



Folsom Library Renewal

The renewal of Folsom Library's second floor represents the first major refurbishment of the Library since its opening in 1976. Jorge Vidal '91, with Rensselaer's Design and Construction group, developed the overall project design and managed construction, drawing input from faculty and student surveys, library visits, the Rensselaer Plan goals and objectives, environmental scans and library staff input. Electrical design was provided by Mark Akin, while Bernie Beckmann assisted with mechanical design issues.

World-class and inviting space

- The ample, luminous lobby warmly welcomes the visitor with sinuous curves on the custom-designed Information and Circulation desks and multi-tiered acoustical ceilings that seem to float overhead.
- The inverted map on the art wall behind the Circulation desk inspires us to look at the world from a different perspective, while its "billowing sails" display the Institute's theme "Why not change the world?"¹ in many of our community's languages², reminding us of the Institute's global reach and impact.
- A state-of-the-art, computer-controlled lighting system senses the outside temperature to produce a spectrum of subtly changing colors designed to make the library inviting throughout the seasons.
- The warmth of the American cherry wood, the strength of the Indian silver-pearl granite, the shimmering brilliance of the Capiz seashells from the Philippines and the elegance of the Chinese leaves all represent the wonders of our natural world and a metaphor to the beauty and strength of our Institute's cultural diversity.
- The new layout, the low-profile shelving and the brighter, more colorful environment all help to create a very open and inviting space with lots of natural light offering wonderful vistas of the surrounding campus to the north and east, of the City of Troy and the Hudson Valley to the west, and of the newly emerging EMPAC building to the southwest.

A cutting-edge, technological research library

- A choice of wireless or wired high-speed networks provides access to a multitude of research resources. "Information hubs" ("i-hubs"), located around six of the original concrete columns, are now clad with curving, backlit "leaves" representing islands of knowledge in the middle of an "ocean" of worldwide information (symbolized by the merging waves of color patterns on the new carpet). To facilitate access, there are three different heights of i-hubs designed for stand-up, sit-down and wheelchair access.

Flexible and interactive furniture

- A combination of modular, counter-height reference shelving combined with custom-designed mobile "nestable" tables enable reconfiguration for individual or group collaborative work.
- Comfortable, movable, functional and technology-friendly, the new lounge furnishings will provide great flexibility for a variety of functions – from relaxing, reading or listening to music to wireless laptop use or concentrated study and research.

Safe and user-friendly

- The Information desk is strategically located to offer immediate assistance to visitors and patrons while safely monitoring and controlling access to the library. Along with the Circulation desk, they offer a variety of services with equal access for persons with disabilities.
- A new wireless clock system uses global positioning system (GPS) technology to provide accurate, automatically updated time on all clocks throughout the library.

A relaxing, attractive environment

- A totally new and expanded Library Café, designed by Joy, McCoola & Zilch, Architects and Planners, P.C. has been closely integrated to the lobby in order to create a more "social" atmosphere that promotes community while offering a greater variety of food and drink in a relaxed atmosphere with a coffee bar, a table area and an informal lounge with laptop chairs and music.
- Beautiful plants and cherry planters donated by the Friends of Folsom Library add a natural touch to the space.

¹Rensselaer's theme. A uniquely innovative way of thinking. A call to action. A philosophy that drives RPI students, faculty, and alumni to push themselves. To make full use of their intelligence, their talents, and the latest tools — to make the world a better place.

²Arabic, Chinese for China, Chinese for Taiwan, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Ibo, Italian, Malay, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish and Urdu

Folsom Renewal Resources:

- Acoustical ceilings: USG Corp. (Compasso system), installed by Monroe Acoustical (Tom Monroe).
- Carpeting: Interface Flooring System "I2" with "Intercept" antibacterial, provided by Rochester Flooring Resource (Jon Batchelder), custom installed by Jan Myslinski and William Price.
- Computer equipment, selection and installation: IBM Corporation; George Biggar, Bob Jarvis, Kevin Lewis, Ed Seeger, and Ken Walter.
- Custom millwork (Circulation and Information desks, i-hubs and "Why not change the world?" art wall):
Conceptual design: Jorge Vidal / Design-development and shop drawings: Craig Koehler / Manufacturing and installation: Empire Exhibits & Displays (Don Wiesenforth, owner and Scott Webster, production manager) / 3form resin products: RB Marketing Group (Russell Blanchard) / Translations: 1-800-Translate.
- Door hardware: Forms + Surfaces, installed by Physical Plant key shop (Paul Zelinke).
- Environmental services provided by Rensselaer's Environmental & Site Services, Americlean and Action Window Cleaning, Inc.
- GPS wireless clock system: Primex Wireless, Inc. (Jack Fires).
- Hobo-Dyer map: Landmass contour courtesy of ODT, Inc. (Bob Abramms) / Graphic production Shannon-Rose Drawing & Publishing / "Sails" art wall: 3form, provided by RB Marketing Group (Russell Blanchard), installed by Empire Exhibits & Displays.
- LED lighting and control system: "Thermo-psycho-chromatic" lighting concept: Jorge Vidal / Electrical design: Mark Akin / Color Kinetics LED lights: Quality Lighting (Chris Ammon) / TherMonitor design: Ken Barclay / all installed by Brunswick Electric.
- Library Cafe: Architectural design: Joy, McCoola & Zilch (Kristin Schmit) / Furniture design: Design Networks (in collaboration with Rensselaer's Campus Planning and Facilities Design Department's Design and Construction group: Ed Staats, Jorge Vidal, Mark Akin and Bernie Beckman and Sodexo: John Fusco, Paul Keck and David Gaul). / Construction management: Campus Solutions (Larry Krison) / General contractor: MLB / Infrastructure support: Rensselaer's Physical Plant (Mark Frost, Dave Ira, Russ Bates and Will Weber; Coordination: Bernie Beckmann).
- Mobile bookcases and fixed shelving: Bretford "Legacy" library shelving (Rulyn Graves), installed by Business Environments.
- Nesting (team) tables: Custom designed by Jorge Vidal, manufactured by Empire Exhibits & Displays
- Painting: William Fredette Painting, Inc. (Bill Fredette) and Rensselaer's Physical Plant's Paint, Carpentry & Masonry Trade Shop (Rocky Tozzi / Paul Seebald).
- Plants & planters: Faddegon's Nursery, Inc. (Courtesy of the Friends of Folsom Library).
- Plasma TV: 42-inch Phillips plasma TV, installed by Christopher Saccento - Rensselaer's MultiMedia Services.
- Security: Design: Scott Herkenham, installed by Art Kilmer and Paul Mason.
- Sprinklers: Provided by Rensselaer's Physical Plant (Mark Frost / Dave Ira), managed by Chris Mancini and Bernie Beckmann.
- Telecommunications and networking: Rensselaer's Networking and Telecommunications team.
- Team area chairs: Versteel "Chela," installed by Gillespie Commercial Furnishings.
- The entire library staff for their invaluable suggestions and assistance.

For additional information contact:

Jorge Vidal, Project Manager/Designer, Campus Planning & Facilities Design at (518) 276-6634 or vidalj@rpi.edu