2015

Neilson Library Study Spaces

Mihn Nguyen
Smith College

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.smith.edu/scl_neilson

Part of the Interior Architecture Commons

Recommended Citation


This Article has been accepted for inclusion in The New Neilson Library by an authorized administrator of Smith ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@smith.edu
The architecture of Neilson Library draws clear defined distinctions between the spaces within itself: the main reading room, reception desk, computer kiosks, shelves for books, those of interior/exterior, space of the library reserved for library patrons/librarians, and of the single user/many users.

My proposal aims to challenge this spatial fixation through a new form of study space for Smith’s Neilson Library, and in that way, creates a flexible space that responds to the varied needs and future use of a library. This reconsiders what constitutes the 21st century library.

Grid and node system forms corners surrounding which most activities within the space would be conducted. These nodes would be the heart of the library, the invariant of architecture. The space that surrounds these nodes would be the variable - prone to changes and new different future use. One defining with the old past value of the library - to gain knowledge, and the other with openness, a meeting point, where students interact with each other and the space itself. These spaces are no longer the black and white distinctions drawn with the walls of the current Neilson but instead layers and shades of space and programs.