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SPRING 2011

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

PLUS

■ One Book For
Every Young Child



2011 DESIGN SHOWCASE

The Best in New and Renovated Buildings

Paul D. Fleck
Library and Archives

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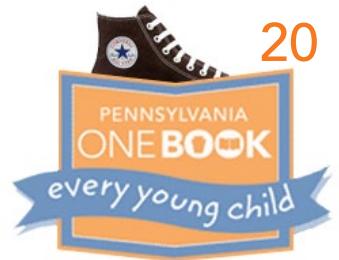
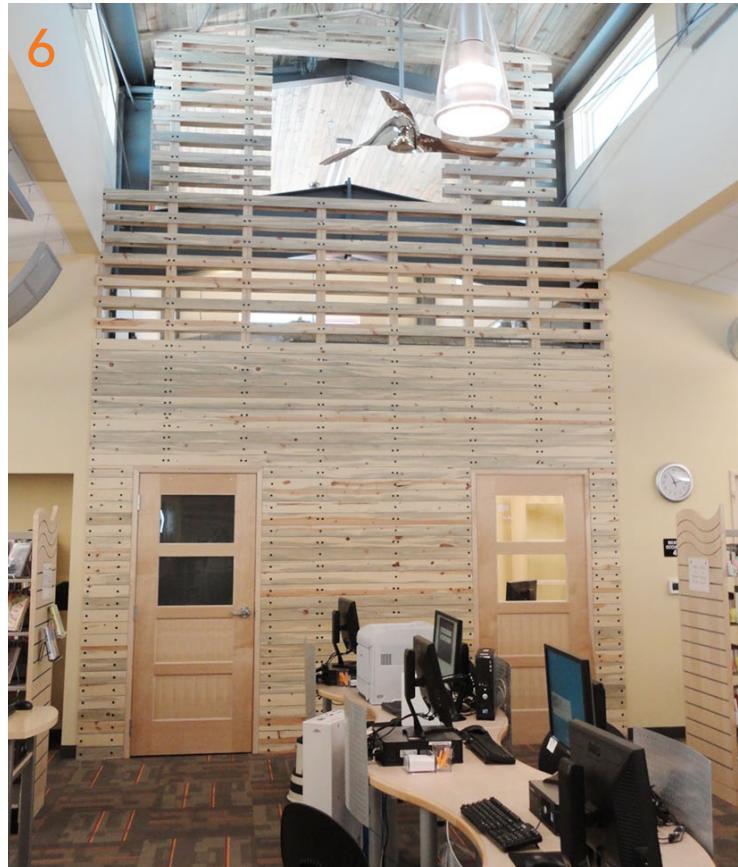
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2011 Library Design Showcase
BY GREG LANDGRAF



The Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives at the Banff Centre in Alberta is one of more than 60 new and renovated libraries featured in the 2011 Library Design Showcase. Photo by Tom Arban. View the full showcase online at americanlibrariesmagazine.org/librarydesign11.

Cover design by Jennifer Brinson



Supporting the Community by Greg Landgraf

Librarians know that it is the contents of a library, and the activities that take place there, that support a community in times good and bad. But the physical structure also plays an important role in how, and how well, the library fulfills its mission.

With that in mind, I'm pleased to present the 2011 Library Design Showcase. This year's edition features more than 60 new and recently renovated buildings, and each edifice helps the library organization serve its community in a unique way. Some are designed to support innovative programming, as well as the library's traditional roles; some are models for green architecture and practices; some give special focus to children and what they need to develop into lifelong learners; some highlight the work of local artists or incorporate local traditions; and some offer cozy places for patrons to gather and connect with their community and with the broader world.

Fifteen buildings, including representatives of each of the nine subsections of the Showcase, are featured in this digital supplement. View the full Library Design Showcase, with more than 100 outstanding architectural photos, at americanlibrariesmagazine.org/librarydesign11.

The demands placed on library buildings have changed greatly in recent decades, and the rate of change will only accelerate in years to come.

The demands placed on library buildings have changed greatly in recent decades, and the rate of change will only accelerate in years to come. In "The Evolving Library: From Reading to Learning," Elise Valoe discusses the results of a study of student needs at academic libraries, which shows that libraries need to be centers of interactive learning, rather than just books. She identifies several design principles, including informal spaces and support for evolving librarian roles, to help buildings meet that need.

Two major adaptations are at the heart of Rick Haverinen's "Booking Passage to a New Home." The article tells the tale of how the U.S. Army moved the Richard C. Biggs Memorial Library from the Transportation School at Fort Eustis, Virginia, to Fort Lee. At its new location, the library merged with two other unique but complementary collections to create the Army Logistics University Library.

Michelle McIntyre's "One Book for Every Young Child" describes a Pennsylvania Library Association program that accomplishes more with less through community partnerships and collaborations. Based on the One Book, One Community blueprint, One Book, Every Young Child encourages early childhood literacy by providing copies of a single chosen book to childcare facilities, preschools, Head Start programs, and family literacy programs. As the book itself is not enough, One Book, Every Young Child also gives librarians and educators tools to engage preschoolers with the book beyond just reading it, through discussions, pretend-play, and book-related activities. ■

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▲ The Presidio presides again Dignitaries cut the ribbon March 26 outside San Francisco Public Library's refurbished 90-year-old Presidio branch, which reopened after a 16-month renovation. The Carnegie building's Italian Renaissance-style exterior lures patrons once again, thanks to the restoration of its ornate terra cotta façade. See more stunning libraries showcased here.

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INSIDE scoop

News And Views From Inside AL

▲ Youth Privacy takes center stage In a two-part conference report on the March 24–25 Conference on Privacy and Youth held in Chicago by ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, *American Libraries'* Interim Editors-in-Chief George Eberhart and Beverly Goldberg describe the dialogue between library professionals, authors, and privacy advocates regarding how they engage and educate young people in privacy protection so that the young adults can make informed choices about what information they make publicly available. The goal: developing library programming with a message that youth will take to heart.

GLOBAL reach

▲ Updates on Japan, Haiti Social media proves crucial to the library community seeking post-disaster updates within and outside Japan. Half a world away, Haiti continues to reclaim its cultural record with help from IFLA, ALA, and the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development.

PERPETUAL beta

▲ An Amazon tablet? 3D object creation? Does rumor have it correct that Amazon may be developing its own tablet? And what's with Jason Griffey's fascination with 3D photos and printers? Discover the cutting edge of technology—and future library apps—at the Perpetual Beta blog.



COMMUNITY ANCHORS

2011

LIBRARY

DESIGN

SHOWCASE

by Greg Landgraf

On the following pages are excerpts from the 2011 Library Design Showcase. See more new and renovated buildings at americanlibrariesmagazine.org/librarydesign11.



WAUKESHA (WIS.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

CAROLINE COUNTY (MD.) PUBLIC LIBRARY,
CENTRAL LIBRARY



A renovation of and addition to the children's services area at Waukesha Public Library expanded computer facilities, created a new multi-function story and program room, and added seating and large windows to allow more natural light into the space. A new space for tweens and a parent-and-child learning center are also part of the project.

Renovation and Expansion

Engberg Anderson, Inc.

engberganderson.com

Size: 5,024 sq. ft. expansion, 14,710 sq. ft. total renovation

Cost: \$1.8 million

Photo: Daniel Kabara Photography

Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc., designed and fabricated this freestanding, semiprivate teen space for Caroline County Public Library. Packed into the 320-square-foot space are movable benches, homework stations, book nooks, iMac workstations, and a gaming station. The library's teens had a say in approving the artwork panels that provide space identification and help to block sound.

Renovation

Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc.

creativeartsinc.com

Size: 320 sq. ft. renovation

Cost: \$97,000

Photo: Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE STATION,
STERLING C. EVANS LIBRARY

In the renovated Sterling C. Evans Library, both computer workstations and comfortable and quirky lounge furniture, in the form of human-shaped deck chairs, offer views of the outdoors. The renovation added 70 seats to the café and created 12 new study rooms for collaborative work and presentation practice, flexible study booths that offer additional group study space, and custom-designed research consultation workstations adjacent to the service desk to accommodate collaboration between librarians and users.

Renovation

Prozign Architects / Bennett Design Group
prozign.com / Bennett-design.net
Size: 46,361 sq. ft.
Cost: \$1.8 million
Photo: Jud Haggard Photography

Light is “the connective tissue” of the McCarthy Library, the architect says. The day-lit space offers panoramic views of Napa Valley. The library is divided into three distinct learning environments: social, collaborative, and focused zones. The three environments are connected under an umbrella-like roof that keeps the sense of place unified.

New Construction

TLCD Architecture
tlcd.com
Size: 62,500 sq. ft.
Cost: \$26.3 million
Photo: Tim Maloney, Technical Imagery Studios

NAPA VALLEY (CALIF.) COLLEGE,
MCCARTHY LIBRARY



The Vinson Neighborhood Library shares a new building with the city's Health Department. As a result, the two departments can collaborate on programs, including a community garden, joint health education programs, and hosting Head Start children at the library's storytime.

New Construction

AutoArch Architects (library)/m Architects (HPL Express)

autoarch.net / m-architects.com

Size: 19,864 sq. ft. (library only)

Cost: \$8.1 million (library only)

Photo: Christy Colerick

The Center for the History of Psychology's holdings include 50,000 volumes, archival documents, historic instruments and apparatus, and psychological tests. The facility, a renovated records warehouse, also offers exhibits and public programs for general and scholarly audiences. Future renovations will add expanded museum space, an auditorium, and a digitization, preservation, and conservation lab.

Renovation

Creo Design Inc. in partnership with Chaintreuil|Jensen|Stark Architects LLP

creodesiginc.net / cjsarchitects.com

Size: 35,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$1.5 million

Photo: Center for the History of Psychology, the University of Akron



ENHANCED FUNCTIONALITY

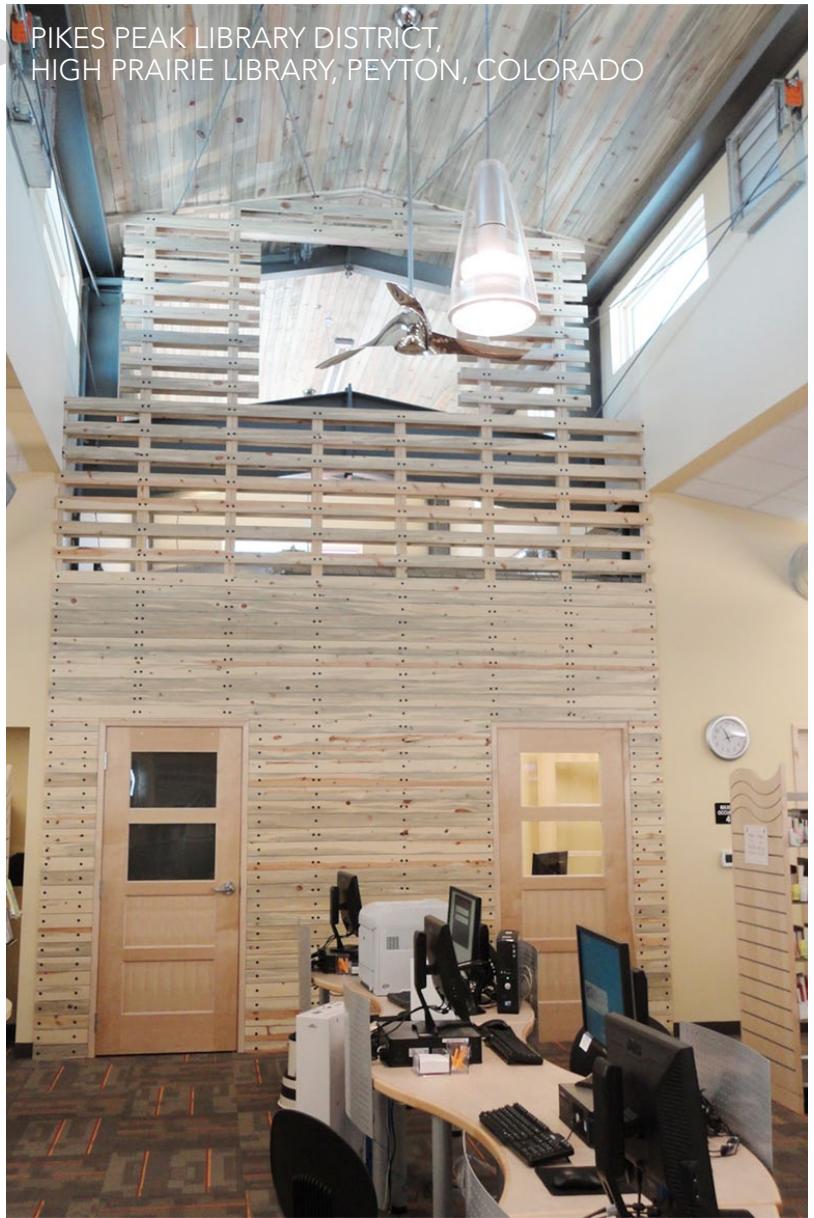
HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY,
VINSON NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY AND HPL EXPRESS

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON (OHIO) LIBRARIES,
CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY



The High Prairie Library was funded, in part, by a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The building utilizes geothermal heating and cooling augmented by ceiling fans, a system that is tied to vents in the clerestory ceiling that open when the temperature is between 65 and 75 degrees to maintain building temperature naturally. Other green features include low-flush toilets, occupancy sensors on lights, drought-tolerant landscaping, careful management of natural light, and interior surfaces furnished in pine that was reclaimed from forests devastated by pine beetles.

New Construction
 Humphries Poli Architects, PC
 hparch.com
 Size: 6,000 sq. ft.
 Cost: \$3.2 million
 Photo: Pikes Peak Library District



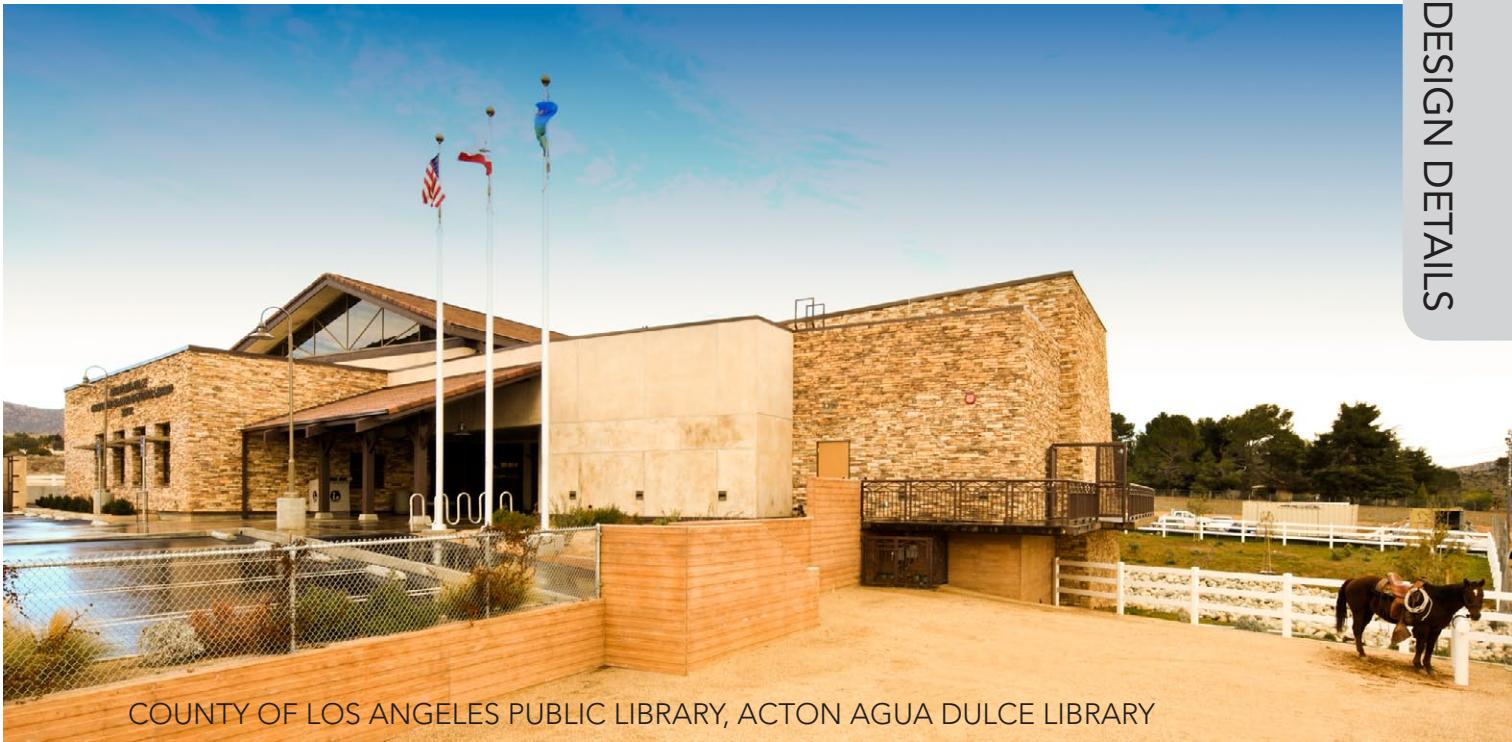
PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT,
 HIGH PRAIRIE LIBRARY, PEYTON, COLORADO

The Martha Washington Library is currently seeking LEED Gold certification. The renovation, which added 7,700 square feet to an existing 9,000-square-foot building, added penetrations to the walls and roof to bring in additional light to 95% of the building. The circulation desk, information desk, and cabinetry are made with bamboo veneers, and the landscaping features drought-resistant plants and a rain garden to filter stormwater runoff.

Renovation and Expansion
 Ritter Architects
 ritterarchitects.com
 Size: 7,700 sq. ft. expansion, 16,700 sq. ft. total
 Cost: \$3.9 million
 Photo: Prakash Patel



FAIRFAX COUNTY (VA.) PUBLIC LIBRARY, MARTHA WASHINGTON LIBRARY



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY, ACTON AGUA DULCE LIBRARY

Because many area residents own ranches, a hitching post and drinking fountain for horses is a valuable amenity at the Acton Agua Dulce Library. The facility was built on land depressed by rainwater runoffs, so the library was engineered as a building atop a bridge. Porous pavement in the library's parking lot allows rainwater to absorb into the soil and return to the water table.

New Construction
 Tetra Design, Inc.
tetradesign.net
 Size: 11,343 sq. ft.
 Cost: \$13.6 million
 Photo: Douglas Olson

DAVENPORT (IOWA) PUBLIC LIBRARY, EASTERN AVENUE BRANCH

Davenport Public Library's first branch library offers two community rooms, a Friends bookstore and café, and a transfer point for the area mass transit system. The building is designed to introduce natural light, while a daylight harvesting system monitors light levels and automatically adjusts artificial lights to save energy.

New Construction
 Architect: Engberg Anderson, Inc.
engberganderson.com
 Size: 25,800 sq. ft.
 Cost: \$8.2 million
 Photo: Alloy Photography





PALM BEACH COUNTY (FLA.) LIBRARY SYSTEM,
GARDENS BRANCH

The Gardens Branch of Palm Beach County Library is themed to reflect the flora and fauna of south Florida. Motifs include flowers, ferns, frogs, sea grasses, palms, soaring birds, and sunshine.

Renovation and Expansion

PGAL / In.Design Studio

pgal.com / indesignstudio.net

Size: 16,000 sq. ft. expansion, 40,000 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$8.9 million

Photo: Dana Hoff

The renovation of Monroe County Public Library consolidated service points and made navigation through the collections easier. The role of the service desk was minimized. Public computer access was moved out of a lab to the main floor level, where staff can better provide research help. In the children's room, colorful shelving designates the collections within the space, while geometric vinyl shapes on the floor identify a path from the room entrance to the service desk.

Renovation

Woollen, Molzan and Partners Inc.

woollenmolzan.com

Size: 54,185 sq. ft.

Cost: \$1.1 million

Photo: Woollen, Molzan and Partners



MONROE COUNTY (IND.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEW CASTLE (DEL.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

The renovation and expansion of the New Castle Public Library incorporated the original 5,625-square-foot building (left), a historic 2,467-square-foot house adjacent to the property, and a two-story, 9,135-square-foot glass addition to connect the two. The expansion increased meeting space, seating areas, and the children's section, created a new teen section, and improved building accessibility.

Renovation and Expansion

BSA+A Inc.

simpers.com

Size: 11,602 sq. ft. expansion, 22,000 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$6 million

Photo: Corky Viola



VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER, STAUNTON

The Stuart Building, which now houses a 4,400-square-foot library and a student center, was built in 1914 and originally held classrooms, workshops, and a swimming pool. For many years, however, the building had been used for storage. The renovation created a flexible and accessible space within the framework of the historical building, with a new passenger elevator and exposed ceiling-beam architecture.

Renovation

Ballou Justice Upton Architects
bjuarchitects.com

Size: 4,400 sq. ft. (library only)

Cost: \$1.6 million (library only)

Photo: Betty Gruber, Kjellstrom
+ Lee Construction Inc.

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ALIDA CARROLL AND JOHN MARSHALL BROWN LIBRARY

The Maine Historical Society occupies the childhood home of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, whose sister bequeathed it to the society and directed that a library be built on the property. The new wing, which houses temperature- and humidity-controlled storage and conservation areas for the library, is designed to be modern rather than copying the original classical structure. Triple-glazed glass preserves views of the Longfellow garden while insulating against heat and cold and nearly eliminating the need for artificial lighting during the workday. Shutters made of American cherry block direct sun and help the new structure blend with the original.

Renovation and Expansion

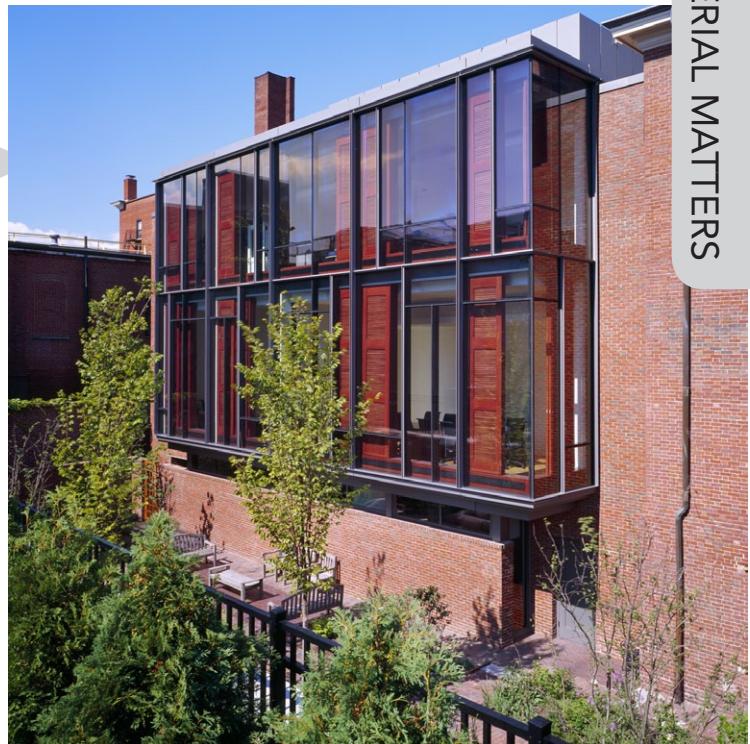
Schwartz/Silver Architects

schwartzsilver.com

Size: 10,320 sq. ft. expansion, 20,350 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$6 million

Photo: Brian Vanden Brink



Expert Army transporters needed transportation for their own repository of recorded knowledge and culture, which had not been moved for nearly 60 years

Booking Passage to a New Home

by Rick Haverinen

Individual books can be picked up and moved at will. It's easy to walk a book out to the porch swing, and library books are constantly rotating out and back into the collection. But when you contemplate moving an entire collection of thousands of books, manuals, audiovisual materials, and furnishings, you need to figure out all the labor-intensive details: how to prepare, how to do the move itself, and what to do when the collection gets delivered to its destination.





Left: The 27-ton library awaits processing at its Fort Lee destination. Above: Librarian Lenora Haughton unpacks *Spearhead of Logistics*, which doubles as the Army Transportation Corps' motto. Below: The Fort Eustis library space becomes bare shelving.

When the U.S. Army Transportation School at Fort Eustis, Virginia, received marching orders from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) in 2005 to move its location, the school's administrators realized that some of the caissons to be rolled along to Fort Lee, Virginia, needed to include the school's collection of books. The school is tasked with educating units of the Army Transportation Corps.

"I've never needed to move a library before," said Lenora Haughton, who was head librarian while the Richard C. Biggs Memorial Library, the treasure of the Transportation School, still existed in Building 705 at Fort Eustis. "That's where the learning curve comes in."

The expert Army transporters needed transportation for their own repository of recorded knowledge and culture,

I've never had to move a library before. That's where the learning curve comes in,

Lenora Haughton,
Head Librarian, Richard C. Biggs Memorial Library

which had not been moved for nearly 60 years. The Biggs library formally began in February 1944 in New Orleans, where the school was located, moved along with the school in May 1946 to Fort Eustis, and relocated again in December 1952 when it was transferred into then-new Building 705. The library section was such an integral part of the design of Building 705 that the shelving stacks mechanically supported part of the weight of the second floor.

Haughton began the chore of identifying what part of the school's collection was not unique, such as dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedia sets, and other reference materials already present at the collection's destination, the U.S. Army Logistics University (ALU) Library at Fort Lee. Haughton and her staff weeded out about 10% of the Biggs collection and offered it to other libraries or turned it over to the property disposal office for sale.

Hilldrup Moving and Storage packed the other 90% of the unique collection at Fort Eustis, loaded it into trailers 48–53 feet long in six separate trips—five for the holdings and one for 45 pieces of library furnishings and equipment—and transported it all to Fort Lee.

E. J. Radford, who coordinates military moves for Hilldrup, said his company frequently moves libraries from shelf to shelf via rolling carts, but since the Fort Eustis collection needed to be carefully integrated into what was already present at Fort Lee, the job was specified to be packed into cartons instead. The materials filled 1,555 2.5-cubic-foot cartons on 98 pallets, with an estimated weight of 27 tons.

Since the library's books were already arranged according to Library of Congress Classification, movers were able to pack their assigned sections in order and mark the individual cartons with the range of their contents.

Haughton worked with Army Logistics University Chief Librarian Tim Renick to merge the online Fort Eustis catalog into the database already in use at Fort Lee. Fortunately, Renick, who had been chief librarian of the Army Transportation School at Fort Eustis from 2000 to 2004, was quite familiar with the collection he received at Fort Lee.

The Fort Lee library building opened in July 2010. While the Fort Lee community library shares space, one of the strategies behind the 2005 BRAC move was to model a university system by combining the instructional colleges of Transportation, Ordnance, and Quartermaster into a multiple-discipline institution of Army logistics at a single site. "We're an academic library," said John Shields, reference and collection development librarian at the ALU



The library at Fort Eustis maintains a business-as-usual attitude as long as it was feasible during preparations for the move.

Library, “so our collection directly supports the curriculum of the Army Logistics University. And there are many courses here where they study both historical and current military and logistics topics.”

Approximately 10% of the Transportation School collection has been integrated and shelved at ALU Library. While that may make some material temporarily unavailable, Renick said he has a good index of the collection and the moving cartons are numbered.

The Army’s Ordnance School Library was moved from Aberdeen (Md.) Proving Ground in September 2009 and integrated into the Fort Lee collection as well, and the Quartermaster School Library was already at Fort Lee at the start of the reorganization. “The combination of all three collections at Fort Lee is going to create an awesome library,” Transportation Corps Historian Richard Killblane said.

Precious cargo

Killblane described the former standalone Biggs library as “one of the best research libraries I’ve come across”—an excellent collection of military history books and library-bound compilations of nonpublished histories of military units.

The centerpiece of the former Biggs Library is its spe-

cial collection of rare or one-of-a-kind U.S. Army Transportation instructional, operational, repair, and training manuals. “These are way-out-of-print original manuals that Tim Renick cataloged and collected when he was at Fort Eustis,” Killblane said. “I’m talking turn-of-the-[20th] century.”

Other elements of the Transportation School collection date back to the Civil War. The special collection contains mechanical and procedural details about how to change the location of just about anything using various transportation means and methods, all backed by the universe of priorities, philosophy, and applied art and science that motivates military movement.

“We have the U.S. Army Register, which is a list of officers on active duty from the 19th century onward, plus all the original Office of the Chief of Transportation monographs from World War II and Korea, which are a tremendous source,” Killblane said. ■



RICK HAVERINEN is a public affairs specialist working in media relations at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia. A version of this article first appeared in the September 23, 2010, Fort Lee Traveller.



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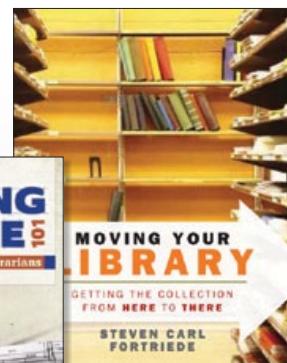
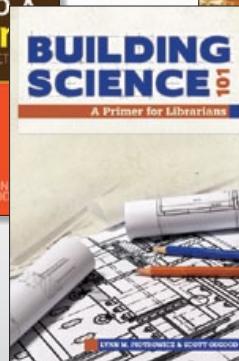
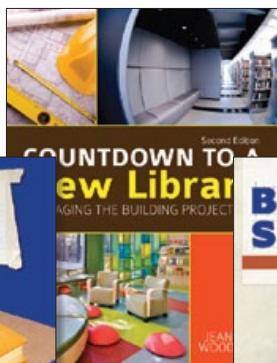
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The Evolving Library:

Over the last decade, a fundamental shift has occurred in how students perceive and utilize libraries. No longer seen as traditional book warehouses, libraries are now collaborative environments where individuals and groups converge to study, socialize, and gain access to resources. The library was once a place to find and check out books. But today, the library is a center of interactive learning.

Ask today's students what they do in the library and their answers will vary greatly. Some are looking for a quiet refuge in which to concentrate, while others need a place for peer-group work. Some come to browse through reference books, while others want to plug in their laptops and access online resources. Some just need a place to touch down between classes, while others need to print materials before a lecture.

The evolving role of the library also has a profound effect on the role of the librarian. No longer viewed as administrators of books, librarians are expected to be content experts, IT service providers, collaborators with students, and educators.

"Libraries need to break out of the atmosphere of tradition," says Lee Van Orsdel, dean of university libraries at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. "We need to rethink our whole attitude about the relationship between students and space, furniture and information, and redefine what a library should be."

To learn more about this evolution, a research team at Steelcase—a leader in creating higher education environments—conducted a six-month study at 13 libraries on private and public college and university campuses across the United States. Results indicate that libraries need a makeover if they are to meet the needs of 21st-century work styles and technologies.

After speaking with students, librarians, and professors and conducting student focus groups, the research team spent two months synthesizing the research into design principles and developing concepts. In spring 2010, the concepts were prototyped at GVSU. The team built working prototypes in the university's current library space, installed video cameras, and recorded the activities/behaviors around these environments for two weeks. The data collected from the prototyping not only validated the concepts but also influenced the design of GVSU's new library.

The following library-design principles emerged from the study:

+Library spaces must foster social learning

The library should support student collaboration and group work, the dominant instruction and learning style today. By providing a group space with mobile tables, mobile chairs, or portable whiteboards, libraries can better facilitate teamwork. For greater technology integration and collaborative learning, a "media:scape" setting can allow students to plug in laptops and simply press a button to share, show, and co-create information on two integrated flat screens.

+Support the librarian's evolving role

The traditional reference desk does not help librarians explain the search process to students because the desk is not designed for teaching or guiding students through a reference search. In the study, librarians at the reference desk were observed twisting their computer screen toward students, trying to get them involved in the process. In the words of one librarian, "I want to get a rotating keyboard tray or something so that there's a keyboard on the other side too. We could give them control and say, 'Show me the search you did.'" Redesign incorporating shared screens allows students to see the content on the monitor and be part of the search process so they learn how to conduct future searches rather than being passive participants.



Redesign Supports New Teaching, Learning Styles

by Elise Valoe

+Optimize the performance of informal spaces

The library is a campus center for social and educational activity and should be designed to support interactions between students, faculty, and staff that otherwise might not happen in a classroom, residence hall, or coffee shop. Students are drawn to natural light, a feeling of community, and a variety of group and solo workspaces. All are naturals for the library.

+Plan for adjacencies

Group work areas are often located near individual spaces for quiet study. This arrangement frustrates quiet-seeking students, while student teams lack the right space and tools for effective collaboration. Instead, locate dedicated spaces for both individual and teamwork in a range of settings across the library. Planning for technology is also critical, as students increasingly rely on—and carry with them—a host of electronic devices, including laptops, netbooks, iPads, Kindles, and more.

+Provide for individual comfort, concentration, and security

Students working in traditional library configurations don't like having their backs to hallways and having their screens open to anyone who walks by. According to Tod Stevens, a partner at SHW Group (an architectural and engineering firm specializing in educational environments), "When the library put workspaces near the windows and in other attractive spaces that used to be taken up by shelves of books, the gate count went way up."

+Improve awareness of and access to library resources

Libraries can be intimidating to first- and second-year students, according to Stevens. As college libraries offer more services and spaces for students, it's essential that they clearly communicate the availability of those resources. Visual displays, clear paths to customer support, and welcoming spaces help students understand and fully use library services.



With the proliferation of printed books and growing collections, the library became a book and information warehouse. Today, much information is digital, portable, and accessible everywhere. It has changed the way we learn and interact. As a result, the library is not just for reading and research. It's now the site of varied social activities: teaching, mentoring, and collaborative learning. By taking note of the evolving role of the library, administrators, designers, and educators will be able to deliver the full

possibilities of the modern library by providing an environment that supports the needs of the 21st-century student. ■



ELISE VALOE, senior design researcher for Steelcase WorkSpace Futures, is responsible for research studies in the education market.



One Book for Every Young Child

Author, illustrator visits bring fun to early literacy program

By Michelle McIntyre

The teachers and librarians who dedicate their lives to instilling in children the love of reading have the eternal gratitude of author Florence Minor and illustrator Wendell Minor of *If You Were a Penguin*. The duo have expressed their appreciation for the time spent preparing for their visits and for creative displays of all things penguin—from crafts and music to cakes and cookies.



In this struggling economy, the local library remains the community bedrock, even as libraries report that use of service is up while their budgets are shrinking. As a librarian in Pennsylvania, I'm proud to say that we are finding creative ways to do more with less. The "One Book" program is foremost among them.

Pennsylvania is the country's sixth-largest state, with more than 630 public library facilities (including libraries and satellites, such as branches and bookmobiles) serving a diverse population of 12 million people. Libraries here have been fortunate. The Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) is supportive and encouraging of our libraries; PaLA works hard to provide us with the tools required to form strong community partnerships and collaborations. For the past five years, hundreds of Pennsylvania librarians and volunteers have had the opportunity to reach our next generation of readers through the state's "One Book, Every Young Child" early literacy program.

Built on the concept of collaboration and designed so that large and small libraries alike could easily implement it, the program is our state's first-ever collaborative project using the blueprint of "One Book, One Community," but the Pennsylvania program highlights the importance of early literacy development in preschoolers ages 3–6 years. An estimated 560,000 children in that age group live in Pennsylvania, many of whom spend time in registered childcare facilities, Head Start programs, preschools, or other early education programs.

Part of what makes One Book successful is the collaboration itself. Libraries, museums, associations, government agencies, and businesses have all been working together to promote the importance of early literacy. Today's partners include the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia's Please Touch Museum, State Museum of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Library Association, Pennsylvania Center for the Book, Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, Pennsylvania Child Care Association, PENNSERVE, HSLC/Access PA, and Verizon.

And for the sixth year, the Verizon Foundation is supporting the Pennsylvania "One Book, Every Young Child" program with a \$40,000 grant as part of its commitment to unlock the promise of literacy. This grant provides a copy of the chosen book to more than 15,000 Pennsylvania childcare facilities, licensed preschools, Head Start programs, and family literacy programs.

The libraries also work hard to find grant money and

other resources to provide free books to the children in their communities. One librarian in Williamsport observed that there are homes in his county where the only book is the phone book. Because reading is a crucial part of lifetime success, he knew that had to change. His library provided every young child in the county with a copy of the One Book selection. What a great gift to give a child.

Jane Hillenbrand, author of the 2010 selection *What a Treasure!* commented that as a child she spent countless hours reading, and it was that love of reading that led her to a career teaching young children.

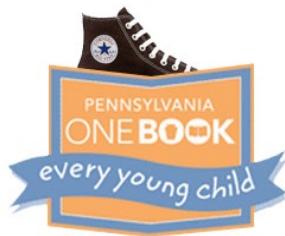
But the Pennsylvania "One Book, Every Young Child" program goes beyond giving parents and caregivers a book to read to their preschoolers. The program itself is based on studies that show that simply reading a book is not enough. Adults must find ways to engage children in activities such as talking about a book's cover and illustrations, discussing the action in and your favorite parts of the book, and engaging in related pretend-play.

Florence Minor, whose book *If You Were a Penguin* was the 2009 One Book selection, said it best: "Nearly everything we do in life stems from the knowledge we glean through books of one kind or another, and the more we love to read, and the more we learn, the more productive and enjoyable our lives become."

Another unique thing about Pennsylvania's One Book program is that all information and program ideas are developed by librarians and museum educators from all areas of the state and promote the benefits of reading early and often to preschoolers. The ideas also encourage family bonding through books and reading.

Each year, 65 traveling trunks are carefully created and make their way across Pennsylvania to be used by libraries as part of One Book programming. Each trunk is filled with fun book-related activities—puppets, games, and manipulatives—for young children. Librarians and educators also find packed inside a guide that encourages use of the trunk contents in activities that are aligned with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards. These materials add another dimension to the great story we are sharing.

Pennsylvania's "One Book, Every Young Child" program also offers an abundance of free resources to all those involved in the development of early literacy—educators, parents, and caregivers. The One Book website contains useful information about the program and includes everything one needs to provide a stimulating reading experience for a young child, regardless of where he or she lives. The materials from past book selections also are readily available and can be easily downloaded.



Part of what makes One Book successful is the collaboration itself. Partners all work together to promote the importance of early literacy.



One Book authors and illustrators (from left) Katherine Ayres, Will Hillenbrand, Lindsay Barrett George, Suzanne Bloom, and Wendell Minor pose with their beloved titles and literary inspirations.

Wendell Minor, the illustrator of *If You Were a Penguin*, shared that as a dyslexic child who had trouble reading, he sees the One Book program as providing young children with a fun and engaging way to experience the joy of books through the visual connection to words.

In addition to the special programming at the library, many libraries have taken One Book into their communities in creative ways. They've teamed up with area preschool and kindergarten teachers to bring events into the classroom, they've formed partnerships with groups like garden clubs and NFL teams, and they've brought activities to community events like the County Grange Encampment and Fair. One librarian noted that the One Book program really helped her library solidify relationships with community partners.

But the program wouldn't be complete without a visit from the book's author or illustrator. Each year, libraries submit applications to be selected to host the author and/or illustrator at a special event at the library or other area location. Will Hillenbrand, the illustrator of the 2010 selection *What a Treasure!* commented: "The Pennsylvania One Book program connects children and the adults who care for them with books and literacy in a fun and meaningful experience. An author visit makes books personal; a personal touch makes for a deep and lasting impression."

Author and illustrator Lindsay Barrett George, whose book *Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse* was Pennsylvania's first One Book selection, recalled how "while visiting a library, a group of children filed into the second floor reading area. The librarian and I handed out their mouse ears and we started the program. As we were about to start the drawing activity, I asked where the children were from.

'A homeless shelter,' was the reply. They were great kids, eager to learn, loving to listen and be read to—kids without a home. And the child who was touched by my story? I don't know his name, but he was hugging his mouse book that day. That was an unforgettable day for me."

I'm proud to be in a state that understands the importance of early literacy and, despite the budget cuts and down economy, is still working hard to keep programs like One Book thriving in our communities. Each year, the program continues to grow and I'm looking forward to seeing what the next five years will bring.

Florence Minor made a wish for kids across America: "It would be thrilling to have a One Book program in every state. It would give children the opportunity to develop an early connection to books and to hear authors and illustrators share their own stories, augmenting what children learn from their teachers and librarians."

Program details

The Pennsylvania "One Book, Every Young Child" program is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by Pennsylvania's Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

In addition, local legislators and representatives from the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Public Welfare travel the state to read the selected book to children in various settings, such as preschools and libraries.

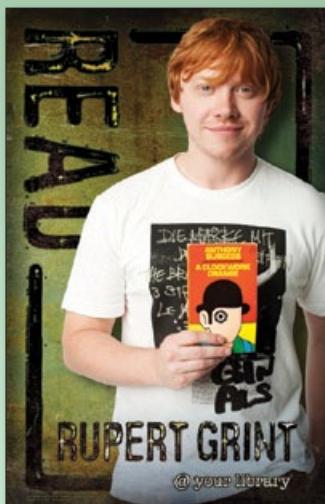
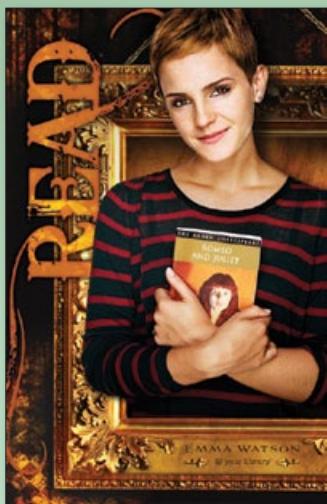
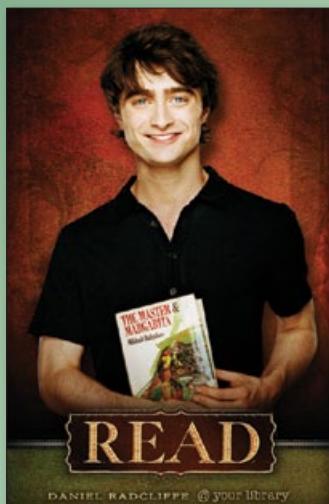
In its inaugural year, the Pennsylvania "One Book, Every Young Child" program won the coveted national John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award.

The Pennsylvania "One Book, Every Young Child" selections are:

- **2011:** *Whose Shoes? A Shoe for Every Job* by author and photographer Stephen R. Swinburne
- **2010:** *What a Treasure!* by author and illustrator Jane and Will Hillenbrand
- **2009:** *If You Were a Penguin* by author and illustrator Florence and Wendell Minor
- **2008:** *Up, Down, and Around* by author Katherine Ayres and illustrator Nadine Bernard Westcott
- **2007:** *A Splendid Friend, Indeed* by author and illustrator Suzanne Bloom
- **2006:** *Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse* by author and illustrator Lindsay Barrett George ■



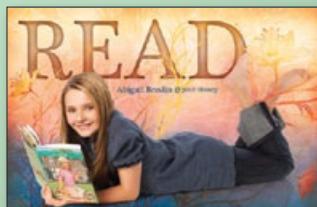
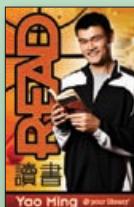
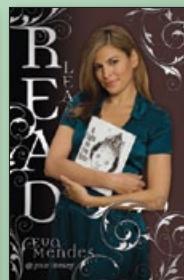
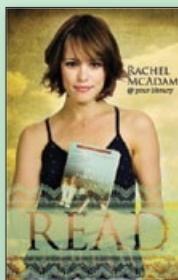
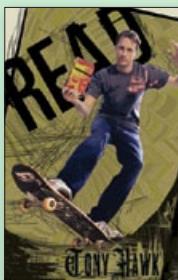
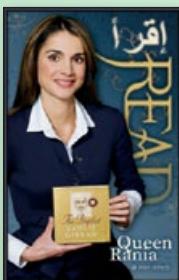
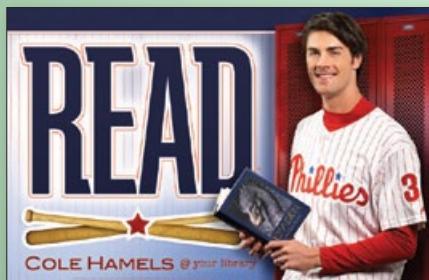
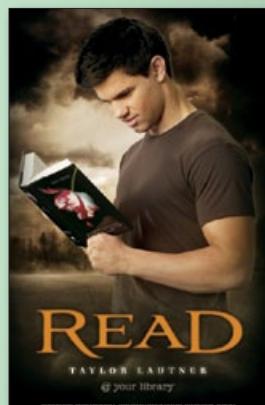
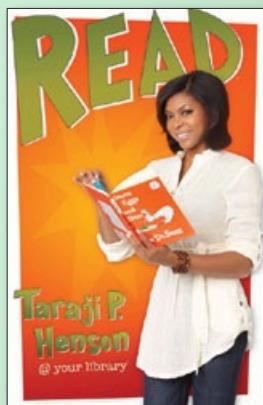
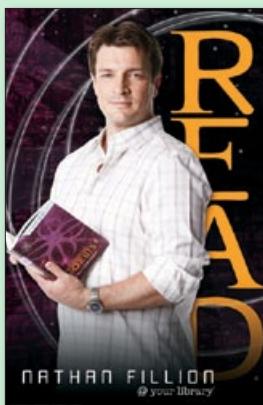
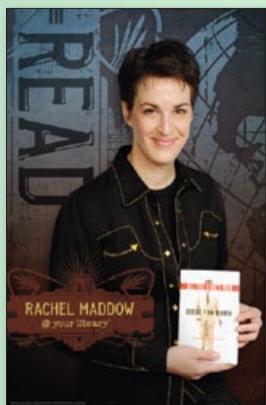
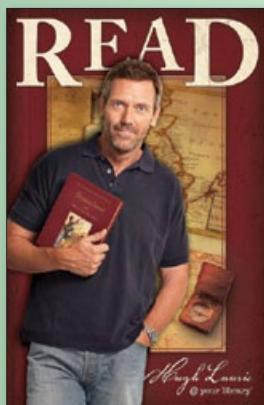
MICHELLE MCINTYRE is public relations and marketing committee chair of the Pennsylvania Library Association and director of the Roaring Spring Community Library.



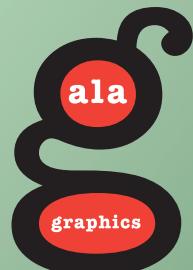
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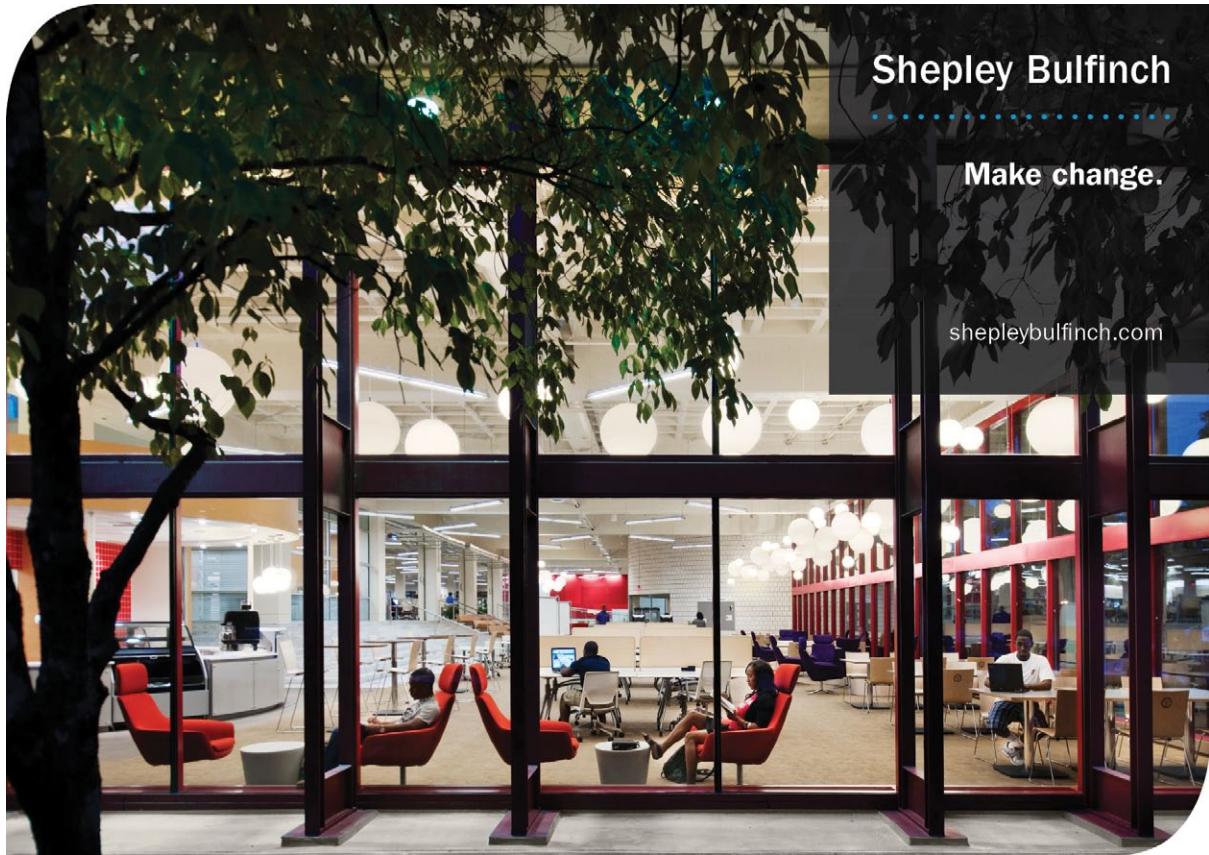
Hennepin County Library Maple Grove, MN

“The best part of the grand opening was seeing kids, parents, and grandparents having a great time in the children’s area. . . . It is a beautiful building that both our customers and staff will enjoy for many years.”
 —Lois Lenroot-Ernt, Capital Projects Manager, Hennepin County Library



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