



# Better Library and Learning Space: Projects, trends, ideas

Les Watson

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## Description

What are the most important things a 21st-century library should do with its space? Each chapter in this cutting-edge text addresses this critical question, capturing the insights and practical ideas of leading international librarians, educators and designers to offer you a 'creative resource bank' that will help to transform your library and learning spaces. This is an innovative and practical toolkit introducing concepts, drawing together opinions and encouraging new ways of thinking about library learning spaces for the future.

The book is structured in three parts. *Part 1 – Projects and trends* describes features of library space around the world through a selection of focused case studies painting a global picture, identifying common directions and ideas as well as highlighting country and regional diversity.

*Part 2 – Trends and ideas* looks at the why and how of library space, covering topics such as contextual factors, current ideas in library space development, and the creative design of new spaces. It examines how library spaces are adapting to new forms of learning, digital literacies and technological fluency.

Finally, *Part 3 – Ideas and futures* looks to the future of libraries and their learning spaces, inviting future-scanning contributions from a diverse range of authors, including librarians, learning specialists, academics, architects, an interior designer, a furniture designer and a management specialist.

**Readership:** This is a must-have text for those involved in designing and developing library and learning spaces, from library and university management to designers and architects. It's also a useful guide for students taking courses in library and information science to get to grips with the importance of library design.

## Contents

**Introduction** - Les Watson  
**SECTION 11. UK projects and trends** – Les Watson and Jan Howden  
**2. USA projects and trends** – Matthew Simon  
**3. China projects and**

trends – *Hugh Anderson*<sup>4</sup>. Hong Kong projects and trends – *Professor Bob Fox and Peter Sidorko*<sup>5</sup>. Europe projects and trends – *Joyce Sternheim and Rob Bruijnzeels*<sup>6</sup>. Australasia projects and trends – *Professor Roland Sussex, Professor Peter Tregloan and Professor Philip Long*<sup>7</sup>. SECTION 27. Library space and technology – *Les Watson*<sup>8</sup>. Libraries information and learning – *Les Watson and Jan Howder*<sup>9</sup>. Key ideas on space – *Les Watson*<sup>10</sup>. Thinking it through – *Les Watson*<sup>11</sup>. SECTION 311. Beyond space: access is all – or is it? – *Professor David Bake*<sup>12</sup>. Thinking inside the box – *Colin Allar*<sup>13</sup>. Nothing has changed/everything has changed – the enduring aspects of learning – *Hugh Anderson*<sup>14</sup>. Books, nooks and MOOCs – *Jo Dane*<sup>15</sup>. The researcher's view: context is critical – *Professor Sheila Corral and Dr. Ray Lester*<sup>16</sup>. Libraries in the networked society: evolution, revolution, extinction? – *Chris Batt OBE*<sup>17</sup>. Libraries at the heart of campus life – *Graham Bulpitt*<sup>18</sup>. The library has left the building – *Joyce Sternheim and Rob Bruijnzeels*<sup>19</sup>. Beyond analogue: the learning studio as media-age library – *Dr. Kyle Dickson*<sup>20</sup>. 3-D libraries for 3-D smarting – *Jef Staes*<sup>21</sup>. Learning landscapes, the library and the University of Lincoln: efficiency, effectiveness, expression and experimentation – *Professor Mike Neary and Sam Williams*<sup>22</sup>. Viral design: learners building better environments together – *Professor Stephen Heppel*<sup>23</sup>. The interior designer's view – *Val Clugston*<sup>24</sup>. Furniture fit for the future – *Paul White*<sup>25</sup>. Conclusions – *Les Watson*

#### Author

**Les Watson**, well known for his work on the Saltire Centre, is now a freelance educational consultant on library, learning and IT issues. He has worked in education for 40 years as a teacher, lecturer, dean and pro-vice-chancellor and has managed libraries and information services in several organizations. He has considerable experience of library developments, creating, in addition to the Saltire Centre (2006), REAL@Caledonian (2001), tlc@bedford for Royal Holloway, University of London, (2008), and the Fountains refurbishment for York St John University (2011). He was lead consultant for the web resource Technology Rich Spaces for Learning in 2007 and has produced reports for the JISC and EU on aspects of learning, teaching and information technology (IT). He is a fellow of the RSA and Visiting Professor in Learning Environment Development at the University of Lincoln, UK. He can be contacted from his website [www.leswatson.net](http://www.leswatson.net).