



## CASE STUDY

### Neath Library - Neath Port Talbot Council

## The BRIEF

We were delighted to win this tender and continue our longstanding relationship with Neath Port Talbot Council. The new library is located on the first floor of the new Neath Leisure Centre in the heart of Neath Town Centre and has views overlooking the town and St. David's Church.

We engaged with the library service and project team to ensure the clients expectations were fully met, along with the functionality and flexibility a modern library demands.



### DESIGN COMMENT - IAIN HAZELL, PROJECT CREATIVE DESIGNER

*"The modern library space needs to provide valuable services to all members of a local community. Drawing from the project brief we looked to create a library space that was both welcoming and also showcased modern ways of using such a facility and it's services. From making use of the large glazed areas of the building for relaxed reading areas, to quick access point for members of the public to use their laptops or other devices. It was important bring together all aspects together in a functional environment.*

*The children's area needed to provide a central focal point to excite and intrigue younger users of the library. We drew on a space theme with vivid colours, interaction points sensory elements and plenty of soft seating to enjoy a good story!"*

## The SOLUTION

The main part of the project was the Children's Library which incorporated a space themed area, sensory StoryWall with an entrance archway, a variety of our Jigsaw and Coral Plus soft seating and a mix of reading tables and chairs.



- Landscape Library Shelving
- Heavy duty castors for ease of movement and reconfiguration

- Jigsaw and Coral Plus seating
- Sensory Starlight Hideaway reading seat



Alongside the children's area was a bespoke manufactured boat which offered additional WOW factor for a fun and unique reading space! The boat is positioned alongside a soft seating area, with Landscape Library Shelving to zone the space.



The main library wanted flexibility, so the Landscape Library Shelving system was used with heavy duty castors to ensure ease of movement and reconfiguration as and when required. Dotted around the shelving and main area were various Elements display units offering a mix of display solutions.

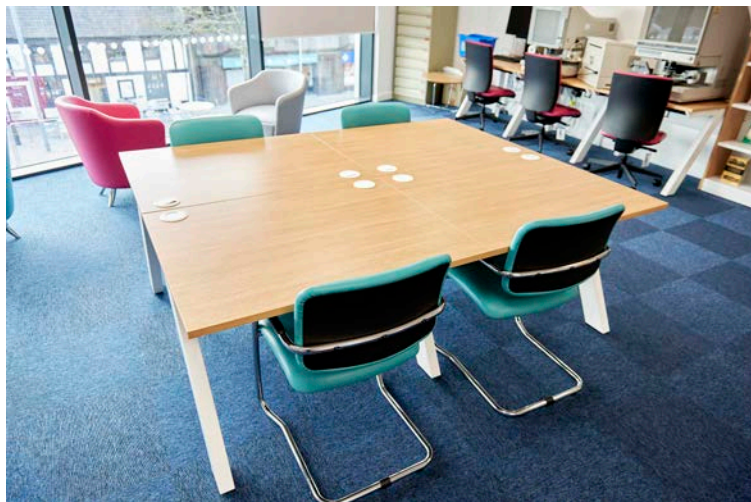


The main staff reception counter was designed and located centrally towards the front entrance so that it was visible to all users, and offered a mix of sitting height and standing height surfaces along with DDA accessible space.



Along the front façade of the library, were the floor to height ceilings which offered views over Neath Town Centre. This was the ideal location for a variety of soft seating offering users a comfy place to sit, read and study whilst looking at the outside view.

The colour scheme was chosen because of the warmth from the oak, but the modernness and bright pops of colour to add interest to the space. It was important not to have too much tall furniture in the space due to the lower ceilings, so we wanted to encourage as much natural light to fill the space from those floor to ceiling windows.



Ample IT and 'bring your own device' spaces are on offer, along with two bookable meeting rooms both with flexible furniture.

The Local History section includes space for existing Microfiche machines positioned alongside a lockable glass display for historical artifacts and precious materials.



