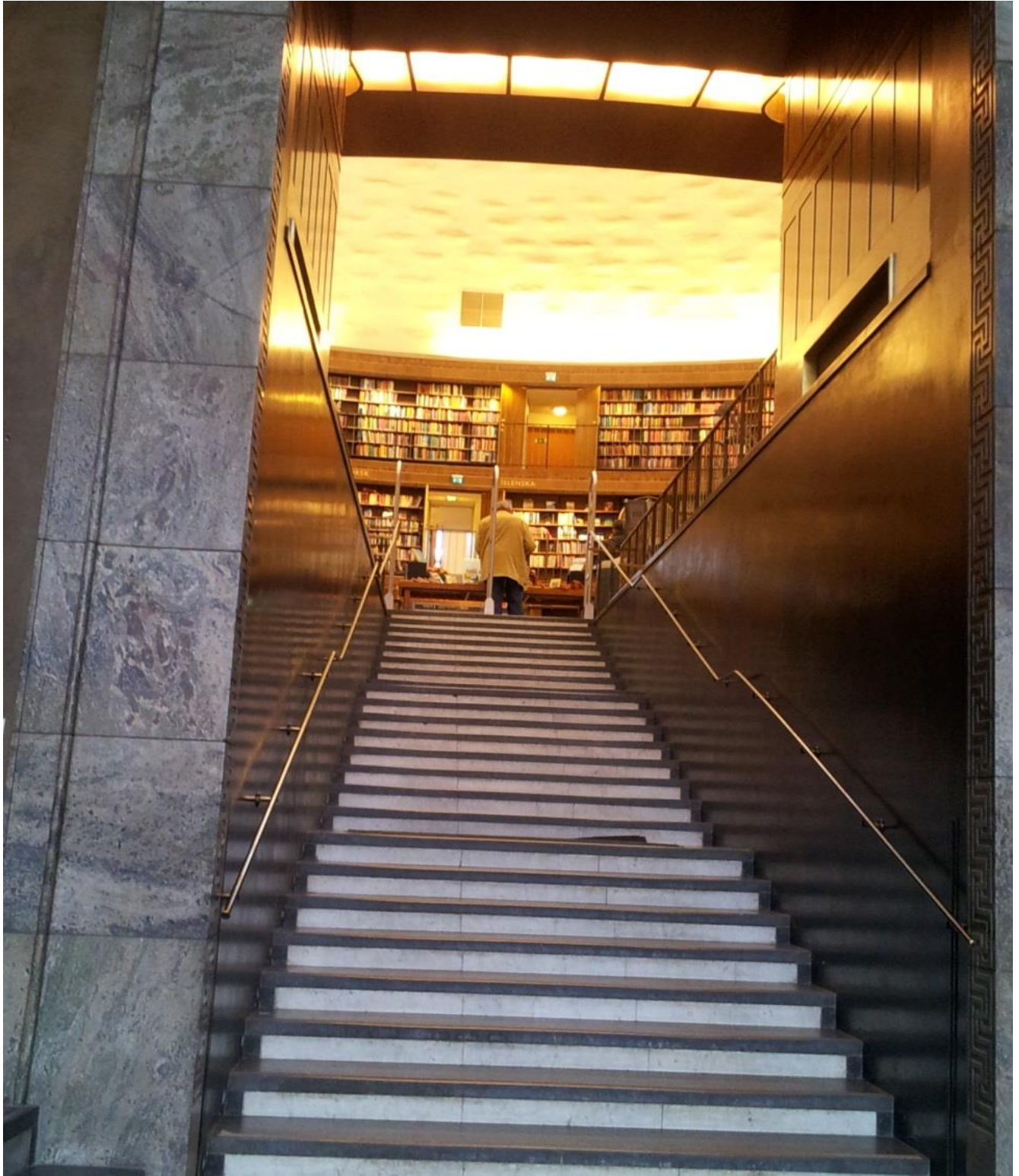
We were met by **Johanna Hansson**, who held an inspiring introduction to the library, and also about the prospects ahead of them. In 2006, an international architectural competition was held for a massive library extension that was to be built next to the Asplund building. In 2009 the extension was put to hold, partly because of a change in the city government's priorities, but also because of a local and later international campaign about what critics saw as an unacceptable impact on the original, Asplund approved complex.



*Inside the "Rotunda"*

*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*

Stockholm Public Library was Sweden's first public library to apply the principle of open shelves where visitors could access books without the need to ask library staff for assistance, a concept Asplund studied in the United States during the construction of the library. All the furnishings in all the rooms were designed for their specific positions and purposes.



*The entrance hall*

*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*

## Umeå City Library

Our visit in Umeå was hosted by **Inger Edebro Sikström**, Library Director, City of Umeå. She guided us through both the existing city library and, together with **Maria Olsson**, senior architect at White Architects, the building site for the new cultural house that will include the new city library.



*An overview.*

*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*

Umeå City Library is the hub for the public libraries in the so called Umeå region. The library cooperation in the six neighboring communities has been recognized by several national and international awards for innovative and efficient development of library services. The European Public Sector Award and the United Nations Public Service Award are two of them.



*The childrens' room*

*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*

The city has made a policy decision to “turn the city toward the river” in a large and strategic development project, named “The Town between Bridges”. With the help of culture, downtown development has been planned so that it will be characterized by meeting places, cultural activities, experiences, small-scale business, eating-places “and other establishments that contribute to making the city safe and full of life all year around”. In 2014 the new cultural house, with a new city library, is opening. The ambition is to present cultural activities as a new concept, where the contents and cooperation are points of focus. The building is designed by the Norwegian architects [“Snøhetta”](#) and the Swedish architects [“White architects”](#). The project is named “Kulturväven” (the Cultural Weave).

Umeå is named as “The City of the Birches”, and the birches have been an inspiration for the external form of the building.

In 2014, Umeå is selected to be the European Capital of Culture. The ambition is to strengthen the role of culture as a driving force for sustainable development.



*Room for council meetings, lectures, debates and more Photo: Ingvild Monsen*



*The future cultural house (Illustration from Maria Olsson's presentation)*



*The building site*

*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*

*The building site – in 2014 this will be a new city library.*

*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*



## Umeå University Library

Umeå University Library is the largest academic research library in Northern Sweden. It was established at Umeå City Library in 1950. In 1958, when the government decided to establish a medical college in Umeå, a medical library was created as well. A new library building, located in the heart of campus, was inaugurated 1968 and the library building attracted attention for its interior and open access system. Since then several reconstructions and additions have been made.

We were visiting both the main library and the medical library.



*From the entrance hall in the main library*

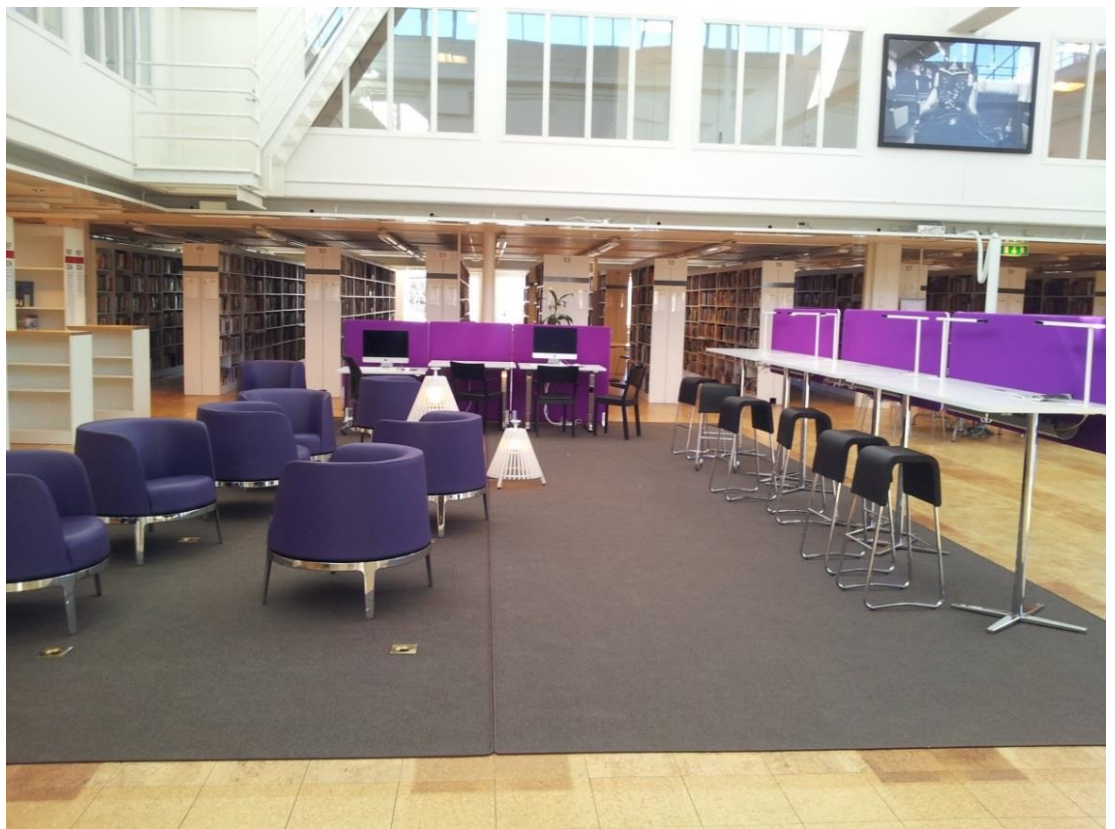
*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*





*The  
Learning  
Space Room*

*Photo:  
Ingild  
Monsen*



*A place to  
rest and  
socialize*

*Photo:  
Ingild  
Monsen*

## Umeå Arts Campus

Umeå arts campus brings together the university's art colleges by the banks of the Umeå River. The colleges are Umeå School of Architecture, Umeå Institute of Design and Umeå Academy of Fine arts. It also includes "Bildmuseet", the University's museum of contemporary art and visual culture, the digital experimental workshop HumLab-X and the dynamic "Sliperiet" incubator.

The intention with the new project "The Town between Bridges" is to build a cultural path from the artistic campus to "Broparken park", a recreation area.



*The library*

*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*



*The campus*

*Photo: Ingvild Monsen*

# **Making Ends Meet: High Quality Design on a Low Budget**

**Satellite Conference –  
IFLA World Library and Information Congress**

**Li Ka Shing Library, Singapore Management University**

**Singapore, 15 – 16 August 2013**

## **Programme**

**Thursday, August 15th 2013**

8.30 – 9.30 Registration

***First Session: Setting the scene – the impact of economy on libraries in different regions of the world, new service trends and demands for library buildings***  
***Chair: Dorothea Sommer***

9.30 – 10.15 Gulcin Cribb, Director, Li Ka Shing Library, Singapore:  
**Evolution and transformation: spaces, services and staircases**

10.15 – 11.00 Sharon Bostick, Dean of Libraries Illinois Institute of Technology, USA, Janine Schmidt, Director Mukurta Consulting, Australia:  
**Financial and cultural crises: the library's response to tough times**

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

***Second Session: Making things easier: how to create quality library space with a low financial budget***  
***Chair: Stefan Clevström***

11.30 – 12.15 Cecilia Kugler, Library Design Specialist, Director CK Design International Pty Ltd., Australia,

**Cents and Sensibility – Maximum impact with minimal funds**  
12.15 – 13.00 Valerie Critchley, MacOdrum Library, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada,  
**Change in mid-renovation: high quality design when the construction budget is no longer enough**

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

***Third Session: New Design Approaches to emerging needs: aligning physical spaces with social values***

***Chair: Inger Edebro Sikström***

- 14.00 – 14.45 Jeffrey Scherer, FAIA, Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle Ltd.,  
Minneapolis, USA  
**Renovation, renewal and rethinking: Turning abandoned buildings into high quality community libraries at low cost**
- 14.45 – 15.30 Graham Legerton, Discipline Head (Education), Architectural Director, ThomsonAdsett, Australia, Linda O'Brien, Pro Vice Chancellor, Griffith University, Australia:  
**Budgetary Constraints: no excuse for poor design, Griffith Library (G11) Extension and Gumurrii Centre (Queensland, Australia)**

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break

***Fourth Session: Case studies – adaptive reuse of buildings for library purposes: National Libraries***

***Chair: Janine Schmidt***

- 16.00 – 16.45 Winston Roberts, Senior Advisor – Professional Support, National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa), Wellington, New Zealand  
**Renewing a complete National Library building in difficult economic times**
- 16:45 – 17:30 Stefan Clevström, Head of Buildings and Facilities, National Library of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden, Hans Murman, Murman Arkitekter, Sweden  
**The National Library of Sweden, Stockholm**

17.30 – 18.00 Cocktail Reception

18.00 – 19.30 Buffet Dinner

**Friday, August 16th 2013**

***Fifth Session: Case studies – adaptive reuse of buildings for library purposes in different regional contexts***

***Chair: Sharon Bostick***

- 9.30 – 10.15 Maria G.N. Musoke, Prof. of Information Science and University Librarian, Makerere University, Uganda, Lydia Namugera, Makerere University Library and Welfare Association (MULWA)  
**The end justified the means: building Makerere University Library extension with minimal resources**
- 10.15 – 11.00 Ruvini Kodikara, Librarian, University of Moratuwa Library, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, Ruwan Gamage, Senior Lecturer, National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Rethinking Library Space as an Information Commons; from Drawbacks to Solutions, and Negotiations in between**

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee

11.30 – 12.15 Ursula Byrne, Head of Library Development and Strategic Programmes, University College Dublin, Ireland  
**Achieving library refurbishment: get the most out of matched funding and careful design planning**

12.15 – 13.00 Katarina Ervasti, district library director Vantaa City Library, Hakunila, Finland , Paula Puustinen, librarian, Vantaa City Library, Hakunila, Finland  
**Sustainable, participatory and low-cost – the redesign process of Hakunila Library**

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

***Sixth Session: Case studies – New models of design in different regional contexts***  
***Chair: Jeffrey Scherer***

14.00 – 14.45 Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Jahani Yekta, Assistant Professor, Iranian Research Institute for Information Science and Technology, Teheran, Iran

**Ideas for making the City libraries more lively places**  
14.45 – 15.30 Ida Fajar Priyanto, Director Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) Library, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
**Corners: Designing library spaces for new generation of users without library budget**

15.30 – 16.00 Final discussion and Wrap-up

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee

**Library visits:**

17.00 – 18.00 **Li Ka Shing Library**

17.00 **National Library of Singapore**  
(please plan a 30 minutes walk to get to the location)

# Singapore – August 2013

IFLA World Library and Information Congress  
79th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

17-23 August 2013, Singapore

The Library Buildings and Equipment Section  
is holding it's Open Session: Conference Session 81,  
with the theme:

## The library and the city

*Congress track 5: Ideas, innovations, anticipating the new.*

**18 August 2013 13:45 - 15:45 | Room: Exhibition Hall 404-405 | SI**

1. THORHAUGE, Jens  
*Creating a model-program for the building of future public libraries and their role in culture led redesign of urban spaces*
2. LEFEBVRE, Madeleine  
*The library, the city, and infinite possibilities - Ryerson University's Student Learning Centre Project*
3. MCGETTIGAN, Liz  
*Unafraid of the future – Edinburgh's next generation library and information services*
4. BOSS, Sam, FANG, Jiazhong and ZHANG, Jiangshun  
*The intersection of design and culture: The New Guangzhou Library and its relationship to the city*
5. BERNDTSON, Maija  
*Public libraries and placemaking*

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### Standing Committee Meetings in Singapore

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2013**

**Session 43 — SC I**

Library Buildings and Equipment

15:15 - 17:45

Room: 309

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2013**

**Session 129 — SC II**

Library Buildings and Equipment

09:45 – 11:15

Room: 31

The IFLA World Library and Information Congress, which is also the **IFLA General Conference and Assembly**, is traditionally held annually in varying parts of the globe.

The Congress IFLA WLIC 2013 will be held in Singapore, from 17-23 August 2013.

*Congress theme: "Future Libraries: Infinite Possibilities"*

