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3 more tidbits....

- It is tempting to think of the migration to media as a regression in education, but Steven Johnson in his book Everything Bad is Good for You, makes a convincing argument for an increase in complex problem-solving skills, planning and social relationships as a result of our infatuation with media. Check it out!
- If you want more information on last month's topic on acoustics in the library, look here: <http://librisdesign.org/docs/AcousticsLibraries.pdf>
- Looking for quick information about your community? Go to the Library Research Services web site: www.lrs.org. Select Public Libraries, Community Analysis, Community Analysis Scan Form. There you will find links to agencies with demographic data about your community.

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Visit www.group3planners.com to subscribe.

just 3 things...

1— Vision & Program...Steps to Clarity

Group3 Planners Beth Hager and Sharon Rowlen recently completed a visioning and programming process for the Basalt (CO) Regional Library District. The process led to a Library Program Statement for the architect and design teams to guide their design efforts.

For those of you who have not yet had the exciting opportunity to build a new library, the process used for Basalt is briefly summarized here to give you an idea of the pre-planning needed before working with your architect on the library design.

Step 1: Needs Assessment

The Basalt Regional Library District Board had been actively pursuing the Vision of a new library in Basalt for several years. These efforts involved multiple Needs Assessment updates from the public including interviews, surveys, focus sessions as well as demographic analysis of the entire region. The G3P team reviewed the information obtained and also interviewed key staff members.

Step 2: Visioning

The visioning effort was a single session that brainstormed what specific library services were necessary for this community and selected specific roles for the new library. Results were grouped into library areas (i.e. Reference, Meeting Spaces, Gathering Room, etc.). Each area included a list of specific features and functions desired.

Several roles were then suggested for the library based on needs of the community. Three major roles were selected to lead the Vision for this library's Program Statement:

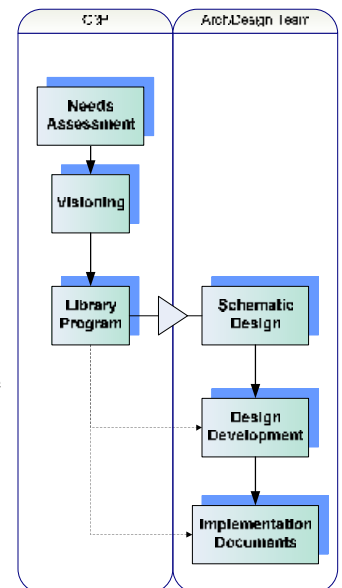
- Community/Cultural Center
- Leading Edge Technology
- Popular Materials Library

Step 3: Library Program

The actual Program Statement was an 85 page document. G3P used *LibrisDESIGN* library planning software and customized it for the new Basalt Regional Library. Reports included :

- The Envisioned Library: Vision & Roles, Library Technologies, Division/Space Functions, and Divisional/Spatial Relationships
- The Library's Collections: Design, Allocation, and Shelving of the various collections
- The Library's Space Requirements: Square Footage Summaries, Allocation of the Library's Readers' Seats, Technology, and Summary of Key Technology Elements

Plans are now being incorporated by the architectural team. The board members, director, and staff have a program that provides a unified focus to guide the building process. The architects now have a plan to which they will give life in the form of a structure that highlights library services and provides the special ambiance that the public has requested.



- Beth Hager, G3P Network Member



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Talk to Us!

Please let us know of any topics you are especially interested in, or if you would like to contribute an article.

We hope that you will view this newsletter as another way to share information with the library community.

Your comments are always welcome and appreciated!

Libris DESIGN Training Fall 2007!!

If you are interested in obtaining Libris DESIGN software, please e-mail Sharon Rowlen at srowlen@group3planners.com. A 2-day training class (required to receive software) will be held this fall if we can reach the minimum class size of 6.

More information about Libris DESIGN is available at www.group3planners.com.

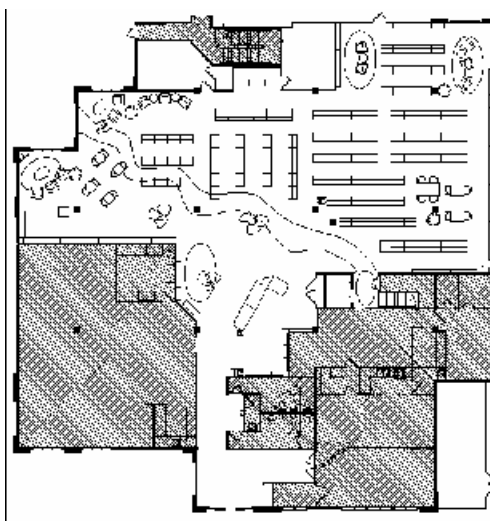
The Libris DESIGN project is supported by the US Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

2—Estes Park Library...A New Look!

“How do you solve a problem like Maria?” Remember that song from “The Sound of Music” and the idyllic setting in the Austrian Alps? Though Estes Park is not in the Alps, its setting in the mountains and foothills of the Rockies is just as charming and beautiful. And the question this time is “How do you solve a problem with the Estes Park Public Library?” Estes Park Public Library is a resort library, one of those special libraries with a dual focus on its year-round residents and its seasonal long-term visitors.

EPPL’s loyal and supportive permanent residents wanted their library to have current books and materials and to be a community connection point. Seasonal visitors wanted current materials and they also wanted access to internet computers to keep in touch with their “community”. EPPL had a second floor with a somewhat un-intuitive access via elevator and narrow stairs. They had limited funds to address all of these concerns.

G3P first addressed overall usage of the library and especially how to encourage access to the second floor. The next task was to work with library staff to budget and decide where their limited funds could most effectively be spent and where the staff or volunteer hours and efforts might supplement the end result. Design and implementation addressed specific areas.



The result was a resounding success with these accomplishments:

- Improved access to the elevator and stairs using the carpet “river”
- Computers moved to the second floor to allow their numbers to increase
- Shelving re-aligned to open up the area around the existing fireplace for community seating
- Shelving re-aligned and heights lowered
- New ambient lighting installed
- A new and exciting color palette applied to finishes and limited new furniture

It was truly a team effort with strong participation by the library staff, G3P and the contractor, culminating in the first patrons to enter their remodeled library who stopped as they entered and exclaimed “**WOW!**”.



Community Gathering Place



Before



After

- Sharon Rowlen, Principal



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CAL is Coming!

Colorado Association of Libraries Conference Get RadiCAL-2007

November 8-10
John Q. Hammons
Conference Center
Holiday Inn at I-70 and Chambers
Denver, Colorado

Look for the G3P booth in
the Vendor area.

Don't miss
Mary Gulash
in her seminar entitled:
***"Retail Design; It Works
for Libraries, Too!"***

Visit us on the web:
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3—Design Trends

In June I attended the NeoCon World Trade Fair in Chicago. This trade fair is the major gathering for commercial designers, architects, facility managers and product designers. It is a time to see and examine new products and to observe the industry trends. Though "going green" has been a major design emphasis for the last few years, this year it was almost understood that we all want to know the greenness of each new product being introduced. What I found fascinating was the aesthetic trends that were apparent this year. The big idea is **STYLIZED ORGANIC**. Natural forms and shapes interpreted in contemporary forms.



Color is still hanging on to the 70's with **WHITE** as the neutral with chocolate, lime green and orange as dominate colors. Balance this with the return of dark wood tones with lots of wood grain showing through the stain.

Furniture shapes are also back to the 70's, with low **HORIZONTAL** lines, furniture off the floor on short legs, storage going back into boxes and the disappearance of the standard office panel as a divider, replaced with translucent materials or fabrics.



As they say "Anything old is new again."

- Mary Gulash, G3P Network Member

About Group3 Planners, LLC

We are a network of professionals working together on library projects as our skill sets and experience are needed. We collaborate on projects to bring each library the best services possible customized to project and community needs. Our services include:

- Needs Assessment, Visioning and Programming
- Space Planning, Interior Design, Remodeling Drawings
- Furniture Specification, Procurement and Installation
- Millwork Design and Detailing

We create programming and design solutions to provide spaces for changing library and patron needs.