

A New Home for Berkeley Law

Spacesaver Eclipse Powered Mobile System® helps the University of California, Berkeley Law School house their entire library in one location



Photo By : ©TIMGRIFFITH

THE CHALLENGE

The University of California Berkeley Law School was about to run out of space due to an expansive law library and an influx of new students and faculty.

The law school was founded in 1894 and moved to its current location on the southeast corner of the campus in 1951, becoming a gateway between the school and downtown Berkeley. Boalt Hall was originally built to house student study rooms, classrooms, and faculty offices with just the east wing dedicated to the library. In 1967 Simon Hall was added to the west side of the school and then in 1996 an addition was added on the north side of the building to provide space for more library shelving, along with increased study space for students. In 2006, when the school began to think about adding yet another wing, the existing stacks were at 170% of their capacity.

Over 50 years of expansions resulted in a series of unique additions, giving the school a confused visual identity. The new addition not only needed to provide more space for library collections, students, and faculty, it needed to create a refreshed identity for the school to help them live up to their status as a top five law school. This all had to be accomplished within a small footprint because the allotted space for expansion on the south side of the existing building was limited.

By placing two of the three levels of the new building below grade, the architectural team was able to reduce the physical footprint of the new structure on the existing campus.

To ensure that the new building was able to accommodate the large law library collection, a detailed space analysis was completed through a collaboration between Ratcliff—the architectural firm, Systems and Space—the authorized Spacesaver Representative, and the law school's library staff.

THE SOLUTION

The Eclipse Powered System®, outfitted with cantilever shelving, was selected and used throughout the lowest level (LL2). By placing shelving on carriages that move from side to side, aisles



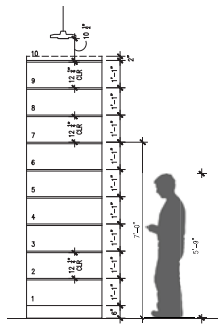
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GROUND
LL1
LL2



Special emphasis was placed on the height of the mobile systems. The shelving on LL2 was designed to use only the first seven tiers of shelving for public access.

Section view of the new Berkeley Law School building



Photo By : ©TIMGRIFFITH

were eliminated. To open an aisle, you simply push a large, easily accessible button.

Special emphasis was placed on the height of the mobile systems. The shelving on LL2 was designed to use only the first seven tiers of shelving for public access. The 10' high units provide three additional tiers of shelving above that for future growth. The Law School also had two closed stacks, which use high-density mobile storage systems. In room 135, the shelving was actually 12' high.

"The additional height of the compact shelving gives the library collection room to expand in order to accommodate future growth," said Joseph Nicola, of Ratcliff, lead architect on the project.

STORAGE SOLVED

By eliminating empty aisles and maximizing shelving height, the team was able to move the entire library collection (close to 875,000 volumes and volume equivalents) to one location, using only 85% of the allotted floor

space on LL2. Because the library collection is housed on LL2, the upper level spaces are used for student study areas, lecture halls, faculty offices, and even a café.

There is a roof-top garden for students, faculty and guests to enjoy and because only one level is above ground, there is limited visual impact on the surrounding buildings--all part of what makes this a LEED® Gold Certified building. In addition, the recycled content value of the mobile storage and fixed steel shelving was \$653,514. With the total recycled content value of this job at \$1.6 million, the shelving contributed close to 40% of the Materials and Resources Credit 4: Recycled Content.

This new library has certainly become a new front door for Berkeley Law.

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