The Hunt Library at Age Three: Lessons for Your Library Spaces

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Outline of Today’s Presentation

1 Introduction and Background
2 Overview of Hunt Library
3 Lessons Learned
4 Questions/Discussion
Introduction and Background

or, a little about me...

I studied architecture at UVA (undergraduate) and Princeton (graduate)...)
Introduction and Background

…in these Architecture School buildings.

Campbell Hall at UVA (opened 1970)  School of Architecture building at Princeton (opened 1963)

Introduction and Background

I practiced architecture in Greensboro, NC for over 15 years...
Introduction and Background

...and designed several major public library projects.
Introduction and Background

In 2009, I joined the staff of the NCSU Libraries.

Overview of Hunt Library

Architects: Snøhetta (Oslo and New York) and Clark Nexsen (Raleigh).
225,000 square feet gross area (20,900 square meters).

1,750 user seats within Libraries-controlled space.
$115 million total project budget, not including private donations and corporate partnerships.
First floor lobby.

The bookBot (automated storage and retrieval system). 9,100 square feet (845 square meters).
LEVELS 2 AND 3

- EAST ENTRY
- MULTIPURPOSE
- LOBBY / GALLERY
- THIRD FLOOR (ABOVE BOOKBOT)
- GROUP STUDY ROOMS
- QUIET READING ROOM
- TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE
- RAIN GARDEN READING LOUNGE

Second floor lobby.
Second floor lobby. Custom bench by Matthias Pliessnig.

Ask Us service point below MicroTile video wall.
6. Consider building full-size mockups of key areas such as service points to determine size, configuration, furniture, technology and staffing.

LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE DESIGN PHASE

Ask Us service point. 430 square feet (40 square meters).
Ask Us branding on signage and control panels.

Technology Showcase.
Technology Showcase.

Immersion Theater. 365 square feet (34 square meters).
Mural by José Parlá.

Rain Garden Reading Lounge.
Quiet Reading Room. 6,300 square feet (585 square meters).
Quiet Reading Room.

Quiet Reading Room.
Quiet Reading Room.

LEVELS 2 AND 3

- Quiet Reading Room
- Group Study Rooms
- Lobby / Gallery
- Third Floor (Above BookBot)
- Multipurpose
- Technology Showcase
- East Entry
- Rain Garden Reading Lounge
Group Study Room.

Group Study Room and Idea Alcove.
Print/Copy/Scan.

Game Lab. 670 square feet (62 square meters).
Students develop software in the Hunt Library Game Lab.
LEVEL 4

- MicroTile video wall.
- OPEN TO RAIN
- GARDEN READING
- LOUNGE BELOW
- FISHBOWL
- IEI OFFICES
- GRADUATE STUDENT COMMONS
- CREATIVITY STUDIO
- TEACHING & VISUALIZATION LAB
- GROUP STUDY ROOMS
- OVAL VIEW READING LOUNGE
- OPEN TO RAIN GARDEN READING LOUNGE BELOW
- LEARNING COMMONS
MicroTile video wall.

Teaching and Visualization Lab. 1,470 square feet (136 square meters).
Creativity Studio. 1,900 square feet (176 square meters).
Makerspace. 150 square feet (14 square meters).
Videoseminar Room. 385 square feet (36 square meters).

Videoseminar Room with Cisco TelePresence TX9000.
Entrance to Graduate Student Commons. 5,770 square feet (536 square meters).
Media Production Studios.

Music Room.
Fishbowl Classroom. 465 square feet (43 square meters).
LEVEL 5

- Fishbowl Classroom
- Library Staff Offices
- Roof Terrace
- University Offices
- Faculty Research Commons
- Roof Garden
- Skyline Reading Room
Faculty Research Commons. 4,610 square feet (428 square meters).
Faculty Research Commons.

Skyline Reading Room (East). 2,410 square feet (225 square meters).
Skyline Reading Room (South). 3,245 square feet (300 square meters).

Skyline Terrace.
Skyline Terrace.

3 Lessons Learned
What have we learned in the three years since Hunt Library opened?

- A few lessons learned (based on things we got right).

- A few other lessons (based on things we didn’t get quite right).
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED
(based on things we got right)

1. Develop a clear vision for your project.
2. Hire the best project team you can find.
3. Question assumptions.
4. Use experts and artists for special aspects of your project.
5. Use mockups and testing to assist with decision-making.
6. If you can’t find what you want, have it custom-built.
7. Use bold colors and a variety of furniture to create unique places.
8. Details matter.

A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

1. Develop a strong, clear vision for your project. Promote that vision as much as you can.

“We plan for the Hunt Library to be nothing less than the best learning and collaborative space in the nation.”

Susan K. Nutter, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries
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A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

2. Hire the best project team you can find. Be creative in the selection process.

The six design firms selected as finalists.

Images from the weekend charrette, November 10-12, 2007.
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A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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2007 Master Plan. Library site is #12.

A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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Typical academic buildings in prominent locations.
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

3. Question assumptions.

Massing studies for alternate sites.

A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

3. Question assumptions.

Final site plan.
“A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS”
Ohio State University Architecture Competition, 1985

Michael Graves
Cesar Pelli
Arthur Erickson
Kallman, McKinnell & Knowles
Eisenman/Robertson

A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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Graphic designer Alex Isley and his work on Hunt Library.
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

4. Use experts and artists for special aspects of your project.

Furniture designer Matthias Pliessnig and the "Cascade" bench commissioned for Hunt Library.

A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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Artist José Parlá and “The Nature of Language” painting commissioned for Hunt Library.
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5. Use mockups and testing to assist with decision-making.

Full-scale mockup of Ask Us service point at D. H. Hill Library.

A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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Ask Us service point.
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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Study pods on third floor.

A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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Study pod precedent, University of Edinburgh.
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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Full-scale study pod mockups at D. H. Hill Library.

Study pods on third floor.
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Development of custom design for coffee bar in staff Collaboration Hub.

Custom coffee bar in staff Collaboration Hub.
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A FEW LESSONS LEARNED
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Barcelona Chair in Rain Garden Reading Lounge.
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED
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Tom Dixon Wing Chair, third floor.

Spun chair in Game Lab.
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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Dauphin Perillo chairs on fourth floor.

Segis Highway bench on fourth floor.
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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Bernhardt Item sofa in Skyline Reading Room.

chairofhuntlibrary.tumblr.com

Chairhunt book
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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The yellow stairs.
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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Artwork
Donor signage
Trash/recycling receptacles (other than the standard plastic version)
Clocks
Freestanding sign holders and brochure racks
AED cabinets
Indoor plants
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

8. Details matter.

Custom wheelchair enclosure at Hunt Library.
A FEW LESSONS LEARNED

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A FEW OTHER LESSONS
(based on things we didn’t get quite right)

1. Include some unprogrammed space to accommodate future needs. You may need to designate this with a creative name on the floor plans.

2. If you are sharing the building with other agencies or departments, document the use of shared spaces in as much detail as possible. Review building hours, service access, visitor wayfinding, and use of furniture and equipment.

3. If your project includes markerboard walls and/or writeable glass, avoid white-painted walls and white tabletop surfaces unless they are protected by glass tops.

4. Location of locks on frameless glass doors can be problematic.

5. Acoustic separation between study rooms and staff offices is critical. Walls between these rooms should extend to the structure above, not stop above the ceiling. Rooms with frameless glass are not soundproof, no matter how well-insulated the other walls are. Consider sound masking technology in these rooms.

6. A/V equipment installation and programming can take much longer than anyone predicts. Consider including this work in the general contractor’s scope. Also, plan extra cooling for audiovisual equipment (more than the manufacturer recommends).

7. If your project is high-visibility, prepare for lots of visitors and design the building accordingly.
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AS-BUILT PROGRAM

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<td>6.5%</td>
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LIBRARY

INSTITUTE FOR EMERGING ISSUES

OFFICE SPACE FOR UNIVERSITY CENTERS

SHARED (LOBBIES, AUDITORIUM, ETC.)

BUILDING SERVICES

A FEW OTHER LESSONS

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A FEW OTHER LESSONS

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Markerboard wallcovering

Painted wall
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RESOURCES
Hunt Library tours and Symposium
www.lib.ncsu.edu/visit
RESOURCES
Learning Space Toolkit
learningspacetoolkit.org

Thank You!

Patrick Deaton
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Questions/Discussion