



# Claude Ramsey Library, Greenwich London, UK



Co-located with Thamesmere Leisure Centre, the Claude Ramsey Library was a bit of an after-thought within the centre. Tucked away and separated from the rest of the Leisure Centre by a wall, it was not fulfilling its potential as an inspirational service to the community.

## The Vision

Our client Diana Edmonds, Head of Libraries at GLL, had a vision of breaking down the boundaries between the Library and Leisure Centre and bringing the library to the forefront of services offered at the centre. When she heard the main reception area was to be refurbished, she took the opportunity to push for the Library to be completely renovated and redesigned too.

The separating wall was removed and replaced with a clear, low-level partition, allowing people entering the centre to actually see the library. Our challenge was to create a design that enticed and invited people into the library space. We needed to take full advantage of this new approach to marketing the library service.

## Our Design

The refurbished Leisure Centre foyer was styled to create a sense of calm and cleanliness – with stark white walls, a sleek reception counter and muted greys as part of the colour palette. The idea was for the library to contrast this. The library space was to be vibrant, bold and interesting.

This vibrancy was primarily achieved through the chosen colour palette – white and bright green, accented by bursts of mauve and pink. We created interest further by steering away from straight lined shelving. We used book wedges which not only enable enhanced display opportunities but also for shelves to be placed at angles, creating a point of difference that captivates the end user and leads them through the library.



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Another cutting-edge point of difference is the self-service stations integrated into the shelving end panels. Using touch screen technology, these pieces of 'furniture' become part of the shelving, taking up little space and allowing library members to check-out and return books all on their own, as well as to access other exciting information via the screen.

The children's area shines with brightly coloured kinderboxes with integrated seating and a fun kiddies Book Lodge which doubles as a little play house and book display.

### The Outcome

By combining new technology with insight and design, the new Claude Ramsey Library is a prime example of how a clever vision can be realised. Today the library is not just confined to the library space but extends into the Leisure Centre with waterproof books featured poolside, Sports & Leisure magazines scattered across the centre and Library news & activities promoted over the Leisure Centre plasma screens. This is an ingenious way to marry and compliment the two services to provide an enhanced overall experience.

We are proud to have been a part of this insightful refurbishment and are happy to announce that the new Claude Ramsey Library is attracting more and more users and finally living up to its potential as a place where the community can seek refuge and enjoy their leisure time.



“ Claude Ramsey Library was designed around the theme of "A Box of Delights" and the team matched the theme - delightful staff, a delightful approach to the design of library interiors and delightful delivery - on and even before deadline. ”

Diana Edmonds  
Head of Libraries GLL