2015

Neilson Library Redesign

Natalie Belkov
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 current Neilson Library building is situated in the heart of the Smith College campus, making it a hub of intellectual, social and communal activity. My programmatic goals for the design of a specific space within the building involve utilizing the sight grade changes to encourage continuity between center campus and the science quad. By incorporating outdoor study space, an amenity I found the campus desperately needs, there is an increase in circulation in and around the building as well as the opportunity for more intentional locates in which students have the opportunity to study, share a meal, hold a conversation, engage in group activity or give a presentation. The indoor spaces were designed to emphasize openness as well as the overarching theme of continuity engaged throughout the entire space. I wanted to also take advantage of the fantastic views, at all times of day however specifically at sunset, that occur over the science quad and Paradise Pond. My hope is that the visual simplicity translated through the structural elements and design aesthetic will allow the space to accentuate its surroundings and provide a flexible environment in which students have the opportunity to be most successful.

The cavernous space below the mezzanine provides a direct path of circulation to the outdoor structure, but also can serve as a cafe or vending space.

The indoor step system provides another flexible environment in which students can study individually or interact as a group.

The outdoor step system and deck provide ample flexible study and social spaces as well as allow a continuity, using the library building as a vehicle, between different areas of campus.