

Project Location

Munno Para
Shopping Centre
Smithfield
SA

Client

City of Playford:
Paul Alberton
Jacqui Stretton

1_A glass Engine Room at the heart of the library where staff work + service the help desk.
2_The red zone featuring 'noise boxes' for listening to music or viewing music channels + DVDs. Selection joinery cabinets to the sides.

Design

HASSELL Ltd:
Birgit Stroehrer
Raquel Dean
Yan Yan Ho
Jennifer Murray



Schiavello SA Pty Ltd

Chris Went
Rob Whittaker

Area
1000 m²

To date, the Playford Library has received several awards, including a Commendation for Interior Architecture in the Royal Institute of Architecture [SA Chapter] 2005 Awards and an Award of Merit in the Design Institute Awards [SA Chapter] 2004.



PLAYFORD LIBRARY FITOUT

Breaking away from the traditional notion of the library – austere, formal spaces – the new Playford Library embodies an award-winning* design by HASSELL, setting a benchmark for library design.

BOOKMARK THIS SPACE

A fun, energetic space featuring an 'engine room' for staff, a translucent activity cube enlivened by light and super graphics, games consoles, sound poles, children's zones and café - this new library designed for generation next looks and feels more like a music store cross informal café.

Relocating a library into the more visible and accessible Munno Para Shopping Centre in Adelaide, the City of Playford engaged leading design firm HASSELL to develop a space for leisure and relaxation as well as research and learning.

"Our aim was to design a library with a retail focus and an adaptable space that can be reconfigured as services change," explains Jacqui Stretton, Team Manager Library Services, City of Playford. "There was also a focus on convenience, self sufficiency, self-help and self-service, and barrier free customer service. We wanted an open learning environment, with accessible user friendly technology, and a place that would appeal to youth."

HASSELL developed a new direction for the library which demonstrated leading edge technology in a stimulating, fun, relaxed and non-intimidating environment, where a diverse community can engage in learning. According to Raquel Dean from HASSELL, the design was based on a retail bookstore concept that incorporated a music store and promotes café culture with specific zones to cater for a range of users.

The scale of the space and its relationship to the shopping centre were pivotal to the development of the approach taken by the design team.

"Critical aims of the brief were to attract non-traditional users, encourage youth participation, and give back to the community," says Dean. Colour was seen as a strong element in the development of these perceptual aims and defines different activities within the open plan space.

Working with HASSELL, Schiavello's SA Fitout team, as Head Contractors, started with a retail shell. The shell consisted of a bare concrete floor, plasterboard clad walls, suspended tile ceiling and an open shop front [enclosed by shutters]. HASSELL's approach to the design resulted in minimal alterations to the shell to minimise material waste and cost. Only the shutters were replaced by a new shop front to provide secure entry and exit points and a secure display case.

The existing concrete floor was in great condition and in keeping with the non-traditional retail aesthetic, the concrete was grinded back to expose aggregate and polished.

Custom joinery by Schiavello was constructed from laminate and solid surface finishes chosen for durability and low maintenance. Solid surface materials were utilised because they require little maintenance, are not prone to vandalism or damage and rate well on life cycle cost considerations. Bulkheads and partitions were either painted plasterboard or glazed.

Stretton says the site has become more than a library; it's a learning centre which allows people to explore, experience and enjoy.