



Supporting a Community Resource

Spacesaver Cantilever Shelving is used at Gateway Community College to Support a Space Used by Both Students and Community Members



THE CHALLENGE

Gateway Community College is located near the heart of Phoenix Arizona, in an area called the Discovery Triangle. This triangle is formed by three points: Arizona State University, Papago Park and downtown Phoenix, and there is a large push to enable a vibrant, innovation-based economy there.

In 2009 Gateway Community College selected SmithGroupJJR to design the Integrated Education Building, a brand new structure that is now the largest on the campus and predicted to achieve LEED® GOLD Certification. The Integrated Education Building houses student services, classrooms, labs, a learning center, multi-purpose/performance space, faculty offices, a café, art room with pottery yard, and the school's library.

The school's old library was too small for the staff to grow the collection. To maintain what they currently housed and hopefully start to grow, the staff felt that the library in the new building needed to contain more square footage for the stacks. In addition, a major initiative for the new library was to create a variety of communal spaces—different seating areas for study, collaboration and work, because this library would serve the local community as well as students.

To accomplish these two major initiatives, a detailed space analysis was needed.

THE SOLUTION

SmithGroupJJR discovered through the space analysis that the square footage originally estimated for the library was not accurate and could be adjusted to better accomplish the two major goals for the space.

The general collection requested for the new library could be comfortable in 2,333 square feet vs. the 4,725 requested. It was also necessary to store the current reference collection which required only 440 square feet. vs. the 1,080 projected. This category is usually in a non-growth mode due to an increase of resources on-line and so planners were able to significantly decrease the amount of space it needed.





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A major initiative for the new library was to create a variety of communal spaces—different seating areas for study, collaboration and work, because this library has ended up serving the local community as well as students

Spacesaver cantilever shelving was selected and used throughout the library to house the majority of the collection. The units were outfitted with integrated lighting triggered by motion sensors, which not only serve to brighten the aisles but conserve energy in the spirit of sustainable design.

Custom white acrylic end panels were designed to work as a neutral among the many bright colors of the interior and, due to their translucence, they help to distribute more natural light throughout the space.

"We love the openness and natural lighting in our new library," said Kathy Lynch, chair of the library department.

Centered in each acrylic panel is a section of metal slat wall matched to the color of the shelving to provide a place for the staff to hang signage and "quick looks". Interior Solutions, the authorized Spacesaver representative in Phoenix, provided the shop drawings and even a mock up of the end panels and shelving to aid in the final selection of the product.

STORAGE SOLVED

Between the analysis completed by SmithGroupJJR and the careful selection of

product to house the collection, the library was able to morph into a modern hub for the campus. Today's library is a dramatic change from the old, where the students truly respect and enjoy the space.

An interesting outcome of careful storage analysis and planning was the actual reduction of the space needed for the library's collection. By assessing the availability of online resources and making better use of the proposed space, the library was able to create room for a plethora of seating, study and computer work areas for the student and community population to use.

The Gateway Community College campus is now well poised to support and celebrate the most valuable assets and opportunities in the urban core between Downtown Phoenix, ASU Tempe, and Papago Park - the growing community within the Discovery Triangle.*

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