



Learn *New Architecture for New Learning* for Life



gestalten



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Open-Air-Library

Magdeburg, Germany, 2009

Inspired by the designer's temporary Open-Air-Library mock up that existed for just two days in an industrial site in East Germany, five years later, residents took it upon themselves to transform this project into a permanent, informal district library. An active collaboration between the designers and local residents, this outdoor library now hosts 30,000 books. The bookshelves are never closed, and all books are available to anyone that wants to use them. Lacking the bureaucracy and limited opening hours of its more formal counterparts, this flexible library adds a much-needed public space for residents while also rethinking the traditional, and often overly strict, model of the library.



Superpool
Open Library

Istanbul, Turkey, 2007

The temporary transformation of an art-gallery space into a public reading room serves as a generous addition to the urban life of Istanbul's most crowded pedestrian street. Designed like an auditorium, seats run along one side of the gallery and backdrop of books on the other. This single space creates multiple opportunities for public interaction, including lectures, readings, and screenings. The mezzanine level above the gallery floor provides a private study zone for the more focused visitors in need of some quiet.