



Complete, inspired design solutions



CASE STUDY
The International School of Port of Spain,
Trinidad and Tobago

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Introduction

The International School of Port of Spain (ISPS) sought to create a modern and versatile library space that would cater to the diverse needs of its student body. To achieve this, the school reached out to FG Library & Learning, renowned for its expertise in designing innovative educational environments.

FG Library & Learning engaged with the ISPS team through video conferencing, conducting multiple design consultations to understand the school's specific requirements. This collaborative process allowed FG Library & Learning to produce several design iterations, ensuring that the final concept aligned perfectly with the school's vision.

"The FG Library experience was exceptional. They understood the vision of the library we wanted to create which was centered around flexibility, modernization, comfort and community.

They made our vision come to reality with ease. Josh took the time to communicate and adjust the plans to accommodate our space and financial needs during the initial project phase which contributed to a successful outcome, for this we are grateful."

Aykean Forde, MBA, MA, CFM, SFP, FMP
Facilities Director - The International School of Port of Spain



Challenges

Coordinating an international, bespoke library fit-out project posed several challenges. The project timescales required regular communication to meet project deadlines and decision making. From the initial design consultations to virtual walkthroughs with the installation team, FG Library & Learning had to ensure clear and constant communication to avoid any misunderstandings.

Shipping the materials was another challenge. FG Library & Learning sent two 40ft containers from the UK—one from Northampton and one from Ossett—each packed and loaded by their own staff. Given the large number of bespoke products involved, careful consideration was given to how the items were packed.

The packaging not only had to protect the goods during the long journey but also needed to simplify the installation process once they arrived in Trinidad. This meticulous planning ensured that the installation went smoothly and according to plan.



The Design Process

The design consultation and collaboration stages of the project were entirely conducted via Zoom, a necessity due to the geographic distance. Full 3D visualisations played a critical role in this process, enabling FG Library & Learning to effectively communicate their vision to the ISPS staff. These visualisations allowed the school to see how the proposed elements would interact within the space, ensuring that the design met their expectations.



A local architect from Trinidad was also involved in the project, which was essential for ensuring the accuracy of site measurements and technical details. The collaboration between FG Library & Learning and the architect was seamless, with both parties working closely to ensure that every aspect of the design was perfect.

The new library space was designed with a focus on creating distinct areas tailored to different age groups and types of use. The space included a Welcome & Reception Area, Elementary School Area, Middle School Area, High School Area, Makerspace, and a flexible AV classroom. FG Library & Learning was also engaged in the design of the flooring layout, which complemented the furniture proposal and helped define the various zones. A combination of Interface Composure carpet tiles and Natural Woodgrains LVT flooring was used to achieve this.

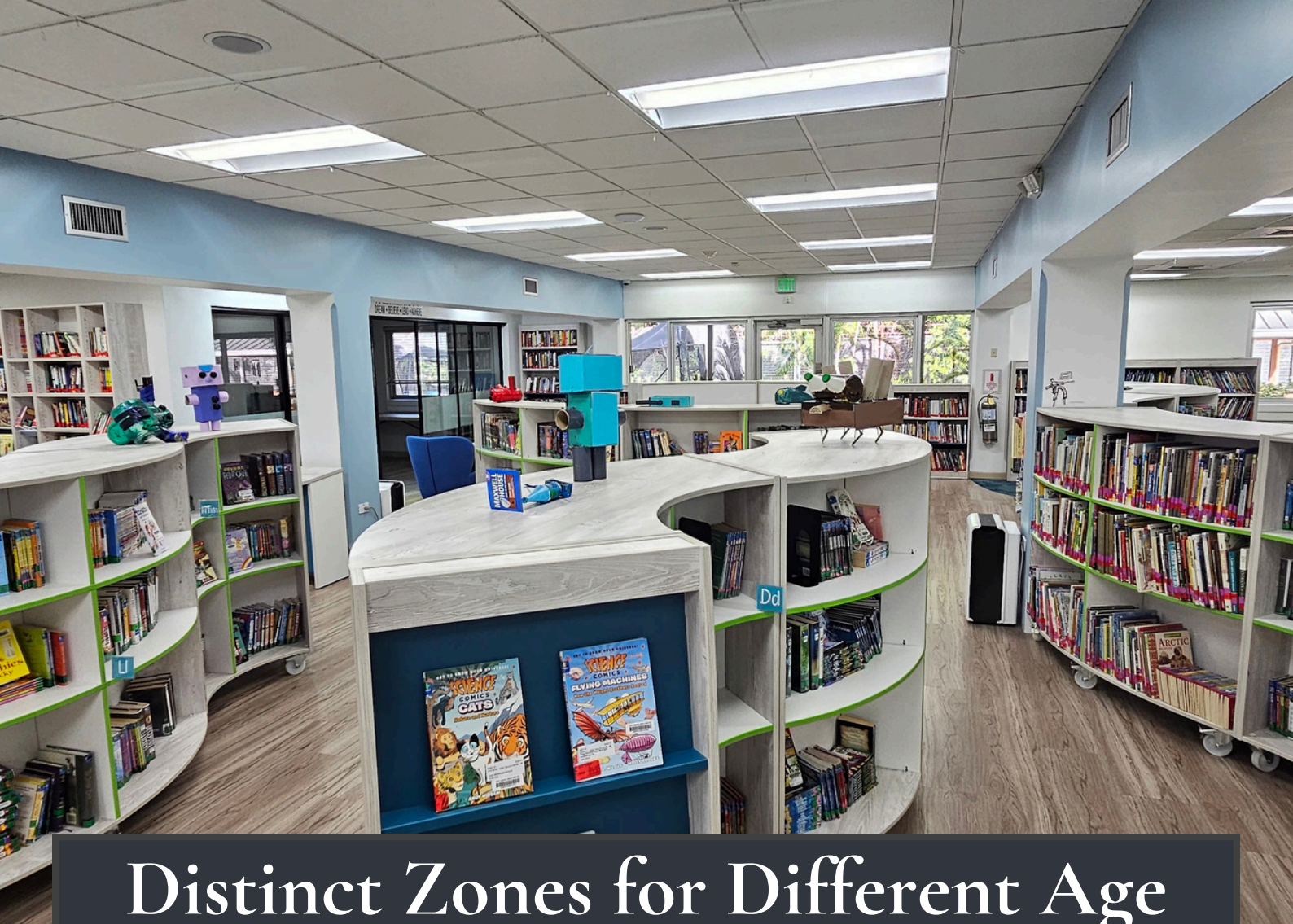
Technology Integration

In the High School Area, FG Library & Learning integrated device charging modules, specifically the Pluto modules from Office Electrics, into the poseur height tables. These modules were equipped with connections suitable for plug-and-play installation, meeting the specific electrical requirements in Trinidad. This feature not only added functionality but also enhanced the usability of the library space for high school students, who rely heavily on electronic devices for their studies.



Finishes

The finishes selected for the library played a crucial role in creating the desired ambiance. Cascina Pine was the primary wood grain used throughout the space, providing a rustic yet modern and natural feel. This choice of material allowed the various colors used in different zones to stand out, highlighting the uniqueness of each area. The fabrics chosen were Camira Mainline Flax and Honeycomb, which added texture and warmth to the overall design.

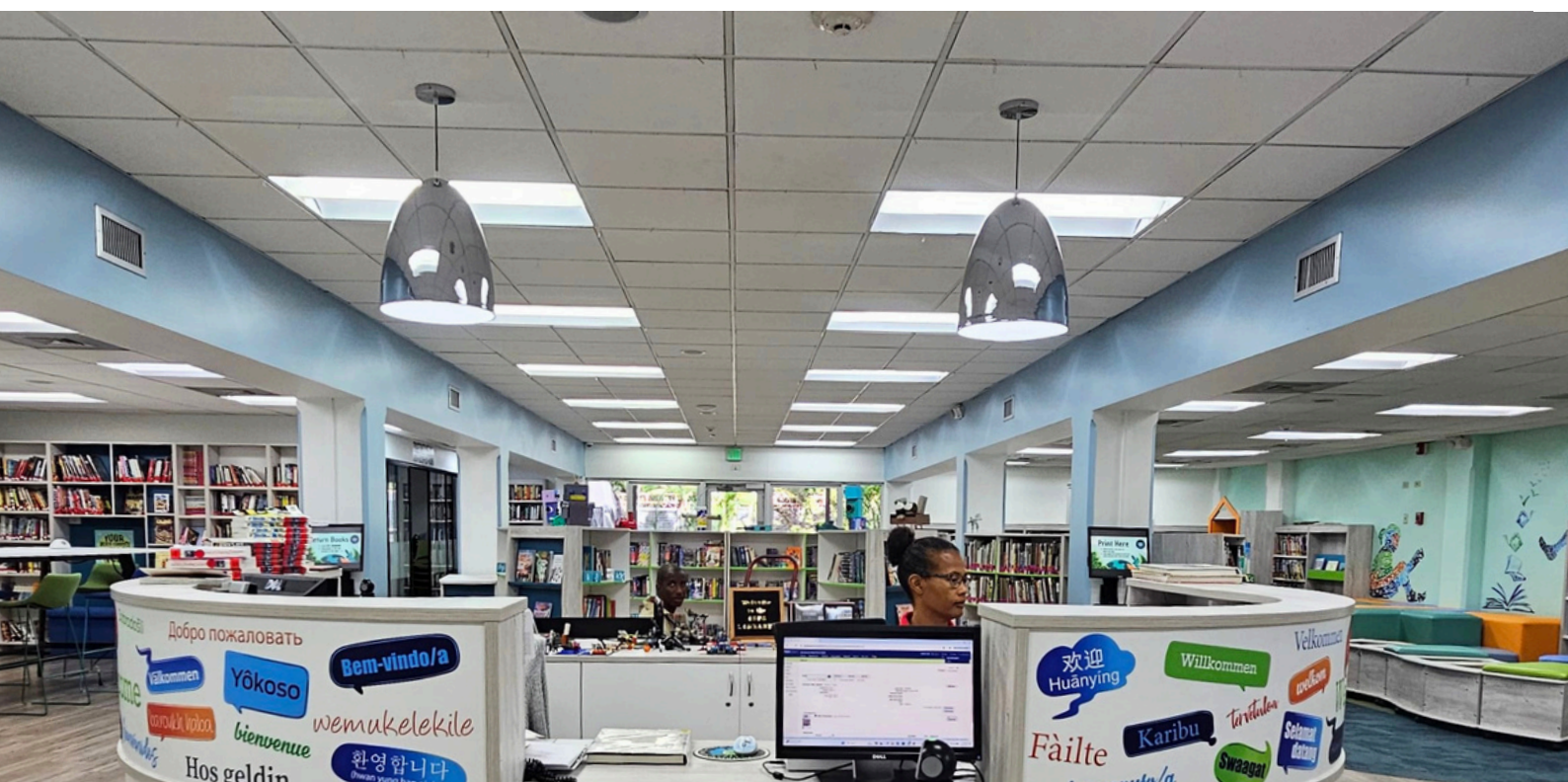


Distinct Zones for Different Age Groups and Activities





Seamless Technological Integration





Modern, clean colour scheme with pops of bright colour



Outcomes & Impact

The new library at the International School of Port of Spain has been met with enthusiasm from the entire school community. FG Library & Learning worked closely with Aykean Forde, the Facilities Director, throughout the project. Aykean expressed her satisfaction with the outcome, noting that “the community is loving the new library!” The successful completion of this project demonstrates the effectiveness of remote collaboration and the ability to deliver complex, high-quality educational spaces, even across international borders. The new library space is not only functional but also inspires learning and creativity among students of all ages.

“The kids were absolutely blown away by the new library. We have had nothing but positive feedback from our ISPS community.

Our older students are often found in the elementary section with the stadium seating and nooks because they love it. Teachers enjoy bringing their classes to the library as a change of scenery from the classroom.”

Jessica Maya - Acting Librarian at ISPS



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FUTURE SHAPERS



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