

LI KA SHING LIBRARY, SMU

Location: Singapore Management University, Singapore

Client: Singapore Management University

Completed: 2005

Size: 8,395sqm

Construction cost: £13m (approx)

The Li Ka Shing Library forms one of the key focuses in our Singapore Management University Masterplan.

We worked closely with the National Library Board of Singapore to develop and implement the brief for this academic hybrid library.

The entrance balcony, with the concourse courtyard below, creates a lively series of spaces encouraging informal meetings and interaction. On entering the Library, the main circulation staircase and lifts rise up through a three-storey atrium.

An 'Information Totem' rises with the stairs, displaying the library directory and information clearly as a reference point at each floor. A cafe at the base of this atrium faces out onto the street life of the realigned Stamford Road.

The Library has capacity for 140,000 volumes, 900 work/study spaces and 166 dedicated computer terminals, providing a rich variety of working environments whilst maintaining maximum flexibility to allow it to adapt to the changing needs of the users.

A pavilion on the roof, with access and views on to the roof garden and park beyond, houses the Reading Room.

In respecting and responding to the importance of the nearby National Museum as a cultural landmark, an axis is taken from the centre of the Museum's symmetrical front facade running through the open-ended courtyard of the Library. Open views at ground level, from the main entrance balcony on the 1st floor and from the internal foyer at each upper floor of the Library, focus on the Museum and the reflecting pool over the MRT station.



Above: View of the National Museum from the Library roof garden.



Above: Entrance to Li Ka Shing Library from the Campus Green.



Above: Reading areas have views over the campus and to the city-scape beyond.