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www.librarybuildings.info to take a virtual tour of the most beautiful libraries in Europe inaugurated since 1990.

Library architecture and space is changing considerably in these years. Focus gravitates towards the user experience and towards the library as a place of experience contrary to former focus on the collection and the library as an archive or a literary repository. The recently development means that the libraries seem to play a more central role in city planning and design gaining a position as a cultural hub and a delightful visual experience of architectural achievement.



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The network NAPLE – Forum (National Authorities on Public Libraries in Europe) has taken the initiative to this European database presenting the best new library buildings in Europe. Editors from each participating country select up to 10 of the best and most beautiful modern libraries in their country. The database is hosted by the library at the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen.

The database presents new inspiration on recent developments presenting data on the libraries with lots of photos and data. All datasheets contain some basic information on the library and the architecture. Each library can present up to 42 photos. The user can browse between 14 predefined motives and take a virtual tour of for instance circulation desk areas or reading rooms. Most libraries have included references for websites or literature too.

The database also has a feature to publish articles and other news.

The database is still growing and need inspiration from the users.

We invite all European countries to join the database.

Please contact editor Karen Margrethe Ørnstrup at kma@hum.ku.dk.

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