

WESTPORT LIBRARY

Westport, CT

Project Partners

HMA2 Architects
AP Construction

Trends

Real Estate Optimization
Wellbeing
Collaboration
Flexibility

Solutions

Furniture
Floor covering
Move services



Lower level along river

Westport Library’s modern makeover

Originally established in 1886 by members of the Westport Reading-Room and Library Association, the Westport Library is a public library located in the heart of downtown Westport overlooking the scenic Saugatuck River. People of all ages come to this community hub to seek information, exchange ideas, or share experiences. After two decades with no updates, HMA2 Architects transformed the space by opening the ceiling and allowing a shift in space allocation. The newly designed space provides more flexibility for different ways the space can be utilized. Westport Library’s 21st century and beyond aesthetic now matches its forward-thinking mission and vision.

The Transformation Project

Beyond architectural changes that created a wow factor, the thoughtful redesign enables more collaboration and capacity in the same footprint. The overall layout reversed the space allocation balance to now 80% open and closed spaces and 20% physical books, putting a greater emphasis on the social wellbeing of the community for hosting both large events and small group functions. With one of the highest visitor traffic libraries in New England, Westport Library’s modernized approach accommodates new and returning guests.

Taking the Library to a national scale

To meet all the needs of its community members, the Westport Library multi-level building supports various activities. The lower level is where most of the book stacks are located. The middle level and heart of the building consists of a 400+ seat Forum for events or concerts, small meeting rooms, a café, as well as a production and recording studio to attract its digital and media community members. The upper level is home to a newly renovated children’s area, administration workspaces, and conference rooms.

Red Thread worked closely with HMA2 to support the Library’s goal with an integrated approach. Through product specification to implementation, our team of experts provided solutions that included furniture, mill work, under carpet power, floor covering and move services. Red Thread’s cross functional team delivered a seamless execution, helping Westport Library position themselves for national recognition.



Administration workspaces



Children’s area

“ Every element of the Library’s redesign was done with our dynamic community in mind. We are incredibly gratified to see more people than ever coming through our doors to enjoy programs, events and our collections and look forward to seeing the new ways they take advantage of this flexible, future-forward space. ”

- Bill Harmer, Executive Director, Westport Library