

THE UF **ARCHITECTURE & FINE ARTS LIBRARY**

Authors

Ann Lindell

Director, Architecture and Fine Arts Library

Alan Asher

Music Librarian



A Place for the Study of the Arts & Design



1960 Architectural Rendering

LIBRARY

AFA ARCHITECTURE STYLE:

Classic elements of mid-century modern interiors include clean lines, muted tones, natural materials and window elements that help to integrate the interior space with the outdoor environment. Function is prioritized, and ornament is streamlined and minimal.

STACKS

HISTORY

The Architecture and Fine Arts (AFA) Library, located in the multi-building Fine Arts Complex, opened in 1965 with holdings of about 20,000 volumes. Fine Arts Building A, designed by the firm Kemp, Bunch, and Jackson, also bears the name Weaver Hall in honor of Rudolph Weaver, architect of the Board of Regents and long-time advocate for the creation of the AFA Library. Curated under the influence of Dean Turpin Bannister, a founder of the Society of Architectural Historians, AFA Library's substantive core collection included unique items ranging from 16th century imprints to a rare portfolio of Frank Lloyd Wright drawings. Today, with over 130,000 print volumes and an array of other formats, AFA Library is one of the largest arts and design library collections in the Southeastern United States.

A UNIQUE SPACE ON CAMPUS

Conceived originally as part of a building complex serving what was then the College of Architecture & Fine Arts, Fine Arts A was designed to house both college administration on the ground floor and a library on the top two floors.



Brame Heck Architects Architectural rendering

FAST FORWARD NEARLY 50 YEARS....

In 2013, with both the AFA Library and the Music Library at capacity, in terms of space for staff, collections and services, both the music collections (books, scores, recordings) and the Music Librarian, were incorporated into the AFA Library. This was achieved through a year of intensive planning that included transferring infrequently used collections to other libraries or to off-campus storage. After these substantive changes, this well-used, popular library also needed an update to spaces designed before the need for data infrastructure and heavy electrical load. We wanted to stay true to the architectural style, while providing updated infrastructure and new features, including:

- **Redesigned service, consultation, and related staff spaces**
- **Custom fixtures for display of new books and exhibition of special materials**
- **Creation of a multipurpose space to house special collections, and function as a meeting, event, and instruction space**
- **Tasteful solutions for hiding data and power cabling**



Before redesign



Mid-renovation view of now-hidden cables



After redesign



Library staff conceived these changes during design meetings to produce quick drawings and computer sketches, which were then translated into plans and custom designed fixtures by architect, Mick Richmond, Brame Heck Architects. We designed a custom service area and desk in keeping with the mid-century interior aesthetic while meeting 21st century technology needs, and providing hidden data cable, tasteful shelving to match course reserves needs, additional staff spaces, technology and storage closets, and custom fixtures for exhibits and displays. Mindful details included custom



Fig.1 - Materials samples

lighting fixtures for service areas to echo the design of original fixtures in the reading room. Columns were faced with wood paneling

to match the library walls, while concealing data and power cable.

Additionally, this renovation converted storage and closed stacks areas into a functional showpiece—a flexible gathering space featuring a glass storefront wall, custom-built shelving for special collections, updated technology (a 90” monitor with computer and air media, video-conferencing capabilities) and versatile furniture to accommodate a variety of meetings, classes, and events (Fig.3).

COLLECTIONS & SERVICES

The collections of the AFA Library primarily support academic programs associated with the College of Design, Construction & Planning and the College of the Arts. In addition to bound volumes (books, journals, musical scores), the library holds over 12,000 sound and video recordings. While over the years many of AFA’s rare materials have been moved to Smathers Libraries Special and Area Studies Collections for better preservation, the library continues to hold special materials that are used

for research and teaching, such as the limited edition of Josef Albers’ *Interaction of Color* (Fig.2), containing 80 screen printed color studies and




Fig.2 - Interaction of Color

published exercises used frequently to teach color theory. Additionally, there is a small materials sample collection of interest to design and materials science researchers (Fig.1).

A range of imaging equipment is available for our creative clientele, including many specialized tools such as a 3D scanner, 35mm slide and film scanner, large format drum scanner, rapid scanner for books and pages, as well as many large flatbed scanners. Additionally, many computers loaded with production and creative software are located throughout the building.

AFA Library functions through the skilled work of three librarians, three additional full-time staff, and several student employees involved in a variety of public service, collection management, and technical service activities.

In closing, the AFA Library’s specializations and size continue to make it an important university, state, and regional resource. The library’s unique space and seating options are fondly remembered by alumni, and continually impress visitors. Our hallmark double-decker carrels, popular with students, dominate the wood-clad, 20-foot ceilinged reading room (Fig.4). While generally a quiet space, the AFA Library reading room is enlivened with the activities of individuals inspired to enrich the world with their creative efforts. 

www.afa.uflib.ufl.edu

BRIDGING form & function

Window artwork
created by a
Spring 2021 class,
ART 3521C—
Site Specific Painting,
taught by Professor
Julia Morrisroe



Above Fig.3 - Redesigned space becomes functional showpiece

Below: Fig.4 - Modern academic technology in a mid-century space





AFA exterior & bridge

SOURCE

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These stories of the special UF Libraries Spaces will continue and offer new perspectives on our themes of legacy, stewardship, inclusion, discovery, & community.

OUR SPECIAL SERIES ON LIBRARIES SPACES CONTINUES WITH TIMELESS STORIES ON:

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IN LIBRARIES**

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**HEALTH SCIENCE
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