

News 2002/01

Section on Library Buildings and Equipment

Editorial

By Hellen Niegaard

A **space for the future**, the international conference on library buildings in the 21st century held a month ago early June this year at the Hanasaari Cultural Centre outside Helsinki, organised and hosted by Helsinki City Library, attracted more than 150 Finnish and foreign participants. Various professionals dealing with the physical library - architects, library directors, librarians, politicians, consultants and vendors, of which a number are members of the Library Building & Equipment Section and of other IFLA Sections.

Contrary to prophecies during the last decade or so, and in accordance with conclusions from last August's IFLA pre-conference Building Seminar in Boston: Future places, - the need for physical library buildings as such - as well as the need for a fresh and unbiased debate on the concepts of library architecture and library organisation are as strong and pronounced as ever. Main trends of current development are identified to be - from collection to access, - and from preservation to communication, leaving out however neither collection nor preservation.

Speakers' contributions varied a lot. From hands-on reports and how-to-do recommendations to analyses of the impact of virtual libraries on physical libraries, co-operation and dialogue with architects/contractors and library owners, change of concepts to reinventing libraries and their premises in times of technological changes. Interesting, encouraging and rather entertaining were introductions to a number of future public library projects including four in the Nordic capitals, which each of them is preparing for new main libraries in the future.

Norway found herself in the midst of an architectural competition. Five internationally renown architects were invited:

Toyo Ito, Japan, Norman Foster & Partners, UK, OMA (Office for Metropolitan Architecture) Holland, Niels Torp & KHRAS Architects, a Norway - Denmark co-operation, and Marcel Meilli, of the Markus Peter Architekten in Switzerland.

The decision was published late June and OMA won: www.statsbygg.no/prosjekter/vestbanen/

+ Bilder av modellene (photos of the five models), English text-version and presentation is available.

To sum up it was a very informative and inspiring conference. On the site of the conference you can find some of the presentations given in Helsinki. <http://www.lib.hel.fi/conf02/>

See You in Glasgow in an month!

If you have not already signed up for IFLA 2002 in Glasgow this August, there is still time. Go to web-site:

www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/index.htm .

For section meetings in Glasgow, see page 3 where Barton Clark, chair, introduces the section meetings plus some of the current activities.

Join IFLA and become a member of the Section of Library Buildings & Equipment!

Interested in joining this IFLA section - please contact Joan de Beer, section secretary, Joan.deBeer@nlsa.ac.za.

For formal IFLA membership information go to www.ifla.org, + Membership.

Gremlins on the move, see News 2001/02 page 3. Note that in the second paragraph the resounding NO should be a YES.

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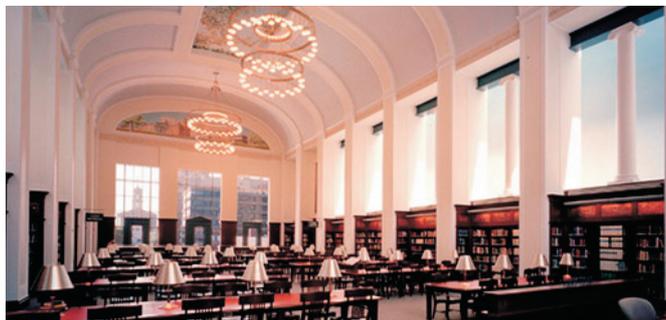
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Deadline, Newsletter 2002/02 ➡ November 1st 2002

AMERICAN LIBRARIES – 2002

Nashville Public Library Nashville, Tennessee, U. S. A.

The Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee opened a new 300,000-square-foot main library facility in June 2001. The Main Library serves as the flagship of a public library system that serves the diverse metropolitan Nashville population. Comprised of both intimate and grand spaces, the library incorporates all the benefits of technology while speaking to the past traditions of public library architecture. The most significant public spaces consist of – the main entry lobby; the Nashville Room, housing the local history collection; the gallery; the Grand Reading Room; the sky lit Grand Staircase; and a second floor courtyard – all of which are located on the axis of the Tennessee Capitol Building, helping to strengthen the dangerously frayed fabric of the downtown civic center complex as a whole.



The Library includes a 30,000-square-foot conference center with a 250-seat auditorium, a 400-seat multipurpose meeting room, high-tech breakout rooms, and an art gallery. The popular materials section, which is accessible directly from the double-height main lobby, features current book titles, movies, CDs, and books on tape, with casual seating overlooking the street outside. The Children's Library, which is adjacent to an interior courtyard on the second floor, includes a whimsical theater, an arts-and-crafts room, custom-built furniture, and child-size seating. Interspersed throughout the library are intimate reading areas along with large reading tables, creating a variety of user spaces.

The project involved an extraordinary amount of community interest and input. The most visible benefit of this involvement is the Public Art Program, which brought in local and national artists. The library includes six integrated public artworks, five posters created by local artists, and photographs by five local photographers. The building also incorporates the work of nationally known artists including Richard Haas and Kent Bloomer.

Nashville, the capitol of Tennessee, has a strong academic tradition as well as a distinct classical tradition that permeates its architecture. The Library, which won a national design com-

petition, recognizes that tradition, not only in its exterior massing and formal language, but also in its clear, axial organization.

Former Nashville Mayor Philip Bredesen, who envisioned a major civic institution in the manner of the Boston and New York Public Libraries, initiated the \$90 million project. Library Director Donna Nicely and Library Board Chairman Margaret Ann Robinson were instrumental in moving the project forward, and current Mayor Bill Purcell also gave his enthusiastic support. The facility was designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects of New York in association with Hart Freeland Roberts of Brentwood, Tennessee.

*Alexander P. Lamis
Robert A.M. Stern
Architects*

University of Nevada Las Vegas' Lied Library: The First Year Las Vegas, Nevada U.S.A.

January 8, 2001, thirty-one months after construction began, the new main library on the University of Nevada Las Vegas campus opened for use. Standing as the new symbol for the academic side of the university, Lied Library is a 302,000 square foot, five-story modern facility that fits well in the architecture of the city. The construction cost for the building was \$55.3 million.

Centrally located on the campus, Lied Library has seating for 2,500 customers, 425 publicly accessible workstations and laptops, 24 group study rooms, 4 instruction rooms, and a media distribution system that delivers various media formats to individual carrels, workstations, group studies, instruction rooms, conference rooms, and classrooms in other buildings. There are 4,500 data drops throughout the building allowing individuals with laptops to access resources from any location. One of the unique features in the building is LASR (Automated Storage and Retrieval) system that provides high-density storage in Lied Library for as many as 600,000 bound volumes with space to double its capacity to 1,200,000 bound volumes. Materials requested from the system are available in less than ten minutes from the time are requested through the on-line catalog.

Adjacent to the main entrance is the Book n Bean coffee shop, which has been an instant success with students and faculty.



The library initiated a liberal food and drink policy when Lied Library opened, allowing covered drinks and snacks throughout the building. Another unique system in Lied Library is 3M's Digital Identification system. Deployed in the circulating collection, this technology has resulted in the collection being inventoried every 8 to 10 weeks, a reduction in lost and missing items, cataloging and labeling errors, and an improvement in shelf order. The result has been a 13% increase in circulation in Lied Library's first year of operation. If success for a library is measured in number of visits, then Lied Library's first year was a dramatic success with a 91.3% increase in visits. Students and faculty find the building welcoming, warm, and inviting with a comfortable feel to it.

Photos of the Lied Library under construction are available at the following url:

<http://www.library.unlv.edu/info/newlib/photos/lief0800.html>

Photographs of the completed building are available here:

<http://www.library.unlv.edu/info/newlib/photos/album/index.html>

Kenneth E. Marks
Dean of Libraries

Find more information on current American library facilities: ALA's magazine "American Libraries" April 2002, Vol 33 No. 4, Features: A Sense of Place, from page 44 to 78.

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Contributions, deadline → November 1st 2002

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Library Postcards Wanted!

Please send your local postcards of library exteriors & interiors to Sjoerd Koopman at IFLA Headquarters, P.O. Box 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, The Netherlands.

News from the Standing Committee

IFLA Conference 2002 in Glasgow

Currently, the Standing Committee is involved in several projects and activities. Most importantly is the preparation for IFLA Glasgow, which is being held from August 18 - 24 www.ifla.org/IV/ifla68/prog02.htm.

The Section will have two programs "Carnegie Libraries; yesterday and now" (conference program, meeting no. 117), to be held on 20 August from 13:45 - 16:15. The meeting is organized by Andrew McDonald of the Section Committee.

Second meeting: "Then and Now: Innovation in Library Design, from Carnegie to new Libraries" (conference program, meeting no. 160) which is supposed to be held at the birthplace of Andrew Carnegie, Dumfermline, Fife on 22 August. It has been developed by Ian Johnson and is being co-sponsored by the BES.

Business meetings of the Section will be held on 17 August 11:30 - 14:20, and on 23 August 8:00 - 10:00.

Pre-Conference Seminar Paris 2003

Now in the planning stage is the XIII Seminar of the Library Buildings and Equipment Section to be held in Paris just prior to the IFLA Berlin Conference in 2003. The theme of the Seminar will be public library buildings. The program will be co-sponsored by the IFLA Public Libraries Section. The planning committee for the Seminar is chaired by Marie-Francois Bisbrouck for the Section and Florence Poncé from the Public Libraries Section.

The Seminar will consist of presentations from international leaders in library planning and architecture, and tours of recent public library buildings, as well as providing an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues from around the world.

The papers from the XII Seminar held prior to the IFLA Conference in Boston last year are now in the editing phase and should be forwarded to IFLA Headquarters within the month.

Other activities

Among other activities, the Standing Committee is working with Dr. Wu Jiangzhong, Director Shanghai Library on a new edition of New Library Buildings of the World, which is planned to be published to coincide with the Paris Seminar. Work has also begun to develop a database of new library construction including: buildings, additions and renovations. U. S. entries for the last five years have been completed.

Barton Clark,
Chair of Section

Vaasa new City Library

A bridge between old and new and a gateway to culture and knowledge

Finland's first lending library opened its doors in Vaasa in 1794 when the Vaasa Reading Society founded it. For more than hundred years the library operated in many different locations, e.g. in conjunction with bookstores, in private homes and in the Town Hall. In 1936 the library moved into its present location in Kirjastonkatu 13, the first premises in its history that were purpose-built for the library. After some years with indoor rot problems in the late 1990s the public library was forced to close down at this address and its service sent in exile for four years. But finally last year a totally renewed and bigger main library reopened in a new and different shape.



The history of the city of Vaasa as a centre for regional education and administration with a strong emphasis on culture and library services – recently also the university - obliged

us to preserve our cultural heritage and develop modern library and information services for the inhabitants (57.000 + 10.000 students). You might say that the more than 200-year old traditions of the Finnish public library institution has given and gives powerful backing to the development of new strategies for library and information services.

The planning task has been challenging, because it was based on the old classical library building. But it was also seen as an opportunity (to be able) to combine Vaasa's unique library tradition with visions of the future - the new building representing a dynamic bridge between old and new. The new media and new forms of material, electronic applications have found their place in the library and complement its conventional services. Nevertheless, the core and principal idea of the activities remained the same. Three themes guided the planning process: Architecture shall support the operations of the library, organization shall support the operations of the library, and art shall refine the building. The old rather dark building has been renovated and transformed from a traditional library into an up-to-date open-spaced public library, approximately 8.000m² all in all including a new multipurpose hall. High priority has been given to operations and a new organization based on teams and subject areas has been established. Why are we shifting from the traditional shelf classification to subject areas and team organization? Team organization encourages further specialisation. Good and easy access to network

materials and guidance in the use of them is a self-evident part of the work of today's and tomorrow's librarians. Through specialization the customer will obtain other important benefits: interaction and decision-making are facilitated, response to changes in the operational environment is accelerated, the personnel also feel better, according to studies and the quality of user service is improved.

Today library users expect increasingly user-friendly services that are related to all forms of evaluation and analysis of information and even to a great extent are tailor-made. On the other hand, clients will have to be able to frequently carry out routines such as self-service check-out of materials, renewal of loans, reservation of materials etc. In the future remote use of many of these services will be possible, but in the library building there will also have to be a sufficient number of easily available public access computers for self-service and both self check-out and check-in units. The number of public access computers has been extended (61) to meet the needs and it seems that the standards which have been set for the number of public access computers per number of inhabitants in a town are quickly out-dated, when both the ways in which people use the libraries as well as their expectations change.

Of course there are several models for strategic planning of a library. It is, however, essential that every planning process develops its own model. This is what we have aimed at in Vaasa, but we have also actively attempted to network and communicate with other libraries in a similar situation. It is our belief, that the library, its operations and buildings, in itself can be an excellent device for marketing the service. Also the location of the library in the city and the solutions arrived at in town planning showcase the role of the library in the local community and its infrastructure. The user interface of the library building has to be consistent and logically built. In this way the customers' independent use of services is best supported. This is not, however, in any way in conflict with the fact that each division has its own signal and meaning for the user.

Finally, another innovation project, of unique character, has taken place in Vaasa. Namely a change of operating system, from Microsoft to Linux but that is another story. Would you like to know more about Vaasa, try <http://lib.vaasa.fi>.

Birgitta Aurén
Library Director
& SC member