

## THE FORUM, SOUTHEND

The Forum, a four storey, multi-million pound integrated public and academic library, is now open in Southend, Essex. The project is a joint venture between Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, the University of Essex and South Essex College.

Demco won the tender for the shelving and the children's library. Marion Brooke, Operations Manager, Southend Borough Council said: "The Demco tender presentation just stood out from the rest, it had the WOW factor and they were really in tune with what we were thinking".

Demco's experience on working on another combined public and academic library - The Hive, Worcester, showed their expertise in designing and installing shared services spaces. The Forum team also visited Norwich, Brighton and Peckham libraries.

A much talked about feature of the new space is the children's library. Marion Brooke, was very complimentary about Demco's involvement: "The feature in the children's library looks fantastic. I shall have no

hesitation in recommending Vivien and Demco to anyone else; the help and co-operation has been excellent and the layout for the children's library definitely has the 'Wow!' factor. Everyone is amazed by it – thank you for such a brilliant job".

Angela Breakey, Library Manager sees the children's library as an important part of the library's reader development programme, "these children are our readers of tomorrow".

The Demco white Promo and clad Cantilibra shelving make extra impact with a range of graphic end panels and clever layouts creates zones and casual seating areas.

With 150,000 books to be incorporated into the space, planning and logistics were key and the teams admit that 'it became a way of life'. But the end result is a library that is open seven days a week and is buzzing with students and the public.

See more images at www.demcointeriors.co.uk/shared-services

