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PART I LIBRARY NEWS

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Shaped by Students

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UNIVERSITY LIBRARY COMMITTEE
2006–2007

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*Conservatory with dichroic glass sculpture by artist Joy Wolke.
Gift of Susan K. Nutter in honor of Dr. Deborah Winslow Nutter.*

Photographs by Becky Kirkland and Daniel Kim, NCSU, unless otherwise noted.

Please direct queries or feedback about this issue to terry_crow@ncsu.edu.

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Learning Commons with reference desk at far left and Learning Commons workstation clusters.

Celebrating the East Wing Reopening

BY JEANNE HAMMER, CAPITAL MANAGEMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The NCSU Libraries celebrated the re-opening of the D. H. Hill Library's East Wing the week of March 12 with a simple ribbon-cutting and student-focused activities and events, designed to draw students in to discover and explore their new learning space. Another event later in the spring will highlight the inaugural exhibition in the new gallery, *B. W. Wells: Pioneer Ecologist*, and give everyone in the university and Friends of Library an opportunity to celebrate and enjoy this milestone—completion of Phase I of the Library Master Plan.

However, the dust has not completely settled. Ahead are final inspections of this nearly twenty-one-month construction project that has transformed completely the ground and first floors of the East Wing and enhanced previous renovations on the second and third floors. It is

already obvious that all four floors have benefited from electrical and HVAC upgrades and that the installation of new windows has muted the traffic noise on Hillsborough Street and brightened interiors with additional daylight. Two-dimensional architectural drawings; color boards of fabric swatches; carpet, cherry wood, and tile samples; and photographic images of furniture have become a sleek three-dimensional reality. It has been exciting during the last remaining weeks of the project to see everything fall into place and breathtaking to view how the results are much better than what was imagined.

The East Wing renovation benefited from the support and contributions of many friends and collaborators. The Libraries would especially like to thank the voters of North Carolina who provided the base funding through the Higher

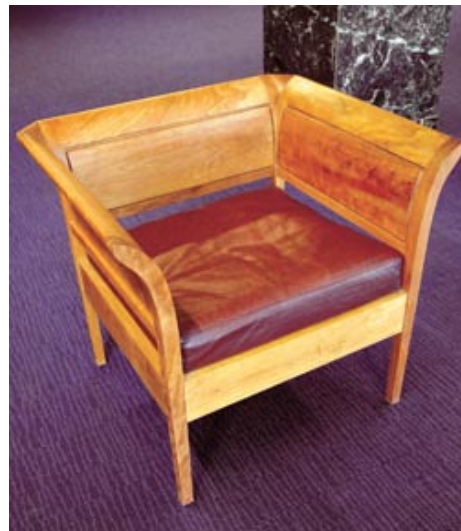
Education Bonds and the Friends of the Library Board of Directors and its members who provided personal and financial support to enhance the quality and comfort of interior finishes and furnishings. Special recognition goes to an adept contractor, A&M Construction, who understood and cared about what the Libraries wanted to achieve, and to the architectural firm of J. Hyatt Hammond, who kept the project on track. The overall renovation required a fruit-

ful team collaboration of library and university personnel, architects, contractor, and subcontractors. The university and its alumni and friends can be proud of the outcome.

The real satisfaction, however, comes in watching NC State students flock to and use the new learning space. We will learn from them what works best and apply these insights to Phase II on Centennial Campus as the **James B. Hunt Jr. Library** is envisioned and designed. ❖



Conservatory astral bench donated by Donald and Maryann Bitzer.



Gallery Sofia chair. Gift of Cyma Rubin.

Learning Commons multimedia workstations, those at left below with movable privacy screens.

BOTTOM PHOTOS BY HERMAN BERKHOFF, NCSU LIBRARIES.



New Reading Room and Exhibit Gallery

BY GREG RASCHKE, COLLECTIONS AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

As part of the D. H. Hill East Wing renovation, the NCSU Libraries has created a well-appointed, cherry-paneled Special Collections Research Center, a combination of public space on the first floor and staff work space and secure compact shelving on the ground floor. The public space includes a reading room, conservatory, and state-of-the-art, museum-quality exhibition gallery. The reading room is furnished with large Thos. Moser tables and chairs for individual or group study, wireless network capability, and a historic collection of books authored by NC State faculty. The reading room also incorporates a new special collections service area featuring dedicated tables, public service staff, and expanded hours from 8:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. Monday through Saturday. The conservatory showcases the stunning astral bench resting on an oriental rug and a dichroic glass sculpture by artist Joy Wulke. Together, these spaces create a comfortable, attractive environment for contemplative study and scholarship.

The exhibition gallery is outfitted with case-work from Helmut Guenschel, a leading exhibit case designer, slate-and-cherry flooring, and seating for comfortable viewing of exhibits. The inaugural exhibition in the gallery, *B. W. Wells: Pioneer Ecologist* (see volume 27.2 of *Focus*),



Kevin Schlesier, exhibits and outreach librarian, tries out the new exhibit cases fabricated by Helmut Guenschel, Inc.

features the unique story of one of North Carolina's first ecologists and the botanically diverse savannah ecosystem he identified in 1920. Wells created a set of glass lantern slides of landscapes and plants—many hand-tinted—that visually documented North Carolina's ecology from the coast to the western mountains. The exhibition will emphasize the beauty and significance of Wells's photographs and highlight his accomplishments as scientist and conservation pioneer.

The gallery forms the centerpiece of the growing exhibition program that supports the Libraries' role as an intellectual center of the university. The program emphasizes sharing and interpretation of library collections and the promotion of their scholarly use. The new gallery space provides a centerpiece for the program and is certain to become a vibrant gathering place where NC State can educate, enrich, and interact with the community. ❖



Thos. Moser Regent reading tables and chairs and cherry mill work are featured in the Special Collections Reading Room.

LEARNING COMMONS

Opens in D. H. Hill Library

BY JOE M. WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR, LEARNING COMMONS



Looking into Presentation Room from Learning Commons.

What is a Learning Commons? NC State students found out on March 12, when the D. H. Hill Library opened its doors to this new, state-of-the-art learning space. The Learning Commons (LC) is an exciting new center for creativity, research, and collaboration on NC State's campus. It is a space designed for both individual and group work, inspiration and socializing, research, and relaxation. The 14,000-square-foot Learning Commons supports all of these activities by integrating cutting-edge technology, learning space design principles, and improved access to information resources. Students have played an integral role in shaping today's LC and will continue to inform and help envision the future of this vibrant learning space in the coming months and years.

continued on page 6

Computers Galore! The Learning Commons sets the new standard on campus as a media-rich workspace where researchers can take projects from idea to finished product, with support at each step along the way. The LC added more than 100 workstations to the D. H. Hill landscape. These new computers—a mix of PCs and iMacs—are sleek and fast and come loaded with all the familiar campus “Unity” software that students expect, including those essential Microsoft Office applications.



Some of the computers in the LC feature specialized software and functionalities. Two workstations offer an extended menu of software to support geospatial and numeric data needs. These data machines are outfitted with extra large monitors and have the added ability to display desktop images on two forty-two-inch wall-mounted LCD screens. This feature lends itself to impromptu teaching and demonstration

Clusters of Herman Miller Resolve computer workstations and computers for individual and group

sessions in the Commons, and it also allows patrons to review maps and images in much greater scale and detail.

Six other computers in the LC are clustered together with enhanced tools for multimedia projects, such as flatbed document scanners and image-editing applications. The library’s Digital Media Lab will continue to operate on the East Wing’s second floor, providing support for in-depth multimedia projects such as video editing, image creation, or poster printing. No matter where students are working, knowledgeable staff and student workers are always nearby and eager to assist with all of these standard and specialized computing options.



Additional computer workstations in the Learning Commons.

Laptops, Cameras, MP3 Players, and Other Gadgets. All of the Libraries' device-lending services are now centralized at one single service area at D. H. Hill, just inside the entrance of the new Learning Commons. Students can stop at one place to borrow laptops, tablet PCs, digital cameras, digital camcorders, iPods, and MP3 players. With these devices readily available, students can move easily throughout the 100-percent wireless D. H. Hill Library facility; listen to eBooks and instructors' podcasts anywhere,



a variety of content. In addition to announcements about library and campus happenings and highlights of faculty and student work, these "eBoards" also display occasional images intended to inspire and please the eye.

MP3 players, cameras, iPods, and other electronic gadgets can be borrowed through the Learning Commons.

anytime; or decide to turn their latest group project into a digital documentary.

The Libraries also recognizes that the learning cycle contains periods of rest, relaxation, and fun. For that reason, the LC offers occasional video-gaming nights. During these events, students can play networked, multiplayer games with classmates and friends on popular, next-generation gaming

consoles such as Sony's dynamic xBox 360. NC State faculty and students involved in game design initiatives, both on campus and nationally, are also looking forward to showcasing their work in the Commons.

Digital Signs. The Commons is an ideal venue for showcasing the NCSU community's projects and achievements, thanks to the many digital signs located throughout the space. The screens range from forty-two inches to sixty-two inches and display

Collaboration Spaces. The beautiful furniture and other appointments in the LC are modern, artful, and highly functional pieces. The Herman Miller Resolve System provides students with sleek, airy workspaces and privacy screens, designed to support group work and discussion throughout the space. A number of more traditional study tables are available as well. Other areas of the Com-



Group study room with wall-mounted LCD panel and whiteboard for group projects. The room was a gift of Wyndham Robertson.

PHOTOS BY HERMAN BERKHOFF, NCSU

mons contain comfortable soft seating—featuring classic Eames and Nelson-designed pieces—and whiteboards that can be moved and reconfigured to suit student needs.

The overall design of the LC focuses on group work. Computers are arranged in clusters. Each computer rests on a table with ample room for groups to gather around a single screen, or tables can accommodate several people seated together with laptops. For larger groups, the LC provides two private group study rooms, where students can meet or share screen displays from their laptops on the wall-mounted LCD screen. In the Presentation Practice Room, small groups and individuals can practice delivering presentations with an overhead LCD projector and whiteboards. The flip of a switch changes the room's glass wall from clear to opaque for privacy on demand.

Two digital signs mounted on the walls in the Learning Commons public services point will display updates for students.

Access to Resources. Information resources are everywhere in the Learning Commons. In addition to the array of computers and eBoards, the print reference collection lines the perimeter of the room. Professional reference help is always available online and in person, as librarians work side by side with students and faculty in the space. One-on-one instruction, small group



demos and reviews, and on-the-fly, walk-in classes are all standard fare in the LC, based on student requests and demands.

Students often prefer to seek help and advice from their peers. For this reason, the Learning Commons staff includes a large number of highly trained student workers, graduate assistants, and Peer Research Advisors.

PHOTOS BY HERMAN BERKHOFF, NCSU



The Learning Commons is a new center for creativity, research, and collaboration on the NC State campus. It is a space designed by and for our students, and it will continue to be informed and transformed by students in the years to come. For more details, see the Learning Commons Web site at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/learningcommons/>. ❖

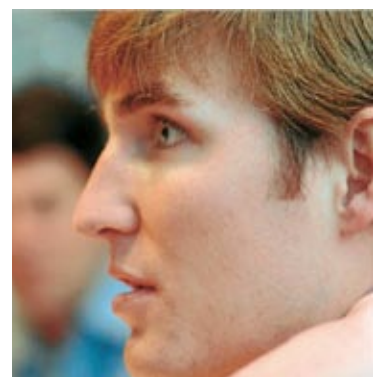


Selection of soft seating options to be found in the Learning Commons featuring classic designs.

Shaped by Students

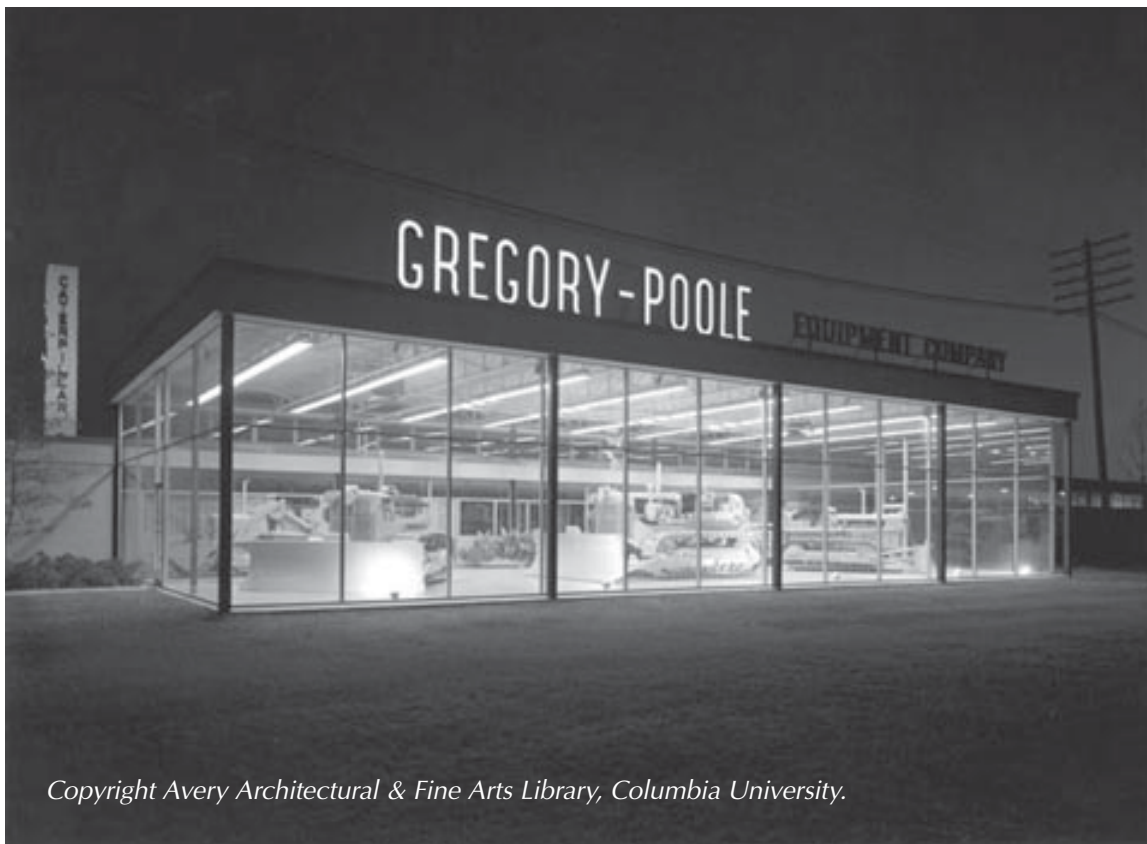
NC State students have been involved in each step of planning for the Learning Commons, telling NCSU Libraries planners what students want and offering ideas for space design, software and equipment, and services. Student focus groups and lunch meetings, conducted in 2005, 2006, and 2007,

solicited student opinions and perspectives. Student members of the University Library Committee (ULC) gave ongoing input, and a standing ULC student LC subcommittee has been created to ensure ongoing feedback and discussion. ❖



Architectural Momentum in Special Collections

BY TODD KOSMERICK, LINDA SELLARS, AND AMY RUDERSDORF, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER



Copyright Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

Gregory Poole Equipment Company, Hillsborough Street Extension, Raleigh, N.C., 1954. George Matsumoto, architect. Photograph by Joseph W. Molitor. George Matsumoto Papers, MC 00042, Special Collections Research Center, NCSU Libraries, hereafter cited as SCRC.

In the early 1990s, the NCSU Libraries embarked on a program to develop architectural holdings for its Special Collections Research Center that would match the reputation of the university's College of Design, already renowned for the depth and breadth of its programs. In the years since, the Special Collections Research Center has acquired an impressive archive of significant North Carolina architectural collections.

The School of Design (now College of Design) was established in 1948, when existing programs in architecture and landscape architecture were pulled from other programs in the university. During the next decades, Dean Henry Leveke

Kamphoefner appointed to the faculty several outstanding architects with national and international reputations, including George Matsumoto, G. Milton Small, Matthew Nowicki, Eduardo Catalano, Edward Waugh, James Fitzgibbons, and Harwell Hamilton Harris. He also brought a number of internationally prominent design figures—Buckminster Fuller, Lewis Mumford, Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius, Louis I. Kahn, Pier Luigi Nervi, Charles Eames, and Marcel Breuer—to lecture, conduct design experiments, and inspire a new generation of designers. North Carolina State's Department of Architecture (it became a school in 2000) quickly developed a reputation for in-

*School of Design
Dean Henry L. Kamphoefner,
1956, in front of Brooks Hall
north wing addition,
designed by
George Matsumoto.
Henry Leveke
Kamphoefner Papers, SCRC.*



novation and experimentation, and during the 1950s and 1960s it experienced a remarkable period of creative and intellectual development.

The quality of the College of Design programs can be measured by the caliber of its graduates, who have won Fulbright scholarships, the Prix de Rome, and other prizes. Two winners of the prestigious Paris Prize include Robert “Bob” Burns, who later headed the architecture department, and Edwin F. “Abie” Harris, who served as NC State’s first university architect. Early design students initiated an outstanding publication reflecting the school’s experimental approach. Many have attended the nation’s leading graduate schools and assumed important positions in architectural practice and education.

The legacy of imagination, diversity, and excellence set by this first generation continues. After Kamphoefner stepped down as dean in 1972, strong leadership guided the College of Design. Claude E. McKinney served as dean until 1988 and later provided important direction for the physical development of Centennial Campus during its earliest stages. Since 1994 Marvin J. Malecha has led the college. He is the winner of numerous awards for architectural education, including the Topaz Medallion from the American Institute of Architects and Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.

Today, the Special Collections Research Center holds more than a dozen collections on architecture, landscape architecture, and other design-related topics. These include many collections from former College of Design faculty. Collectively, the holdings contain thousands of drawings and photographs that document several historically significant buildings in North Carolina.

They are also rich resources for the study of twentieth-century architecture in North Carolina and the southeastern United States and are especially useful in studying the development of modernism in the area. These holdings include:

- Henry L. Kamphoefner Papers (1924–1990)
- George Matsumoto Papers (1945–1991)
- Matthew Nowicki Papers (1949–1956)
- Willard Byrd Golf Course Design Drawings and Other Papers (1950–2004)
- Guy E. Crampton and William Henley Deitrick Papers and Drawings (1928–1977)
- Northrup & O’Brien Records (1926–1980)
- Milton Small Papers (1950–1988)
- Ballard, McCredie Associates, P.A., Architects Records (1955–1998)

- Leslie Norwood Boney Jr. Papers (1901–1982)
- Archie Royal Davis Papers (1930–1980)
- Edgar H. and Margaret K. Hunter Architectural Job Files, Drawings, and Photographs (1945–1989)
- North Carolina Buildings Collection (1893–1990)
- Edwin Gilbert Thurlow Papers (1930–1974)
- Edwin F. “Abie” Harris Jr. Architectural Drawings and Files (1952–1998)
- Ronald L. Mace Papers (1974–1998)
- Historic Architecture Research Project Records (1951–1976)
- Centennial Campus Records (1974–2005)
- Office of the University Architect Records (1966–1992)
- Office of Campus Planning Records (1887–1989)
- University Buildings, Sites, and Landmarks, part of University Archives Reference Collection (1888–2006)

- Campus Facilities and Views, part of University Archives Photograph Collection (1889–1990)

The Charlotte V. Brown Papers (1980–1990) contain a wealth of information on architects who practiced in North Carolina. The University Archives also maintains copies of the College of Design student publication. The Libraries and its Special Collections Research Center are dedicated to the continued growth of the architectural collections—including the addition of papers and designs of prominent architects from the state, region, and nation; seminal publications documenting the history of North Carolina and regional architecture; and the papers of prominent faculty from the College of Design. More information about these holdings can be found online at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/find/architecture.html> and at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/find/architectureanddesign.html>.

Architectural and environmental design holdings can attract the support of large, national granting agencies, especially in the area of digitization and building digital collections.

Lewis Residence, Raleigh, N.C., 1954. G. Milton Small, architect. Photograph by Joseph W. Molitor. Milton Small Papers, MC 00006, SCRC.



Copyright Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University

Special Collections is drawing upon successes in implementing Luna Insight® content management software to develop a two-pronged strategy to leverage collection and digitization strengths. An initial project will target drawings and photographs with local interest from the Historic Architecture Research Project Records, which document 250 North Carolina structures from the 1700s to the early 1900s. The procedures and techniques developed from this effort can be carried over to a second, larger project with greater national focus, concentrating on architectural modernism in the Byrd, Matsumoto, Small, and similar collections.

The NCSU Libraries is dedicated to documenting the built heritage of North Carolina and the university's contributions to architectural and design history. The Libraries welcomes support for this important collecting initiative and encourages other donors to expand the research center's collections. Those who would like to support the processing, growth, and digitization of these resources should contact Suzanne Weiner, associate vice provost for library advancement at suzanne_weiner@ncsu.edu, or Greg Raschke, associate director for collections and scholarly communication at greg_raschke@ncsu.edu or (919) 515-7188. ❖

New Curator of Architecture Special Collections

BY GREG RASCHKE, COLLECTIONS AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

HERMAN BERKHOFF, NCSU LIBRARIES.

The NCSU Libraries is delighted to announce that its first curator of architecture special collections is Catherine W. Bishir. The Libraries has been a repository for materials documenting the architectural history of North Carolina for many years. Bishir's appointment signals its continuing commitment to building architectural collections of regional and national significance. Bishir will collaborate with the Libraries' new digital publishing program to create an online encyclopedia of North Carolina architects and architecture, contribute to the accelerated growth of the architecture archive, and consult on digitization projects and grants.

Bishir's prestigious career documenting the history of North Carolina architecture includes a current appointment as senior architectural



historian for Preservation North Carolina and adjunct professor for NC State's School of Architecture. She was previously the senior architectural historian and architectural survey coordinator for the State Historic Preservation Office in the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

Bishir has published seminal books documenting the history of North Carolina architecture including *North Carolina Architecture* and *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* published by UNC Press. She has also published dozens of articles, presented numerous invited lectures and papers, and received funding from the North Caroliniana Society and the National Endowment for the Humanities. ❖



Focus, a newsletter published three times a year, seeks to promote the services, activities, needs, and interests of the NCSU Libraries to the university, the Friends of the Library, and beyond.

Editor: Terrell Armistead Crow.

NCSU Libraries Homepage: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>

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