

STADTBIBLIOTHEK AM MAILÄNDER PLATZ

ABOUT ARCHITECTURE AND SPACE

Eun Young Yi



The Concept

The central slightly sloping site, right in the middle of the European Quarter urban planning area, was chosen as the location of the new building. This area stretches in the basin of the town between the central station to the south and Heilbronner Straße at the northern limit. The design focused on the idea of establishing the City Library in Stuttgart as a new intellectual and cultural centre. In order to satisfy this claim in terms of urban development, it was suggested that the library building be given a special position within the block structure envisaged in the master plan: a detached, monolithic building that would tower over the surrounding buildings. In this way, the privileged urban treatment of the City Library becomes an unambiguous symbol of its special significance.

In earlier years, it was a church or palace that marked the centre point of a town. But in a modern society, it is the significance of a place for individual knowledge and enrichment of experience that takes centre stage. And that is how the library gains more and more significance for society.

A monolithic construction that points to a conspicuous new centre point of a modern society does not of course consist of a single block of stone, but it gives that impression – consisting of concrete and matt glass bricks. Within this hard exterior shell, there lies hidden a transparent, light glass shell. The layers of the building are reminiscent of the layers of an onion. And right in the middle you find the antithesis of a monolith – an absolutely geometrical, regular, white space – a perfect cube, lit centrally from above. A space for inner contemplation. While the “Heart” symbolises the roots of knowledge, the funnel-shaped galleries spreading out from it suggest the opening to the world outside, to the infinite world of knowledge. The third central space is found underneath the Heart. The “Forum” is a square space with flat proportions, that completes the theme of the “metamorphosis of the square space”. The entire volume of the building is liberated from the flat square space through the perfect cube to a space that dissolves high above.

Design principle: when implementing the design, the principal aim was to make the primary shapes of the spaces clearly discernible. In order to achieve this, a particular value was placed on plain and homogeneous surfaces. Within a room, the material and colour of the surfaces are treated consistently the same. Whether it is concrete or matt glass bricks, the exterior shell maintains a continuous homogeneous character. This principle permeates the entire building. Within a single room, floors, walls and ceilings produce the same effect. The rectangular grid determines the main shapes and creates a basic pattern in which the geometry by no means dominates as an objective. Where an idea needs to be expressed, in the Platonic sense, – namely at the exterior façade or in the Heart space – the geometric principle has been consistently applied.

In general, within any square layout it is the narrow, vertical components such as room openings, window frames, hand rails and so on, that dominate. This is the setting that is intended to give the clear-cut structure of the building an elegant character. To give expression to the shapes and spaces, sharp edges have been used as much as possible, but only in so far as it is permissible in a public building. So it is equally convincing as a building suitable for daily use, and from the architectural point of view.

Building / Outside Facilities

The footprint of the City Library takes up 60% of the 3,200 square metre plot. It is completely built over on the lower ground floors, with the exception of the corner on the north-east side. The cube of the building rests isolated on a flat area of hard-wearing dark green grass that residents of the quarter will be able to enjoy for sunbathing in summer. There are also two adjacent buildings – for deliveries and ventilation – which are also deliberately built with a square layout. The entrances of the library are set in easily identifiable recesses at the centre point of each façade, corresponding exactly to the four points of the compass. This means the building can be accessed equally easily from all four sides. There is level access through from the public space past the outdoor area into the inner space.

Façade / Façade Space

The shell of the building is designed as a double façade, consisting of one level made of glass bricks, and an inner mullion/transom façade with sun protection as a thermal building shell. The glass brick façade is more introverted, forming a deliberate barrier between the world of education and culture and the hectic world outside. The space between the façades is designed as a spacious buffer zone, which both visitors and library staff can use as a promenade and/or a balcony. The façades of the cubic construction consist of 9 x 9 glass brick panels 4.03 m high and 4.85 m wide. The ground plan, views and sections are designed in principle to co-ordinate with the grid dimension of 0.97 m.

Entrance Hall

On entering the building, the visitor gets an immediate impression of the facilities. The layout allows you to look right through from west to east, and north to south. Numerous information services give visitors a warm welcome and provide all the details they need for their visit.

The circular foyer surrounds the Heart, a place of contemplation, which is accessible from all sides through its four gate-like openings. This is where the reader starts the journey up the imposing central staircases, or enters the lifts, to get to the upper floors to find a media presentation or the reading room, cafeteria or roof. Down the broad stairs, the visitor will find the cultural events in the Forum in the lower ground floor. In the entrance hall itself, there are self-service media return machines, part of the book sorting system that can be seen working behind glass walls, as well as a waiting area and newspaper reading zone.

Media Presentation

The areas for media presentation are kept as clear as possible with the exception of the rendered reinforced concrete columns in the grid of the building. Below the free-span mesh ceilings, it was possible to arrange shelving for a variety of publications with a high level of freedom. The rigorous geometry of the ceiling mirrors reflects details of the installation and connection, as well as the special corner solutions derived from the axisymmetric geometry of the glass roof, demonstrating some of the defining design principles governing the entire building.

Heart / Heart Staircase

Access to the centre core of the building is through the circular entrance hall. The so-called Heart is surrounded by a second inner façade, and lies in the middle of the building, a cube shaped space lit only from above by a central light. This archaic space, that like the Pantheon makes reference to the cavern as an original place of human habitation, is re-interpreted here against the background of our very different technological reality. The route to this precious, protected core of the building leads through many layers (of façade and building), as in a fruit. The oculus opens onto the funnel-shaped reading room above. The Heart is surrounded on all floors by a staircase that leads visitors up all levels from the ground floor to the 4th floor.

Reading Room

Just like the foyer on the ground floor, the areas for media presentation above it are circular. In the middle of these areas, from the 4th floor above the Heart roof light, is the reading room opening up like a funnel right up to the glass roof. This stepped gallery is once again a type of space dating back millennia, that over time has been embraced by numerous architects, as for instance É.-L. Boullée in the 18th century in his design for the French National Library. It extends over four floors, and links the various learning studios. The twisting staircases of the individual reading galleries - arranged in pairs – are designed as flowing promenades. The recessed floors extend this space upwards right up to the ceiling that is lit entirely by daylight.

Graphotheque / Meeting Room / Cafeteria / Office

The cafeteria on the 8th is separated from the surrounding areas by only a glass wall. On one side, it faces the reading room, and on the other side offers views over the town. From here, you can take the stairs in the space between the façades and go up to the roof terrace. The Graphotheque is also on the 8th floor, and also separated only by a glass wall from the public area. On the 1st to 5th floors, you will find meeting rooms in the south-east corner; each has a room-height sliding glass wall which can be moved aside, opening up the room, and making it a very versatile space.

The 7th floor is given over exclusively to administrative areas. The remaining floors contain further office space on the south and west sides. All workstations have natural anti-glare light. Wide, stepless corridors and doors allow staff to transport the book trolleys safely.

Forum / Foyer / Sanitary Facilities

The Forum on the lower ground floor is reached by a wide staircase from the foyer; this is a seminar or events room that can be divided in two by a moveable partition wall. Visitors enter the room through large double doors at the east and south side. The surfaces of the defining walls and the partition wall are fitted with perforated timber acoustic panels. The third variation of the room is as a square format. It is then an extremely flat disc-shaped room. To accentuate this extreme further, the colour of the whole room is a dark pastel blue.

The main toilet facilities are also on the lower ground floor. The surfaces of the floors and walls in the toilet areas are characterised by a pattern of 10 mirror tiles as high as the room. The walls, floors and ceilings, partition walls as well as the surface of the reveals of the wooden doors are a uniform mid-grey colour.

Roof Terrace

The roof terrace, as the fifth façade, completes the cubic appearance of the building, with a galvanised area grating cover on the areas of the roof which are accessible to visitors (viewing platform). From here, visitors can enjoy diverse views of the town quarter and the whole of Stuttgart. Above the glass roof of the atrium is a movable sun protection consisting of metal louvers, covered with photovoltaic panels. The roof terrace is reached from the 8th floor by a lift, or a ramp incorporated in the roof space, or an additional staircase inside the double façade, so it maintains contact with the reading areas and the cafeteria on that floor. At night the whole roof terrace is lit up from below with blue lighting, giving the entire cube building a single colour.

Conclusion

I attempt to define a new architecture in terms of materials that have been traditionally handed down as part of mankind's quest – in other words, those that have survived – and so possess a general value. At the beginning of the new millennium we have reached a point with our architecture where it is worth rediscovering the fundamental types of architecture and reinterpreting their essential characteristics. By interpreting the original architectural proposition in all its facets and variations that have appeared in the different cultures and epochs of human civilisation, the architecture I practise aims to facilitate an appreciation of architecture. In doing so, it emphasises the proposition that all superfluous elements be discarded, and the existing elements be reduced to the essential core statement.

In the aimless age in which we live, we have to create an architecture that remains true to its essentials and inner core. We have in this case worked on a construction together – a completely homogeneous, calm, monolithic building that contains a great many of the secret values of our civilisation. These values are neutralised and polished to the point where they possess a universal value that applies to all ages, so that only our pure spirit is projected onto the material.

The City Library at Mailänder Platz between Tradition and Innovation

Ingrid Bußmann

The opening of the City Library at Mailänder Platz fulfils a dream that the Stuttgart Public Library has had since 1997. As early as the beginning of the 90s, it was clear that the central library in the Wilhelmshpalais, once one of the most modern libraries in Germany, was straining at the seams; there was no room for its development as a community public library. In 1997 the opportunity arose to erect a new building on the site of the former goods station, at the future Mailänder Platz. The State Capital Stuttgart wanted to develop an intensively-used educational and cultural institution as a lively centre for the new district, which could make the area an attractive proposition for investors on the basis of the number of visitors, and one that would act as an intellectual counterpart to the commercial areas developing all around. The City Library was always proud of this special role in the development of the City.

From Library 21 to the City Library at Mailänder Platz

In 1997, under the then director Hannelore Jouly, the library developed a concept for the future for the City Library in 16 sections; these became known internationally among the cognoscenti as "Library 21", and formed the basis of the space-allocation programme agreed by the City Council in 1998. The new library was to become an innovative place where change and challenge would be embraced, a place that would support novel ways of self-directed multimedia learning, and one that would experiment with new approaches. In those days, this profile was a bold concept for the future – Stuttgart's answer to the challenges of the knowledge society. In the meantime, the role of the library as a place of learning has become an unquestioned part of the nationwide concept of libraries. Libraries are now seen as active partners in education, offering a wide variety of programmes to facilitate research and learning skills. For this reason, the philosophy of 1997 has been updated in recent years, and adjusted to current developments.

For a long time, one of the unique selling propositions of libraries was to enable every citizen to have access to information and sources of knowledge. And now the central challenge for libraries is to make information available to everyone internationally. On the one hand, digital communication and information networks offer new possibilities for participation, and so contain an emancipatory dimension for the development of democratic societies. On the other hand, there is also the question of ethical responsibility, of validity and truth of information. The structuring and validation of information have become an important basis for knowledge and autonomous living. Libraries can take on a new role as curator of knowledge in the Gutenberg and Turing Galaxies. The new library in Stuttgart embraces these demands, while at the same time building a bridge to the traditional task of the library as a repository of world knowledge. The library's cultural memory is a calming influence, it is a reliable and protected space. At the same time it allows us to broaden our senses in this place of inspiration, surprise and innovation. Both poles play a vital role in the concept of the new City Library.

The Library as Physical Space

The library of the future does not exist primarily in the virtual world; the physical library building assumes a central function for people in the community. People need such real meeting places, which can be used in the way they want, in a self-determined way, without restriction, without commitment, and this need will keep on growing. This is mirrored in the quality of the visit and the atmosphere of a building that offers such a variety of ways to meet people – informally or in organised discussion groups, in talks by experts or in the knowledge cafés. The City Library becomes an essential hub in the network of educational and cultural institutions in the town. The significance of this physical place coincides with the predictions of the American sociologist and winner of the Hegel Prize, Richard Sennett, who points out that in an ever-more networked world, people need roots and identifiable places – including in public spaces. The City Library meets this need for in-depth information and real knowledge by providing a special small work area on every floor of the new building. This is the "Studiolo", which during the Renaissance was a special place for study. The "Studiolo" is a new interpretation of the study workroom which was included in the plans of 1998. The library has designed a fabulous area for deepening knowledge, with special themed collections.

The City Library as “Expanded Library” and Promoter of Digital Literacy

In the Stuttgart City Library, the expression “expanded library” links the significance of the library as a physical place to the dynamic way in which it encourages broadening the mind, as a partner in real networks and as a hub of virtual networks. The aim is to ensure sustainable free access to information, and so to facilitate social, economic and cultural participation. Since computers and all digital technologies are based on an alphabet in the same way as a library, it is equally necessary to have a degree of literacy in order to understand the digital world. The world of books and the digital world should not be seen as opposites. Encouraging and strengthening digital literacy should in the future be a focus for the provision of the City Library. As a discussion space, the library encourages reflection on the culture of networking and digital developments, with all their social consequences. This concept is mirrored in the “showroom”, a small room in the lower ground floor, equipped with a few high-spec computers. As “digital laboratory”, the “showroom” allows for talks by experts, workshops and the possibility independently to try out new information technologies. In this way, people are able to grasp and experience current developments in the digital world.

The Intercultural Library

As a contribution to the cultural diversity of a town whose inhabitants come from around 170 different countries, a strong emphasis is given to the international focus of the new library. As with all the facilities in the City Library, the new building at Mailänder Platz can be seen as an intercultural library that fosters numerous languages, and the opportunity to learn them, a library that arranges regular intercultural meetings, and that at the same time welcomes people to reflect on their own and other cultures in events and discussion groups. The foreign language media collection, with its focus on literature, includes 25 languages: international newspapers are available both in print form and in a database. The multilingual inscriptions on the friezes on the building symbolise this intercultural concept. The City Library is committed to contributing to successful integration, because that is how the future will be shaped – together.

The All-Age Library

One of the aims of the State Capital Stuttgart is to give all children the opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. The City Library is also committed to this goal. Children and young people will enjoy the creative and imaginative way in which books and multimedia are presented in the new library: and they will use them effectively and independently. The library’s educational programmes promoting language and reading contribute to equal opportunities for all children and young people in Stuttgart. The distinctions between the generations in our society are becoming more and more blurred. The rapid rate of technological change has meant that it is not just children and young people learning from adults – now adults can also learn from young people. The media market reflects this crossover between the generations. This is why the City Library does not just provide children’s media in the Children’s Section. You will find in the “Children’s View” on every floor of the new building a selected range of literature for children and adults. The “Young Library” concept also takes the same approach, and responds to the differing interests of young people by providing them with varied material. This area on every floor offers a selected range of media related to the relevant themes. On the sixth floor of the new library, there is a larger area for young people, with stories, novels and audio books. Media popular with young people, computer games, for instance, are available on every floor for all generations to enjoy. This concept provides the space for young people in the library, and integrates it without isolating it in a separate area.

The Library as Multimedia Centre for Innovative Learning

The new library supports the process of individual lifelong learning by providing media, giving expert advice, special arrangements for study, and help with orientation. There is a particular focus on material for vocational qualifications. Thematic media presentations provide stimulating information and encourage you to discover the unexpected.

Cabinets on the different floors are available to informal study groups for their joint learning activities. They are also the place for the library's study aids which provide information and research skills. On every floor, visitors can use PCs with pre-programmed e-learning courses. Under the heading "Spectrum", the library provides significant titles recommended by subject specialists covering subject areas that are always available. The library actively and consciously provides guidance, supporting the structuring of knowledge. In addition to its own podcasts, the library also offers access to full digital texts through the "Onleihe" (online borrowing of digital media) on the website.

The Library as Cultural Centre

The City Library is a beacon of cultural expression and promotes involvement with literature, art and music. The library sees itself as a forum for literature and culture from the city and region, a place where you encounter academic research, and a collaborative partner for cultural institutions in the city. The library increasingly creates its own content resulting from the events it organises and contact with artists and academics. Events are therefore not just transient meetings, they facilitate in-depth knowledge exchange.

"Gallery b" consists of 16 screens on the ground floor of the new building, offering a technical platform for new creative ways at the intersections between text – image – code. The library remains a showcase for the literary and cultural life in the town and region. It introduces the literary scene in Stuttgart, the music region of Stuttgart, and – shortly to be a new area – the Stuttgart film scene.

The Library at Mailänder Platz – a Place where Everyone is Welcome

The City Library at Mailänder Platz will be open from Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The night-time return facility and the "Library for Insomniacs" provide services outside these hours. With 500,000 media items for children, young people and adults, the new City Library provides citizens with precisely the right answers to their questions.

The cornerstone of the new library is the book "The many sides of the City Library", created for the library by the citizens of the town. There are deeply held emotional statements that show that the library is, for many people, a place of a very special quality – a place that remains with them throughout their lives. Many people say that their lives would have taken a different course if it had not been for the library. The new library will certainly possess this special quality as an institution focused on people. The new building will be shaped by the spirit of this book.

Intelligent Shelving, Self-steering Trolleys, and Air Interface – Technology in the new City Library

Christine Brunner

“Libraries are not houses for books, libraries are houses for people,” as a Danish colleague so appositely put it recently. The new Stuttgart City Library at Mailänder Platz has now opened its doors to provide that kind of ‘house’ for the citizens of Stuttgart, to use freely and in the way they want.

The freedom of completely versatile usage, combined with long opening hours is based on an ambitious concept. It starts with the dedicated and knowledgeable information and advice given by staff on all floors for 12 hours a day, 6 days a week; includes an ambitious programme of events for visitors young and old, and encompasses a modern, up-to-date and sophisticated media collection.

Numerous round-the-clock facilities – those that are virtual and web-based, such as for example ONLEIHE (online borrowing of media items) or professional search options, as well as the tangible offerings such as 24-hour return of items and the LIBRARY FOR INSOMNIACS - complete the provision of the new Stuttgart Library, tailored as it is precisely to the needs of visitors.

But how can this kind of concept be made a reality? With a limited number of staff? In a ten-storey building? The answer to these questions was already apparent in the Wilhelmshpalais, the previous location. The ever-increasing level of usage could only be tackled by relieving the burden on those staff who carried out routine tasks. The installation of modern RFID library technology gave scope for the skills of these staff to be used successfully for reception and advice duties instead.

The initially unfamiliar RFID technology for all the borrowing and return processes was tested in a number of different ways in Stuttgart, and developed further. It is still always possible in the new library - that means 24 hours a day, including holidays – to return borrowed media items. Linked with this item return system is a unique sorting facility, which reliably transports books large and small, CDs and DVDs, newspapers and maps in small electric carts to the correct level, and deposits the items carefully on to the waiting trolley. When a trolley is full, a member of staff is notified by e-mail, and that member of staff can change it with an empty trolley. The sorting of returned media items on to the shelves is undertaken by staff, supported by the tipping and spring mechanism of the new book trolley which is designed to make it easy on the back.

Of course, there are still the familiar stations on every floor where visitors can check out their chosen media items themselves. What is new, however, is that in the Graphothèque on the 8th floor where the collection can be freely accessed, the picture chosen can be borrowed without any assistance from staff.

Security gates at the four exits are a discreet way of ensuring that media items are not taken out of the building without being checked out.

A new library pass, containing a very short-range chip, gives you access to a wide range of other facilities in the library. If you do not have your own smartphone or netbook to use with the in-house Wi-Fi, you can take one of more than 100 “PCs for here and now” from one of the intelligent shelves on every floor, and take it to work at any place you like in the building, and return it once it has been switched off, without leaving any digital traces of your online activity.

Most of the tables have electric sockets so that you can re-charge your computer. Near the meeting rooms there are fixed high-end PCs with sophisticated applications such as Blu-ray support, and scanners and equipment for people with a visual impairment.

There is a photocopier and printer behind the information desk on every floor. You can put credit on your library card, and then print what you want without using cash. There are facilities on every floor for further database searches in the media collections, and in the “Scriptorium” on the ground floor.

The Stuttgart City Library is also breaking new ground by making orientation easier in this very symmetrical building. There are interactive columns at two entrances on the ground floor, and on all the

other floors, that provide information on touch screens about media items and events, as well as directions within the room.

The two control rooms of the divisible Max Bense Forum finally feature all the events technology and equipment that so often used to necessitate laborious installation and set-up work in the old library. Fixed projectors and extendable projection screens in all the meeting rooms provide the easily accessible technical support required to put on an extensive programme of events.

All visitors are delighted with the LIBRARY for INSOMNIACS in the vestibule of the east entrance. The name stands for an ever-changing selection of media items that can be borrowed at any time with a valid library pass – and that means even late at night, or on the few days when the library is closed. In addition to the overwhelming range of facilities, this is a shining example of the promise to offer all visitors to the new library in Stuttgart a knowledgeable and friendly service at all times.

New Building Stuttgart City Library, Mailänder Platz 1

State Capital Stuttgart, Department T, Building Office

Urban Development / Design Concept

The new 9-storey library building deliberately takes its cue from the block structure of the projected 7-storey buildings in the area, and rises up like a great crystalline cube within the grassed area at Mailänder Platz. The dimensioning and positioning, detached from their urban context, are a symbol of the significance of the library as a new intellectual and cultural centre within the overall A1 project. What appears to be the island position of the completed library is just one of the features of an initial development; it is only temporary. As adjacent buildings are constructed around it, the cube of the City Library will be integrated into a spatial environment which will clarify its central character.

The square construction of the library building can be accessed from all four sides, and at entry level includes a central space, the so-called "Heart", which represents the spatial and meditative centre point of the whole building. Above the 4-storey core space rises up the stepped 5-storey pyramid-shaped reading room, which is surrounded by various study rooms along the façade, and lit by a glass ceiling above.

The individual areas of the library, with the central foyer, children's library, music library, study rooms, Graphotheque, administration and café, are arranged over the 9 floors as an outer ring, along the well-lit façade, and enclosed by an accessible roof terrace with views over the town. The Forum on the lower ground floor with its event space for 300 can be reached from the foyer. Functional space, technology rooms, and deliveries are located on both lower ground floors.

The library building, which at 40 metres high is classified as a high-rise block, has largely natural lighting and ventilation, and has an additional mechanical ventilation system that can be operated when necessary according to the time of year. The shell of the building is constructed as an accessible ventilated double façade with an exterior shell made of glass bricks and an inner thermal glass façade with sun protection. Heating and cooling are provided by underfloor heating together with heated façade profiles that make direct use of geothermal energy from ground source heat. Together with photovoltaic panels integrated into the solar control of the glass roof, the library building fulfils the technology standard of the State Capital Stuttgart, and the Energy Quality Seal.

Concurrently with the building of the new library, the sections of tunnel that form part of the future U12 urban railway line in the area of Mailänder Platz/Moskauer Straße were also completed. The line passes diagonally underneath the library building at the north-west corner of the plot, and ends in an overground station at Londoner Straße.

Description of Works - Architecture

Urban Development

A striking detached square-shaped building, the library towers over the nearby buildings as a new intellectual and cultural centre.

The cube of the City Library takes up 60% of the plot.

On the lower ground floors, the ground is almost completely built up.

The building is surrounded by a level area of hard-wearing dark green lawn.

Façade

The façade consists of 9 x 9 panels of glass bricks in a frame of light grey exposed concrete.

The shell of the building is designed as a double façade consisting of a glass brick layer and an inner mullion/transom façade which acts as a thermal shell for the building.

The area between the façades can be used as a promenade, and will be lit up at night with blue lighting.

Entrance Hall

The library building can be accessed from all four sides.

In the circular foyer there are book/media return machines - part of the book sorting equipment which can be seen operating behind glass walls.

In addition, information boards, video installations, and areas where visitors can wait or read newspapers, are planned.

Heart

In the centre of the building lies its spatial and meditative heart: this is an archaic space type, that like the Pantheon makes reference to the cavern as an original place of human habitation. The source is a water feature measuring 1 m² right in the centre, installed flush with the ground. The cube-shaped space is lit by light from the central opening (oculus). It is surrounded by staircases from the ground floor up to the 3rd floor.

Gallery

The reading room in the upper half of the Heart, from the 4th to the 8th floor, takes its inspiration from Étienne-Louis Boullée's French National Library of the 18th century. Staircases arranged in pairs create flowing walkways between the floors. The stepped galleries extend the space in the shape of a funnel right up to the glass roof.

Forum

The Forum is a function room with around 300 seats that can be divided into two rooms. This is the third variation of the square space format, and is designed flat and disc-shaped, and it is a dark blue pastel colour throughout.

Media Presentations and Other Public Space

All the elements like shelving, groups of seats or individual work places can easily be arranged under the free-span mesh ceilings of the media presentation areas.

Areas for seminars, or just spending time, such as the cafeteria on the 8th floor, Graphothèque and meeting rooms, are separated by no more than glass walls from the surrounding areas.

Sanitary facilities are distributed evenly over the floors.

The main toilet facilities on the 1st floor include eighteen toilets for men and women, and also a changing room and a disabled toilet (with additional ones available on the 2nd and 5th floors).

Work areas

The workplaces of the administrative areas are lit with natural and anti-glare lighting. Wide step-free corridors and doors ensure the safe transport of the book trolleys.

Glass Roof

The glass roof consists of four axisymmetric penthouse roofs.

The supporting structure consists of 25 m long steel girders that intersect at the centre.

At the top, there is solar protection with a photovoltaic system.

Roof Terrace

The roof terrace, the fifth façade, completes the cube-like appearance of the building. Like the other façades, it is lit up blue when it is dark.

It is linked by lifts, stairs and ramps to the 8th floor, where the viewing platform offers panoramic views over Stuttgart and the environs.

Accessibility - Safety

The whole building is designed to be accessible, in accordance with DIN 18024 and corresponding to the regulations of the Württemberg municipal accident insurance (WGUV).

Description of Works - Technology

Heating

Energy supply by district heating connection
Heating is underfloor heating, heated façade profiles and static heating surfaces in side rooms and stairwells

Ventilation

Natural ventilation and circulation of air through sliding glass elements in the external façade
Additional heating/cooling with mechanical ventilation by air conditioning system

Cooling

Cooling by compact refrigerant system with integrated recooling
Activation of reinforced concrete floor units with free recooling by means of temperature control of the floor

Geothermal Energy

94 geothermal probes with a total length of 2,000 metres for cooling or heating, depending on time of year, using a heat pump system

Sprinkler System

Sprinklers throughout entire building in accordance with CEA 4001

Electrical System

Power supply through 10 KV underground cable connection
2 transformers, emergency power supply from emergency generator

Lighting

Media presentation areas, office areas and façades: strip lights
Reading rooms and Heart: square spotlights
Forum: LED lights/spotlights

Systems Engineering

Control, management and connections by installation bus on basis of network
Switches, dimmers and autonomous control of lighting through central control unit and interface
Sun protection control depending on brightness and position of the sun

Photovoltaic System

300 m² collector surface area with 30 kWp performance on moveable sun protection louvers

Telecommunications

Structured cabling for telephone and IT with fibre optic cables and copper sheathed cables
Comprehensive fire alarm system
Intruder detection system with motion sensors
Electro-acoustic public address system

Multimedia

facilities with LCD monitors, screens, projectors, and DVD, CD and video equipment

Conveying and Transport

2 passenger lifts lower ground floor to 8th floor
1 passenger lift 8th floor to roof terrace
1 fire service/goods lift 2,000 kg lower ground floor to 8th floor
1 small lift for mail room
Automatic book conveying system ground floor to 8th floor with stations for return of borrowed items, and self-service machine for night-time return of items

Concept of Furnishing and Signage

Stefanie Larson, Totems Communication

Books and multimedia can certainly whet the appetite, and the users of the new library are the guests who can enjoy the feast every day. This is one interesting angle from which to look at the concept of furnishing.

The furnishing concept of the new City Library picks up the clear geometrical and orderly shapes of the building's architecture and brings them right in to the interior. It gives visual prominence to the media, whilst itself keeping a low profile. At the same time, it absorbs the philosophy of the library. The design fully supports the themed Sections and their individual contents, and provides the user with a library space that fulfils the most varied needs and provides a multitude of different experiences. Individual communal areas and zones for relaxation and communication alternate with each other. The philosophy of the library and the concept of use are interwoven throughout the Sections, and create a tremendous variety of areas which visitors can enjoy in the way they choose.

The foyer is the first port of call for special themes. The central contemplative "Heart" is encircled by "Gallery b", an interactive media installation. In front, the user will find the core themes of the philosophy of the library, such as the "Scriptorium" – a reminder and at the same time a modern interpretation of the historical forerunner of the library – or a series of Studiolos, which are compact spaces for reflection and discussion. In addition, there is an area with topical daily and weekly international press reviews, and the main information desk offering all the essential library services such as self-service and cash machines.

Wall shelves set into recesses around the room transform the atmosphere of the funnel-shaped reading room into an impressive monumental book space. The discreet furniture reinforces this effect. The system of shelving, which was developed especially for the library for all the themed floors around the reading room, reflects the grid layout of the architecture. It houses not only the numerous media items in the new library, but also the user-oriented functional areas such as OPAC, self-service terminals, or seating within the shelving area. Interspersed among the shelves are individual and group working areas, seating areas, and "Studiolos" with special furniture for in-depth discussion of specific topics.

Visitors will find media presentations on every floor. These are a "showcase" or "platform" presenting a selection of media on a particular topic. The Music, Children's Library, and Art and Graphotheque Sections have been fitted out with special furniture. A musical staircase invites you to listen, and the sound studio invites you to delve into the old, and experiment with the new. Art is presented in a flexible space with display walls which enable content of temporary exhibitions to be reflected. Large format sculptures on the shelves transform the Graphotheque into an art room. The space in the Children's Library Section is designed in a playful way: cube-shaped shelves form cave-like retreats, and the troughs in the spacious seating landscapes make you want to immerse yourself in browsing the world of children's books.

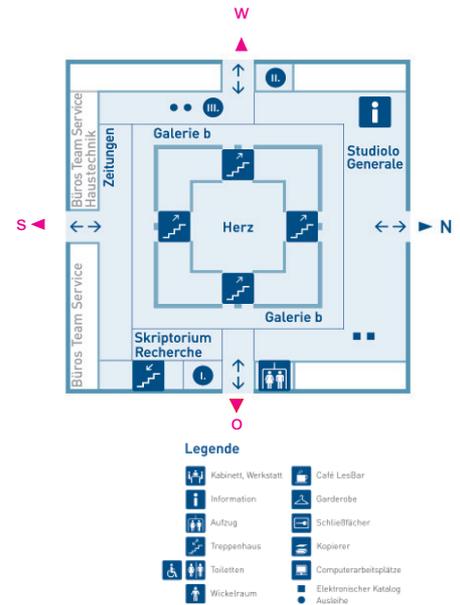
All the furnishings on each floor take on the same colour as the architectural surfaces. The upholstery is a toned down version of the principal blue colour of the new City Library.

The signage system of the new library is divided into analogue and digital. Floor markings show the codes for the shelving, partitions on the shelves provide directions and create areas for the different themes. Cubes act as detailed orientation on the shelf.

Digital information columns on every floor provide orientation and information. Visitors can search for media and locate their whereabouts in the building, pinpointing their exact position on an enlarged plan. They also indicate the events happening in the library, and the different themed areas.

Foyer Ground Floor

In the foyer of the City Library you will find an information and service desk, and help in finding your way around, together with the first two of the library's collections in the Studiolo Generale and Gallery b.



Information Desk

This is where library staff will give you basic information about the building, or point you to specialists in the individual sections. Audio guides giving you an introduction to how to use the library, and information about the library's architecture, are available here.

Borrowing and Return

There is a self-service system for borrowing and return. There is also a self-service machine on every floor.

Sorting of Returned Items

Returned items are automatically transported to the different floors.

Reservations

Reserved books and other media are available for self-service collection.

Finding your Way Around

Information boards and interactive information points help you to get your bearings, and show you where to find the media or service you are looking for.

Search

There are special workstations on the ground floor where you can search the electronic catalogue to help you find the media or topics you are looking for.

In the "Scriptorium" you can make quick searches on the internet; you also have access to a database of international daily newspapers.

Scriptorium

In the middle ages, the scriptorium was a writing room in which texts were copied. Similarly, a computer now copies and saves any text. To symbolise the link between traditional written culture and digital culture, we are calling these search stations Scriptorium.

Newspapers

Around 90 daily newspapers from around the world are available on the ground floor.

Studiolo Generale

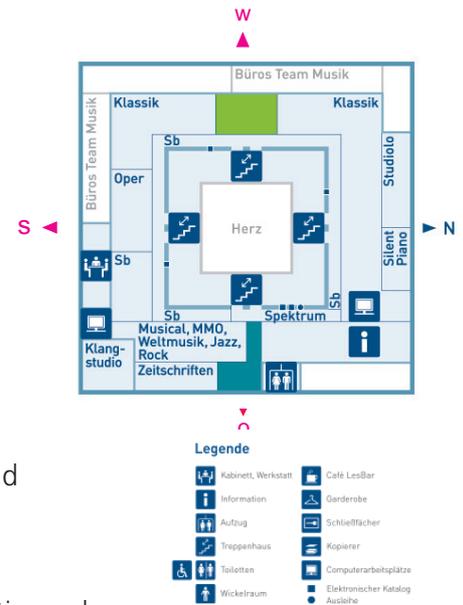
The Studiolo Generale acts as a first port of call to the thematic content of the library. It gives you a deeper knowledge of interdisciplinary themes, and at the same time reflects the idea of the Studiolo on each floor of the library.

Gallery b

Gallery b is an exhibition area for visual language, video and internet art. Sophisticated international exhibits are displayed on 16 large screens at the intersections of text - image - code.

Music Section 1st floor

The Music Library now has a floor to itself in the City Library at Mailänder Platz, having been housed externally since 1995. It is one of the largest and most important public music libraries in the whole of Germany, and is a meeting point and centre for music for all music enthusiasts - amateurs and professionals alike. It plays an important role in the musical life of Stuttgart, and is closely linked with the musical institutions in the city and the surrounding area.



Media Collection 100,000 items

Sheet music, CDs, DVDs, books, magazines, CD-ROMs of every style, era and level of complexity

Spektrum

Basic information about music, with important introductory and characteristic works

Children's View - "Music for Children"

Sheet music, CDs, child-friendly introductory music books

Young Library

Music for young people aged 12 and over, with the focus on studies at school

Studiolo - "Music in and around Stuttgart"

Documentation and coverage of musical life in Stuttgart and the surrounding area; largest collection in the region of sound recordings from the current music scene in Stuttgart; news and information about the current season of the Stuttgart State Opera

Sound Studio

The Sound Studio combines the analogue with the digital.

Experience music: playback options for LPs, digitised LPs, CDs and sound files, digitisation programs

Make music: notation software, software for scanning sheet music and composing, keyboard

Study music: search the music database

Silent Piano

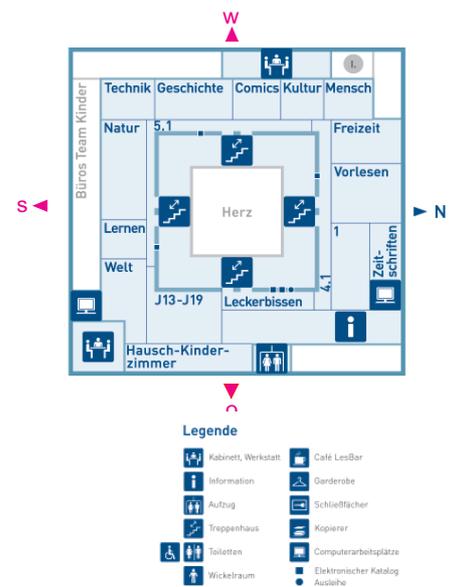
Play sheet music and check it out

Josephine Lang Room

Meeting room for workshops and study groups

Children's Section 2nd Floor

One of the important aims of the children's libraries in the Stuttgart City Library is to allow the children to interact with media of all kinds - in own way. The Children's Section in the City Library at Mailänder Platz encourages comprehensive literacy in terms of books as well as audiovisual and digital media. It strengthens digital literacy, which means also improving media skills. The provision of the section takes account of the fact that every child has different (learning) needs, and may be moulded by a different culture. The Stuttgart children's libraries have close links with the educational institutions of the city, and make a contribution to the child-friendliness of Stuttgart.



Media collection (projected) 60,000 media items

Spectrum – “Goodies”

Recommendations by children for children

Studiolo – “Hausch Children’s Room”

The Hausch Children’s Room gives children a relaxed atmosphere in which to enjoy literature recommended for every child’s room. Children make themselves at home in this public space. This concept was made possible by a generous donation by the C. + G. Hausch Foundation.

Theme Islands

These cube-shaped theme islands contain material for children on a number of themes: “reading”, “leisure”, “people”, “culture”, “history”, “technology”, “nature”, learning” and “world”. Inside the theme boxes there is a small intimate space where children can experience different media, and enjoy the ever-changing entertainment by children for children.

Parents’ Table

A place for parents to meet up

Children’s Table

A place for children to meet up

Reading Land

Picture books to browse through and enjoy, on every subject in the world

Comic Island

The kingdom of reading for all strip cartoon fans

Workshop

Space for creative media activities with children

Jella Lepman Room

Space for reading promotion activities and workshops

Leseohren e.V.

This association co-ordinates the Stuttgart reading buddies, one of the largest and longest established reading projects in Germany. More than 380 reading buddies go and read with children in kindergartens, schools and libraries in Stuttgart. The Association has its headquarters in the Children’s Section of the City Library at Mailänder Platz.

Life Section 3rd Floor

The Life Section includes the following topics: "psychology", "medicine", "education", "religion" and "philosophy", as well as the department of "sport and leisure". The focus within the topics is on "early years education", "adult education", "care" and "sport and play". The comprehensive range of media in the section provides orientation, information and excitement for people searching for the right pieces to fit into their personal jigsaw-puzzle of life.

Media Collection (projected) 80,000 items

Spectrum

Personal recommendations, classics, original titles, and books that people have been discussing

Children's View

Interesting material on topics for parents and children

Young Library – "Life"

Books and magazines for young people about how they live their lives; tips about relationships, bullying, drugs and addiction, search for the meaning of life, hobbies, fashion and accessories, living and furnishing their homes.

Studiolo

Text books for non-academic occupations in "medicine", "education", "adult education", "home economics" and "sport";

Musing and puzzling – hand-crafted large-format puzzles and brain games to help you "think with your hands" and relax;

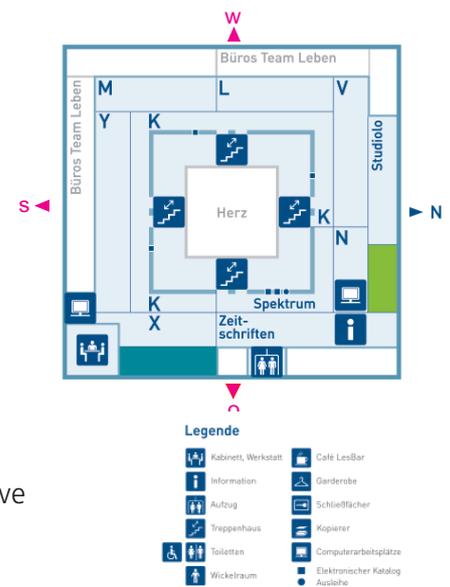
Listen and learn – a special archive of knowledge

Games

All kinds of games, from board games to group games to computer and console games

Max Horkheimer Room

Meeting room for workshops and study groups



Knowledge Section 4th Floor

The Knowledge Section includes the following themes: "media", "law", "social sciences", "economics", "mathematics", "natural sciences", "technology", "crafts" and "IT". It provides a highly informative range of material for everyone who is looking for clear facts, objective analysis, solid arguments and lively discussion.

Media Collection (projected) 80,000 items

Spectrum

Special selection of recommended titles

Children's View

Interesting material on the topics for parents and children

Young Library – "Springboard"

Stimulating ideas for young people and young adults who are making the transition from school to work

Studiolo – "Floods of data"

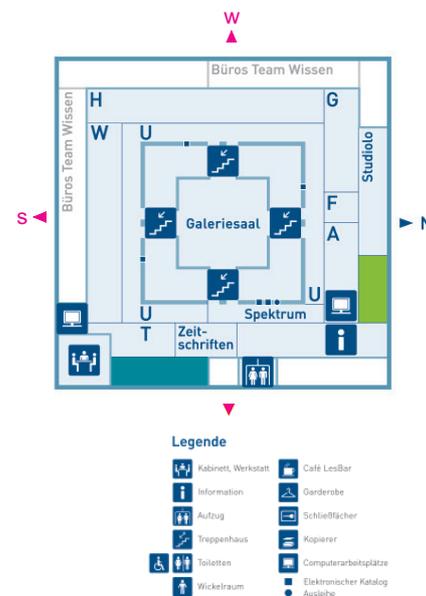
Detailed information about the balance between freedom of information and data protection

Search Stations on the Shelves

Spatial connection between printed texts and digital media: notebooks with direct access to databases, press reports, e-books, e-learning courses, and a selection of websites

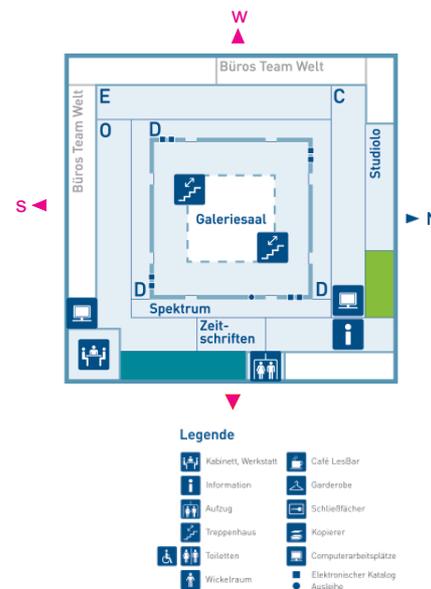
Maria von Linden Room

Meeting room for workshops and study groups



World Section 5th floor

The World Section contains material about countries and cultures, their geography and politics, history and language, as well as literature in foreign languages. One of the main themes is the tension between home and abroad. Stuttgart and Baden-Württemberg are the areas under the spotlight. The City Library's provision contributes to intercultural communication and mutual understanding. Language is an essential prerequisite for understanding, so visitors will find extensive material to help them learn languages, especially the German language.



Media Collection (projected) 80,000 items

Spectrum

Personal recommendations and current titles

Children's View

A place where children and parents can discover the world

Young Library

Literature for young people in the foreign languages learned at school – English, French, Spanish

Studiolo

Information about Stuttgart: history of the city, town planning, development of the town, town-twinning schemes;

New horizons – longing for distant places: voyages of discovery, historic accounts of voyages, cultural history of travel, cartography

Gallery

Fiction in 25 original foreign languages

Carl Engelhorn Room

Meeting room for workshops and study groups

Literature Section 6th Floor and Gallery 4th Floor, 6th Floor and 7th Floor

The Literature Section includes the study and history of literature, with about authors and their work, about national literatures and literary genres, and interpretation guides to help students. Novels, poetry, drama, fairy stories and legends, epic poems and complete works are to be found in the gallery. There is also an extensive range of audio books in various kinds of media. The "Literature Scene" provides a forum for the literary life of Stuttgart and environs. The range of material is complemented by literary events: the series "World literature rediscovered" involves actors and narrators reading works from world literature.

Media Collection 80,000 items

Children's View

A canon of children's classics that mirror the development of children's literature.

Young Library

Novels and stories for young people – gripping, entertaining and critical, literary trends

Studiolo – "Exquisite and rare"

Correspondence, works in bibliophile editions

Large-print Books and Screen Reader

For people with impaired vision

Gallery 4th floor

Literature Scene

Authors from Stuttgart and the surrounding area, literary prize winners and scholarship holders

Guests' Library

Presentation copies that recall significant literary events in the City Library.

Gallery 6th floor

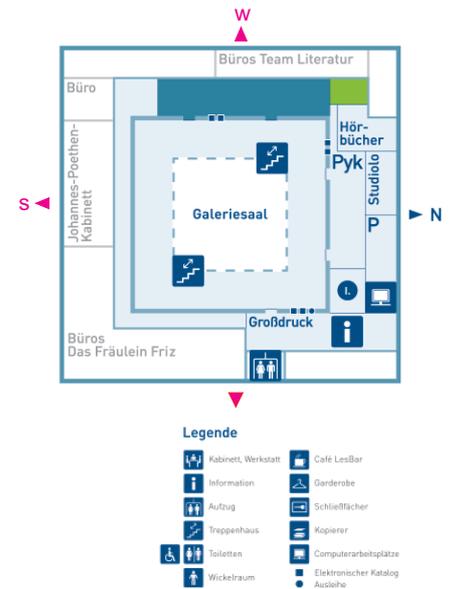
Detective novels, fantasy, science fiction, prose collections, fairy stories and legends, epic poems, poetry, drama, complete works

Gallery 7th floor

Novels and stories

Johannes Poethen Room

Room for meetings



Art Section 8th Floor

The Graphotheque in the Art Section brings together different kinds of art – classical and contemporary art, photography and multimedia, architecture, design, fashion, dance, theatre and film – in an exciting visual experience. Hand in hand with the collection, there are themes from the municipal, regional and international art scene, theatre and film, as well as current trends in fashion and design. Film enthusiasts will find a selection of films on DVD from a century of film history.

Media Collection (projected) 25,000 items

Spectrum

Special selection of recommended titles

Children's View

Interesting material on topics for parents and children

Young Library

Comics, graphic novels, tips on drawing manga and comic strips, films for young people, and hip-hop and breakdancing films to dance to

Studiolo

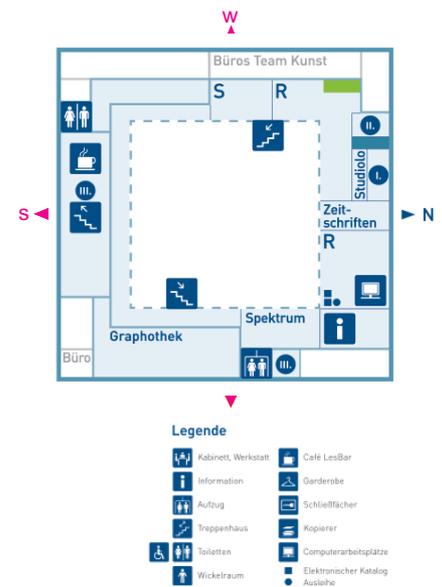
Range of material about film and film theory, special works from the history of film to watch, and film reviews to listen to

Online Animation Library

Thanks to a unique co-operation between the Film und Medienfestival gGmbH, the Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg, and Stuttgart City Library, the comprehensive film archive of the Festival of Animated Film has been digitised and made available in an online library. The animations can be viewed on three specially fitted stations. The project partners are planning regular related events and workshops.

Graphotheque

In the Graphotheque you will find more than 2,500 original graphics by more than 1,100 artists available to borrow. The aim is to generate interest in the wider public in modern and contemporary art, and illustrate current developments in the art scene. Special presentations and opportunities to meet the artists provide a forum for further discussion on current topics in art.



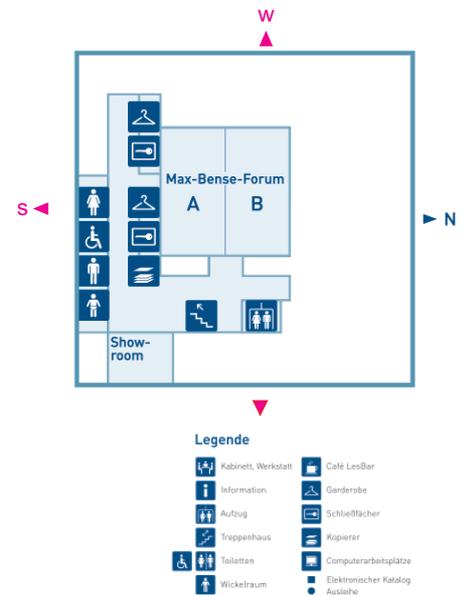
Lower Ground Floor 1

Max Bense Forum

The Max Bense Forum is a meeting place for authors, artists and academics from all over the world. The City Library is working in close co-operation with the cultural and educational institutions from the town and region to promote literature, humanities and science, as well as awareness of other cultures. The City Library invites everyone on a voyage of discovery, or rediscovery – of world literature, young authors or experimental literature. It presents recent publications on current topics, embraces philosophical debate, and encourages the dialogue on fundamental aspects of the future development of our society. The capacity of the Max Bense Forum is 300 people, and the space can also be divided into two smaller rooms.

Showroom

Computers and all digital technologies are alphabet-based, just like the library. In order to understand the digital world, people need a degree of literacy; this will be a new emphasis in the services offered by the City Library. Small it may be, but this showroom with its top-spec computers is a room for discourse, a laboratory, creative world and digital architecture.



Facts and Figures

State Capital Stuttgart
Cultural Office
Stadtbibliothek am Mailänder Platz
Mailänder Platz 1
70173 Stuttgart
Tel. +49 (0)711/216-91100
www.stuttgart.de/stadtbibliothek

Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
24 hour nighttime return of borrowed items and Library for Insomniacs

Contents

Projected - 500,000 media items
Currently available - 460,000 media items

Media Devices

112 portable and 28 fixed PC workstations with internet access
60 search PCs
20 portable netbooks for events
27 portable CD players

Human Resources

150 staff in 100 positions

Milestones / Dates

Decision by City Council on concept, space allocation and two-phase architectural design competition	2 June 1998
Result of competition Winning design Yi Architects Cologne/Seoul	15 June 1999
Land acquisition	29 October 2003
Decision on pre-project by City Council	13 May 2004
Decision on project by City Council	27 July 2006
Decision on construction by City Council	16 September 2008
Start of construction / Groundbreaking ceremony	8 November 2008
Ceremonial laying of cornerstone	5 June 2009
Topping out	12 May 2010
Official opening / Commissioning City Library Stuttgart	24 October 2011

Project data

Area of plot	3,201 m ²
Assignable space	11,525 m ²
Gross floor space	20,225 m ²
Gross cubic capacity	98,249 m ³
Dimensions of building l x w x h	44 m x 44 m x 40 m
Number of storeys	9 storeys + roof terrace 2 lower ground floor levels
Grassed lawn area	1,300 m ²
Total cost	79.0 million €

Client / User

Client:	State Capital Stuttgart Lord Mayor's Portfolio
Project management:	State Capital Stuttgart Department of Technology Building Department
Project control:	Drees + Sommer, Stuttgart
User:	State Capital Stuttgart Department of Culture, Education and Sport Cultural Office
Property management:	State Capital Stuttgart Department of Economics, Finance and Investment Office of Real Estate and Residential Property

Planning / Consultancy

Architect:	Yi Architects	Cologne / Seoul
Structural engineering:	Boll und Partner	Stuttgart
Electrical engineering:	Conplaning	Ulm
Building services engineering (HVAC):	Rentschler + Riedesser	Filderstadt
Conveying systems engineering:	Werner Schwarz	Stuttgart
Lightning protection engineering:	EnBW Regional	Stuttgart
Building physics / energy systems:	EGS-Plan	Stuttgart

Fire safety consultants:	HHP Nord-Ost HHP Süd	Braunschweig Ludwigshafen
Safety co-ordination:	Dekra Umwelt	Stuttgart
Geology:	Dr. Spang Smoltczyk + Partner	Esslingen Stuttgart
Geothermal energy:	geon	Stuttgart
Landscape design:	Gänßle + Hehr	Esslingen

Facilities

Furniture and fittings:	Totems Communication	Stuttgart
Shelving:	ekz bibliotheksservice Tojo Möbel	Reutlingen Schorndorf
Joinery:	Fleiner Möbel Füchsle Schreinerwerkstätten VHB – Vereinigte Holzbaubetriebe Westermann	Stuttgart Steinheim-Albuch Memmingen Denkendorf
Seating and tables:	Arper Zeitraum Performa	Monastier di Treviso (I) Wolftrathausen Heilbronn
Sorting systems:	mk Sorting Systems Swisslog	Troisdorf Buchs (CH)
Self-service check-out system	EasyCheck	Göppingen
Print management	Schomäcker	Cologne
Signage system	Totems Communication Netvico Karl Jehle Werbetechnik JVA Heimsheim	Stuttgart Stuttgart Böblingen Heimsheim



Stadtbibliothek am Mailänder Platz

Mailänder Platz 1

70173 Stuttgart

0711/216-91100

www.stuttgart.de/stadtbibliothek/.