

# Demco designs for local history

The Herbert Centre in Coventry is located in the shadows of the majestic Coventry Cathedral. Demco designed and furnished the interior of the History Centre which clearly demanded a different approach to other interior library spaces.



The rise in popularity of local history and genealogy has increased demand for places where people can research, report and revisit their past. David Bancroft, Visitor Services Manager at Coventry History Centre, believes visitors want a fully comprehensive service for easy movement between screen based research and more traditional 'hard copy' resources. Also important is staying close to staff for help with accessing historical information.



Local history and genealogy were previously restricted to one type of search or resource but the internet has changed that.

Now research is rarely just one-place-based, so being able to switch easily is very important and a good design will allow easy access back and forth.

says David Bancroft.



## New Product Cards

Demco has launched a new range of products cards to be used as a resource for anyone involved in designing, planning or specifying a new library interior or refurbishment. The cards are available as downloadable PDFs from [www.demcointeriors.co.uk](http://www.demcointeriors.co.uk) or telephone Estelle Munroe on 01992 454604 or email: [e.munroe@demcointeriors.co.uk](mailto:e.munroe@demcointeriors.co.uk)



For this project, a range of resources had to be designed into quite a limited space, so good spatial planning was very important. With an even split between screen and print based research the Demco team ensured the space was not designed to the exclusion of one or the other.


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"I think it would be dangerous to assume that everything is going to be screen based or digitised – you need both" adds David Bancroft.

To make best use of the space and create areas for different uses, Demco designed a snake of shelving down the centre of the room which 'zones' areas but allows users to move freely across and between the spaces.

Finally, David Bancroft: "We set out to achieve a discrete work space for visitors to the History Centre and that is exactly what we have."

 A video of the History Centre at The Herbert including sound bites from an interview with David Bancroft can be seen on our new YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/demcointeriors](http://www.youtube.com/demcointeriors)

# Stop Telling, Start Listening

## The Creative Lab – a new way of looking at library design



Demco has announced the launch of **The Creative Lab**, a specialist service division of the Interiors company, providing a comprehensive consultation and workshop service to public libraries and the education sector.

Andy Parker, Sales and Marketing Director, Demco Interiors said: "It has become increasingly important for us to support our clients in taking a pro active approach to listening and learning from end users. We are determined to engage and connect with people who come into libraries, to learn more about their expectations and what are the key triggers to being turned onto a library and more importantly, what turns them off."

**The Creative Lab** offer has been designed to be flexible either to bolt onto a library's existing consultation process, or as stand alone, where the process can be entirely handled by ourselves."

Joining **The Creative Lab** team is Jane Grimwood, a member of the Market Research Society with a wealth of experience in designing and facilitating research projects in business to business and business to consumer environments.

She adds: "Our objective is to bring a professional approach to carrying out consultations so that we can feel confident in the findings to make important decisions about the designs of our libraries."

click: [www.demcointeriors.co.uk](http://www.demcointeriors.co.uk)

## Community Engagement at Powerhouse Library

Listening to young people (8-25 years) was a very important part of the design process when creating the new Powerhouse Library at Moss Side, Manchester. Groups of young people, recruited by the library team, participated in a series of workshops and consultation sessions with architects, designers and library staff.

Demco's **The Creative Lab** carried out a workshop with some young people at The Powerhouse, where they talked about furnishings, colours, fabrics and created some of their own signage ideas. The findings from this and other workshops formed an important basis for Demco's layout, design and furnishings which has resulted in a very 'cool' library space that has been designed by the young people who are now in there and using it!

Lisa Powell, Young People's Services Manager for Manchester Libraries said: "Involving young people, and using their ideas as an integral part of the design process, has given us a library we are all very proud of."

Follow the New Libraries for Manchester link at [www.manchester.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/libraries) for more about the Powerhouse Library



# Library Doors Open to the Residents of Wandsworth



**The £1.5 million development of the Wandsworth Town Library building, funded by Wandsworth Council, is now open to the public. This was a complex project re-scoping the old Museum building into a modern, spacious, relaxing environment for library visitors.**

Phil Costello, Library Design Consultant, Demco Interiors commented: "Part of the challenge of the project was for us to re-utilise some of the old shelving from other libraries and blend with the newer generation of Bomefa 100 shelving. It's interesting to see how one design feature, the glass end panels, have unified the spaces and we now have a contemporary, on trend library interior".

The project shows Demco's flexible and adaptable approach to projects where an 'out of the box' solution is needed.

## **"I couldn't have done it without Demco's support"**

said Meryl Jones, Assistant Head of Library and Heritage Service.

"I am not sure exactly how long I have worked with Demco on projects but, it

must be almost twenty years of partnership and in that time it's just been so good. Demco has gradually got to know what I like, what Wandsworth likes and how we operate.

On this project, which was really difficult, I had so much help, and so much encouragement, so many visits that I really couldn't have done it without their support".



See Meryl Jones talking about the Wandsworth Town Library project at [www.youtube.com/demcointeriors](http://www.youtube.com/demcointeriors)

See Us On YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/demcointeriors](http://www.youtube.com/demcointeriors)



Demco has launched a dedicated YouTube channel as part of its strategy to extend its online presence and engage more libraries in its activities.

Andy Parker, Sales and Marketing Director, Demco Interiors said: "YouTube is a widely used destination for video content and therefore it's an ideal platform for us to be able to show the scope of our projects and engage interactively with the world of libraries. As well as showing our projects, the YouTube Channel gives us the opportunity to broadcast vox pops of library users, which is an important part of our ongoing 'Listening and Consultation' programme."

The channel will complement Demco's website in providing a comprehensive source of information to anyone involved in specifying a library interior design or refurbishment.

You can see Demco's YouTube channel at: [www.youtube.com/demcointeriors](http://www.youtube.com/demcointeriors)

Treorchy Library located in the Upper Rhondda Fawr has recently been upgraded as one of the Council's One4All advice and information services. With the help of Demco and the library team's creative and inspirational approach the library now has a dedicated, self contained teenage library.



## Consultation at Treorchy Library

Showing how the library service can connect with young people

Consultation with young people was a central element of the project to gain a better understanding of what these young adults want from their library.

Rob Stone, Regional Sales Manager, Demco Interiors said: "The consultation carried out by the library team played a very important part in helping us to make informed and creative decisions about the design and furnishings for the new library. We listened to the outcomes of the workshops, interviews and consultations and fed this back to our design team at Rushden. We haven't had to

second guess or make assumptions about what these young people want, this is a library designed by young people, for young people".

The library team and Demco selected bright, coloured, cool and funky furnishings including: Surf bar height stools; Luna sound seats; c-shaped Innovation chairs; Spin circular seats; Lips sofas and Olympus benching and study tables. Product cards are available for these products at:

[www.demcointeriors.co.uk](http://www.demcointeriors.co.uk)



## Demco Sponsors Designing Libraries Website

Demco is pleased to announce their main sponsorship of the Designing Libraries website, an information resource and a forum for anyone with an interest in involvement in library planning and design.

Andy Parker, Sales and Marketing Director, Demco Interiors said: "As library designers we are delighted to have been asked to sponsor a resource that rests at the very heart of library design. For anyone involved

in designing libraries the website is a perfect bringing together of project information and experiences of libraries and librarians. The site is not only a wonderfully practical pool of information on library design projects, but also a primary search destination for what's happening in the world of libraries via the news pages and the Designing Libraries newsletter."

[www.designinglibraries.org.uk](http://www.designinglibraries.org.uk)



## Helping libraries make better design decisions

- listen to end users through creative workshops
- engage stakeholders in the design process
- work with library teams and library users
- facilitate and manage workshop events
- fulfil the consultation process
- analysis, feedback and presentation of findings
- create relevant library interior based on feedback

[www.demcointeriors.co.uk](http://www.demcointeriors.co.uk)

## Everyone a Winner

Winner of our 'Design a Pod' Competition



Vicki Mussett, Library Assistant at Princes Risborough library is the winner of Demco's 'Design a Pod' Competition and wins £1,000 of products for her library.

## Maze Puzzle Table Prize Draw Winner



Winner of the Puzzle Maze Table is Ruth Wilkinson, organiser for the Rose Hill Library, a community outreach library based in Oxford.

Ruth's reaction to the win: "Many thanks for telling me we won the prize draw, that's fantastic!! The new library is an inner city area and we want to promote the reading and swapping of books between young and old on the estate. It's a library in the making. Thank you again."

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