

## Flexible Spaces at Stony Brook Southampton: Planning a New Undergraduate Library



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# **SBU Southampton's Mission**

To produce students with a sense of common purpose and community, who become agents of change.

- The Information Commons will be designed for flexible, future-proof, student-oriented space which will provide the ideal learning environment for these students.

## Information Commons at Southampton



- Coffee Shops
- Service Desks
- Individual Space
- Group Space
- Collaborative Computing
- Study Rooms
- Faculty Space
- Media Production
- Flexible Space

These are the types of spaces you need and we have presented them in the order you would see them as you enter and move through the library.

## Coffee Shops



Trinity (TX)



GA Tech



Waterloo

### Highlights:

Trinity: Newspapers in coffee shop

Ga Tech: Bank of computers in back of the coffee shop – separated by a glass wall.

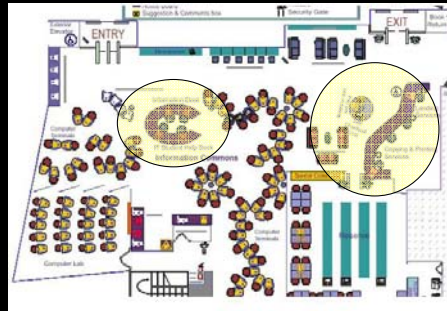
Waterloo: Coffee shop right in the library

## Service Desks



Calgary

U.Mass Amherst



Sunshine Coast



Buffalo State

We think that integrating Library Reference with IT technical help is the most effective use of space and personnel.

Observe that in the map and all the service areas shown here, circulation is separated from the reference/tech help areas. In the Southampton library these three services would need to be integrated more closely in order to conserve space for student use.

Calgary's desk is especially nice as the librarian is at the same height as a student who would approach the desk.

UMass Amherst desk is very long and geometric, with the Tech Help at one corner and Reference in another.

In the Sunshine Coast map the highlighted areas show the separation of the circulation and Reference/IT help service areas. On the right is the circ/copy services desk. The horseshoe desk has Reference at the top and IT at the bottom.

Buffalo State is an example of a traditional reference desk, separated from the Circ desk, with plenty of signage to make all service areas clear.

## Individual Space



Duke

Simmons



Auckland

The Auckland and Simmons pictures show examples of new carrels that do not have the closed-in feeling of the old, traditional carrels. Both have glass/transparent dividers. In both cases these are the quiet study areas.

The Duke picture is a good example of the integration of different spaces: Comfy chairs for individuals and small groups, carrels for privacy, and tables for group work or for an individual who requires more space.

## Group Space



The curved table in the Sturt picture is an example of a use of space where groups could work on the inside curve and individuals on the outside.

The best examples of small group work areas are shown in the UMass Amherst pictures. The flexible dividers are illustrative of the use of flexible furniture. Kidney shaped tables allow group to share a single computer.

Auckland's group space is more comfy and informal, similar to restaurant booths.



## Collaborative Computing



Stanford



Vassar

Stanford has technology that their group space facilitates. The technology permits sharing of files and programs, while the space and furnishings allow the students to see what they are sharing.

Vassar's Media Cloisters has space for multiple screens, space to allow students to set up laptops together for collaboration, and in background of the picture you can see the screens for media production and viewing.



## Study Rooms



Simmons



U.Mass Amherst

Example of the use of glass to separate areas into small group study areas. It is essential to be able to see into group rooms to prevent “extracurricular” activities.

Again, UMass Amherst is an example of flexible furnishing/walls. It appears that this group room has a temporary dividing wall. Note also that the wall has whiteboards.

## Comfortable Seating

Simmons



Utah State

Utah State uses both group and single-person oriented configurations for comfortable seating. Simmons College mixes comfortable chairs with tables.

## Faculty Space



Deerfield Academy

Hendrix College



Many libraries have space for faculty. This space can also be used for groups when not in use by faculty. (This is one suggestion that has not been embraced by those planning the Southampton facility – they did not want to have designated space that may not be heavily used, but rather just have group rooms which everyone, including faculty could use.)

## Media Production

NCSU



UC Santa Cruz - GIS



Vassar

Media production areas and support are frequently included as an integral part of a library/information commons.

## Flexibility



Flexibility should be an important feature of the space plan. These examples show different spaces designed with flexibility in mind. Everything shown here can be easily reconfigured.

Sunshine Coast has a accordion door that separates a classroom set-up from the rest of the commons area. When class is not is session the door is opened to provide additional seating and computing for students.

Ga Tech uses screen on tracks and tent-like structures the students can move to create their own personal spaces. Note also that Ga Tech's power and possibly internet cables come off the tracks on the ceiling.

UMass Amherst has screens above the work areas. Presumably these screens reduce glare on the monitors from the lights above. These screens also help define the group space.

The Stony Brook picture is an example of triangular furniture that can be configured indifferent patterns, in this case a pod.

# Stony Brook Southampton



## Main Entrance to Library Building



This building was originally designed and the construction began for Long Island University when it owned the Southampton campus. Since then it has been purchased by Stony Brook. Stony Brook is continuing to work with the architects that designed this building.



**A Building with “Good Bones,” Lots of Glass  
and “Grey Water”**



There will be a focus on biodiversity at Southampton so this partially green building fits in well with the new mission of Southampton.

## Main Floor (Information or Learning Commons)



Lots of open space, light, high ceiling on one side of the main floor.

## View of Café and Steps to Mezzanine



The stairs to the mezzanine, the future writing center. Next to the stairs on the main floor will be the coffee shop.

**Good Light for Offices/Group Rooms and Low Mezzanine Ceiling to Accommodate Book Stacks**



One side of the mezzanine will house book stacks, the other lower ceiling at the end marks where the group rooms and library offices will be.

## The Mezzanine – Future Writing Center



**Lower Level for TLT – Reinforced Floor for  
Compact Shelving (no longer needed)**



At the far end the floor is lower and reinforced for compact shelving. This is no longer needed. The entire lower floor will be designated for computing including a 60 seat classroom.

## Security Conundrum from Lower and Mezzanine Levels to Main Floor



If the main floor is open to both mezzanine and lower level, how will we ensure that materials from the main floor do not disappear. Also if every floor is open the library level would need to be staffed all the time that the building is open.

This problem is still being discussed and addressed.

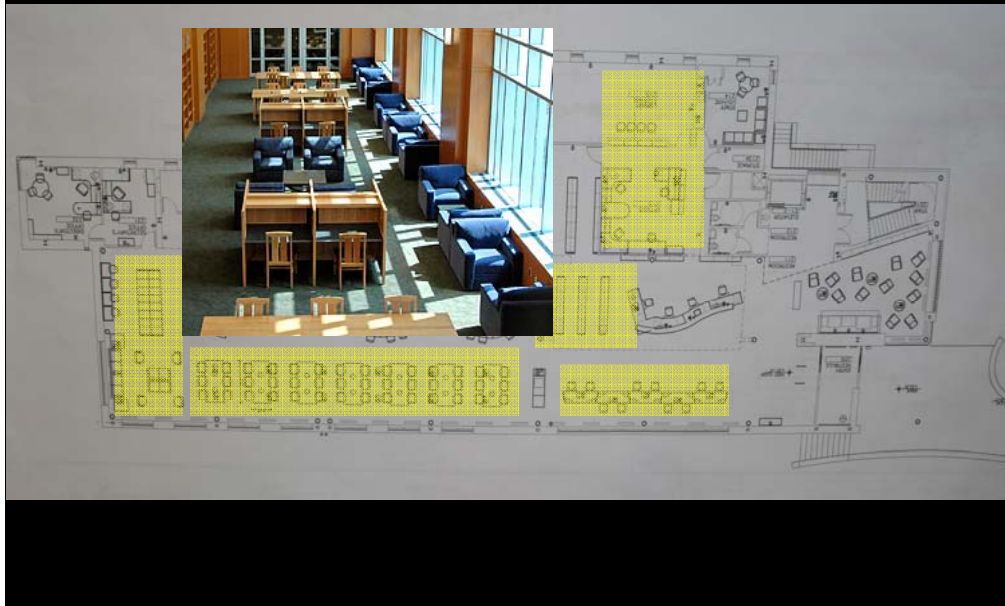


## Mitchell Guirgola Architects at Southampton



This is an example of another building at Southampton designed by the architects at Mitchell Guirgola. Note the use of light colored wood, and the country feel of the main entrance with its outdoor-type of furniture.

## The Initial Plan – More Comfy Seating Needed!



### Suggestions for Architects:

Remove kiosk for quick search as you enter on left. Too bright for computers near the windows. Good spot for more comfy seating.

Remove shelving to left of service desk, not needed. Add kiosk for quick searching here.

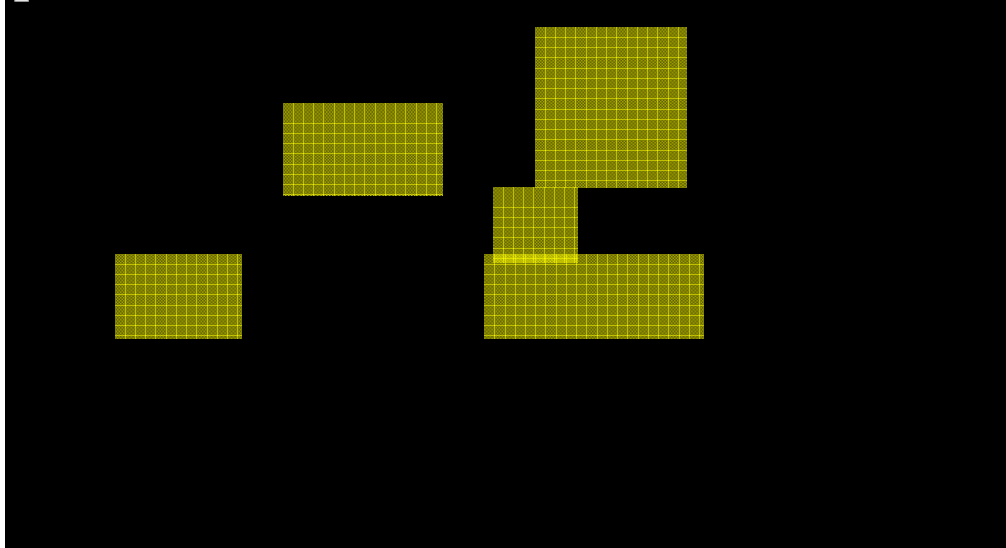
Offices need to be just behind service desk, with glass walls to see out. Librarian's office should be here as well.

Add comfy seating in left hand corner.

The rows of tables seem tightly packed. Suggestions include to integrate tables with individual seating plus comfy seating.

The snake-like organization of computer tables is attractive, these should be kept as is.

## The Modified Plan – Many Changes & More Comfy Seating!



Architects have addressed the need for more comfy seating near the entrance of the building. They have designed kiosk for quick searching of the computer to the left of the service desk. They have integrated the back office and librarians' office right behind the service desk. They have removed several sets of stacks and replaced them with additional seating. The left hand farthest corner now includes additional comfy seating.



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Questions?

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