

TEEN SPACES

HOW TO MAKE A FABULOUS, FUNCTIONAL AND FUN ROOM IN YOUR LIBRARY

PRESENTED BY



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THE IMPORTANCE OF TEEN SPACES

WHY DO WE NEED A SPACE JUST FOR TEENS?

- 1) making the “teen voice” a priority, and giving a sense of ownership to library users
- 2) transforming the role and image of the library - fight the stereotype!
- 3) reinforcing the teens’ place, and the library’s place, in the community
- 4) we want them to want to be here

*YALSA, “The Need for Teen Spaces in Public Libraries

ADVOCATE!

Library administration, Friends of the Library, other funding sources

And if you need something to tell your advocacy group:

The #1 reason teens try drugs is “boredom,” followed by anxiety and loneliness. We can help with those!

*National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University

HOW TO FIND THE SPACE

WHERE SHOULD OUR TEEN SPACE BE?

- Under-utilized space
- Print reference
- Remove outdated collections
 - VHS
 - CD-Roms
- Staff/office space



USE THE SPACE YOU HAVE

- A coat of paint can work miracles.
- Small displays boost circulation and make the space feel lively and current
- Display books and magazines face out
- Add artwork to make the space trendy in a way that is easy to update
- Make the best of what you have!

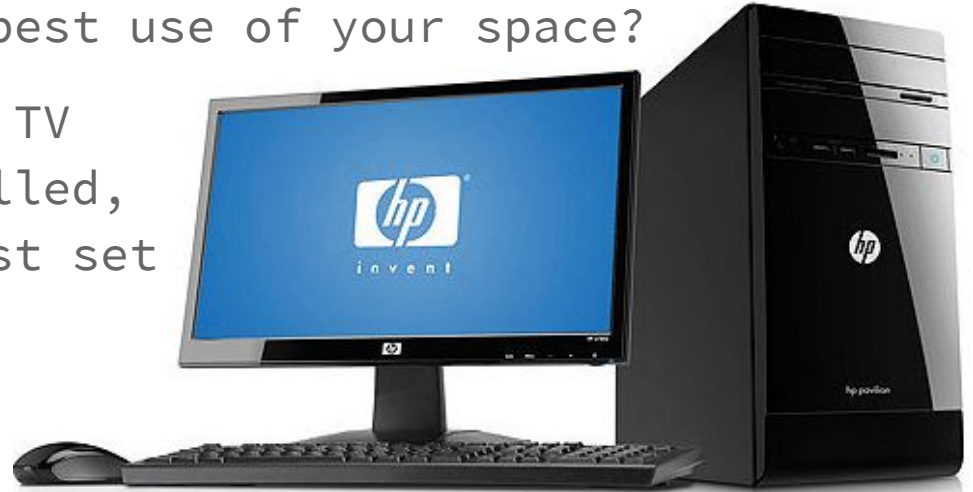
CONSIDER, AND RECONSIDER

Do we really need all of the bells and whistles?

Is it vital to have computers in the teen area?

Is a big squishy couch the best use of your space?

Is it a good idea to have a TV
and video game system installed,
or might it be better to just set
one up for programs?



BEST PRACTICES

- Make it different and fun!
- Contain the noise
- Include books!



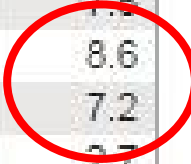
The former teen space at Cary Memorial Library 2012

US CENSUS - AMERICAN FACT FINDER

Geography: ▼

186 of 186

	Subject	Number	Percent
1	SEX AND AGE		
	Total population	31,394	100.0
	Under 5 years	1,438	4.6
	5 to 9 years	2,342	7.5
	10 to 14 years	2,706	8.6
	15 to 19 years	2,259	7.2
	20 to 24 years	849	2.7
	25 to 29 years	679	2.2
	30 to 34 years	914	2.9



RENOVATING WITH A LOT OF

SUPPORT: LESSONS LEARNED IN LEXINGTON

Before: Adult Fiction



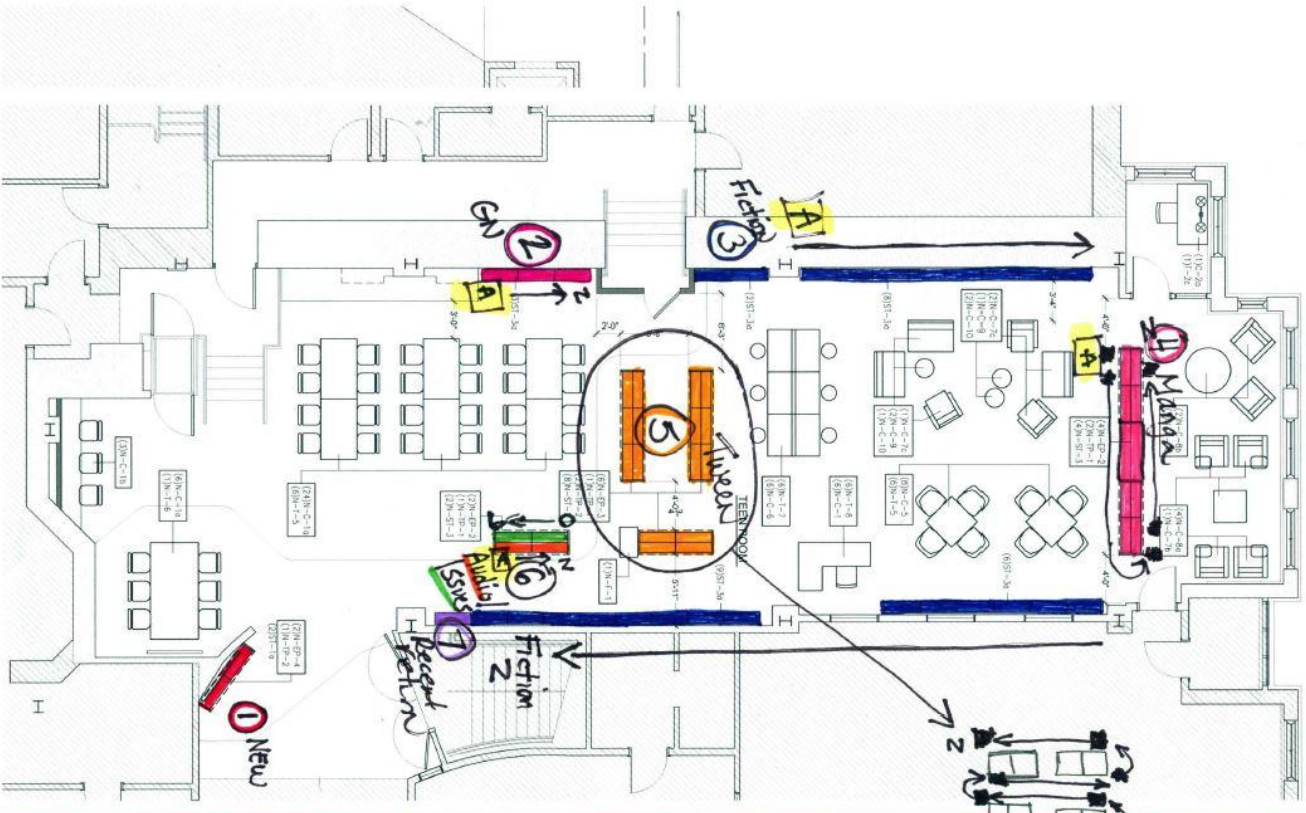


Before: Science Fiction

Before: Graphic Novels



WORKING WITH AN ARCHITECT



① Proposed Plan - Lower Level



CLIENT
 Town of Lexington
 Dept. of Public Works
 1874 Massachusetts Ave.
 Lexington, MA 02421

ARCHITECT
 Architecture Collaborative, Inc.
 1656 Massachusetts Ave.
 Cambridge, MA 02140
 781.224.9355

PROJECT NAME
**Cary Memorial Library
 Transformative Spaces**
 1874 Massachusetts Avenue
 Lexington, MA 02421

#	Date	Description

SHEET NAME
**Proposed Furniture Plan -
 Lower Level & Main Level
 West**

ISSUE DATE: 03/24/24
 SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"
 DRAWN BY: HML

SHEET NUMBER
C1.0







DURING THE RENOVATION



The moving of the books



Empty shelves, full boxes!



Old lighting





New lighting

Even more new lighting!







Workshop floor installed



Shelving installed

Countertop installed



After: Clickshare table



After: Workshop area











After: View from the windows





LOTS OF SUPPORT MEANS LOTS OF STAKEHOLDERS

- ★ Library Director
- ★ Staff
- ★ Trustees
- ★ Teen Advisory Board
- ★ Town/City Facilities Department
- ★ Friends of the Library
- ★ Library Foundation
- ★ Architect/Interior Designer
- ★ Library patrons & donors

RENOVATING WITH SOME SUPPORT

LESSONS LEARNED IN SOUTH YARMOUTH

WE HAD THE ROOM! WE HAD SOME FUNDS! ... BUT IT WAS ALL US.



Before: Friends Bookstore

DURING THE RENOVATION



**Strip the wallpaper, paint the walls
and bookcases...**

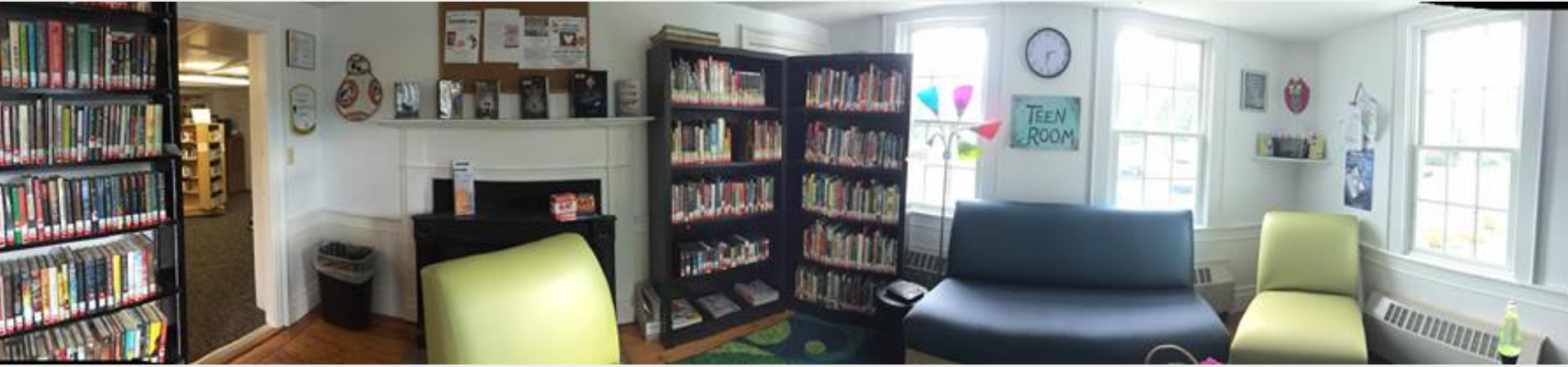
ADDING DECORATIONS



AFTER RENOVATION



AFTER RENOVATION- PANORAMA!



Welcome to the Teen Room!

CHANGES YOU CAN MAKE
IN ANY LIBRARY

YOU DON'T NEED A MILLION DOLLARS TO MAKE AN IMPACT

Small changes can make big differences! Try...

- ★ Carpet tiles
- ★ Artwork from students
- ★ Make sure your collection reflects your community
- ★ Phone chargers
- ★ Textbooks
- ★ Board games
- ★ Consider tweens
- ★ Make the space exclusively for teens! No adults allowed!

Have a little budget? Let the teens choose the furniture!



TEEN SPACE

This room is exclusively for
the use of library patrons
who are in 6th - 12th grade.

Others are welcome to get books
and other materials from the Teen
Space, but please do not linger in
the room.



CLEAR SIGNAGE

TEEN INVOLVEMENT

Keep your teens involved throughout the process:

- dreaming
- planning
- decision-making
- fundraising
- installation



DECISIONS AND PURCHASING

THINGS TO CONSIDER

No matter what purchases you are making for your space, be an informed consumer!

Ask questions!

Style changes quickly. Try for timeless major purchases, and add fashionable details and artwork that can be changed as times change.



WHAT CAN YOU DO IN YOUR
SPACE?

Lecture presentation



Live action games!

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS,
SUCCESS STORIES!

RESOURCES

RESOURCES

Bolan, Kimberly. Teen Spaces: The Step by Step Library Makeover. 2nd ed. ALA editions, 2009.

“Teen Space Guidelines.” Young Adult Library Services Association. May 23, 2017.

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/teenspaces>

VOYA: YA spaces of your dreams collection. Edited by Anthony Bernier. VOYA Press, 2012.

THANKS!

JEN & KAT

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