



AALL Spectrum 9th Annual Architecture Series

Practical Innovation

By Mark E. Estes

Library space planning intrigues me. I always want to know how the designer addressed the unique needs of the library using the limited resources available. The projects submitted for the 9th Annual Architectural Series demonstrate that law librarians know how to be innovative in solving that problem.

This edition highlights the need to innovate to be green, to stretch budget dollars, and to make the best use of space: a law school, Penn State's Dickinson School of Law, and a law firm, O'Melveny & Myers San Francisco, both aim for LEED certification; a new decentralized library at Bose McKinney & Evans emphasizes green; a complex logistical remodel at Regent University; and a remodel from physical to largely virtual at Sutherland in Washington, D.C.

Kevin Gray describes the new H. Laddie Montague Jr. Law Library in the Lewis Katz Building at Dickinson School of Law's University Park location—truly a stunning building.

Holly Riccio traces the 20-year innovative transition of the San Francisco office of O'Melveny & Myers from small to large to small and then to a new level of community space within what is expected to become a LEED-certified law office.

Change drove the design of the Bose McKinney & Evans LLP library from a largely centralized collection to a decentralized one. Cheryl Niemeier walks us through the planning and includes user reactions to the new spaces.

New carpeting gave Regent University Law Library the opportunity for a major remodel. Margaret Christiansen sketches how the library staff managed the project with minimal disruption to students.

Competing demands on space forced the Sutherland D.C. library to quickly transform itself. Sarah Stephens walks us through the compressed timeline, design decisions, and change management solutions.

With each edition, I get at least one idea that I can use to solve a space issue at my library. I think you will find a few useful ideas, too. ■