Architects and librarians under pressure:
the renovation of a library in a constrained environment
A difficult context / André Lohisse (Librarian) ; Dir. Isabelle Sabatier. – Paris, Bibliothèque de Paris Dauphine, 2008.
Before the University

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)
(Photographic archives of the university)
A little history…

• 1955 – 1957 : construction of the NATO buildings
• Architect : Jacques Carlu
• 1966 : France leaves NATO
• 1968 : Foundation of a new university
The NATO restaurant
Conversion of the NATO restaurant into a University library

- Entrance hall
  - Information, lending, and retrieval desks
  - Library « database room »
- Kitchen
  - Storage stacks for recent stored collections
- Dining rooms and dancing floor
  - Open access to library collections
  - Reading rooms
- Underground level
  - Stacks for older collections
The library before renovation

Library
«Database classroom»

Library stacks: Private area

Library retrieval desk (stored material)

Lending desk

Entrance

Hall

Library information desk

Reading room for collective work

Periodicals: Reading room

Library patio: reading room

Library collections / Reading space
The feasibility study

- Assessment of shortcomings
- Users needs
- Assessment of existing facilities
- Quantitative analysis
Needs assessment

In terms of:

• Space
• Stocks
• Collections
• Work areas
• Electronic resources, access to the Internet
• Presence of the staff
Assessment of the existing library premises

Architectural assessment

• Spatial readability
• Hall, stocks, and patio
• No sound attenuation
• Lack of modularity
Structural system

Structure of the building

• Roofing, floors
• Storage space
• Lighting
Mechanical systems and library security

Safety standards vs.

• Electric system
• Smoke exhaust system
• Fire safety arrangements
Services assessment

In terms of:

- Noise, lighting
- Orientation
- Seating capacity
- Coordination of print and electronic collections
Objectives

General objectives

• Improvement of reception facilities
• Extension of library capacity
• Diversification
• Wiring
Goals of the renovation

In terms of:

- Surface: + 254 m² of stocks
- Books: + 1 463 lm
- Periodicals: from 200 to 400 titles (5 year collection)
Goals of the renovation

In terms of seats : + 20 %

• Reading rooms : 345
• Cabled access in the periodicals room : 80
• Group work : 170
• Access to electronic resources : 35
• Training room : 15
• Microfiche viewers : 5
Goals of the renovation

New areas for library users

• Rooms and boxes for group work
• Traditional reading rooms
• Rooms to access electronic resources
• Catalogue consultation areas
• Training room
• Photocopy rooms
Goals of the renovation

New organization for the staff

• Main information, registration and lending desk (3 PCs)
• Retrieval and lending desk (2-3 PCs)
• Second information desk (1 PC)
• Desk for library storekeepers
• Rest room
Goals of the renovation

New furniture and equipment

• Tables and chairs
• Shelves
• PCs
Budgetary constraints

- Two projects to connect
- Raising funds
Funding sources

- The University
- The Ministry of Education
- The Region: Ile-de-France
- The Town: Paris
Amount of the operation

• Global amount :
  4 600 000 €
  [ Furniture : 880 000 € ]

  = 1 372 € / m²
Phasing the operations (project)

- **Phase 1**
  Entrance hall, group work rooms, stocks (-1 level)

- **Phase 2**
  6th floor central stocks, reading rooms, structural improvement (-2 level)
New constraints

Natural disasters
and planning consequences…
Phasing the operations (reality)

One global operation instead of 2 phases
silence
silencio
الهدوء من فضلكم
stille
silenzio
silêncio
тишина
silence
肃静
14TH SEMINAR OF THE LIBER ARCHITECTURE GROUP
Hungary (Budapest and Debrecen) – 8-12 April 2008

11 April 2008 - Session7
The right questions to the architects

André LOHISSE - Françoise SOGNO, University Library Paris Dauphine

Architects and librarians under pressure: dialoguing about renovation of a library in a constrained environment
Françoise SOGNO architect
Design process of renovation, an architect’s point of view

- The necessity of dialogue: from functional objectives analysis to space planning and construction
- Functional lay-out
- Space planning
- Colors works
- Furniture equipment
The necessity of dialogue: from functional objectives analysis to space planning and construction

- Functional expectations
  - density constraints

- Technical constraints analysis: a review of the characteristics of the existing building
  - technical main points
  - architecturally interesting points to value
  - defects assessment
main section of the level
existing glass panels
existing roof
hall
reception desk
kitchen / storeroom
room before works
Université Dauphine
View Boulogne
view on the roof
➢ « Open spaces »
≥ Feasibility study
existing plan
hall, reception, information
main information / registration desk
Functional layout

- Conversion of storage area
- Allocating new space for collections and reading rooms
- New organisation of library desks
- Relocation of the IT room
- Creating rooms for group work
The renovation project:
1) Conversion of the storage area
The renovation project:
2) Allocating new space for collections and reading rooms

- Reading room
  - Periodicals
  - Books

- Renovated reading rooms
The renovation project:
3) New organisation of library desks

- Enlarged information and lending desk
- New information desk
- Library retrieval desk (stored material)
- New retrieval desk: access to underground stacks
The renovation project:
4) Relocation of the IT room
The renovation project:
5) Creating rooms for group work
Space planning

• How to use spaces made originally for a restaurant: conception of the library around 3 remarkable volumes
  • main hall / reception and information room
  • old kitchen / storage area
  • old patio / reading room

• How to use construction systems of a 50’s building:
  • iron structure
  • length of the façades
  • disproportionate spaces
main hall
main hall
main hall
study sketch: main hall, reception
elevation / section: main hall, registration desk
main hall
Photos réalisation
old kitchen / storage before works
old storeroom / reading room
old storeroom / reading room
old storeroom / books and reading room
Old patio / reading room
Study sketch: old patio / reading room
Study sketch: old patio / reading room

Refaire tr-1 & coffrage, des poteaux, pannage de câbles élec + rfe + EP + structure.
Perspective: view on periodicals reading room
➢ Old patio / periodicals reading room and working boxes
Reading room
Utilisation des modes constructifs du bâtiment d’origine

- iron structure
- length of the façades
- disproportionate spaces
Study sketch: panels around iron structure
Reading room before works
Reading room before works
Study sketch: technical items cover

PRINCIPE DES PANNEAUX BOIS CACHE-RADIATEURS DES FACADES
reading room
Working group before works
Circulations
Study sketch: working group rooms
Study plan: working group rooms
After renovation
after renovation
Gamme de couleur inspirée de la peinture de Bonnard.

Son travail sur la lumière par la couleur faite de chaud et de froid, de sombre et de clair qui crée des ambiances à la fois vives et douces, nous a guidé pour le choix des couleurs.

Colours work: Bonnard paintings as « source d’inspiration »
Colours work: natural and artificial lighting

Lumière du jour
Nous profiterons des lanterneaux pour installer la couleur, celle-ci sera placée sur les parties pleines des puits de lumière pour faire en sorte que la lumière et la couleur s’unissent et que la couleur, logée dans le ciel, ne se découvre dans la déambulation qu’au dernier moment. Le lanterneau devient lanterne magique.

Lumière artificielle
elle prend le relais quand le jour baisse et fait apparaître les volumes et les couleurs différemment.
Les sols : sur l’ensemble de l’espace le même sol a été choisi. De ton brun froid, il est support de l’ensemble des autres couleurs.

Le mobilier est en bois, essence merisier, d’une couleur chaleureuse.

Par contre, les murs traversants perpendiculaires aux fenêtres sont peints de couleurs claires et froides. Ils sont le prolongement de la lumière du jour qui ceint la bibliothèque.

Les lanterneaux "lanternes magiques" sont peints de couleurs chaudes et vives pour colorer la lumière zénitale et ponctuer l’espace de surprises.

En miroi, les alcôves de lecture sont peintes à l’intérieur de couleurs chaudes.
main hall
Skylighting: « magic lanterns »
Skylighting
Pictures after renovation before furniture equipment
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 Pictures after renovation before furniture equipment
Pictures after renovation before furniture equipment
Pictures after renovation before furniture equipment
Pictures after renovation before furniture equipment
Pictures after renovation before furniture equipment
Furniture equipment
After renovation with furniture and books
Photos
Photos
Photos