

“The Literary Bridge”

An elevated bridge connecting two spaces high in the city that provide a metaphorical connection between cultures and the fabric of society through lending, meeting and reading.

“A bridge is a meeting place, a possibility, a metaphor.”

Jeanette Winterson

“We build too many walls and not enough bridges.”

Isaac Newton

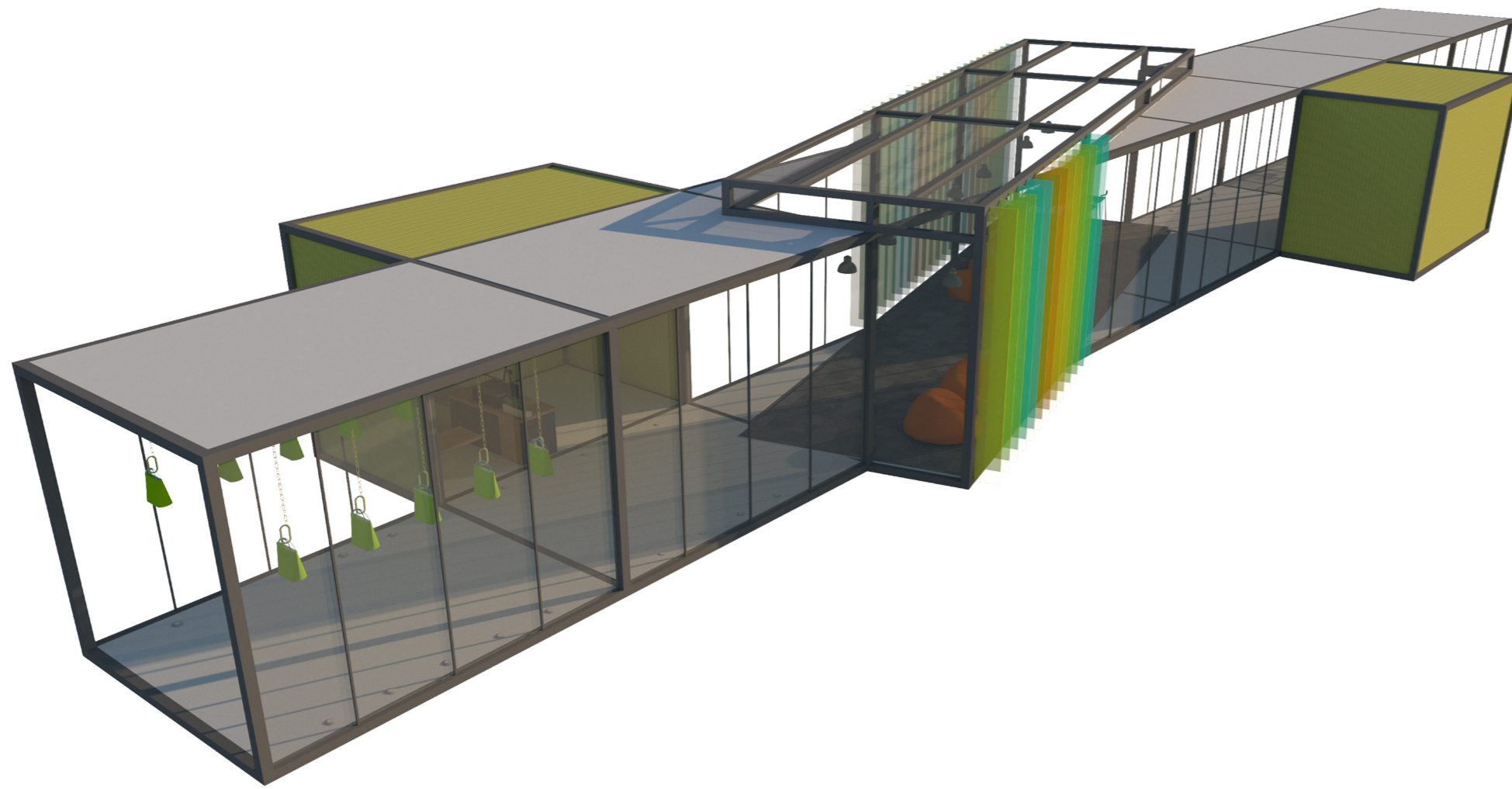


Fig. 1
3D Rendering shot for “The Literary Bridge”



Fig. 2
3D rendering interior shot for the Social area in The Literary Bridge



Fig. 3
3D rendering interior shot for the pot light gallery in The Literary Bridge

What will future libraries look like?

For decades, libraries have been trying to serve the communities needs and provision of learning centres and knowledge hubs. Over time these have evolved and most recently threatened with closures as books lose their popularity in the early years of the twenty first century. However, recent interest in all things analogue (vinyl, tapes and now books) reflect a movement towards the handling of tangible designed objects and the values we place in them. In my project I imagine a future library, more local, connecting people and ideas and providing instant access to the books themselves.

Technology:

Most of us think that future libraries would include is “more technology”! and provide a space with gadgets that help us access information such as eBooks, iPad and laptops. Unfortunately, up until recently books have not held the same collective appeal as the shiny and new gadgets.

Social media:

We are all aware of the impact of social media has on our lives. Through social media people can share their comments of what they have read, and how they have been engaged in perhaps a story, documentary or political opinion. which allow people to access books more easily. Social media is going to improve the future library through creating discussions and providing a constant flow of suggestions for reading from those that engage.

A future librarian will be armed through social media to offer readers feedback upon books from a professional perspective. Feedback from readers will also better inform the future librarian on the provision of services and reading materials.

Because of the open access of information, libraries are providing more social spaces where people can get a coffee, relax and communicate and exchange ideas and information with each other.

Books Vs E-books

In the last decade, some people expected that the digital revolution would destroy the use of traditional books and newspapers. Here are some reasons that I suggest books will not die!!

A few years ago, people hooked up to tablets instead of buying real books, as it is cheaper, lighter to hold and more accessible through a mobile reading platform that most of us now carry. However, according to the latest figures from the Publishing Association statistics showed that eBooks sales are falling (17% in 2016), with an 8% rise in their physical counterparts.

Here are a few reasons that come to mind that led people to get back to real printed books.

1. Traditional Books are tangible objects:

E-books cannot give you the sensation that traditional books provide; they are designed with a cover that sets the context, have a smell that welcomes the reader and feel completely different to hold.

2. Traditional Books provide a meaningful gift

Over the years, a book stays the most meaningful and personal gift you could ever receive, providing an insight into the feelings we have for others.

3. Traditional Books can be shared with friends

Books are more easily shared, you can borrow or exchange books, not possible through digital means.

The Ponte Vecchio Bridge, Italy

My idea turned a corner after seeing a bridge in Italy called the Ponte Vecchio in Florence. Here an historic bridge was developed with shops either side thus enclosing the bridge space which linked the historic centre with a famous Royal Parkway. The flow of foot traffic



Fig. 4
Book shelves
<https://unsplash.com/photos/NUuEQw0Rkg>

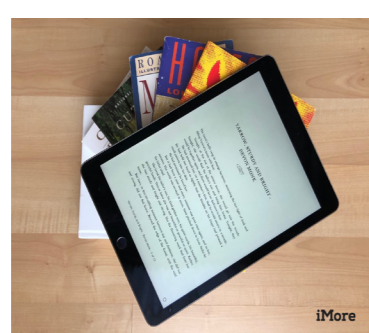


Fig. 4
Ebook
[\[https://www.more.com/how-read-and-listen-books-walmart-ebooks\]](https://www.more.com/how-read-and-listen-books-walmart-ebooks)



Fig. 4
Ponte Vecchio bridge in Florence
[\[https://www.visitflorence.com\]](https://www.visitflorence.com)

was forced past the shops in what became the first piece of branded retail design in the world.

Bridge as a metaphor

These days, the technology revolution affects our lives in so many different ways, it makes our life style faster and easier in a way, but on the other hand relationships suffer from the distance and associated loneliness that has been created by technology.

My project is not only a bridge which links two elevated spaces it is also creates emotional links in the physical world. As Jim West quotes, “Bridges are metaphors for everything in life, ... The bridge is not just about getting back and forth between north and south. The bridge is about connecting our communities.”

As a metaphor, a bridge between people enables them to exchange ideas, thoughts and knowledge. It connects a group of people, it helps teenagers from being isolated, it opens the opportunity to learn from different cultures.

All the parts that make up the bridge are important. Without one component its neighbor would collapse. Every part of the bridge supports each other.

Let's build more bridges between us that strengthen relationships.

Digital detox

Many people are addicted to technology. The desire for a digital detox is taking shape in a backlash to its ever-increasing use. every now and then. The average amount of times a person checks their phone is over 2,500 times a day, spending just over 4 hours per day on their mobile device. Couple this with the continued and increasing reliance on email as a primary business communication channel and the perceived need to reply to emails or other digital communications immediately, and there is a huge impact of technology on how people communicate on a day-to-day basis. But how good is this for human health and well-being? And how productive does such technology affect our daily living?

A lot of research has started to explore how this phenomenon relates to office design and what can be done to facilitate this growing desire or need for a digital detox, without having a negative impact on the workplace and people productivity. In reflection of how technology is still considered an essential part of effective communication newly designed or refurbished library spaces do carefully consider the integration and use of technology at the very early stages of the design process. However, a library could benefit from the provision of tech-free zones. Spaces dedicated to contemplation and learning, such as places of worship or libraries, studies show the digital free space will quickly become a feature or a requirement in the workplace too.

The benefits of encouraging a digital detox and providing tech-free zones within the libraries will make a positive impact on human well-being by enabling people the space and freedom to take a break from their smartphones, tablets and laptops and focus on other activities, or simply take a break to refresh and recharge. A library digital detox will also enable people to use other ways of communicating in order to achieve desired results; far too many emails are sent each working day, with a lot of people preferring or choosing to email their colleagues rather than speaking to them face-to-face. However, face-to-face communication remains a far more effective method of improving human collaboration and achieving results faster.

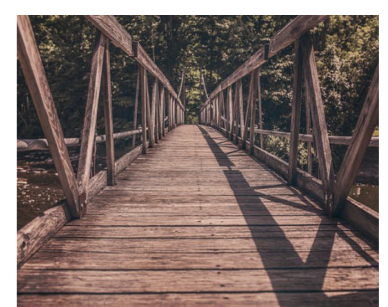


Fig. 5
A bridge
[\[https://www.pexels.com/search/bridge/\]](https://www.pexels.com/search/bridge/)

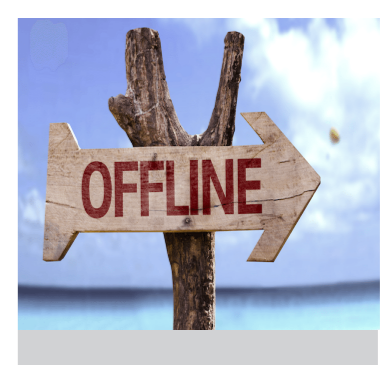


Fig. 5
[\[https://startupnation.com/grow-your-business/importance-digital-detox/\]](https://startupnation.com/grow-your-business/importance-digital-detox/)

References

- Hub.wiley.com. (2018). What Will Libraries of the Future Look Like? | Wiley. [online] Available at: <https://hub.wiley.com/community/exchanges/discover/blog/2017/06/06/what-will-libraries-of-the-future-look-like> [Accessed 4 Nov. 2018].
- Preston, A. (2018). How real books have trumped ebooks. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/may/14/how-real-books-trumped-ebooks-publishing-revival> [Accessed 4 Nov. 2018].
- Culture Nation Wiki. (2018). Counterculture. [online] Available at: <http://culturenation.wikia.com/wiki/Counterculture> [Accessed 4 Nov. 2018].
- Harper-Ronald, J. (2018). The Counterculture symbolism. [online] Academia.edu. Available at: http://www.academia.edu/219908/The_Counterculture_symbolism [Accessed 4 Nov. 2018].

Maysoon Al Momani
MA Interior Design
20755887

School of Art, Design and Performance
University of Central Lancashire

