

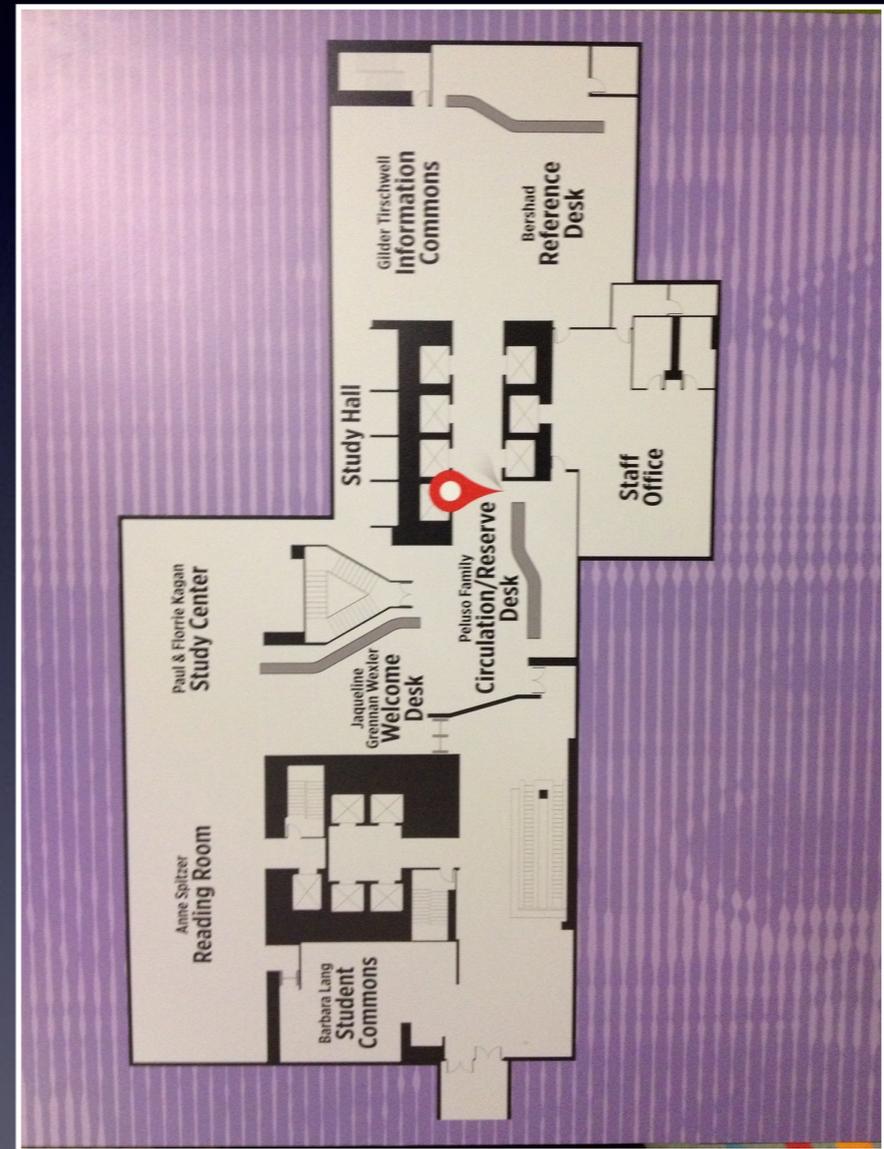
Library Signage, Greeters, and Space Renovation

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- In 2006 a Library Task Force was asked by the president to create a strategic plan to redesign the Hunter College Library.
- The most prominent suggestion of the 40 member task force was for an information commons inspired by the "Genius Bar" at Apple stores.
- The third floor of the main Hunter College Library was closed for renovation from spring 2011 to fall 2013.
- The renovation was privately funded by donors. Many donors have a personal or family connection to the college.
- The entrance to the library was temporarily moved to the end of the street bridge on the seventh floor along with circulation and security.

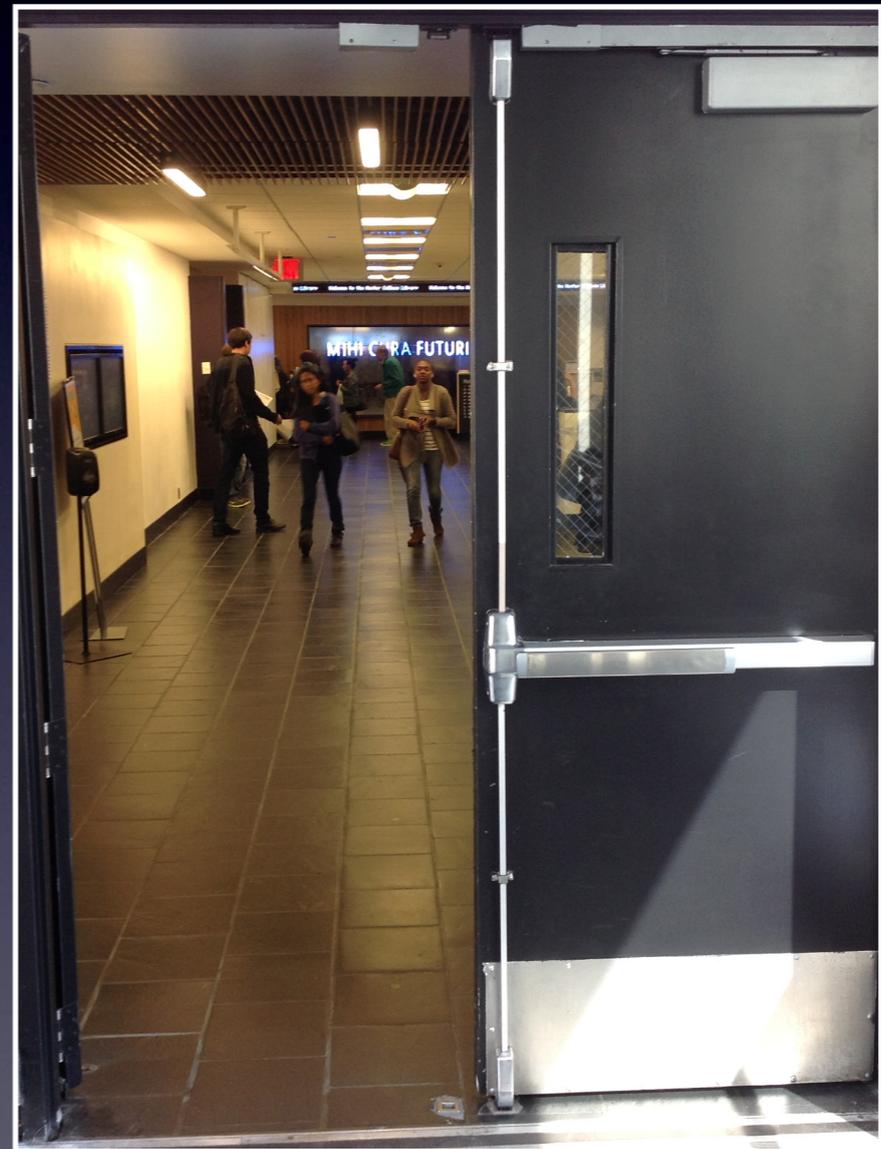
Floor Map

- This is the orientation of the library as you approach the entrance from the third floor street bridge at the bottom of the map or the escalators you can faintly see on the lower right.



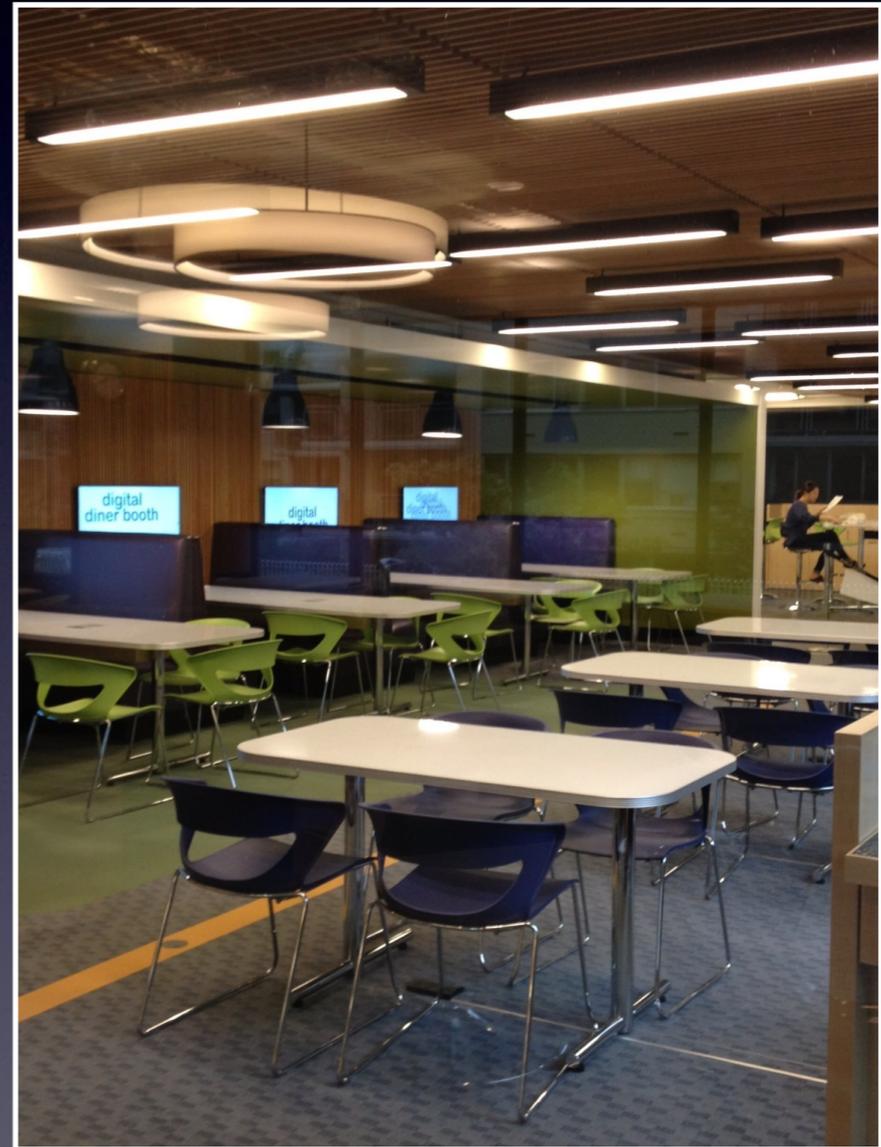
Library Entrance

- Because the entrance to the library is on one end of the third floor bridge crossing Lexington Avenue, a new entrance would "re-engage the library with the rest of the campus and blur the distinction of the library and everything else" according to chief architect Calvert Wright.



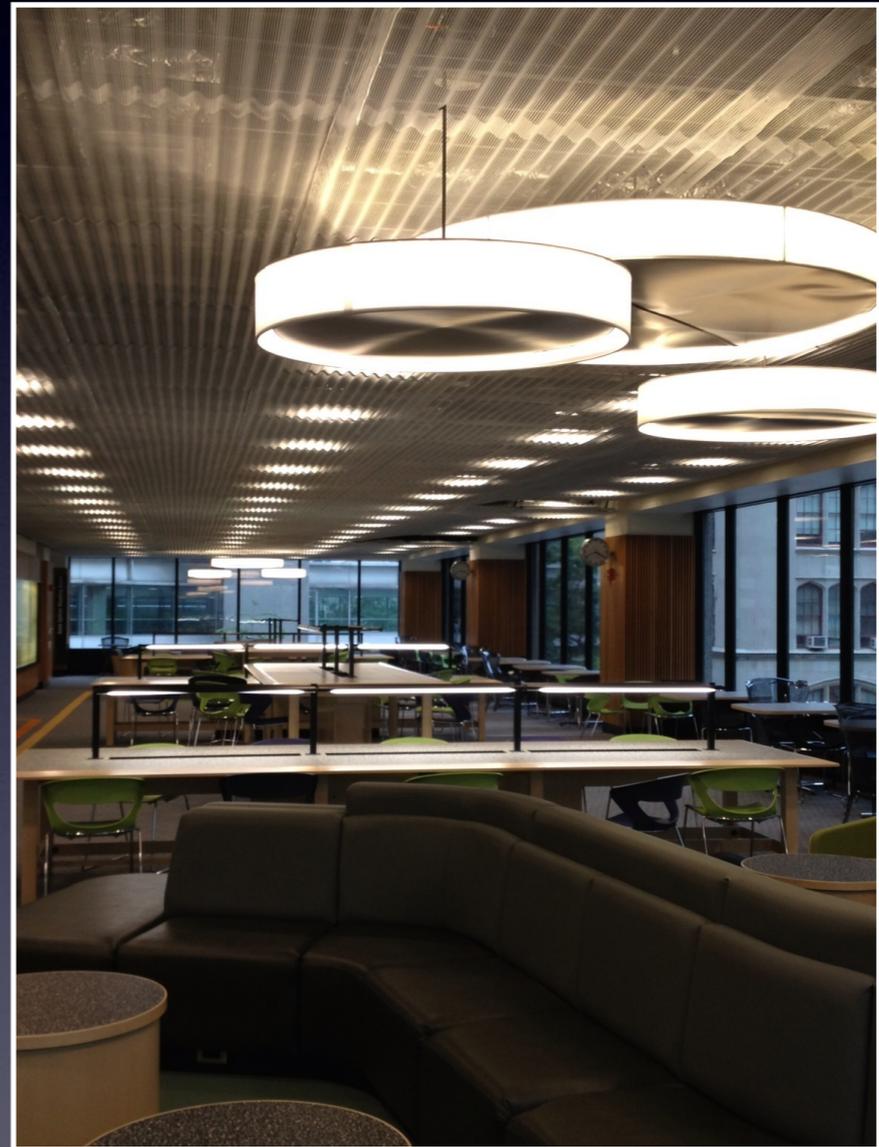
The Diner

- There is a diner area just outside of the library, visible through a window in the lounge.
- Students can eat here in a space that is aesthetically continuous with the library but separated to keep food out.
- Each booth has a large Mac computer screen with a keyboard and mouse.



Student Lounge Area

- The lounge area is very open and comfortable with a variety of seating, plenty of outlets, and nice views of the rest of the campus.



School History Celebrated

- As you walk into the library the new book display cabinets are illustrated with a photo of the founder, Thomas Hunter.
- Signage for each floor in the stairwells consists of old photographs of the college from the archives.
- The window in the entrance has the Hunter motto "Mihi Cura Futuri" (the care of the future is mine) in purple neon.



ARM CONTROL PANELS BEHIND DOORS

MIHI CURA FUTURI

- Hunter College Library**
- Klara and Larry Silverstein Library Lobby
 - ↻ Charlotte Frank Elevator Lobby
 - ↻ Barbara Lang Student Commons
 - ← Anne Spitzer Reading Room
 - ← Paul & Florrie Kagan Study Center
 - ← Jacqueline Grennan Wexler Welcome Desk
 - ↑ Peluso Family Circulation/Reserve Desk
 - ↑ Gilder Tirschwell Information Commons
 - ↑ Bershad Reference Desk
 - Evelyn Krane Kossak History Wall

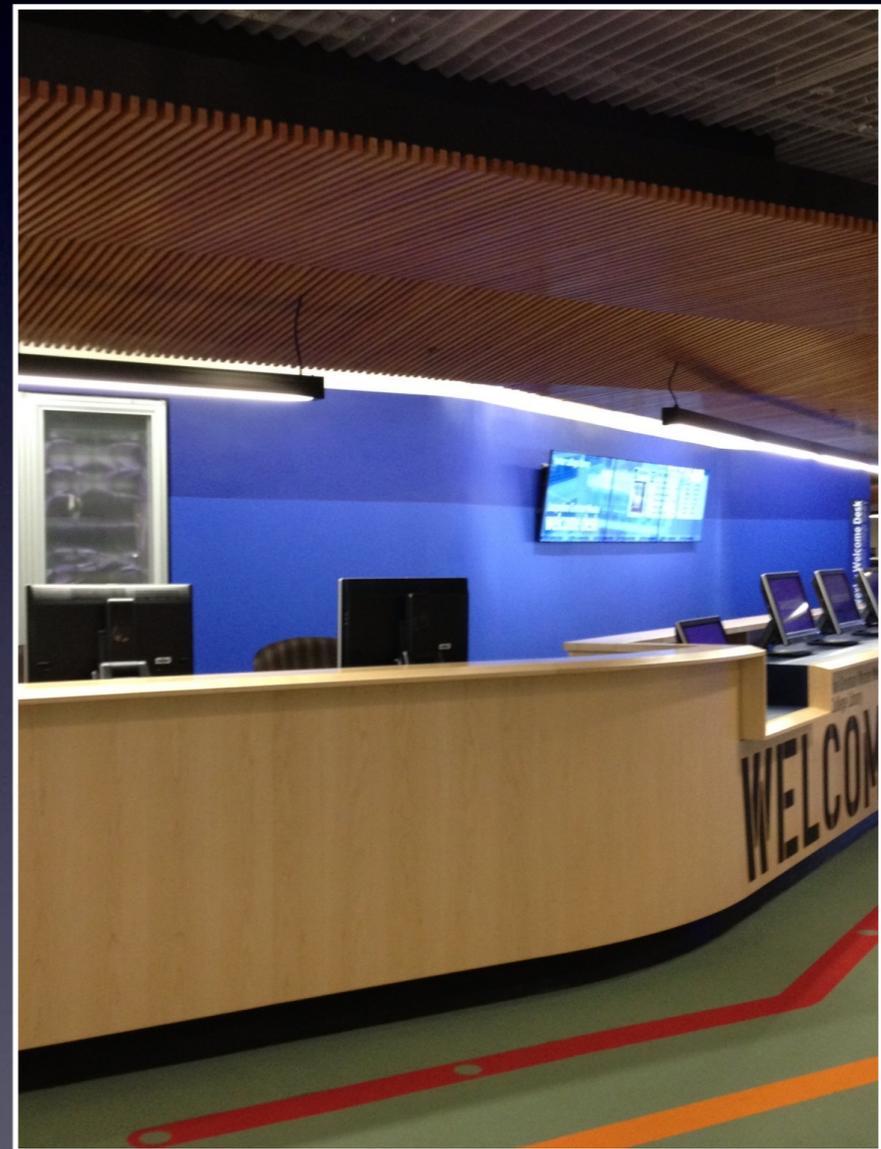
Use of Archival Photos

- Female students illustrating the women's room, etc.



Welcome Desk

- When students first walk in the library they encounter a large Welcome Desk where they can ask for directions or other forms of assistance.
- Electronic signage can be seen throughout the floor.
- Desks are prominently labeled.
- Computers facing patrons in this photo have touch screens instead of keyboards.



Floor Signage

- There are signs on pillars and on the corners of walls by the elevators telling patrons what they can find on each floor.



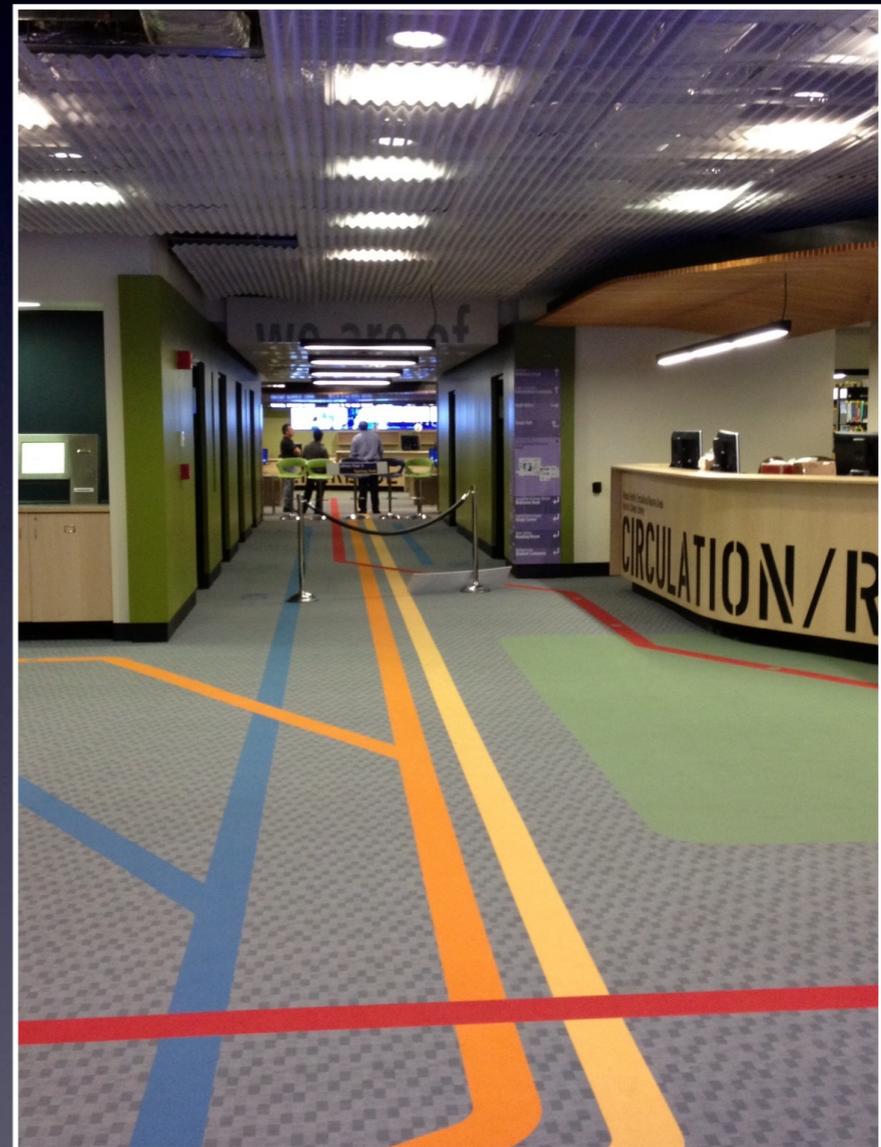


Self Checkout

Students think you just lay a book down to check out: do not get the idea of scanning the barcode.

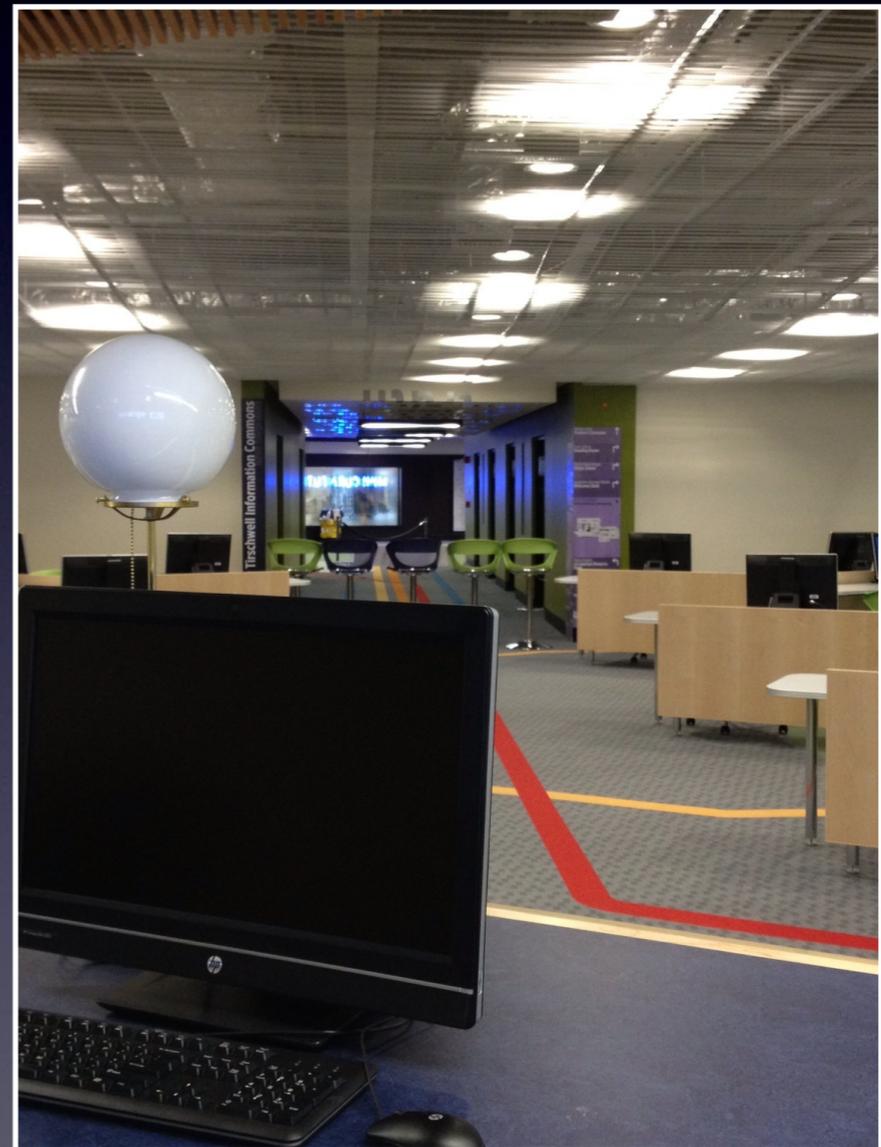
Carpet Way-finding

- The carpet has colored lines helping students navigate the space. Red are service stations, yellow computers, orange self checkout and vending, and blue exits.
- Here you see signage on the front of desks, on the corners of walls, and even on the ceiling.
- In this view walking past the Welcome Desk you see Circ on the right, self checkout on the left, and the Information Commons straight ahead passing through an elevator bank.



Carpet Based Directions

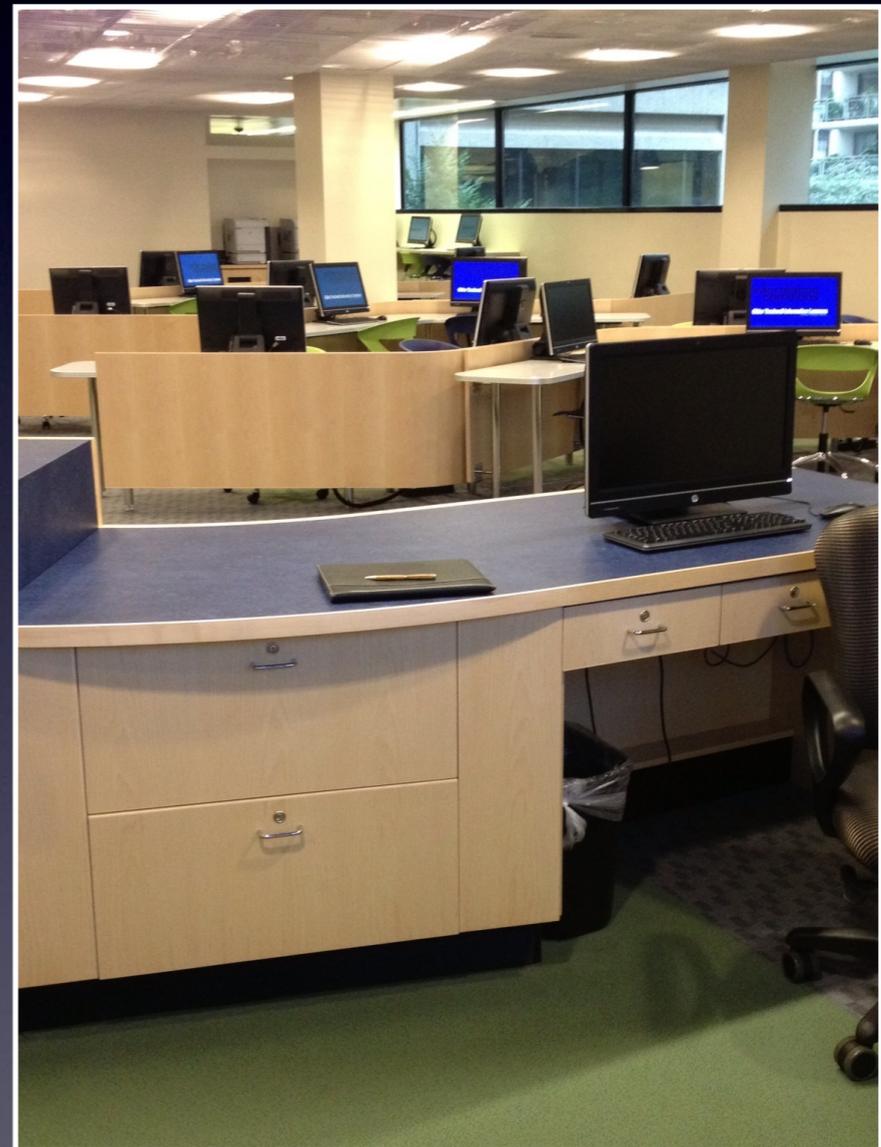
- From the reference desk you can direct students back to circulation via the red line in the custom printed carpet.
- You need to tell students when to stop walking or they will continue past their stop.
- Translucent ceiling panels are supposed to give "a sense of airiness and clarity."





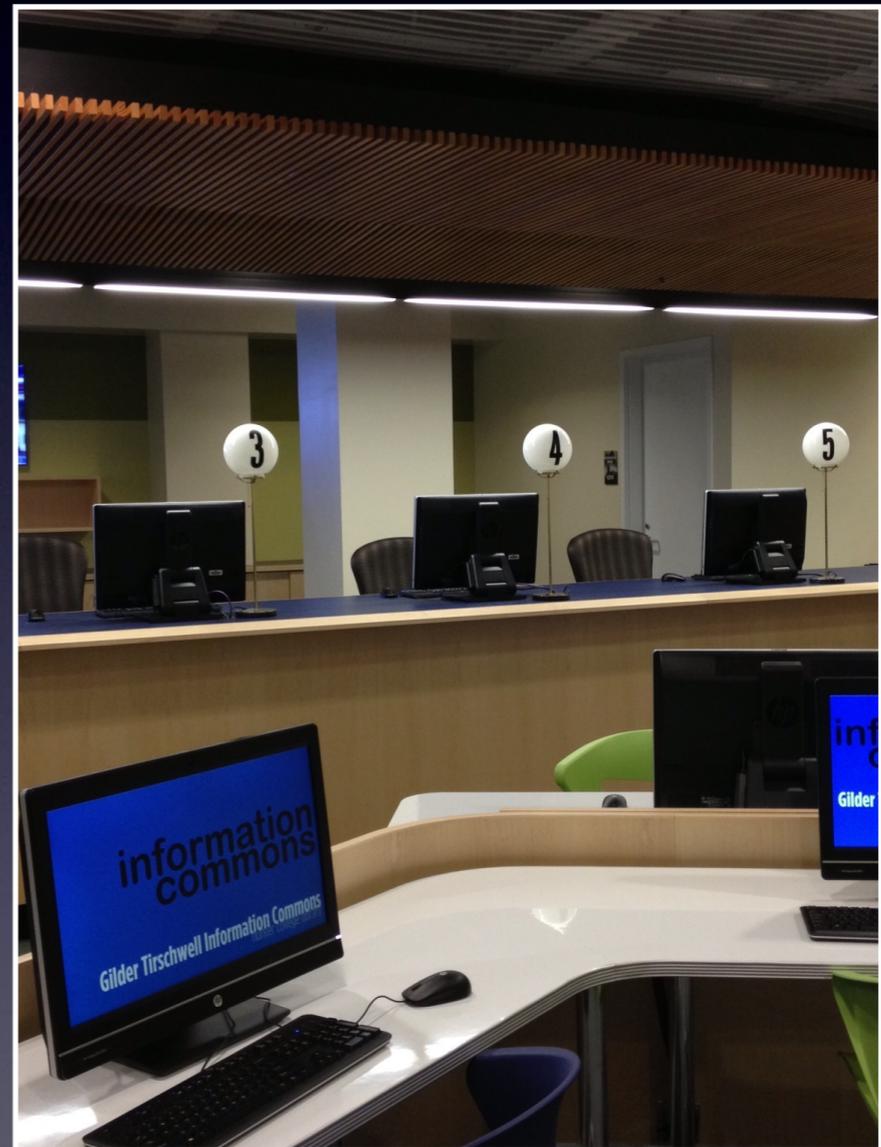
Concierge Desk

- The Concierge Desk was envisioned as a place where patrons would stop first to be directed to the appropriate station of the Information Commons.
- The desk was supposed to be staffed by student workers but we are going to staff it with librarians instead.
- Patrons were either bypassing the desk to talk to a librarian or were directed to librarians by the student working there. We felt student workers would be better used up front at the Welcome Desk.



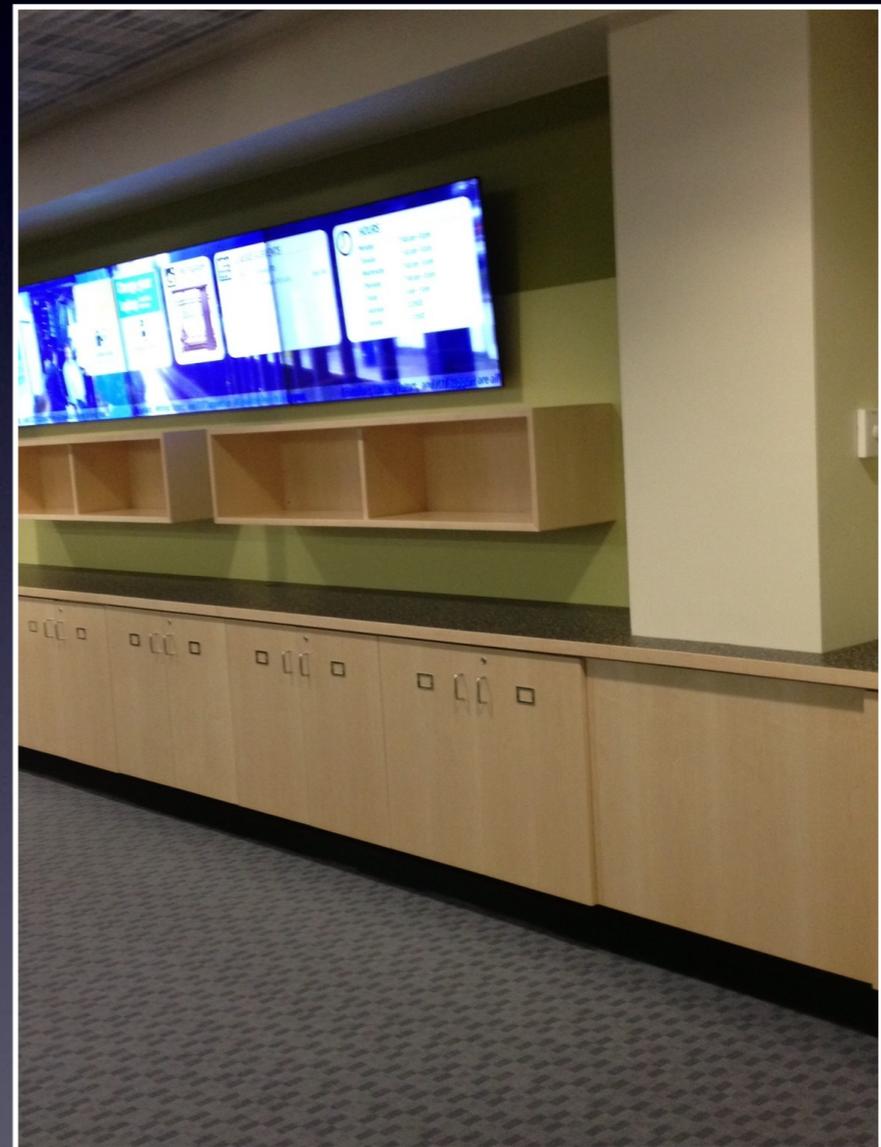
Station Lamps

- Stations at the Information Commons each have a lamp that patrons can be directed to.
- Boomerang shaped tables are meant to encourage both Individual and collaborative work.
- A common complaint is that the desks are too high: the large monitors make it even harder to see a human face.



Electronic Signage

- Behind the Information Commons Desk we have a large electronic sign which displays library hours and other pertinent information.
- Determining who has control over the content of the sign has been complicated: many parties outside of the library want to oversee what is posted.





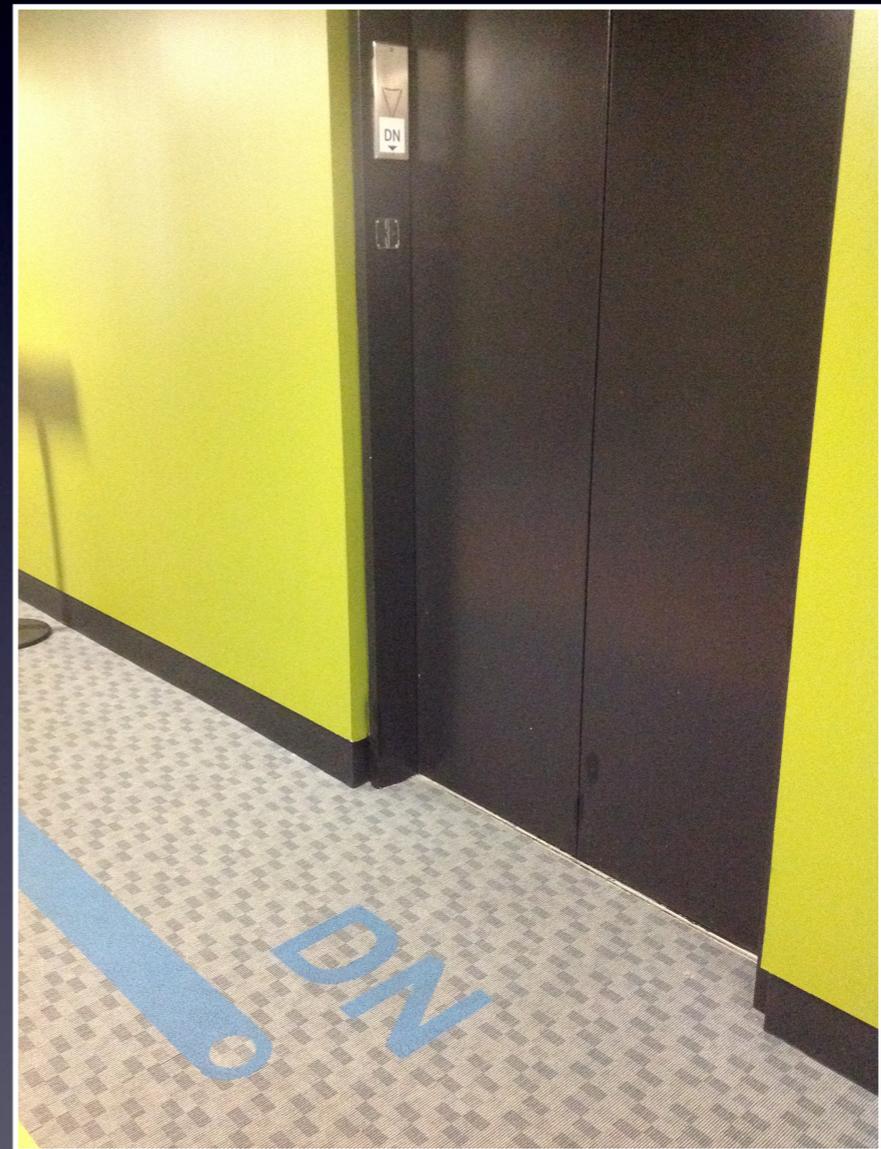
Whiteboards & Donors

Donor names are prominent throughout the library, as are whiteboards: backlit glass walls that serve as whiteboards were part of the design from the beginning. Computer tables can be used as whiteboards as well.



Carpet Signage Not Perfect

- The architect decided to minimize signage on the walls by putting it in the carpet. Unfortunately no one was picking up on the "DN" in the carpet signifying "down" so we had to put discreet signage on the elevator door frame.



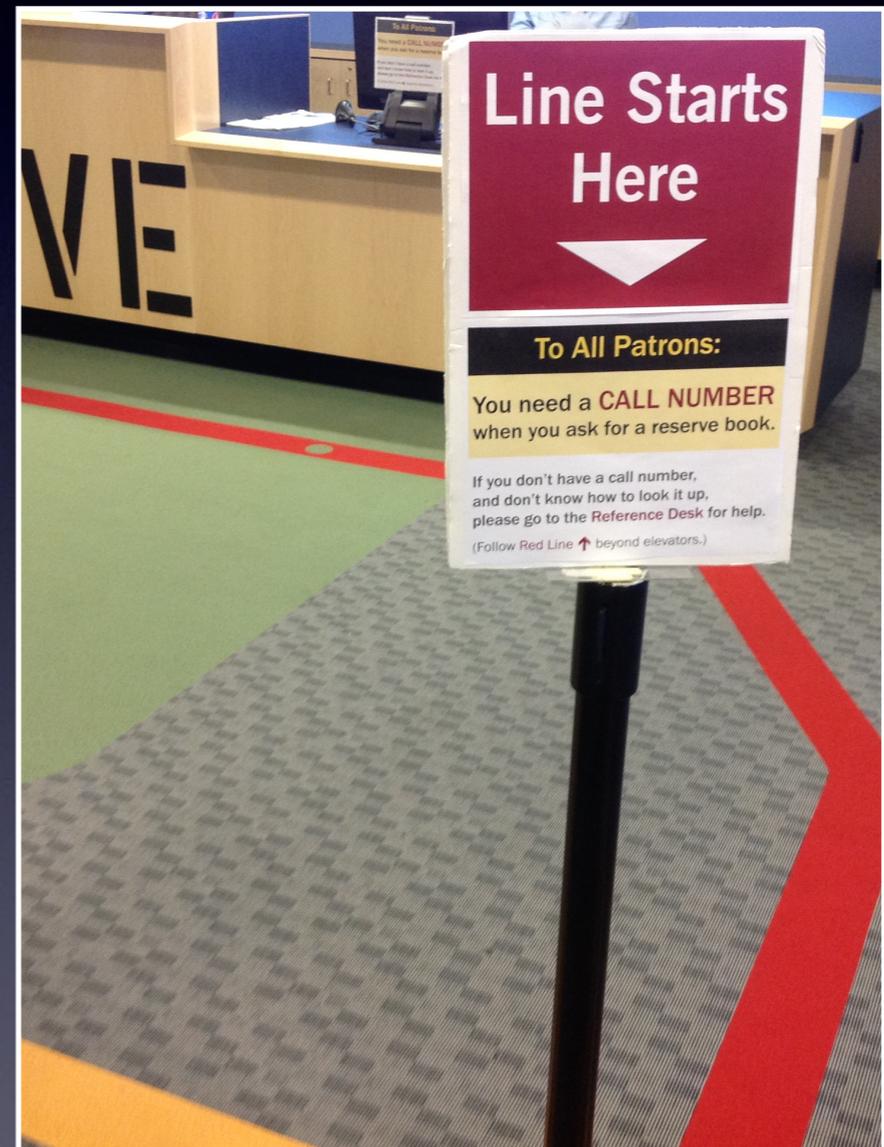
Directional Signage Made on the Fly

- While the red line in the carpet led you to the two service desks, it did not tell you which direction to walk in as you got off the elevator.



Additional Signage

- Mundane issues, like where the line for circulation starts, we're not addressed by the architect.
- The signs we created are polished and professional, but may not coincide with the vision of the architect.







E 53 ST

3 AV

ONE

NO STANDING
7 AM - 7 PM
EXCEPT SUNDAY
→
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

Final Thoughts

- The new space has revitalized the library in terms of making it a desirable place to spend time.
- The sixth and seventh floors are now slated for a similar overhaul that should start soon. The other floors in the library will presumably be addressed as money becomes available.
- Closing an entire floor and moving offices and circulation was very disruptive for both staff and patrons.
- Since different architects have been hired to do the sixth and seventh floor it remains to be seen if there will be a unifying vision tying all of the floors together.