

The Central Library
Düsseldorf in KAP1

People Places Possibilities

Düsseldorf
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see also inside back cover

People Places Possibilities

The Central Library
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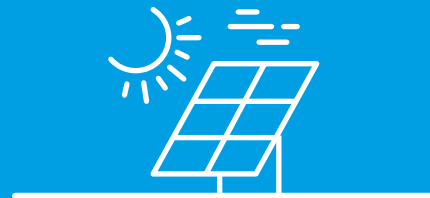


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Former VW-Van of the library, 1970s





The Library of the future





Heart and Head

The library concept

The internal layout of the new Central Library provides 14 different zones across two floors for learning, knowledge exchange, communication and inspiration.



[Link to Target Groups and Vision 2025](#)
(in German)

The new Central Library is located on two floors in the KAP1 building near Düsseldorf main station. Visitors enter the library via lifts from the glass foyer, ascending to the large public spaces catering for the numerous varying wants and needs of the users of a modern library.

These needs are not simply different, but often conflicting – some require a place for communication and interaction, others a quiet place for concentrated work and study.

Public participation was therefore an important factor in the planning process – through workshops with various user groups a dynamic



library concept was developed, aiming to be fair to all and establishing the Central Library as a non-commercial public space. Students, educators, inquisitive, inspiration- and experience-oriented, culture- and social-oriented people from all ages, genders, cultural and social backgrounds were given the opportunity to participate, structurally as well as functionally.

The key maxim of the library staff workshop *Vision 2025: For a modern Central Library*, “People and their everyday lives are at the core of the Central Library and its activities”, also had to be incorporated into the concept.



© privat

The Central Library planning team on a visit to the oodi library in Helsinki

(l-r) Dr. Norbert Kamp,
Jörg Kahl-Gillen,
Stephan Schwering,
Martina Leschner,
Klaus Peter Hommes

Ideas and research from leading architects *Schrammel Architekten* led to a concept centred on the clear functional division of the library over its two floors, whereby the lower floor is a livelier, busier space; the upper a quieter, more concentrated one.

Level 1 – The Heart__ The expansive *Plaza* foyer of the reception area leads visitors directly into the entrance of the Central Library.

The scent of coffee greets visitors, luring them into the café. The *Info-Point* offers the first orientation point. This open, transparent area



The creation of the concept for the Central Library in KAP1 is based on these four elements:

Participation__ The community was actively involved. User groups (e.g. young people, students and the digital community) took part in creative workshops. A ‘customer journey’ brought together key knowledge and insight regarding customer service and interior design.

Expert knowledge__ Experts were consulted regarding numerous elements of the library concept. Recognised authorities on tech were involved in the development of the Digital Strategy of the Central Library, and interior designers and architects were ultimately the ‘conductors’ of the ideas in the room.

Best Practice__ Visits to the most outstanding, modern, busiest libraries in Europe had a significant influence on the development of the concept. Libraries in Netherlands, Denmark and Finland (‘oodi’ in Helsinki) provided simultaneous inspiration and affirmation for the concept.

Library team__ The library team developed a vision for the Central Library and its users. The library rooms and services were planned and delivered by teamwork, according to the needs of the community.

Level 1 – The Heart

4,000 square metres

- Plaza (foyer) with information desk>Returns
 - Café (Xafé)
- Stadtfenster conference room
 - Herzkammer auditorium
- Freiraum multipurpose space
 - Children's Library
 - Youth Library
 - Forum communication area
 - LibraryLab



© Elmar Witt/nora systems

The Children's Library on Level 1

invites visitors into the 'Heart' – Level 1, the pulsating business centre of the library. The LibraryLab entices with digital services, the Children's and Youth libraries pulsate with life, while knowledge is imbibed in the School Centre, and daily newspapers devoured at the reading tables. The multipurpose Freiraum, the Forum, the Herzkammer and Stadtfenster event rooms – Level 1 offers plenty of inspirational and interactive spaces for experimentation and exchange of ideas.



The Plaza on Level 1



© Stadtbüchereien/Gendera

The Rondell and the Lesefenster (background) on Level 2

Level 2 – The Head

4,000 square metres

- Dachgarten
- Lesefenster / Rondell
- Music Library
- Reallabor
- Lernboxen / Lernstudio
- Law Reading Room



© Elmar Witt/nora systems

Level 2 – The Head__ A light-saturated staircase leads visitors a level higher into the Central Library's 'Head'. This floor is arranged in a clear ring layout to boost orientation and encourage work and learning. A total of 600 study desks over the two floors provide ample space for learners to work. Furniture and room melt into a friendly, harmonious whole thanks to a colour-, material- and light-concept. Closed *Lernboxen* (individual study rooms) allow total concentration. Seating with views across the city creates a relaxed working environment. In good weather the fully accessible 300 square-metre Dachgarten (roof garden) offers an area for relaxation in fresh air. ●



*To create a space that
invites participation, stimu-
lates and arouses **curiosity.***

Stefan Schrammel and Gabriele Ackermann | Architects



Arouse curiosity

Stefan Schrammel and Gabriele Ackermann Schrammel Architects

The Augsburg architects *Schrammel Architekten* took on the interior design of the Central Library. In interview Architects Gabriele Ackermann and Stefan Schrammel discuss the demands and challenges of rebuilding the KAP1 building.

How did the location of the building influence the design?

Schrammel: The very central location next to the main station fascinated us. This big city dynamic should also be present in the interior of the building. The entire building complex is surrounded by tracks, enwrapping it like a braid. We therefore felt tracks were a connecting element to incorporate. Transferred to the library, tracks form connections and function as pathways between the different sections and subject areas. In other words, we have transferred this exterior element into the interior design.

This can also be seen in the linear lighting under the roof, the organisation of the main thoroughfares and the freight-container aesthetic of the information desks.

Ackermann: The location of the building is reflected particularly well in the Children's Library. From the start we wanted to represent the surroundings, i.e. the juxtaposition of the urban area and the natural environment of the Rhine. The *Schlossturm* and the *Rheinbrücke* are prominent, as is the river itself – represented by four abstract tree sculptures, which also draw on the four seasons.

What ideas came to you spontaneously when you saw the floorplan for the new library?

Schrammel: Our first impression: two enormous square floors and monumental columns, a hall in two levels on top of each other. We immediately realised that a connection between the two levels in the form of a large staircase was important to create an overall unity. In the earliest sketches I at once saw a lively to-and-fro between the floors. Right from the start our primary aim was to ensure the connection with the upper level via the central staircase.

Ackermann: The construction costs and accompanying opposition were large. For us as planners, however, it was always clear that the success of the upper floor was dependent on an inviting,

curiosity-arousing entrance. The nearly five-metre-wide monumental staircase leads from the *Plaza* through Level 1 to Level 2.

What surprised you most? What provided the most satisfaction because it was particularly challenging but worked out successfully?

Schrammel: From the start the enthusiasm of the city and the library service pleased and motivated us. Six years separated the first idea and the opening, in which many lively and controversial meetings took place, always with the aim of finding the best solutions. Until the very end we found it enthralling to work with the librarians to discover and develop the most appropriate concept for

The entrance to the staircase under construction in 2020



every section. We always received the necessary input, as the professionals in the library have the best understanding of the needs of their user groups. Our role is to fulfil the wishes of the users as best we can.

Ackermann: We were frustrated that fixed planning requirements and agreements were not always adhered to by external parties. This means that now the building has been finished, we are even more pleasantly surprised about the strength of the interior we designed.

How was the modern concept of the Central Library translated into the space?

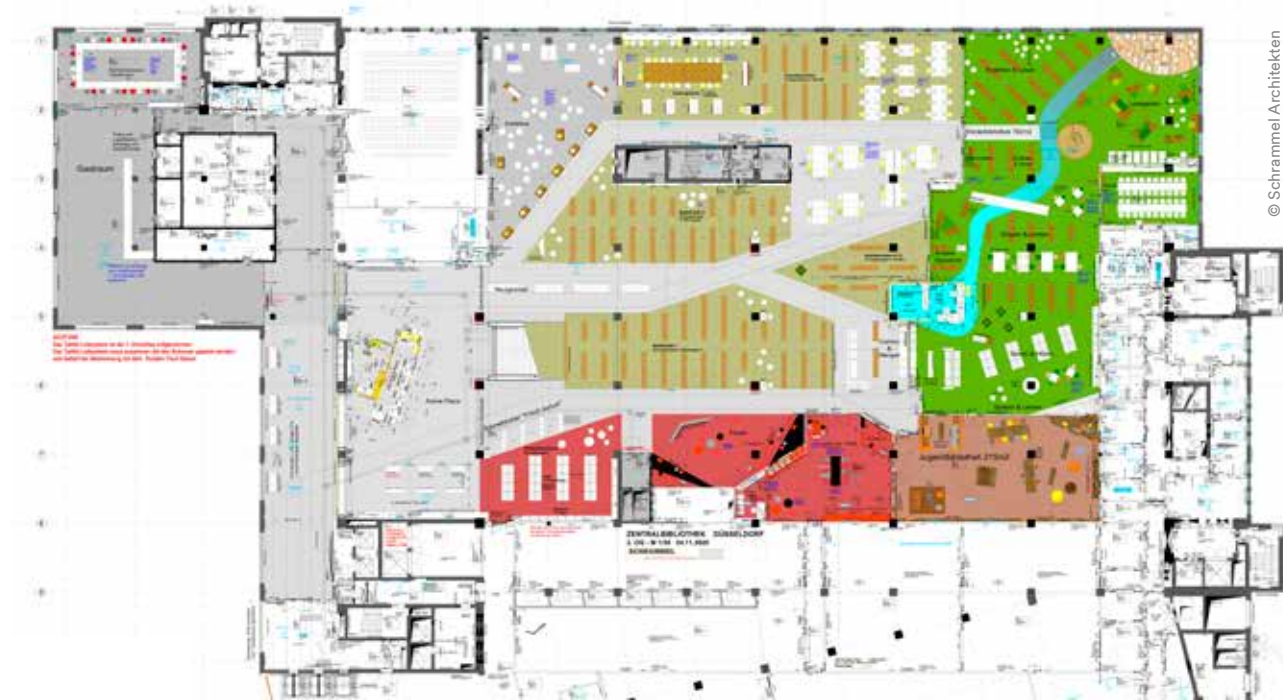
Schrammel: Influential Dutch library researcher Rob Bruijnzeels once said in a speech that “library is a verb”. This is central to all our library projects: to design spaces that encourage participation and arouse curiosity. Visitors and library staff should have a room that radiates openness, transparency and leisure.

What did you wish to convey with the colour-scheme? How do colours in a room affect us, in particular in a library?

Ackermann: Colour and light are elements of building that heavily influence our projects. Colour is perceived before shape, it has an emotional significance. The vast room demands a clear colour

The entrance to the staircase to Level 2





Floorplan – Level 1

concept. We chose a glowing yellow tone that runs through the room. Yellow suggests light and sunlight, even in places where they are not present. The individual sections have their own colour concepts, based on their respective themes.

The lighting design is particularly noticeable. What led you to use it and what does it signify?

Schrammel: Like colour, light affects our perception and sense of comfort. It is about good visibility

and mood. With an expansive floorspace where sections lack natural light and access to the outside artificial light is very important. For decades we have worked together successfully with light planner Bartenbach in Innsbruck, whose philosophy is very close to ours. We were very pleased that Bartenbach could join us in the planning here.

What is your favourite spot in the new Central Library? How did you implement the required feel-good factor?



Armchairs achieve a reading atmosphere

© Stadtbüchereien



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The lighting corresponds to the floorplan

Schrammel: It is hard to name one particular favourite. I think we have managed to give every space a distinctive character for its target group and thereby a high-quality experience for its users. A sense of comfort in the room is achieved largely by colour and light, whereby the effect is essentially felt unconsciously. If the users enjoy the using the facilities on offer, even if they are unable to say why, then we got everything right. The facilities are as varied as possible, whether loud or quiet, light or dark, so that everyone should be able to find the right place for their individual needs. We plan

rooms for people. A library should be a room for many people. A 'third place', encouraging communication and interaction, is very important in a big city. That is our standard and we hope that our room design has met their requirements. ●

The interview took place in June 2021.



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The *Forum*: meeting point for small groups

The new library experience

Xafé | Lesefenster | Dachgarten

Modern libraries consider themselves as ‘third places’ – after the home and the workplace. The term stands for places where people come together and interact – places where one feels calm, alive, secure. The new Central Library offers a host of these...



© Katja Imer

High above the city: the *Xafé* in KAP 1

Xafé

Level 1___ In the rooms of the Central Library in KAP1 there is a library café: the *Xafé*. It is a meeting place and place of interaction, learning and inspiration. The introduction of a new café in the new location was a frequent wish of many users, which the new building has been able to fulfil.

During our opening hours – including on Sundays – KAP1 users can enjoy drinks and an ever-changing food menu. Dishes, including numerous vegan varieties, are inspired by Arabic, Turkish and Mediterranean cuisines. The menu offers freshly-prepared food for late breakfasts and delicious lunches. The range of homemade cakes is recommended for afternoon coffee time.

For events, the *Xafé* can also be extended to include the adjacent multifunctional *Stadt-fenster* conference room.



© Stadtbüchereien

Work in the round: the popular *Rondell*

Lesefenster/Rondell

Level 2___ Either at the *Rondell* (roundabout) with its study desks or right next to the large window in a comfy armchair: this is the place for relaxed reading, studying or surfing the net with fast Wi-Fi. Nearby there is also an area with 30 PC-workstations. The new Central Library provides users with a modern and comfortable learning environment.



© Stadtbüchereien/Gendera

Roof garden

Level 2___ Another exciting new feature of the KAP1 location is one that is almost invisible from the outside: the *Dachgarten* (roof garden). It provides an oasis of calm in the hectic *Bahnhof-Quarter*.

In the garden one can relax, read, enjoy a drink, consume food from the *Xafé*, meet-up with others or simply enjoy the weather.



60 – 80 people

100 m²

Lernboxen/Parent-child studios

Level 2___ For those seeking a quiet, distraction-free atmosphere for private or professional project work, our nine *Lernboxen* (individual study rooms) are a good option. Secluded from the library area, these boxes allow for study or – using private equipment or that borrowed from the library, e.g. for recording a podcast – work. The boxes are of varying sizes, so can be used for individuals or groups from 2 to 10 people, and can be reserved online or via the library app. Two parent-child studios are special *Lernboxen* providing play areas in addition to work-desks, so that parents, particularly single-parents, can work while keeping an eye on their (< 2-year-old) children.



© Stadtbüchereien/Kahmann

Law Reading Room

Level 2___ This room belongs to the quietest learning locations in the Central Library. The section with the law books is deliberately located away from the main public thoroughfares of the library. Here one can work in silence at one of 18 study desks – as in a study room – with the standard legal textbooks.



© Stadtbüchereien/Gendera



© Stadtbüchereien

Kreativschmiede

Level 1___ The *Kreativschmiede* (creative forge) in the Children's Library hosts countless events. Educators, school classes and preschool groups meet in this room to get to know the library before they go on a discovery tour. This is also a room for crafts, robot-programming, reading and laughter! ●



25 – 35 people

60 m²



Sustainability and climate protection

Libraries 4 future

The new Central Library in KAP1 promotes the topic climate protection and sustainability in all city libraries through the sustainability workgroup, a 'Library of Things' and special event formats.

The moss wall in the Central Library helps create a good atmosphere


Dr. Norbert Kamp, Head of Düsseldorf Library Service, signed the Declaration of Principles of Libraries4Future in 2021



Project group___ With the move of the Central Library to its new site at Konrad-Adenauer-Platz 1, *Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf* started on the way towards a green library and the issue of sustainability came more into focus. Prior to the opening of the new library in November 2021 the service signed the *Declaration of Principles* of the *Libraries4Future* (libraries4future.org). This places libraries not just as disseminators of information and educational materials for social exchange and discourse, but also as direct actors in climate protection.

The topic of sustainability is often reduced to discussion of measures to protect the climate. To the internationally formulated 17 *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDG) and the political target setting of the UN it is defined as res-

ponsibility, social, justice and economic activity. These guidelines should be integrated into the library's activities. *Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf* takes its position as a role model seriously and is keen to use its role as provider, disseminator and mediator of information to advance the cause of climate protection. Sustainability is firmly anchored in our event planning and co-operations to promote the topic have been established with sports club *Fortuna Düsseldorf* and Düsseldorf Nutritional Advice Service.

A workgroup for the advancement of the sustainability and climate protection in the library's own activities was also set up, with a focus on establishing good practice in the new KAP1 building. Library staff from the 14 branch libraries and Central Library exchanged ideas on the topic. 

What does sustainability look like in a library service? Which service areas are most affected? Are there any local experts on the subject? Can partnerships be formed within the City council? Insightful answers should help to make everyday procedures of the libraries more sustainable. Moreover, partnerships and collaborations with related organisations should be established. Interregional support is available from the Network of Green Libraries, an initiative linked to the Institute for Library and Information Science of the Humboldt University of Berlin. ●



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Paperless borrowing___ When borrowing items using the self-service terminals it is possible – if a paper receipt is not wanted – to receive a receipt by email or to forgo a receipt altogether.

Recycling collection boxes___ In our LibraryLab there is a NABU collection box for used mobile phones to be donated for recycling. The scraps of plastic produced by the 3D-printer are also collected and reused.



WeWatt___ Visitors can use the WeWatt power-generating bicycle on Level 2 to charge their devices while getting some exercise in breaks from study or reading.

Saatgutbibliothek___ Düsseldorf Library Service supports the efforts of volunteer seed-collectors and has established the *Saatgutbibliothek* (seed library) and seed boxes in the Central Library and branch libraries. The aim is to use seeds to help protect endangered plant species from extinction and foster their propagation.



Saatgutbibliothek
on Level 1

Library of Things___ The Central Library in KAP1 is also a ‘Library of Things’, namely things that are rarely needed and which not everyone needs to acquire individually. Aligned with the motto ‘borrow not buy’ library members can borrow various items from the Central Library and several branch libraries, including materials and equipment for sewing, DIY, cooking & baking, as well as sports equipment and games. This service promotes a sustainable approach to resources. In the day-to-day life of the library these things are tagged and loaned out just like standard library items.



Green energy___ Not visible or accessible to our users: the solar-panels on the roof of KAP1. Their 250 panels covering an area of 800 square meters deliver 95,000 kilowatt-hours of green, climate-friendly energy.

Reusable cup___ Sustainably saving money in the library café. Hundreds of cups of coffee are sold in reusable cups to help reduce waste – whether in library-branded cups or those brought in from outside. ●





Reading island, learning zone and laboratory



Fun with media for young and old

The Children's, Youth and Music Libraries

The main specialist libraries have found new, and much bigger, places in the new Central Library in KAP1. In conjunction with other departments in the new building the event facilities have also greatly improved.



© LHD/Zamin



Elmar Witt / nora systems

Children's Library

Level 1___ The Children's Library is the main port of call for the library's youngest visitors, providing space for both quiet discovery and for active experiences. Toy figures, walkers and blocks invite children to play, while child-sized armchairs bid them to snuggle up. The furnishings, with the Rhine mural, *Schlosssturm* and *Rheinbrücke* as well as the climbing tree and reading cave offer an enthralling, playful, age-appropriate environment within which to introduce children to media and reading. There are of course places to park prams, a bottle service, changing-tables and breast-feeding rooms.



- ✓ Families with children (up to 12 years)
- ✓ Preschool/daycare groups



© Stadtbüchereien

Youth Library

Level 1___ Young adults were able to contribute to the planning of the Youth Library, meaning requests for things like comfortable seating options could be fulfilled. The Youth Library offers a wide selection of books and audio-books for the over-13s. The accompanying *Schülercenter* (school centre) provides a large choice of learning and exam support materials and has tables for shared learning. The free-time interests of the Young People are also catered for, with particular focus on gaming, via promotions and open availability of various consoles as well as Live-Streaming and Games events. In addition, workshops on gaming, coding and programming are on offer, while meet-ups to test out new games are planned. Regular events showcasing virtual reality for young people are also part of the Central Library's event calendar.



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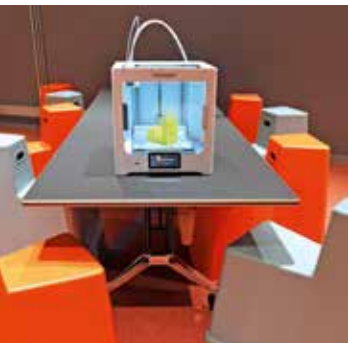
Music Library

Level 2___ Beyond the yellow entrance to the staircase one finds the Music Library, with music literature, a large score collection as well as hundreds of music CDs and DVDs. If one is suddenly gripped by a musical impulse, one can jump on the E-Piano and practice some notes or compose a new tune. (Silent) digital musical instruments are also available in the Music Studio and, by appointment, can be used for digital recording and editing.



- ✓ Young people over 13 years
- ✓ Gaming, coding and cosplay communities

Link to the *von jetzt
auf gleich Düsseldorf*
Library Service podcast



3D-printer

© Stadtbüchereien



Pixi-Pepper the robot

© LHD/Zanin



© Stadtbüchereien

Podcast in the Central Library studio

Digital exploration

Virtual reality, 3D-printing, podcasts and more

With around 2,000 sockets and 140 wi-fi access points the Central Library is well-equipped for digital work.

Level 1___ The LibraryLab is a space and a community. Makers, gamers, VR-fans and digital natives come together here. The open room invites one in with 3D-printers and -scanners, VR goggles, and games consoles to try-out, discover and create. Here things are produced, played, communicated and knowledge exchanged. Our LibraryLab team uses events to support and promote the use of the digital technologies and media of the Library Service, guest speakers have a platform on the LibraryLab stage and meet-ups encourage digitally curious users to get involved.

Level 2___ The LibraryLab-Studio is available for music-, sound-, and video-editing. Training and workshops, for example for school groups, take place in the *Lernstudio* (learning studio), with the room equipped with a smartboard and 30 desks with power and digital points.



30 – 50 people



115 m²

Orientation around the library
with the library app



© Stadtbüchereien

Living library

The library app

There's lots to discover in Düsseldorf Central Library. With the library app, including in the virtual realm.

Level 1+2 The cutting-edge *Bibliotheks-App* (library app) brings a whole new experience to using the library: visitors are led through the building using augmented reality to make finding their way around effortless. If one views the digital room, they will discover deer in the Children's Library, trees between the shelves and lots of other useful information besides. The app also enables people to connect with one another, to find like-minded users, to learn about current events and to book the *Lernboxen* (individual study rooms).



Link to more information
on the *Bibliotheks-App*
(in German)





© Stadtbüchereien/Kahmann



© Stadtbüchereien

The leisure and action space Freiraum; left: a glimpse in the Herzammer auditorium

Rooms of opportunities

Herzkammer | Freiraum | Stadtfenster | Reallabor

Herzkammer__ Die *Herzkammer* (heart chamber) is the largest auditorium in the Central Library, accommodating up to 180 guests. It is the heart of the library and will host many live cultural events, including readings, theatre and live music.



max. 180 people



230 m²



approx. 75 people



150 m²

Freiraum__ The name says it all: the *Freiraum* (free room) is a flexible space for action, leisure and communication. When not in use for exhibitions or events, the Freiraum is free for library users to rearrange as they wish.

A glimpse in to
the *Reallabor*

The *Stadtfenster* multi-functional room



© LHD/Lammert



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Reallabor___ The *Reallabor* (real laboratory) is a thought workshop in a public space. It is designed as a meeting place for the exchange of ideas for products and developments. This so-called open-innovation-space is open to anyone working or involved in a cultural, educational or digital-media field. The Reallabor has everything that one needs to work: furniture for various work situations and group-sizes, equipment for design-thinking-processes and creative work, digital flipcharts and a smartboard. Additionally, there is a 3D-printer for prototypes and VR goggles for testing new services or relaxing during breaks.

Stadtfenster___ The *Stadtfenster* (city window) next to the *Xafé* (library café) is one of the most beautiful rooms of the Central Library. The floor to ceiling windows allow stunning views of the city. The room is used as an event, meeting and conference room – and it is bookable as a licensed wedding venue too.



40 – 60 people



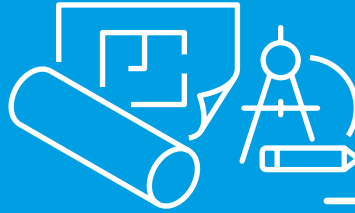
110 m²



30 – 60 people



250 m²



From post office to cultural hotspot







*The **conversion** of existing buildings is an increasingly important planning and building task.*

Karl-Heinz Zaft | Architect (sitting)



Lesefenster



The KAP1 building before
the renovation, 2015



Regeneration towards a cultural hotspot

Karl-Heinz Zaft
RKW Architektur+

Planning the conversion of an existing building into a new use concept is a speciality of *RKW Architektur+*, with six offices across Germany, including one in Düsseldorf. In the following interview lead architect Karl-Heinz Zaft discusses the conversion of KAP1, glass halls and grey energy in the KAP1 building.



© AG Meyer Architekten Düsseldorf/DFZ Architekten, Hamburg

Glimpse of the foyer of the FFT (visualisation), 2019



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One of four *Blickfänge* (eye-catchers) on the roof-top

What is important about the building from an architectural perspective, how was it changed into a cultural hotspot through the conversion, and what significance does KAP1 have to the regeneration of the Bahnhof Quarter?

30 years ago the Düsseldorf main post office at Konrad-Adenauer-Platz opened. The complex interior structure and layout of the building were perfectly tailored to the needs of the former *Deutsche Bundespost* (German Federal Mail). The new-build then was constructed with great care and high build quality. The compact building structure and natural stone façade of its postmodern-style were actually publicly quite controversial.

The conversion of existing buildings is an increasingly important and developing planning and building task. The one-time investment in 'grey energy' should be reused where possible. It was a bit of luck, therefore, that the post office building already had the potential to implement many of the diverse requirements of the new, predominantly municipal and cultural uses. After a three-year renovation KAP1 opened again.

The new library alone will have over a million visitors a year. The new main-station-facing glass hall with its express-lifts and spacious staircase is designed to handle this onslaught, as well ➤



© Stadtbüchereien

View of KAP1, 2021

as the many visitors to the *Forum Freies Theater* (Forum Free Theatre, FFT). The installation of four golden *Blickfänge* (eye-catchers) from artist Barbara Wille on the roof will ensure that KAP1 is seen across the city centre. Furthermore, the connection to a plethora of local, national and individual transport options and proximity of further cultural institutions will turn KAP1 into a cultural hotspot.

To round off the project “only” requires the redevelopment of the Konrad-Adenauer-Platz according to the result of the redevelopment competition of 2018.



© Stadttarchiv

Polygonal building plan in city centre

What challenges presented themselves in the redevelopment of the building?

KAP1 is, architecturally speaking, a high-rise building and therefore a so-called 'complex special build', meaning it must meet the highest construction and technical requirements, above all in terms of fire prevention. More often than not planners are unable to obtain comprehensive plans for existing buildings, therefore older buildings always provide surprises in terms of renovation planning. No stone was left unturned in the planning process. The technical building installations were brought up to the latest standards, so, for example, solar panels were fitted



The vitrified entrance hall (visualisation)



Floorplan of Level 1 on the second floor

on the roof and numerous window frames were renewed to meet thermal and acoustic standards. The extensive construction activities posed challenges for the construction logistics in particular in terms of guaranteeing a regulated and efficient building site. There was effectively no public or private free space available for the transportation in and out of building materials or their storage. Additionally, the building manager had to guarantee the uninterrupted operation of the building's existing tenants.

Why was the conversion of the building well-suited to the inclusion of a library and how far do you think this succeeded?

Libraries are no longer places for contemplative withdrawal and storage of media. Modern libraries also cater to the needs of an ever more complex society. They have to be forums for direct and digital encounters, providing the attendant interactive facilities. The fulfilment of these requirements, with particular focus on children and young people as well as on the needs of working groups, succeeded to a large extent. Over two floors the most diverse functions were differentially and elaborately manufactured. It was fun to accompany this process and to help shape its implementation. ●

Interview conducted in September 2021.

”

*The frames are ambiguous and universal. They symbolise **stages, windows, pictures and signs.***

Barbara Wille | Artist



Eye-catcher

Art in Construction

Four golden frames crown the Konrad-Adenauer-Platz 1 building that houses the new Central Library. These constructions form the *Blickfang* (Eye-Catcher) artwork by Barbara Wille.

The installation keeps in the importance of the future cultural hotspot in view. Consisting of four 6x8-metre golden steel frames affixed to the roof of KAP1, it is visible from afar and captures the attention of passers-by. The slender frames counteract the monolithic impact of the building, anchoring it in the sky above the statecapital.

For Barbara Wille, also a Professor at the University of Visual Arts in Dresden, the frames are ambiguous yet universal to understand – they symbolise stages, windows, image and sign.

Thereby the golden eye-catchers encapsulate the aims of the 'Art in Construction' competition (March 2020), namely making a significant design contribution to a building through a single artwork.

In early 2021 the *Commission for Art in Construction and Public Space of the Düsseldorf City Council* ('art commission' for short) chose the concept of Barbara Wille for KAP1. The expert panel establishes competitions and awards, deciding on the selection of artists as well as projects, and advising the City on its decision-making process. ●

Metamorphosis after 30 years

A challenging transformation

With the opening of the KAP1 building in November 2021 a planning and building time lasting several years came to an on all hands satisfying end.

Responsible for delivering the building renovations for the City of Düsseldorf was a project management team consisting of 11 persons. For one of them, Manfred Krick, project leader and in charge for the communal affairs, it was a special challenge: Before he changed to the Communal Service he was part of a team from the Düsseldorf Postal Service between 1988 and 1991 which established the former Central Post Office on the same site. So it was a return to a familiar place of work. Luckily, there were no serious construction injuries during the phase of renovation.

Around the age of thirty, the building experienced a metamorphosis from logistics centre to cultural building. It took a huge effort to provide good work-

places and opportunities for interaction and exchange of ideas for the various cultural institutions in the building.

The renovating and conversion of the building is a good example at a time of urgent resource protection and climate change – no demolition and release of CO₂ during the re-build, rather reuse of the existing edifice. The solar-panels on the roof (95,000 kilowatt-hours) support this approach.

Finally, the project leadership team was pleased by the intensive collaboration of all participants in the planning and construction phases. May the outstanding new library concept at this special site benefit all visitors. ●



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Timeline___ Discussion began in **2010** about the future location of the Düsseldorf Central Library at Bertha-von-Suttner-Platz (east exit of the main station). The then incarnation of the Central Library, designed solely as a lending library, without separate event spaces, rooms for group work, reader café, separate youth library or 24-hour-bookdrop, no longer considered future-proof.

2014: A 40,000 square-metre logistic centre of former German Federal Mail in front of the main station becomes available.

2014/2015: A cost-needs assessment carried out for the KAP1 logistic centre.

10 December 2015: Düsseldorf Council passes resolution stating the fundamental need for provision and ordering a consultation regarding alternative sites to KAP1.

7 July 2016: Düsseldorf Council opts for KAP1.

18 May 2017: Further Düsseldorf Council resolution agreeing rental of floor space in the KAP1 building passed.

19 May 2017: The rental agreement was signed the other day.

3 May 2018: Unanimous executive and financial resolution passed by Düsseldorf Council.

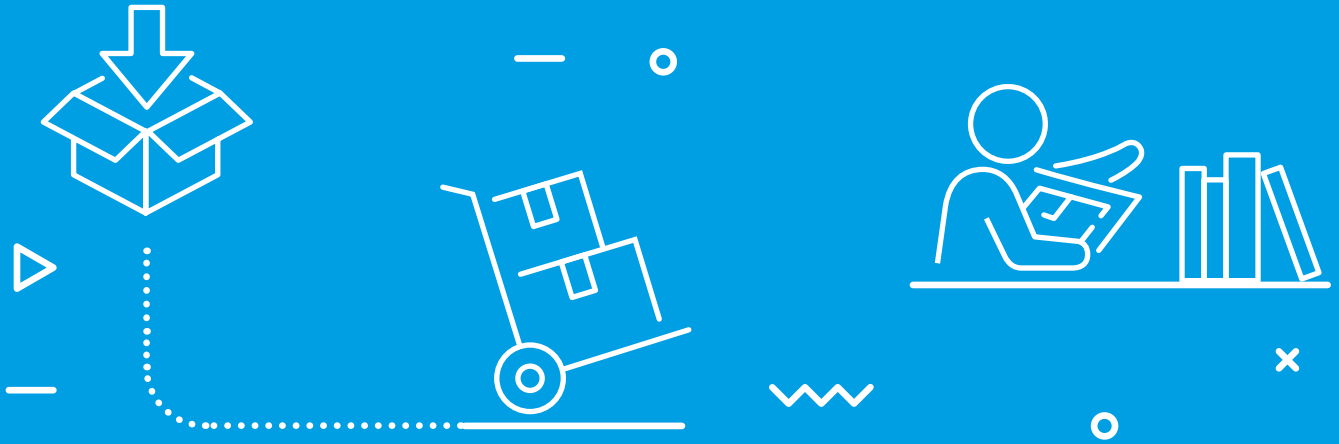
Early 2018: Construction work for the new library begins.

30 June 2021: Düsseldorf Library Service takes the floors of the new Central Library – 8,000 square metres over two levels.

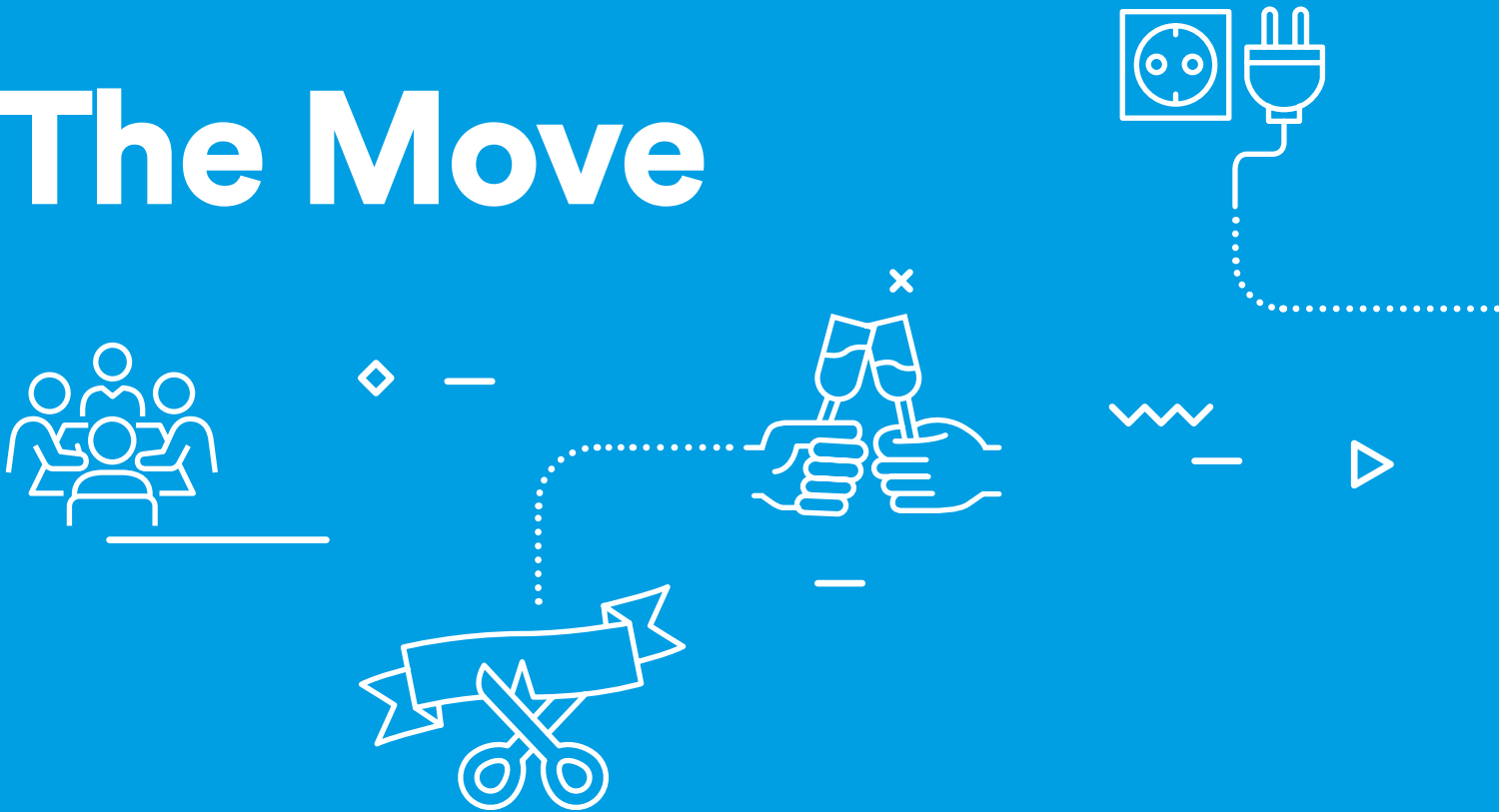
1 July 2021: Düsseldorf Council approves Sunday opening and increased opening hours of 74 hours per week.

5 July 2021: The first shelves are installed. The move of the entire collection lasts until October.

6 November 2021: The new Düsseldorf Central Library opens its doors to the public.



The Move







The empty Level 1
at the new location,
June 2021

Logistics as social activity

A library moves home

Even if it's only a few hundred metres between the old Central Library location and the new, 300,000 items had to be moved, including 12,000 CDs and 10,000 DVDs. That equates to a shelf-length of 5.8 kilometres.

The move of the Central Library from the rear exit of the main station (Bertha-von-Suttner-Platz) to its new location on the front (Konrad-Adenauer-Platz 1, shortly: KAP1) was many months in the planning and organisation. Moreover, apart from a few days, the library would be kept open throughout the move. ►



© Stadtbüchereien

"We pack our things":
Poster with information
on the final days
at the old location

"Borrow us empty":
a user who has
heeded the call

In order to reduce the number of items that had to be moved between the libraries, from August onwards Düsseldorfers were called via local media to "borrow us empty". The smart idea: items that were out on loan would not need to be transported by the removal company. By the end of September fewer and fewer books and media were available at the old site.

Backroom and staff furniture were moved to the new site and distributed among the offices. The fixtures and fittings of the new library would be newly acquired. They were, therefore freshly installed and 'only'

had to be filled with books and other media according to the classification. 750 boxes were made available for the move. Staff carried smaller pieces of furniture and beloved items to the new library by cart through the station's tunnel.

The doors at the former location were closed for the last time at 8 pm on Friday 5 November 2021 only just to be re-open for the public at the new spot punctually at 11 am on Saturday 6 November 2021. From this fresh start on, the institution is operating as the 'Central Library in KAP1'.

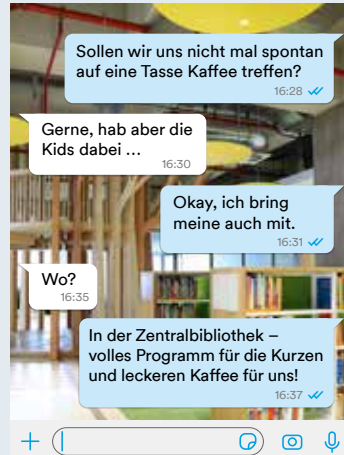
Informationen zum Umzug
der Zentralbibliothek in das KAP1

Wir packen unsere Kisten





Die neue Zentralbibliothek ab 06.11.2021 im KAP1



Die neue Zentralbibliothek ab 06.11.2021 im KAP1



Die neue Zentralbibliothek ab 06.11.2021 im KAP1



Campaign images for posters and social media in the style of SMS messages

Link to the film on YouTube (in German)



Marketing — The information strategy for the move and reopening of the Central Library was planned over a year beforehand. A marketing campaign began two weeks prior to the reopening using the city's digital billboards, supported by flyers. The campaign highlighted all the things to see and do in the new library which contradict traditional library clichés. In addition, a video-montage showing the opportunities for visitors to the new Central Library was published on the *Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf* video-channels. The film can be accessed on YouTube via the QR code on the right. ●

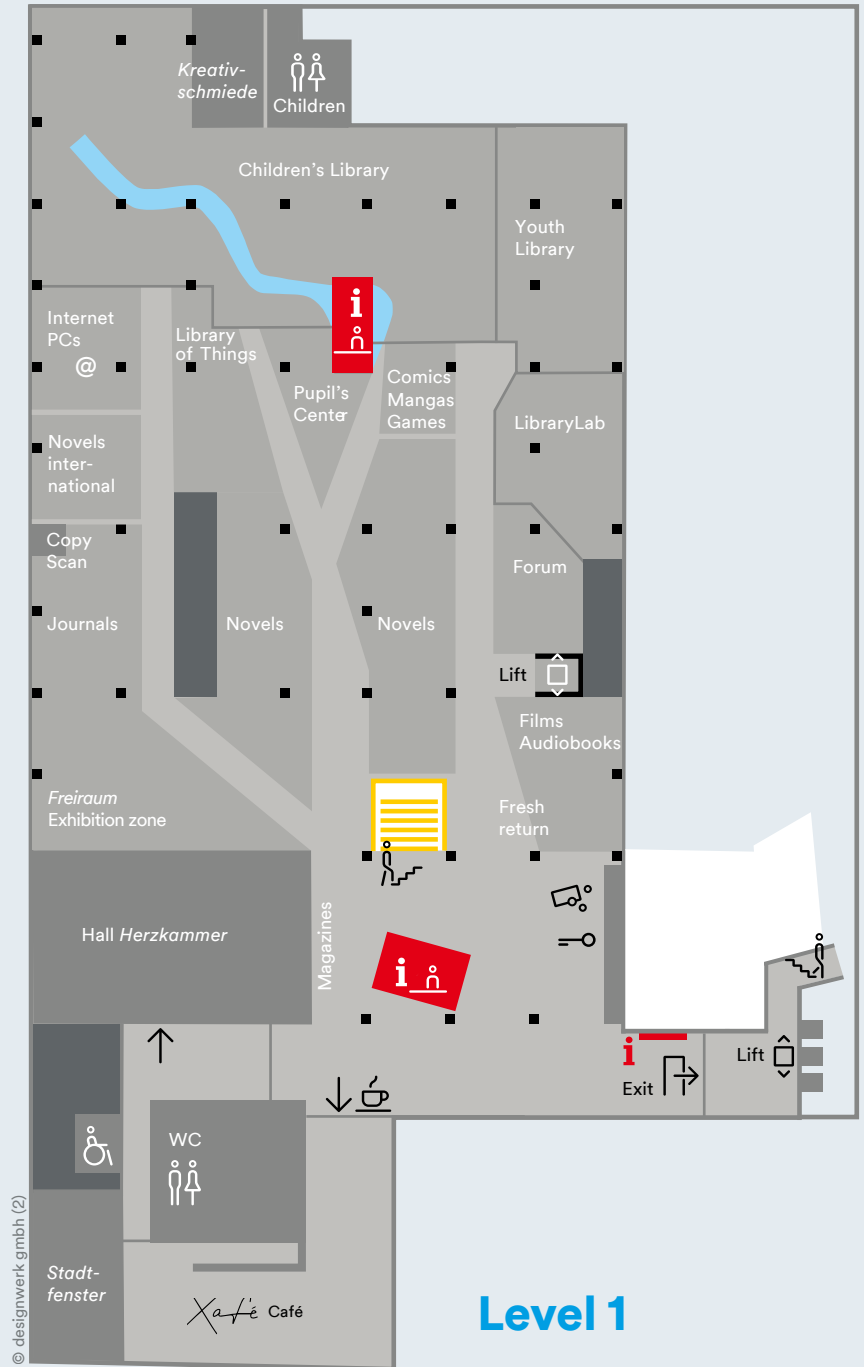
Shelves awaiting books, June 2021

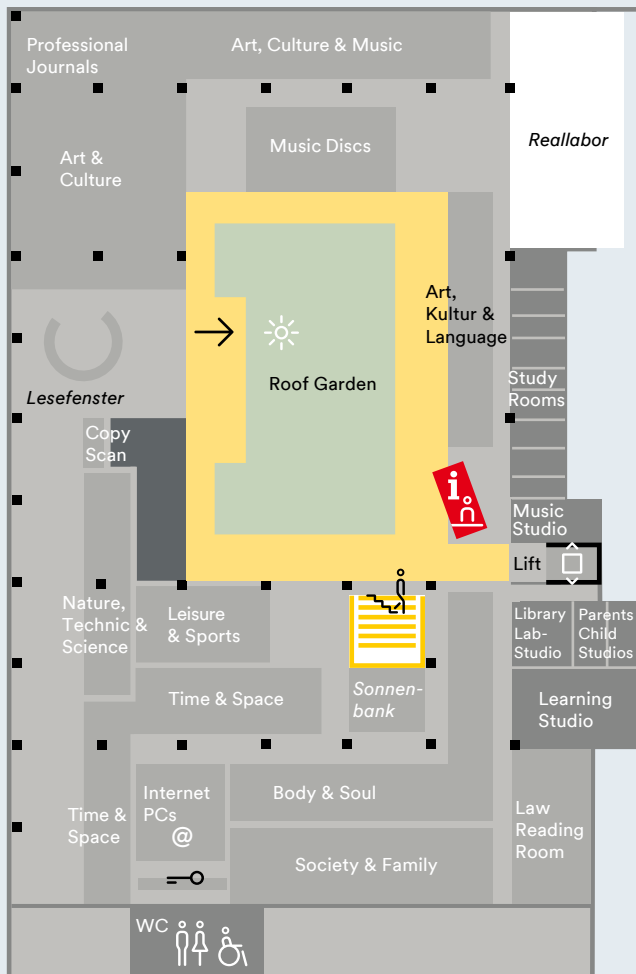


Where is everything?

Orientation in the Central Library in KAP1

Entrance
2nd floor





Level 2

The Team



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The Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf network

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Saturdays: 9:00 – 18:00

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