Öffentliche Bibliotheken als Orte im urbanen Raum

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Cities in change
• Increasing and diversified population
• Digitalization
• Globalisation
• Sustainability
• From industry to culture
• New strategies
What are libraries for?

• Culture – all arts, continuation
• Democracy – information, versatility
• Development – lifelong learning
• Integration – social cohesion, equality
• Exploration – research
• Serendipity – discovery, innovation
The strengths of public libraries

• Public spaces open for everyone
• Most used cultural institutions
• Support different forms of culture
• Creative milieus which stimulate users to be active
Libraries in changing cities - three strategies to re-concept libraries

- Cultural icons and flagships
- Placemaking and urban identity
- Community vitalization/catalyst

According to Casper Hvenegaard Rasmussen, Henrik Jochumsen and Dorte Skot-Hansen, Three strategies to re-concept the activities and facilities of libraries
An Icon

- Different and unique
- Famous (or at least intended to be)
- Of symbolic/aesthetic value

Seattle Public Library by Architect Rem Kolhaas
A Placemaker

• Active part of urban planning; industrial areas or new parts of city
• Contributing to urban diversity in cultural or mixed use-districts
• Creating ”public domain” and new stages for experience

Openbaare Bibliotheek Amsterdam (OBA) by Architect Jo Coenen
Community vitalization/Catalyst

• Boosting local identity and cohesion
• Addressing social and economic challenges
• Initiating local innovation, creativity and co-operation

Idea Stores, Tower Hamlets Borough in East London
Urban Mediaspace Dokk1, Århus - Icon, Placemaker and Catalyst
”Bibliothek der Zukunft – Und wo sind hier die Bücher?” (Frankfurter Allgemeine 3.10.2015)
"New development along its industrial coastline — including Dokk1, a cultural center and the largest public library in Scandinavia — as well as a light rail expected to open by late summer, is transforming Aarhus into a more accessible cultural capital.” (Ashley Winchester)
The story of the place in Helsinki

- 1899 Foto Roos / Helsinki City Museum
The site of the new central library in Helsinki
Helsinki Central Library – Icon, Placemaker, Catalyst
http://keskustakirjasto.fi/en/
“The Central Library will be completed in 2017-2018 to celebrate the centennial of Finnish independence. The library is the Finnish Government's official centennial project.”

Minister of Culture and Sports, Paavo Arhinmäki 2013
The ground floor is an accessible and lively space where the entrance and service points meet. It includes the lobby, an exhibition area, a library zone specifically for families, an event spot, a café and restaurant, and a space just to hang around.
The second floor is for hands-on activities. It is a place for working, creating, interacting and learning-by-doing. Here you will find studios, gaming rooms, a makerspace, a kitchen, and areas for workshops, meetings, and other interactive exchanges.
The third floor is designed for the individual and one’s own thoughts. It is a tranquil area for relaxing and concentrating.
The Future library is designed with you - participatory planning

*Helsinki Central Library 2018* is a project where the contents and modes of activity are developed through collaboration between the library, city residents and partners.
Building the Central Library openly together

Citizens’ ideas and wishes (almost 2300 by now)

• Space for relaxing, slow life
• Space for happenings, work shops, city culture, DIY (Do It Yourself)
• Space for working
• Concepts for peer-to-peer learning and for sharing
• Place for families and dialogue between generations
• Open for all, a non-commercial meetingplace
Upside-down thinking for libraries

- It is all about people, not books
- Use customer view as starting point in planning
- Start bottom-up planning instead of top-down planning
- Involve citizens, users and partners in planning process
- Think library as an active place which stimulates and activates
Upside-down thinking for libraries

• See users as “prosumers” instead of consumers (producer + consumer = prosumer)

• Accept that users take over the library space as they once took over the collection

• Take care that you have a vision which reflects local urban planning strategies, the public library ideology and a flavour of upside-down thinking
The library is an enricher of ideas and thoughts, where by sharing knowledge, skills and stories together we create a new civic society.

Vision of the Helsinki City Library