



Story to tell

Enhancing the original character of this 1926 Gummer & Ford-designed library and lecture hall was a priority in its restoration, says City Design

This page: City Design's refurbishment of the Remuera Community Library and Lecture Hall included the restoration of the original balcony and the reinstatement of dual public entries. The building contractor was Canam Interiors and the joinery work was undertaken by Greenmount Manufacturing and Canam Joinery.

Visitors to the newly refurbished Remuera Community Library will be checking out more than the new books. The library and adjoining lecture hall have undergone extensive renovations to restore the original character of the 1926 Gummer & Ford-designed building.

City Design was commissioned to design the refurbishment of both the library and lecture hall. Architect Lynda Simmons says the primary design intention was to emphasise and enhance the existing character of the building.

"In particular, the design needed to highlight the good proportions of the interior and the

horizontal lines of the elaborate ceiling," she says. "The contrast of plain, rendered walls against dark timber detailing, and the fine linear steelwork of the windows were also accentuated."

Simmons says the H-shape of the building was reinforced by the removal of earlier additions, and the open plan layout further enhanced by the removal of several sections of wall. New wall openings now link the interior to the balcony, which has been reinstated to its original design. The original proscenium arch detailing and dual entries have also been reinstated.

Contemporary library requirements were

met by the provision of increased reference and computer terminals, new shelving, and extended staff facilities contained on a new mezzanine floor.

City Design offers a full range of architectural and engineering services to clients in New Zealand and overseas. With offices in Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington, the company can provide a complete package – from concept design to detailed design, building and resource consents, owner or tenant fitout and interior design.

For more details, contact City Design, Level 9, Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley St, Auckland, phone (09) 307 7373. Website: www.citydesign.co.nz.



This page: The refurbishment was designed to enhance the original character of the building, with contemporary materials complementing the original elements. Elaborate ceilings are a feature of the interior. Elsewhere, timber-stained trim is accented by the use of black.

