中國因言館選集集錦



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LIBRARY BUILDINGS

中国大百科全意出版社

Encyclopedia of China Publishing House

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在中华民族五千年的文明发展史中,图书馆作为庋藏、整理和传播文献信息的场所,历来被人们誉为"知识的宝库",在促进人类社会的进步和科学文化的繁荣方面,发挥着无可替代的巨大作用。

自中华人民共和国成立后,我国图书馆事业得到了迅速的发展,特别是 8 0 年代初,我国进入现代化建设历史时期以来,图书馆事业在各级党和政府的关怀领导下,得到了空前的发展,其重要标志是图书馆数量成倍增加,馆舍规模不断扩大,设施条件明显改善。据不完全统计,我国实行改革开放政策以来,各级各类图书馆新建、扩建馆舍数以千计,是历史发展最好的时期,仅 2500 多 所公共图书馆中新建馆舍就有近千所,竣工总面积近 300 万平方米。一幢幢规模宏伟,设计新颖,风格迥异的图书馆馆舍雄居于大江南北、长城内外,不仅为亿万人民看书学习提供了良好的环境,同时为祖国文化建设树起了历史的丰碑。为了集中展现图书馆事业基本建设取得的这一巨大成就,并向即将在我国召开的国际图书馆协会联合会第 62 届大会献礼,我们决定编辑出版这部大型彩色画册《中国图书馆建筑集锦》。

收入这本画册的230个图书馆,都是80年代以来我国各地建造的图书馆新馆舍。从经济发达的东部地区到丝绸之路的新疆戈壁;从北陲严寒的大兴安岭到四季长青的南海宝岛,祖国960万平方公里广袤土地上,公共、高校、科研、部队、工会等系统图书馆都有数量不等的收录,规模从数万平方米的大型图书馆,到数千、几百平方米的中小型图书馆均有展现。纵观这一时期图书馆的建设,无论从造型、布局到功能配置都比以往各时期的图书馆有很大的飞跃。本画册集新建馆之锦,无愧为我国新时期图书馆建筑的缩影。

本画册所采用的彩色图片,是从各地提供的数千幅图片中精选的,配以简明的中英文介绍,并收有部分图书馆的馆舍建筑平面示意图,以期集艺术性、实用性、学术性和史料性于一体。观览画册,不仅使我们饱览祖国当代各地图书馆新姿,从中看到图书馆事业蓬勃发展的现实和馆舍建筑的历史性变化,同时也为今后图书馆建筑提供弥足珍贵的参考资料,更为我国图书馆事业发展史乃至文化宝库中增添光辉灿烂的一页。

《中国图书馆建筑集锦》是我国图书馆界的一项大型出版工程。编辑出版历时3年,得到了各省、市、自治区文化厅(局)和图书馆的大力支持,凝聚了各方面的努力,是集体智慧和劳动的结晶。值得一提的是,黑龙江省图书馆、《图书馆建设》杂志编辑部的同志们承担了大量繁重的组织编辑工作。在此画册付梓出版之际,我仅代表编辑委员会,向所有给予画册以热情支持和鼎力协助的单位和个人,以及为画册编辑出版做出贡献的同仁一并表示衷心的感谢。

文化部图书馆司司长 研究馆员

本土克

一九九六年四月三十日

PREFACE

In the 5,000 years of the development of the Chinese nation, the library as a place for storing, sorting and disseminating documentation and information has traditionally been called "treasure house of knowledge". It plays a tremendous and irreplaceable role in promoting the progress of human society and the prosperity of science and culture.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the library undertaking has experienced rapid development. Especially since the beginning of the 80s when China entered the historical period of modern construction, library undertaking has experienced unprecedented development thanks to the concern and leadership of the Party committees and people's governments at all levels. A prominent sign is that the number of libraries nearly doubled, with ever increasing floor space and improved facilities. According to incomplete statistics, since the inception of the reform program in China, the newly built and expanded libraries amount to thousands, making the best period in the history of development. Among the 2,500-odd public libraries alone nearly one thousand were newly built. The total floor space of completed library buildings mounts to almost 3 million square meters. The myriads of magnificent, original and unique library buildings towering north and south of the Yangtse River and inside and outside the Great Wall not only provide excellent study places for hundreds of millions of people but also serve as corner stones in the cultural construction in the motherland. To display the great achievements of library undertaking and prepare a gift to the 62nd General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations to be held in China, we decided to publish this full-size color album entitled "Chinese Library Buildings".

The 230 libraries included in this album were all built in the 80s and 90s throughout China. The album embraces public libraries and the libraries of institutions of higher learning, scientific research institutions, the army and trade unions located throughout the 9.6 million square kilometers of the territory of the motherland, from the economically developed East to the Gobi Desert in Xinjiang, where the Silk Road starts, from the freezing-cold Greater Xing'an Mountain Ranges in the Northern frontier to the evergreen treasure islands of Nanhai. They range from big libraries with a floor space of ten thousands of square meters to medium-sized and small libraries with a floor space of several thousands or merely a few hundreds square meters. A survey of the library buildings completed in this period shows a dramatic improvement over those of the previous periods in terms of design, layout and functions. The album is a collection of outstanding examples of new library buildings and an excellent epitome of library architecture in the new period in China.

The color photos in this album were carefully selected from among thousands of photos contributed by different localities, accompanied by brief introductions in Chinese and English. Also included are plans of some library buildings. As a result the album is of artistic, practical, academic and documentary value. When we leaf through the pages, we can thoroughly enjoy the new looks of the libraries throughout modern China and see the actual vigorous development of libraries and the historical changes in the library buildings. At the same time ample valuable reference materials are provided for future library architecture. This album would become a remarkable page in the annals of the development of libraries and a brilliant addition to the treasure house of culture.

"Chinese Library Buildings" is a major publishing project in the library circle. It took a whole three years to edit and publish the book. It enjoyed the generous support of the cultural departments (bureaus) or various provinces, municipalities, autonomous regions and libraries. It is the result of joint efforts and collective wisdom and labor. Special thanks are due to scholars from Heilongjiang Provincial Library and the editorial board of LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION who took up a great deal of painstaking organizing and editing jobs. Upon the occasion of the album's publication, I, on behalf of the editorial board, take the pleasure of extending heartiest gratitude to various institutions and individuals who had given their warm support and material assistance, as well as my colleagues who have made contributions to the publication of the album.

阅图索骥 建新播文

——喜看中国图书馆建筑之进步

这部画册是80年代初以来中国图书馆发展成就的缩影,从中可以看出图书馆建筑设计和工程建设方面的巨大进步,包含着对建筑文化、特别是图书馆文化的丰富和发展。

从画册中首先看到的是多姿多彩的馆容新貌。建筑物外观或朴实大方,或文采溢表;或民族形式,或中西合璧;轮廓线或弧或方,或柔或刚;或高低错落,或耸入云天,各具特色,摆脱了长期以来那种严谨对称的固定模式和干馆一面、单调乏味、不讲美观的状况。为了创造丰满的图书馆形象,结合功能要求和周围环境来考虑造型,力求功能与造型完美统一,突出文化建筑特征。典雅、明快、有地方特色的建筑风格,包容着深蕴、隽永、有民族特色的文化内涵,堪称城市或校园的一处美景。众所瞩目、独领风骚,成为文化发展水平的标志性建筑,一个地方、民族、以至整个国家精神文明的物质体现。

从画册中可以看到,图书馆建造得越来越大,功能向多样化发展。公共图书馆强调要成为社会化的文献信息服务中心,高校图书馆要发挥教育职能和情报职能。以书库为中心变为以利用文献信息为中心。工作内容和服务方式的变化使建筑不再是藏、阅、借、内部业务四块的拼接,而是要为读者提供不同功能要求的各类空间:咨询室、文献检索室、教室、活动室、音艺厅、多功能厅、展览陈列、学术交流、服务部等。再加上新型文献载体保藏条件和声像视听、缩微、计算机室、电子阅览室、复制室等相应服务设施对电、光、热、声、空气的要求变得十分复杂。

从画册中可以看到,图书馆的平面形状布局有了很大变化。适用于"藏、借、阅"传统格局的工字型、一字型等旧模式已很少采用。平面自由舒展更能满足功能要求,出现了方形、弧形、园形、船形、六边形、三角形、不规则形、群体自由组合形等建筑格局。开架管理使书库的地位及位置安排发生变革,平面布局跟着发生根本变化。以读者利用为主、阅藏结合的总体要求,根据功能、房间的合理组配,以及地形等条件因素通盘考虑,就不会再简单照搬现成的模式和设计图。许多图书馆的平面布局富有创造性,反映出设计者对图书馆文化的理解和独立思考,使设计个性化,且更加适用于现代图书馆。

从画册中可以看到,室内面积扩大且更多为大空间轻间断。宽敞的阅览室或借书处,读者与书刊在同一空间内,而不是象过去那样读者与书刊截然分隔开。"读者第一"的原则和"藏书接近读者"的管理思想得到广泛认同,因而"人在书中,书傍人边"的设计甚为通行。以往房间全用固定墙体隔断,而近十余年来图书馆的开间和进深扩大,每个柱间单元的面积大增,无实墙分隔连续通畅的大空间可集多种文献载体于一室,藏、阅、借、检索、咨询、计算机终端、情报服务均在其内,既方便了读者,也使文献的利用率大大提高,又利于读者与馆员的交流和新技术设备的应用,还能节省人力。

从画册中可以看到,内外环境设计普遍达到较高水平。整体上优雅美观,阅览室舒适静谧,色彩和装饰品位高。广场或门厅内纪念性的名人雕像,馆内外布置以特定主题的雕塑、小品,或将地方文化史浓缩于壁画、瓷绘、浮雕,都恰到好处地营造了文化氛围,赏心悦目,潜移默化。广场绿化、内庭或屋顶花园,借景造景,荷塘、喷泉、假山、亭榭,既过滤掉外界的嚣闹,使空气清新,又为读者创造提高学习效率和陶治情操的良好环境。中国古代藏书楼均在景色极佳幽静处,如今"馆中有园,园中有馆"的设计则表现出东方文化的特殊魅力,很符合现代人的追求。

从画册中可以看到,漂亮的图书馆家具与馆舍协调配置效果良好。不是在馆舍建好后随便买些家具,而是在筹

建过程中同时筹划家具设备的配套,或进行专门设计,或参考国内外家具设备的优点定制加工。近几年我国加强了对图书馆家具设备的研究和技术质量监测,公布了图书馆设备和家具的多项国家标准。新型的阅览桌椅、出纳台、目录柜、书架、报刊架,以及其他家具设备,很多都达到了尺度宜人、造型美观、色调和谐、材质坚实、制作精良、安全耐用的要求,与整体环境相融洽。少年儿童阅览室的家具讲究适合不同年龄段儿童的身体与心理特点及审美情趣。好家具确实为图书馆增辉添色。

从画册中可以看到,为少年儿童和特殊读者作了特别的设计。作为广大少年儿童校外教育场所,作为爱国主义教育基地,许多地方重视了公共图书馆内少儿阅览室的安排和设计,有的专门建造了少儿图书馆。这些设计富有少儿特点,静与动结合,室内与户外相联,设备齐全,既可借书阅览,又可开展各种智力开发活动,还为家长和教育工作者准备了相当好的条件。一些图书馆对残疾人给予了特别的关怀,进入大门有轮椅专用坡道,上下楼层可乘电梯,阅览室内有专用座位和辅助设施,有的还有盲文读物和供盲人使用的设备,馆内有残疾人专用厕所。这些无疑是社会文明进步的表现。

古云:"功夫在诗外。"在检阅这部画册时,我们也可以说"功夫在馆外"。优良的设计和工程都融入了对图书馆文化的深刻理解。透过图片来看,还可以发现另外一些重要的内涵和进步。

- 一内部面积分配和空间关系有很大变化。图书馆朝着开放型、社会化、多功能、综合性的方向发展,为适应 文献载体多样化和管理现代化的要求,那种与读者隔绝的固定书库大为减少,供读者利用文献和开展活动,以及相 应的服务和设备空间在总面积中所占比例大为上升,还增加了人与人直接交流的空间。如今藏书面积往往与阅览、外 借结合在一起,中小型图书馆只有很少、甚至不设闭架书库。图书馆要办成综合性的文化中心、社会教育中心和信 息中心,兼顾学习、研究和交流、活动及文化休闲的不同要求,因此特别注意了静区、半静区与闹区的分区布置,彼 此相邻、相隔或远离,各有适宜的安顿。
- ——结构体系和布局的改进极大地增加了灵活性。面对日益纷繁的功能和能适应未来布局调整的要求,结合国情借鉴国外"模数式"设计来"以简驭繁",获得很大成功。新建的馆舍多数采用钢筋混凝土框架结构,扩大开间和进深,宽敞连贯的房间不必用承重墙间隔。固定架位的叠架式书库设计减少。同层高、同荷载、同柱网的设计被更多采用,人和书在无高差层面上运动及各房间各区域用途的变换都畅行无阻。具有先进水平的预应力双向密肋楼盖更多地应用于图书馆工程,降低了梁的高度,减少了建筑体积,又利于造成大空间、无中柱。这些都满足了现代图书馆建筑所要求的最大限度的灵活性。
- ——新技术设备应用和管线埋设使图书馆的现代化程度大为提高。各类文献,包括机读型、声像、缩微文献的贮存、检索、阅读、复制设备,都得到相应的布置。特别是近几年建造的工程,十分重视资源共享、自动化和网络通讯,都把计算机应用和遍及各处的接口和线路作好预埋安排,各室适当地方都有插座。馆内网、地区网(校园网),与全国和国际网络的联接要求,在一些大中型图书馆的设计中得到考虑,避免日后凿楼板穿墙壁另行布线。馆内的通讯、广播系统、闭路电视、以及安全警报系统的线路往往一并设计。总用电容量计算及双路供电保障系统,在一些图书馆得到全面的考虑和安排。

——适宜的室温和照度、通风造成良好的环境条件。北方地区图书馆注意到夏日降温和冬天里的通风换气问题;南方个别图书馆有了全空调;更多的图书馆以自然通风为主,辅以局部空调措施。"模数式"设计不照搬国外的大方块,不使进深过大,或设中庭,尽量利用自然光,组织穿堂风,临窗区安排阅览座位。照明设计考虑到照度的均匀,选择合适的照明方式。在阳光过强的地方则以建筑形体的变化来避免,或采用遮光调节措施。防噪音设计方面,或在选址时避免嚣闹,或建筑退离马路,临街设绿带或隔音屏障,室内则使用吸音材料。有的还以轻微的背景音乐调节室内阅览和工作环境。

——采取了各种先进设备和必要措施以加强防护确保安全。在消防方面,根据不同的规模分别按一级或二级防火标准进行设计。图书馆的电力线路都按规范用套管暗埋敷设,以避免走火。大中型图书馆室内安装了烟感、温感防火报警器,与总控制室相联,有对人、书无害的自动喷淋或人控灭火设备。安全疏散楼梯和通道,应急照明设备,都有设计安排。古籍善本部、计算机室等部位更是作了特别周密的防火防盗安全设计。许多图书馆设计时都考虑到了防潮、防尘、防鼠、防虫、防晒等方面。在开架日益扩大,甚至全部藏书都开架的情况下,除有磁性监控防窃设备外,有的图书馆还安装了闭路电视监控系统。

以上是好的方面。有些图书馆使用后发现了许多缺点,"遗憾工程"也为数不少。

很多地方在设计筹建图书馆的过程中都要进行一番参观和调研,这本画册很可以作为参考。看一所图书馆,不但要细察其布局、结构、设施、环境、管理等方面的优点,也必须弄清其不足和失误之处,方能全面把握而作为借鉴。一般说来,十全十美的图书馆建筑是很少有的,而且每座建筑各有其具体条件,应避免将人家的短处当好东西拿来,切忌不顾客观环境条件的差异而照抄照搬。看本画册也应如此,作深入探讨和分析是十分必要的。

与发达国家图书馆建筑的水平相比,我国的总体水平还不高,差距明显,这与我国作为发展中国家的经济科技 实力的总体水平有关。但我国确实有不少图书馆建筑与国外图书馆相比并不逊色,无论在设计思想、功能布局、结 构、材料、造型或内外环境方面,都达到相当高的水平,很具特色,一些国外同行参观后也大为赞赏。

中国图书馆建筑设计和工程建设方面取得巨大进步的原因,一是建筑规模扩大,在实践中不断探索,经验越来越丰富;二是《图书馆建筑设计规范》于 1987 年起施行,建筑设计有所遵循;三是图书馆界和建筑界一起多次进行了系统的研讨和交流,共同总结出"适用、高效、灵活、舒适、安全、经济、美观"的原则;四是馆方积极参与,在设计过程中图书馆员与建筑师密切合作,专家咨询发挥了很好作用;五是得益于对外开放政策,不少图书馆的筹建组、建筑师、专家学者到国外参观考察或进行学术交流,外国专家多次来中国讲学,有的应聘担任图书馆工程顾问,还有对国外建筑的介绍,这些都对中国图书馆建筑设计思想和工程水平的提高产生了良好的影响。

我们从画册看到历史性的进步和某些不足,既是很好的回顾,又可预见未来。走向新世纪的中国,会有更多更美的现代化图书馆新建筑更好地传播文化科学,促进社会文明。

撰稿 李明华

A GUIDE TO NEW LIBRARY BUILDINGS FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

— ON THE PROGRESS IN LIBRARY BUILDINGS IN CHINA

This album is the epitome of the achievements made in the development of library buildings in China since the beginning of 1980s. It illustrates the tremendous progress in the designing and engineering and construction of library buildings and enriches and advances architectural culture especially library culture.

What meets your eyes when you open the album is the new varied and colorful looks of the library buildings. The exteriors of these buildings feature simplicity or resplendence, nationalistic flavor or a blend of Chinese and Western styles. The contours could be curved or angular, feminine or masculine. Some of the buildings have well-proportioned high or low structures and some have towering roofs, each with its distinguishing features. This is a divorce from the long-established mode of austere symmetric profile, the stereotype looks of all the buildings, the monotony and disregard for artistry. Efforts have been made to create more appealing images of libraries. When designing these libraries, functional requirements and the surroundings had been taken into consideration in order to achieve the unity of functions and forms of designs and to accentuate the characteristics of the buildings for cultural purposes. The elegant and sprightly architectural styles characterized by local colors are pregnant with deep and thought-provoking nationalistic cultural nuances. They have become attractions in cities or on campuses. They are so conspicuous and unique that they constitute landmarks in the cultural development and concrete embodiment of the civilization of a locality, a nationality or the entire country.

The album shows that the libraries are growing in size and multiple functions. While it is important for public libraries to become a service center for furnishing literature and information, university libraries should play the dual functions of education and the dissemination of information. Stacks-centered libraries have become information utility-centered. Changes in the work routine and mode of services have brought about changes to the original 4 main components of the library--the stacks, the reading rooms, the circulating desk and internal business department. Diverse spaces have been designated to cater for the needs of different readers, such as consultation room, catalog room, classrooms, activities room, music and entertainment hall, multi-function hall, exhibition and display hall, academic exchanges hall and service department. In addition, the conditions for the preservation of new types of media of information, audio-video room, microfiche room, computer room, electronic reading room, and duplication room pose far more complicated demands for electricity, light, heat, noise and air.

The album shows the floor plan of the library has undergone drastic changes. The traditional "I" shaped design of the buildings suitable for storage, circulation and perusal is much less employed. Free two-dimensional sprawling design seems better suited to various functions. There appear square, arched, round, ship-like, hexagonal, triangle and irregular shapes and free-combination of group of buildings. The introduction of open stacks makes it necessary for the changes of the location and arrangement of the stacks, resulting in fundamental changes in the floor layout. Taking into consideration the overall requirement of facilitating the utilization of the library by the readers, the function of reading-room for perusal and storage of books, the optimal matching up of functions and rooms and such factors as topography, it is impossible to simply copy the existing models and drawings of designs. The layout of many libraries shows creativity, originality, personality and the understanding of library culture on the part of the designers and is more suited to modern libraries.

The album also demonstrates more spacious interiors with casual partitions. In the larger open reading room or circulation section, readers and stacks share the same space. In the past, readers and books were completely separated. The principle of "readers first" and the concept of management of "books close to the readers" have been universally accepted and the designs which are characterized by the principle of "readers among books and stacks by the readers' side" have been growing in popularity. In the past the rooms are separated by solid walls. In the last decade, the library rooms became larger in size and longer. The space between pillars greatly expanded. Vast spaces without solid wall partitions can accommodate various kinds of media of information. As a result, the stacks, reading room, circulation desk, catalogue room, consultation, computer terminals and information services are found in the same space, which makes things more convenient for the readers and raises the utility rate of the information. It also facilitates the exchanges between the readers and librarians, and the utilization of the new technology and equipment and saves a lot of people power.

The album also shows higher standards of design of interior and exterior environment. The library buildings look elegant and artistic as a whole, and the reading rooms are cozy and quiet. The colors and decorations demonstrate high level. The plazas, the memorial sculptures of famous personages inside the lobby, the sculptures and artistic pieces with specific subject matters inside and outside the libraries, or the murals, ceramic paintings and relief sculptures which represent the history of local culture in a compact form serve to create a cultural atmosphere. Pleasing to the eyes and meaningful yet subtle and unobtrusive. The trees and flowers at the plazas and the indoor gardens or rooftop gardens create beautiful scenes against the background of the libraries. The lotus ponds, fountains, rocks and pavilions filter out the outside noise and purify the air, furnishing an excellent environment for readers to reap higher study results and cultivate their taste. All the libraries for collections of ancient Chinese books are located in breath-taking quiet scenic spots. The current design of "libraries with indoor gardens and gardens with libraries" epitomizes the special charm of Oriental culture and mirrors the aspirations of modern beings.

Beautiful library furniture in harmony with the architecture can yield excellent results as the album indicates. The furniture was not purchased at random after the completion of the buildings, but carefully planned during construction to match the libraries. Some furniture and facilities were specially designed or custom-made according to the merits of domestic and foreign furniture or facilities. In recent years, China has stepped up the research and quality control of library furniture and facilities and issued a number of state statutes in this regard. The newly designed reading room desks and chairs, circulation desks, catalogue cabinet, bookshelves, newspaper and periodicals racks or other furniture or facilities have met the requirements of suitable size, artistic design, harmonious color, solid structure, fine workmanship and durability. They match the overall environment. The furniture in the reading rooms for children and adolescents is designed for different age groups according to their different physical and psychological characteristics and aesthetic interests. Good furniture renders charm to the libraries.

It is evident in the album that special designs have taken care of the specific needs of children and adolescents and readers with special needs. Public libraries can serve as extra-curriculum educational facilities for children and adolescents and as bases for the education in

patriotism. Many public libraries throughout the country made special efforts to design reading rooms for children and adolescents. In some localities, children's libraries were built. The designs cater for the needs of children, suited for both quiet studies and energetic activities. The interior is linked with the exterior. The libraries boast all the necessary facilities for both lending and reading books and developing children's intellect, and fairly adequate facilities for the needs of parents and educational workers. Some libraries show special concern for the disabled. There are ramps for wheelchairs at the gates, elevators and special seats and auxiliary facilities in the reading rooms. Some are furnished with Braille readers and facilities for the visually handicapped. The toilets for the handicapped in the libraries are an undoubted sign of social progress in terms of human civilization.

An old Chinese saying goes that "The skills of a poet lie behind his poems." When leafing through the pages, we could also say that "The skills of the artists lie behind the pictures." The superb designs and construction are permeated with the profound understanding of library culture and creativity. Behind these pictures, we can discover other important meaning and advances.

There are radical changes in the distribution of space inside an interior and in the spatial relationship. The library is developing in the direction of openness, socialization, multiple function and comprehensiveness. To meet the needs of diverse forms of media of literature and information and modernized management, the fixed stacks that are separated from the readers have greatly dropped in number. The space for the readers to utilize literature and information and conduct various programs and related services and facilities has assumed a larger proportion of the total floor space. Also increased is the space for human interaction. The area for storage of books has been integrated with the area for reading and circulation. Medium-sized and small libraries have only rather limited closed stacks or no closed stacks at all. A library ought to become a comprehensive cultural center, a community educational center and an information center which caters for the various needs of studies, research, exchanges, programs and leisure cultural activities. Consequently, quiet, semi-quiet and noisy sections have been designated in separate areas. They could be next to each other, or partitioned or far away from each other, each enjoying a comfortable location.

— Greater flexibility is achieved through the improvement of building structure and layout. In line with the conditions in China, we borrowed foreign "modular structure" design to simplify complicated design and achieved remarkable successes. Most newly-constructed libraries adopted reinforced concrete framework structure. Bigger, deeper, more spacious and uninterrupted rooms make weight-bearing walls unnecessary. The fixed multi-shelves stacks have become rare. Instead the new design has been adopted characterized by uniform ceiling height, load bearing capacity and column network. Readers and books move around at the same level. There are no barriers for the changes of functions and layout for different rooms and areas. The state-of-the-art prestressed bi-directional close-packed rib roof is more utilized in the design of libraries. The beams are lower, and the bulk of the building is reduced, making possible large spaces and absence of central pillars and weight-bearing walls. These meet the requirements of modern library buildings for maximum flexibility.

The application of new technology and facilities and the buried cables and pipes have greatly modernized libraries. The storage, cataloging and searching, reading and duplication of all sorts of literature and information, including computer information, video materials, microfiche are appropriately accommodated. In particular, the buildings in recent years lay great stress on the sharing of resources, automation and communication through telecommunication networks; as a result the interfaces and cables and wiring that are located everywhere for computer application are preburied. The designers of the big and medium-sized libraries have taken into consideration the demands for hooking up the library departments, the campus network or regional network, the national and international network to avoid drilling holes in the floor and walls for wiring in the future. The lines inside the library for telecommunications, broadcast system, cable TV and alarm system are designed all at once. Also taken into consideration and taken care of are the total power capacity computing and dual power supply guarantee systems in some libraries.

— A cozy atmosphere is created by room temperature, lighting and ventilation. The libraries in Northern China have taken care of regulating temperature in the summer and ventilating the air in the winter. A number of libraries in Southern China are fully air-conditioned. But more libraries are naturally ventilated and localized air-conditioning is installed as a supplement. The giant square modular structure of foreign countries is not introduced without modifications. For instance, the rooms should not be too large, and sometimes there is no central court. Natural light is used and draughts are created. The areas close to the windows are reserved for seats for readers. Even lighting and appropriate fixture are stressed in designing of lighting and where the sun shine is too intense, the building had to be specially designed to avoid it, or regulating device such as shade would be adopted. In terms of noise design, a library should not be located in noisy areas or it should withdraw from streets. In places facing the streets, trees should be planted or sound shield be installed. Inside the library noise insulating materials should be used. In some places low background music is played to improve reading and working conditions.

— Advanced facilities and necessary measures are introduced to reinforce protection and guarantee safety. In terms of fire fighting, first-class and second-class fire prevention standards are applicable in designing according to different sizes of the libraries. The wiring of libraries has casings and is buried inside walls according to the regulations to avoid fire. Big and medium-sized libraries are installed with smoke sensor and heat sensor fire alarms, which are connected with the control room. There are automatic sprays harmless to people and books and manual fire extinguishers. Fire escaped staircases and passages and emergency lighting fixture are also in place. Special fault-proof safety precautions are built in for departments of ancient and rare books and computer rooms. When designing the libraries, precautions are built in to guard against moisture, dust, mice, worms, and exposure to the sun. Since open stacks are expanding and in some cases all books are place in the open stacks, some libraries are installed with closed circuit TV monitor systems besides the magnetic theft-prevention devices.

So far we have been discussing the merits of the projects. But a lot of defects were found when some libraries were put to use. There are quite a number of "regrettable projects".

In many localities, in the process of designing and making preparations for construction of libraries, people would visit libraries and carry out research. This album is a reference book in this regard. When studying a library, we should carefully examine the merits in terms of layout, structure, facilities, environment and management; also we should see the defects and mistakes to avoid one-sided opinions and be able to use the models for references. Generally speaking, perfect libraries buildings are rare and each library has its own conditions. We should never borrow what would turn out to be exactly defects from the libraries under study, and never copy them indiscriminately. There are tremendous differences in the actual situation and conditions. Likewise, when studying this album, it is necessary to make thorough studies and analysis.

Compared with the library buildings in the developed countries, the overall standards of the library buildings in China leave much to be desired. This is due to the inferior over economic and scientific and technological strength of China, which is still a developing country. But it is also true that many library buildings in our country are up to par with those in foreign lands. A very high level has been attained in terms of designing concepts, functional layout, structure, materials, profile and interior and exterior environment. They demonstrate originality and are highly praised by foreign designers.

Tremendous progress has been made in the designing and construction of library buildings in China due to the following reasons: A. the large scales of construction, which furnishes a great deal of experiences acquired through practice; B. the implementation of "The Library Building Design Standards" in 1987, guidelines for the whole trade to follow; C. a series of systematic discussions and exchanges between librarians and architects resulted in the formulation of the principles of "adaptability, efficiency, flexibility, comfort, security, economy and artistry; D. the active involvement of the librarians, close cooperation between librarians and architects and the advice of experts; and E. the state policy of opening to the outside world, which made it possible for the preparation terms, architects, experts and scholars engaged in the library projects to go abroad to conduct on-the-spot investigation and academic exchanges. Many foreign experts were invited to give lectures in China. Some were engaged as consultants to library projects. Also foreign architectural designs were introduced into the country. All this has exerted positive impact and led to the new concepts in library building designing and improved construction engineering standards.

Through the album we can see historical progress and defects. It is a tremendous review and we could envision the future. China will boast even more numerous and beautiful modern libraries in its march towards the new century, to disseminate culture and science and promote social progress.

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