

THE DAG HAMMARSKJOLD LIBRARY

NOTES ON ITS CONSTRUCTION AND FURNISHING

UNITED NATIONS. NEW YORK

1961

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Mr. Wallace Harrison )  
Mr. Michael Harris )  
Mr. Gordon Vance ) Harrison, Abramovitz and Harris, Architects  
Mr. Richard Craig )

Mr. James Murphy )  
Mr. William Stevens ) George A. Fuller Co., Contractors

Mr. Esme Van Name )  
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## PREFACE

Preliminary planning of permanent quarters for the United Nations Headquarters Library began in 1951 but languished until 1959 when the Ford Foundation's gift made its construction and furnishing possible. Thereupon, a team of architects, engineers, designers, librarians and artists, under the direction of the Secretary-General and his Executive Assistant, undertook detailed planning. The old library building was razed, the site was prepared and construction of a new building began on 21 November 1960.

The Secretary-General concerned himself with every detail of the building's function, design, construction and furnishing. It is peculiarly appropriate, therefore, that this building, the completion of which he had anticipated with great pleasure and pride, should be called in his honour "The Dag Hammarskjold Library". All who have contributed to its completion -- and they are many more than are mentioned in the following notes -- share his pleasure and his pride and salute his **memory**.

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THE DAG HAMMARSKJOLD LIBRARY

ARCHITECTS: Harrison, Abramowitz and Harris

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: George A. Fuller and Company

ASSOCIATES AND CONSULTANTS: Syska and Hennessey, Mechanical Engineers  
Edwards and Hjorth, Structural Engineers  
Boeltz, Beranek and Newman, Acoustical Engineers  
Harrison, Abramowitz and Harris, Interior designs  
Mr. Perry Marthin, Colours

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION: Reinforced concrete frame, aluminum and heat absorbent glass curtain wall, marble facing

DIMENSIONS: Ground plan, 84 ft. X 219 ft.; Area, 123,700 sq. ft.  
Volume 1,550,700 cu. ft. Three floors below ground level, three floors and penthouse above.

COLUMN BAY MODULE: 24 ft. X 24 ft.

BCKK CAPACITY: 500,000 volumes

SEATING CAPACITY:

Main reading room	65
Periodical reading room	71
Woodrow Wilson room	36
Seminar rooms	20
Individual studies	10
Carrels	14
Auditorium	194
Penthouse lounge	36
Lobbies	18
Staff areas	125

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

GLASS: Sorex heat absorbent plate

HEATING, VENTILATING AND AIR CONDITIONING: Heating: Combination warm air and hot water floor panel radiant heating in secretariat library. Ground floor connecting entrance passage air conditioning: 350 tons utilizing facilities of central plant.

**INTERIOR FINISEES:** Book stacks and work areas.

FLOORS: Vinyl asbestos tile.  
WALLS: Painted plaster and/or movable metal partitions. See also "Special Features"  
CEILINGS Acoustical metal pan.

Reading rooms and public spaces.

FLOORS: Cement  
WALLS: Plaster, marble, wood panelling.  
CEILING: Plaster and/or acoustical plaster.

**LIGHTING:** Book stacks, work areas, periodical reading.

Low brightness, flush mounted 1 ft. X 4 ft. fluorescent fixtures.

Main reading room, public lobbies, foyers, auditorium and penthouse lounge: Incandescent downlight fixtures.

Woodrow Wilson Room.

Special design fluorescent ceiling fixtures combined with indirect lighting.

SPECIAL FEATURES

(See also furniture and equipment)

AUDIO STUDY ROOM: Equipped for individual language study.

AUDITORIUM: Equipped for still and motion picture projection, sound recording, lectures and intimate musical recitals. Provisions for future installation of simultaneous interpretation system. Ceiling and wall panelling is walnut. Walnut wall battens on steel mesh provide sound reflectivity and absorptivity.

CONCOURSE: Passage from First Avenue to the Library and to Secretariat Building.

ENTRANCE LOBBY: Two story lobby provides ground floor access to auditorium and concourse level. Walls are combination of Vermont pear marble, walnut and aluminum. Mural on west wall by Mr. Fritz Glarner.

EXECUTIVE SUITE: Teak panelling in the reception area, administrative offices and conference room.

MAIN READING ROOM AND

PUBLIC CATALOGUE SECTION: All wood surfaces in this area are German white oak. The special design reading tables and chairs were fabricated in Sweden. The five special design area rugs were executed by Mme Astrid Sampé and are entitled "Oleander, Cypress, Olive tree, Pine and Eucalyptus." The marble is Vermont pearl.

PENTHOUSE LOUNGE:

Glass walled lounge and adjoining pantry provides facilities for formal receptions, diplomatic luncheons and similar functions. The floor is a combination of suprema arabescato fiorenzo marble and English sycamore wood. The east curved wall is panelled in English sycamore. On the west curved wall is the mural by Mr. Bo Beskow entitled: "Composition for a concave wall". The mural was sketched in Sweden and finished in America.

REFLECTING POOL AND  
GARDEN AREA:

Provision for future sculpture in pool area.

CONNECTING PASSAGE,  
SECRETARIAT - LIBRARY:

Vermont pearl marble interior housing.

STUDY ROOMS:

Ten study rooms are provided for use by individuals engaged in prolonged research, and two seminar rooms are available for group study. Room space is provided on the second floor for map and chart references and storage.

THIRD BASEMENT:

Special additional floor reinforcement provides structural feasibility of possible future increase in book capacity and stack requirements.

WOODROW WILSON READING  
ROOM:

The two-story curved ceiling is natural Idaho white pine. The end walls and a portion of the floor are Peruvian travertine marble. The furnishings and card catalogue file are specially designed for the room and executed in an African wood wenge.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MANUFACTURER
Atlas cases	Steel	Map Room 282	Remington Rand Library Bureau
Audio-equipment	Listening booths, turntables, tape recorders, console unit	Room C.63	Dictaphone Corp.
Benches	Walnut/burnt orange leather	Concourse foyer C04 Concourse Lobby C07	Edgewood Furniture Co./ American Leather Co.
	Wenge/black leather	Hall 217	Edgewood Furniture Co./ American Leather Co.
	English Sycamore/ Oyster fabric	Lounge F04	Edgewood Furniture Co./ Rowen Inc.
Bookcases	Standard steel units, white	Work areas and offices	Corry Jamestown Corp.
	German white oak	Main reading room 108	L.F. Dettenborn Co.
	Idaho white pine	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Hinzmann and Waldmann, Inc.
	Teak wall shelving	Director's Office	Franklin Knipp and Co.
	Teak wall shelving	Deputy Director's Office	Franklin Knipp and Co.
Cabinets	Standard steel units, white	Throughout	Corry Jamestown Corp.
	Teak top and sides	Director's Office	Hinzmann and Waldmann, Inc.
	Teak side. Textured Texolite top	Deputy Director's Office	Hinzmann and Waldmann, Inc.
Card catalog cases	Special design, free standing, German white oak	Public catalog 109	L.F. Dettenborn Co.
	Special design, wall-mounted, wenge	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Hinzmann and Waldmann, Inc.
Carpets and rugs	Carpet, McClurg Brown	Auditorium C09	V'Soske
	" , Tournai Black	Elevator Cabs 1 & 2	V'Soske
	" , Tai Ping Coral	Periodical reading room C23	Imported by Products of Asia (Made in Hong Kong) Installed by Janelli Carpet Co.
	" , Tai Ping Green	Periodical reading room C23	Imported by Products of Asia (Made in Hong Kong)



Carpets and rugs (continued)	Carpet, Tai Ping Turquoise	Librarian's Office 106	Imported by Products of Asia (Made in Hong Kong)
	Carpet, Rikela White- Putty	Main reading room 108	Edward Fields
	Rugs, special design multi-coloured	Main reading room 108	Mme Astrid Sampé
Chairs	Rugs, special design multi-coloured	Penthouse	Viola Grosten
	Standard office and clerical, steel/ Beige Naugahyde	Throughout	Cramer Chair Co.
	Reading, American wal- nut, unupholstered	Periodical reading room C23	Aktiebolaget J.O. Carlsson
	Reading, American wal- nut, natural leather	Periodical reading room C23	Aktiebolaget J.O. Carlsson
	Clerical chair, aluminum/natural leather	Periodical reading room C23	Corry Jamestown Corp.
	Auditorium, cast iron/ turquoise plush	Auditorium C09	American Seating Co./ La France Industries
	Reading, German white oak, unupholstered	Main reading room 108	Aktiebolaget J.O. Carlsson
	Brushed chrome/black leather	Call desk, Main reading room 108	Knoll Associates, Inc.
	Armchair, highback, wenge/black leather	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Edgewood Furniture Co.
	Armchair, low back, wenge/Oyster leather	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Edgewood Furniture Co./ American Leather Co.
	Armchair, low back, wenge/black leather	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Edgewood Furniture Co.
	Armchair, wenge/natural fabric	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Ab Nordiska Kompaniet/ Jack Larsen
	Armchair, teak/turquoise fabric	Executive suite reception area 327	Jens Risom/Jack Larsen
Clerical, teak/gray fabric	Executive suite reception area 327	Jens Risom/Jack Larsen	

Armchair, teak/green fabric	Executive suite secretaries' area 328	Jens Risom/Rowen, Inc.
Clerical, teak/green fabric	Executive suite secretaries' area 328	Jens Risom/Rowen, Inc.
Conference, teak/brown leather	Conference Room 325	Jens Risom/Radel Leather
Armchair, teak/olive fabric	Director's Office 323	Iux, Inc/Isabel Scott
Lounge, teak/olive fabric	Director's Office 323	Aktiebolaget, J.O. Carlsson/Isabel Scott
Desk chair, teak/olive fabric	Director's Office 323	Jens Risom/Isabel Scott
Armchair, teak/dark olive fabric	Deputy Director's Office 324	Dux Inc./Isabel Scott
Lounge, teak/dark olive fabric	Deputy Director's Office 324	Aktiebolaget, J.O. Carlsson/Knoll Textiles Inc.
Desk chair, teak/dark olive fabric	Deputy Director's Office 323	Jens Risom/Isabel Scott
Armchair, teak/gray fabric	Administrative Assistant's Office 331	Dux Inc./Knoll Textiles Inc.
Lounge chair, teak/gray fabric	Administrative Assistant's Office 331	Aktiebolaget J.O. Carlsson/Knoll Textiles Inc.
Desk chair, teak/gray fabric	Administrative Assistant's Office 331	Jens Risom/Knoll Textiles Inc.
Panquet stack chairs, beige fused plastic on cast aluminum base, putty coloured nauga- hyde inner shell	Penthouse Lounge F04	Knoll Associates Inc./ Herman Miller
Call desks, walnut	Periodical reading room C23	Hinzmann and Waldmann
Call desk, German white oak	Main reading room 108	L.F. Dettenborn

Desks (continued)	Reference desk, German white oak	Main reading room 108	L.F. Dettenborn
	Standard units, white laminated plastic and steel	Throughout	Corry Jamestown
	Bibliography shelf, German white oak	Main reading room 108	L.F. Dettenborn
	Call desk, wenge	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Edgewood Furniture Co. Inc.
	Assistants desk, wenge	Woodrow Wilson Room 21t	Edgewood Furniture Co. Inc.
	Reception desk, teak	Executive suite reception area 327	Jens Risom
	Secretarial desks, teak	Executive suite secretaries 328	Jens Risom
	Conference desk, teak	Director's Office 323	Jens Risom
	Executive desk, teak	Deputy Director's Office 324	Jens Risom
	Desk, teak	Administrative Assistant's Office 331	Jens Risom
Draperies	Fireproof/Rovana warp, verel waft, on Kirsch hardware	Throughout	Manufactured by Chicopee Mills. Supplied by Thortel Fireproof Fabrics Fabricated and installed by J. Weidentop
Filing cabinets	Steel	Throughout	Corry Jamestown Corp.
Inter communication system	Electrowriter	Main reading room 108 Woodrow Wilson Room 215, and all stack levels	Electrowriter Corp.
Map cases	Steel	Map room 275	Keuffel and Esser Corp.
Map table	Special design, steel	Map room 275	Corry-Jamestown Corp.

Marbles	Vermont Pearl and Limestone	Exterior of building	A.T. Petrillo and Republic Stone Corp.
	Vermont Pearl	Lobby 103, Main reading room 108 Foyer 104	James M. Cullo Marble Co.
	Italian Crema	Hall 217	James M. Cullo Marble Co.
	Peruvian Golden Travertine	Woodrow Wilson Room 215, Floor of Lounge	James M. Cullo Marble Co.
	Suprema Arabescato Fircenzo	Hall 322	James M. Cullo Marg
Microfilm readers	Reader/printers etc.	Room C.71 and Room 275	Thermo-Fax and others
Newspaper display racks	Walnut and plate glass	Periodical reading room/C23	Reska Ltd.
Ottomans	Wenge/natural plastic	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Ab Nordiska Kompaniet
Partitions	Moveable metal	Throughout	Hausermann Co.
Periodical display and storage shelving	Walnut and steel	Periodical reading room/C23	Remington Rand Library Bureau
Projection equipment	Motion picture projection and audio equipment	Auditorium	Century Manufacturing; Radio Corp. of America; General Electric Corp.; Debritte et Cie
Rotary files	Motor operated	Acquisition Section room 138	Diebold Corp.
Screens	German white oak slatted in painted steel frame	Main reading room 108	L.F. Dettenborn Co.
	Teak triangular slatted	Executive suite 328	Franklin Knipp and Co.
Sofas	Walnut/green fabric	Periodical reading room C23	Jens Risom/Rowen Inc.
	Walnut/burnt orange	Concourse foyer C04	Dux, Inc./American leather Co.

Sofas (continued)	Wenge/natural fabric	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Ab Nordiska Kompaniet/
	Teak/blue turquoise fabric	Executive suite, reception area	Jens Risom/Jack Larsen
	Teak/royal and emerald fabric	Executive suite, secretaries' area 328	Jens Risom/Isabel Scott
	Teak/brown and olive fabric	Director's Office 323	Dux, Inc./Jack Larsen
	Teak/black and gold fabric	Deputy Director's Office 324	Dux, Inc./Gabriel Fredericia
	Teak/blue and olive fabric	Administrative Assistant's Office 331	Dux, Inc./Jack Larsen
	Sycamore/black fabric	Lounge P04	Fredericia Stolefabrik/ Gabriel Fredericia
	Sycamore/gray fabric	Lounge P04	Fredericia Stolefabrik/ Knoll Textiles Inc.
Sorting bins	Steel, special design	Receiving room C31	Luna Metalcraft Co.
Stacks	Steel, gray, black base and shelves	<b>Throughout</b>	Forges de Strasbourg
Stools	Reference stools, brushed chrome/black leather	Public catalogue space 109	S. Lakow and Sons, Inc.
Tables	Special design reading tables, walnut (rect- angular and round)	Periodical reading room C23	Ab Nordiska Kompaniet.
	Coffee, walnut	Periodical reading room C23	Ab Nordiska Kompaniet.
	Coffee, walnut	Concourse foyer C04	Dux, Inc.
	Special design reading tables, German white oak, (rectangular and round)	Main reading room 108	Aktiebolaget J.O. Carlsson
	Special design reference tables, German white oak	Public catalogue 109	Aktiebolaget J.O. Carlsson
	Special design reading tables, wenge	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Edgewood Furniture Co., Inc.

Tables (continued)	Coffee, wenge	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Ab Nordiska Kompaniet
	Special design side tables, teak	Executive suite re- ception area 327	Hinzmann and Waldmann
	Coffee, teak	Executive suite, secretaries' area 328	Dux, Inc.
	Conference, teak	Conference room 325	Jens Risom
	Coffee, teak	Director's Office 323	Dux, Inc.
	Coffee, teak	Deputy Director's Office 323	Dux, Inc.
	Coffee, teak	Administrative Assistant's Office 331	Dux, Inc.
	Coffee, English sycamore base, suprema arabescato fiorenzo top	Lounge P04	Edgewood Furniture Co., Inc.
	Standard office	Clerical areas	Corry Jamestown Corp.
Venetian blinds	Levelor with Lorentzen hardware	South elevation	M. Klahr
Wood flooring and panelling	Walnut (Ceiling and wall panelling)	Auditorium C09, Concourse Lobby C07, Lobby 103	Veneers, Wm. L. Marshall Co.; Fabrication and installation, Franklin Knipp and Co.
	German white oak (Wall panelling)	Main reading room 108	Veneers, Wm. L. Marshall Co.; Fabrication and installation, L.F. Dettenborn Co.
	Wenge (Doors)	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Veneers, Wm. L. Marshall Co.; Fabrication and installation, Hinzmann and Waldmann
	White pine (Ceiling and wall panelling)	Woodrow Wilson Room 215	Hinzmann and Waldmann

wood flooring and panelling (continued)	Teak (Wall panelling)	Executive suite	Veneers, Wm. L. Marshall Co.; Fabrication and installation, Franklin Knipp
	English sycamore (Wall panelling)	Lounge PO4	Veneers, Wm. L. Marshall Co.; Fabrication and installation, L.F. Dettenborn Co.
	English sycamore (Flooring)	Lounge PO4	Coughlin Flooring Co.
	Butternut (On elevator cab interiors)	Elevator Cabs No.1 and No.2	W.S. Tyler Co.

#### MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS

Ab Nordiska Kompaniet, Stockholm, Sweden

Aktiebolaget J.O. Carlsson, Vetlanda, Sweden

American Leather Co., Newark, N.J.

American Seating Co., New York, N.Y.

Century Manufacturing Co., Long Island City, N.Y.

Chicopee Mills, Inc., New York, N.Y.

Comptometer Corp., New York, N.Y.

Corry Jamestown Corp., Corry, Pa.

Coughlin Flooring Co., New York, N.Y.

Cramer Chair Co., New York, N.Y.

James M. Cullo Marble Co., New York, N.Y.

Debri Cie, Paris, France

L.F. Dettenborn Co., Hartford, Conn.

Dictaphone Corp., New York, N.Y.

Diebold Corp., New York, N.Y.

Dux, Inc., New York, N.Y.

Edgewood Furniture Co., New York, N.Y.  
Edward Fields, New York, N.Y.  
Forges de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France  
Gabriela Fredericia, Fredericia, Denmark  
General Electric Corp., Syracuse, N.Y.  
Viola Grosten, Stockholm, Sweden  
Hausermann Co., New York, N.Y.  
Hinzmann and Waldmann, Inc., Brooklyn  
Janelli Carpet Co., New York, N.Y.  
M. Klahr, New York, N.Y.  
Franklin Knipp and Co., Baltimore, Md.  
Knoll Associates, New York, N.Y.  
Knoll Textiles, Inc., New York, N.Y.  
La France Industries, New York, N.Y.  
S. Lakow and Sons, Inc., New York, N.Y.  
Jack Larsen, New York, N.Y.  
Luna Metalcraft Co., New York, N.Y.  
Wm. L. Marshall Co., New York, N.Y.  
Herman Miller, New York, N.Y.  
A.T. Petrillo, New York, N.Y.  
Products of Asia, New York, N.Y.  
Radel Leather Co., Newark, N.J.  
Radio Corporation of America, Camden, N.J.  
Remington Rand Library Bureau, New York, N.Y.  
Republic Stone Co., New York, N.Y.  
Reska, Ltd., Copenhagen, Denmark  
Jens Risom, New York, N.Y.  
Rowen, Inc., New York, N.Y.



Astrid Sampé, Stockholm, Sweden

Isabel Scott, New York, N.Y.

J. Seidentop, New York, N.Y.

ThermO-Fax Sales, Inc., New York, N.Y.

Thortel Fireproof Fabrics, New York, N.Y.

W.S. Tyler Co., New York, N.Y.

V'Soske, New York, N.Y.

Fredericia Stolefabrik, Fredericia, Denmark

PLANS OF FOUR PRINCIPAL FLOORS OF THE DAG HAMMARSKJOLD LIBRARY

