

Category:  
Commercial

CLIENT:  
The Trustees & Librarians  
of the Guille-Alles Library

ARCHITECTS:  
CCD Architects  
Trafalgar House,  
Le Petit Bouet,  
St Peter Port

CONTRACTOR:  
R&D de Jersey

# The Children's Library Project



The brief, developed with the Librarians, was to create inspiring spaces, improve accessibility, increase book space, improve lighting/solar, harmonise with the historic building and connect to the public.

Children at the edge of the reading experience (with Dyslexia/Autism) were considered; techniques like individually dimmable lamps, a Tovertafel ceiling projector, and a variety of different size spaces (for large or small groups, parent/child or individuals) cater for whatever a child needs to feel comfortable.

The design is innovative and unique to the Library. Full height walls of shelving, embracing the high ceilings and increasing display space, are accessed via flying-walkways, staircases and gantries, evoking grand C19th libraries in a playful modern way.

Everything is at child's scale - hidden passages and secret 'nooks' embedded within shelving provide adventure and seclusion (always actually within reach of staff/parents, like a playground).

The rooms are distinct: one; bright/light/open/flexible, the other; darker, focused around the 'tree of knowledge', linked by tactile & robust grass floors.

Seating/lying areas in bay windows (previously blocked by PCs) overlook Market Square, linking to the public realm; the wall to the stairwell is replaced by a glazed screen, with separate adult and children's doors.

Joinery is CNC-cut sustainable FSC Birch Plywood, enabling quick 'flat-pack' assembly, reducing costs/wastage/transport & utilising 98% of sheet material. Plywood details are robust yet warm and easy to modify/repair in future.

The Children's Library Project has been received incredibly positively by users and staff. In Q1 after re-opening, general Library usage increased over 10% and children's loans increased by 32%!

