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## **FIVE ACADEMIC LIBRARIES' ICONIC DESIGNS WIN LIBRARY JOURNAL'S 2012 NEW LANDMARK LIBRARIES Goucher College Athenaeum in Baltimore Takes Top Honors**

New York, NY-- Five academic libraries were selected by a panel of judges as *Library Journal's* New Landmark Libraries for 2012. The New Landmark Libraries project, introduced in 2011, identifies trendsetting library buildings across the country. The awards are based on overall design and construction excellence, response to community context and constraints, sustainability, functionality, innovation, beauty and delight, and more.

Top honors went to Goucher Athenaeum, Goucher College in Baltimore, MD (Architect: RMJM/Hillier), followed by the Berkeley Law Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA (Architect: Ratcliff Architects), William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (Architect: Acock Associates Architects; Design Architect: Gund Partnership), South Mountain Community Library, Phoenix, AZ (Architect: richãrd+bauer architecture), and the Lemieux Library and McGoldrick Learning Commons, Seattle University, Seattle, WA (Architect: Pfeiffer Partners Architects, Inc.; Associate Architect: Mithun).

Goucher College Athenaeum in Baltimore received first place for its impressive architecture and creative spaces. According to college librarian Nancy Magnuson, the building is a student forum or crossroads, "anchored by a state-of-the-art library." That notion is transformative. The Goucher Athenaeum opened in 2009 and serves a campus of 1,827 students.

"Each of these winning libraries stood out in terms of the final project but also because of their process in arriving at the final design – the discussions with stakeholders, the focus on the needs of students and the success in overcoming challenges," said Francine Fialkoff, *Library Journal's* Editor-in-Chief. "These New Library Landmarks reinterpret the definition, concept and functionality of the traditional academic library."

"A number of trends came to the forefront during the selection process," Fialkoff continued. "Treating the library as a gathering place, understanding the value of partnerships, connecting the campus—physically, technologically and environmentally—reconsidering the use of light, recognizing how pedestrians make use of space in and around libraries, understanding the needs of the whole student, reimagining collections spaces and incorporating flexibility, integrating IT services, and meeting and exceeding LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) standards were all themes evident in the winning libraries."

Innovation in overcoming spatial constraints landed the Berkeley Law Library of the University of California, Berkeley, in second place. Although 55,000 square feet were added to the library, only 11,000 of those square feet are above ground. The other 44,000 square feet are found on two subterranean floors

that are filled with natural sunlight from glass paving and skylights. Practical yet aesthetically pleasing design features including sound minimizing cork flooring, moveable glass walls and a rooftop garden round out this successful major expansion.

Coming in third place was the William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library at Ohio State University in Columbus. Instead of enlarging the already 306,000 square foot library, stakeholders agreed after five years of planning that the existing space should be refocused and used to its full potential. Before its opening in 2009, the interior and exterior of the building saw dramatic changes. The renovations have allowed for a more library-centric campus and eased pedestrian traffic flow.

The dual-purpose South Mountain Community Library in Phoenix was selected by the judges for fourth place. The library serves as both the Maricopa County Community College District and Phoenix Public Library. Serving a student population of 6,354 and 62,000 community members, the 51,600 square foot building was constructed to encourage interaction between the two groups. Ease of navigation and fun, playful designs also help to make this library special. (Last year, the Palo Verde Library and Maryvale Community Center in Phoenix was named a New Landmark Library in the first public library competition.)

The purpose of the Lemieux Library and McGoldrick Learning Commons at Seattle University in Seattle, WA, was to create a multipurpose space not only for learning, but also for socializing and exploring. This ten-year, \$55 million dollar project earned fifth place as a New Landmark Library. The structure now houses quiet and active spaces for students to work, computer labs, a media production center, writing center, math lab and more. Along with all of these new features, the architects kept the white marble façade and double helix staircase loved by the campus community.

Honorable mentions were also awarded to the Science and Engineering Library, Columbia University, New York (Architect: Rafael Moneo Vallés Arquitecto; Associate Architect: Davis Brody Bond, LLP) and the University of Arizona Poetry Center, Tucson, AZ (Architect: Line and Space, LLC).

The Science and Engineering Library at Columbia University was cited for its state-of-the-art high-rise interdisciplinary laboratory design that mixes high-end workspaces with more traditional print materials, making it a draw for students beyond the science and engineering curricula.

The University of Arizona Poetry Center in Tucson, located in the Sonoran Desert, is water-wise, energy efficient, and features solar shading. In addition, the center offers an apartment for visiting poets, along with writing and research space within feet of the University of Arizona's contemporary poetry collection.

The 2012 judging panel was headed by Louise Schaper, project lead on the New Landmark Libraries. Schaper, a library consultant and distinguished visiting librarian, New Orleans Public Library, built the Fayetteville Public Library, AR, as executive director there. This year's judges included Tim de Noble, AIA, professor and dean, APDesign/Kansas State University, Manhattan; Charles Forrest, director, Library Facilities, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University Libraries, Atlanta; Toni Garvey, consultant, retired Phoenix City Librarian; Traci Lesneski, CID, LLED AP BD+C, principal, head of interiors, MS&R Ltd., Minneapolis; Brian Matthews, associate dean for learning and outreach, Virginia Tech Libraries, Blacksburg; and Carol Terry, director of library services, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence.

Submissions for the 2012 New Landmark Libraries were solicited for academic libraries constructed between 2007 and 2011. Full details on the 2012 winners can be found in the July issue of *Library Journal* and at [www.libraryjournal.com/nll2012](http://www.libraryjournal.com/nll2012). DEMCO and DEMCO Interiors are the Official

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