

Jury Review

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In an age where the advantages and virtues of softcopy are rapidly overshadowing that of the hardcopy, the library as we are familiar with, might just find itself as an anachronism should it choose to ignore rethinking its role and métier in present times. Rather than merely harping back on the library of days past, the selected proposals for an urban library take on a refreshingly reactionary approach, not just against the forms and workings of the traditional library, but also of its position within the urban context and its role to the community it is to serve.

Gone are the institutional image of a library as the proposals replace 'institution' with 'integration'. Thus, creating a more exoteric environment for the benefit and enjoyment of a wider populace. The criteria for the users are no longer dictated by the pedantic programme for a library but are developed around the dynamics of possibilities on how the spaces in and around the library could be used by choice, without compromising the security and administrative requirements.

As much as the methods and tools for the dissemination of information and knowledge have changed with the crossover from hardcopy to softcopy, the proposals are keen to manifest that the whole culture and environment of a library should also change beyond merely making newer forms for a library of today.