

The Future of the Library

With David Adjaye, Chris Bourg, Ginnie Cooper, Jeffrey Schnapp, Nader Tehrani, and Ana Miljački

The February 11 panel, The Future of the Library, discussed the changing role of libraries as spaces for collections, research, technology, and public engagement. Adjaye was joined by:

Chris Bourg, director, [MIT Libraries](#), and chair, ad hoc [Task Force on the Future of Libraries](#)

Ginnie Cooper, chief librarian of the District of Columbia Library (retired)

Jeffrey Schnapp, professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and of Comparative Literature, Harvard Graduate School of Design; founder and faculty director, [metaLAB at Harvard](#); and faculty director, [Berkman Center for Internet & Society](#)

Nader Tehrani, [dean](#) of the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture at The Cooper Union of the Advancement of Science and Art; principal, [NADAA](#)

Moderator Ana Miljački, [assistant professor](#) of Architecture, MIT



The Once and Future Library - Arts at MIT

Beyond being a book repository, the ancient Library of Alexandria was a working resource for scholars. Joined physically to the Mouseion—a Greek word meaning a place where the Muses are active—the library contained a lecture hall (exedra), a refectory for communal meals (oikos), and a covered walkway (peripatos), where scholars could walk in the shade with their books, debating, reading and talking.

ARTS AT MIT



[#DavidAdjaye](#) is finally here! Use [#McDermottAward](#) to follow his discussion on the "Future ...
artsm.it/1PFjUI3 pic.twitter.com/jaTWRyCvp

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David Adjaye discussed his innovative Idea Stores and the William O. Lockridge/Bellevue and Francis A. Gregory libraries in Washington, D.C., designed by Adjaye Associates during the tenure of library director Ginnie Cooper.



David Adjaye - Arts at MIT

About David Adjaye OBE is recognized as a leading architect of his generation. Adjaye was born in Tanzania to Ghanaian parents and his influences range from contemporary art, music and science to African art forms and the civic life of cities.

 ARTS AT MIT




Full house for discussion on Future of the Library (space). [@ArtsatMIT](#) [#McDermottAward](#)
pic.twitter.com/V8AWunFC0B

 KARI SMITH [@KARIRENE69](#) · 2 YEARS AGO



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[@dadjaye](#): library moves from a repository of knowledge becomes a place of socializing to gain knowledge [#mitfutureoflibrary](#) [#McDermottAward](#)

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[@dadjaye](#) London project: sought to make a library like a textile, systems that weave together [#mitfutureoflibrary](#) [#McDermottAward](#)

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Leslie Tom
[@les733](#)

[#McDermottAward](#) [@dadjaye](#) speaking on London's [@ideastores](#) adajye.com/projects/civic...
"Rethink the services and infrastructure" [#lifelonglearner](#)

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@ArtsatMIT

.@ideastores, #DavidAdjaye dissolves traditional barriers, giving the citizen a new perspective on their city. #McDermottAward

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@mitlibraries

@dadjaye Gregory Library: public room that connects to the landscape #mitfutureoflibrary
#McDermottAward

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Sandy Alexandre
@salexandy

Francis Gregory Library in DC serves as a structural source of "social pride in the socializing of knowledge sharing." #McdermottAward

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Lee Dykxhoorn
@leedykxhoorn

"Libraries are important to think about in terms of our civic and public life" David Adjaye
#mcdermottaward @ArtsatMIT

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Jeffrey Schnapp traced the historic role of libraries to speculate on what they will become in the future.



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@ArtsatMIT

"The library as platform, lab, community center, showcase, switchboard, but most of all, as place and space." – @jaytiese #McDermottAward

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Arts at MIT
@ArtsatMIT


People once looked to steel stacks with the same admiration we hold for skyscrapers. – @jaytiese
#McDermottAward

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Nushelle de Silva
@nushelle

Recipe for successful library requires renewed look at storage function + how databases intersect social space @jaytiesse #McDermottAward

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Schnapp: Books are not going away; we are printing more "books" than ever before
#mitfutureoflibrary #McDermottAward

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@ArtsatMIT

"Libraries have always been as much about connections as about collections." – @jaytiesse
#McDermottAward

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Sandy Alexandre
@salexandy


"Library collections as catalysts for human connection(s)." -Schnapp #McDermottAward

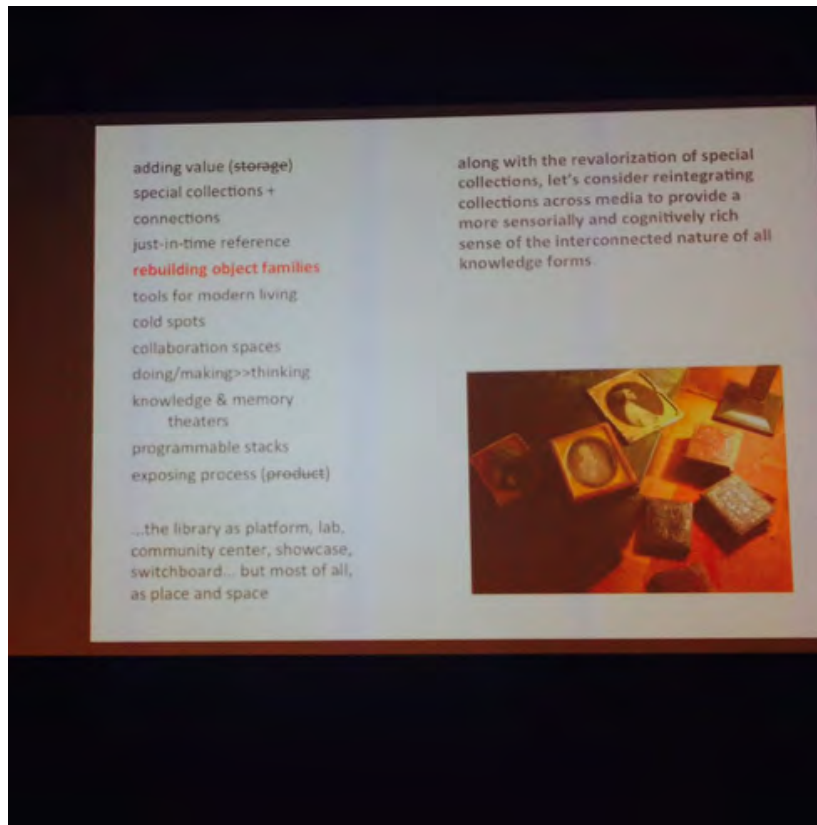
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@mitlibraries

Schnapp: it's time to expand the library to encompass cameras, tools, hardware, etc.
#mitfutureoflibrary #McDermottAward

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[@jaytitesse](#)'s 10-minute recipe for what a library could be or should be in the 21 century
[#McDermottAward](#) [@ArtsatMIT](#) pic.twitter.com/3zwFAKvaQT


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Sandy Alexandre

[@salexandy](#)

"How, in the library space, should we design different levels or forms of disconnection in a world of ubiquitous hot spots?" [#McDermottAward](#)

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For the curious: [@jaytiessa](#)'s recipe of ingredients for a library that speaks to contemporary needs
[#McDermottAward](#) pic.twitter.com/BWP9dEuyb5

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What a [#library](#) is not: Industrial Storage or computer space. Create: [#KnowledgeSpaces](#) [@jaytiesse](#)
[#McDermottAward](#) pic.twitter.com/Bcgsm6BaKv

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[Lee Dykxhoorn](#)
[@leedykxhoorn](#)

Schnapp proposing programmable stacks: What is we could constantly reshuffle the books on display to tell different stories? [#mcdermottaward](#)

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[Karen Merguerian](#)
[@GKMerguerian](#)


love the idea of using stacks as exhibit spaces, sounds like a very [@HUObrist](#) idea
[#mcdermottaward](#)

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"How might libraries model 'smart spaces' where the analog and the digital are woven together by design?" – @jaytiesse #McDermottAward

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Megan Bresnahan
@bresnaha

Libraries should have tools that allow us to tell stories with the hand and the mind @jaytiesse #mcdermottaward


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Nader Tehrani shared the strategies, negotiations, and challenges of renovating Rhode Island School of Design's Fleet Library.



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"Unbundling" has become a key concept in understanding changes in learning and education.
–@NADAAAinc #McDermottAward

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Architecture is central to the cultivation of a campus- Nader Tehrani on the [#FutureOfLibrary](#)
[#mcdermottaward](#) pic.twitter.com/pqdxkBanOS

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Nader Tehrani, Principal [@NADAAAinc](#) and Dean [@cooperunion](#), presents on the "Future of the Library." [#McDermottAward](#) [pic.twitter.com/HNI5XqGWRS](#)

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Eugenia Beh
[@ebeh](#)


[#mcdermottaward](#) Library at RI School of Design is below dorms - it's literally their living room.

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Sandy Alexandre
[@salexandy](#)


Tehrani discusses the totemic and auratic importance of architectural spaces. I love the hybrid, interlocking hot spots! [#McDermottAward](#)

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Eugenia Beh
[@ebeh](#)

[#mcdermottaward](#) Not just the RISD Library - it invites the entire city of Providence in.

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Eugenia Beh
@ebbeh

#mcdermottaward We are not just about storage anymore - our space is what the community needs it to be.

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.@NADAAAinc -building becomes symbolic not divided by function but phenomenologically, noise, smell, #mcDermottAward pic.twitter.com/w8dunzh7uF

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Ginnie Cooper spoke about the the power of public libraries to make a difference in the lives of individuals and in communities.



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Cooper: "public libraries really are the magic places in the world" #mitfutureoflibrary
#McDermottAward

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@mitlibraries

Cooper: for many people who are disconnected from govt, libraries say "this is yours"
[#mitfutureoflibrary](#) [#McDermottAward](#)

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MIT Libraries
@mitlibraries

Cooper: libraries increasingly becoming places for creation [#mitfutureoflibrary](#)
[#McDermottAward](#)

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Lee Dykxhoorn
@leedykxhoorn

Ginnie Cooper is the most interesting speaker at [#mcdermottaward](#) because great places come from great clients.

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Cooper tells us that libraries are key to the American experience. [#McDermottAward](#)

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Chris Bourg spoke about the power of libraries to make people feel connected to groundbreaking discoveries and the role libraries can take in reinventing the landscape of scholarly communication.



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Bourg: we can take nothing for granted right now in libraries [#mitfutureoflibrary](#)
[#McDermottAward](#)

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Eugenia Beh
@ebeh

[#mcdermottaward](#) It is a very cool time to be a librarian at [@mitlibraries](#) :) [@mchris4duke](#)

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MIT Libraries
@mitlibraries

Bourg: Who is our community? Anyone who wants to understand the breakthroughs that happen
[@MIT](#) [#mitfutureoflibrary](#) [#McDermottAward](#)



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Arts at MIT
@ArtsatMIT

.[@mchris4duke](#) walks proudly after detection of [#gravitationalwaves](#) [@MIT](#). [@mitlibraries](#)
enhance that feeling of connection. [#McDermottAward](#)



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@mitlibraries

Bourg: I want libraries to be a space where people feel that they are important [#mitfutureoflibrary](#)
[#McDermottAward](#)



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Libraries are spaces - digital, metaphorical, physical - where people feel like they are scholars. –
[@mchris4duke](#) [#McDermottAward](#)



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Matt Bernhardt
@morphosis7

This [#McDermottAward](#) session is such a strange experience for me as one who studied
architecture and now works at a library. So many feels.



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Sandy Alexandre
@salexandy

[#Bourg](#) ([@mchris4duke](#)): I feel connected to research that happens here. We want to be that space
of connecting [by sharing]. [#McDermottAward](#)



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.@mchris4duke "we're all part of it, digitally & physically" connections example #gravitationalwaves #mcDermottAward pic.twitter.com/KEaDvSykEU

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The panel came together for a discussion led by Ana Miljački, associate professor in the MIT Department of Architecture, critic, and curator.




on hybridity+civic quality- @MITarchitecture's @anamiljacki opens the discussion #MITfutureofLibrary #mcdermottaward pic.twitter.com/1xdq0nCLgG

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Patrick Daoust
@patrickdaoust15

RT twitter.com/ArtsatMIT/stat... .anamiljacki asks dadjaye how he "summons the civic" in his architecture. #McDermottAward

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MIT Libraries
@mitlibraries


@dadjaye public library is a respite from the modernity happening around it #mitfutureoflibrary #McDermottAward

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Patrick Daoust
@patrickdaoust15


RT twitter.com/ArtsatMIT/stat... "The discipline of architecture is less apologetic than it was 20-30 years ago." – NADAAAinc #McDermottAward

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@ArtsatMIT

What's the future we know is coming? What's the wild and crazy future we imagine? What's the future we want? – @mchris4duke #McDermottAward

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"Let's talk about stacks" @mitsap Future if the Library #mcdermot award
pic.twitter.com/1VejrD8wR3

 KVA @KVAMATX  @mitsap · 2 YEARS AGO



Eugenia Beh
@ebeh


#McDermottAward Moderator is very concerned about stacks disappearing. :)

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@mitlibraries

Bourg: in my wildest imagination, you can wander stacks in an augmented reality kind of way
#mitfutureoflibrary #McDermottAward

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Eugenia Beh
@ebeh


#McDermottAward As a researcher you can curate your own collection in the stacks. What happens when the stacks go away? #politicsofaccess

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Karen Merguerian
@GKMerguerian

Open stacks have politics as well as magic. Can architecture reproduce both politics and magic if library stacks go away? #mcdermottaward

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@ArtsatMIT


"What if when walking through the stacks, instead of recognizing the books, the books recognized you?" – @jaytisse #McDermottAward

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Myles Crowley
@mcarchivist

Conditions of public libraries say what governments think about their people #mcdermottaward

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.@anamiljacki asks #architects: what is tectonic affects for work, intersect w/ program for learning #mcDermottAward pic.twitter.com/u9fNRpAfcN

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MIT SA+P
@mitsap

exploring worlds where digital+analog intersect- @jaytitesse- we can create and design those experiences #mitfutureoflibrary #mcdermottaward

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Print and technology both have the potential to be elitist. However, the library can be a public square. – @dadjaye #McDermottAward

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Karen Merguerian
@GKMerguerian

Ginny Cooper evoking Ranganathan, the lib of the future is still a place where every reader finds their book #mcdermottaward

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Eugenia Beh
@ebeh

#McDermottAward @mchris4duke wants to believe that technology will unleash the promise of education

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"Curation is an act of gatekeeping. How do you break that model?" – An awesome question from the audience! #McDermottAward

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Karen Merguerian
@GKMerguerian

Question about breaking down gatekeeping barriers: maybe the answer is allowing for "making" and exhibiting in libraries #mcdermottaward

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.@mchris4duke agrees that libraries are not always neutral spaces, but collections are ideally a reflection of the public. #McDermottAward

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Eugenia Beh
@ebbeh

#McDermottAward @mchris4duke Libraries have never been neutral places, have always been political.

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Leslie Tom
@les733

.@mchris4duke act of curation is a political act, information objects are locked. Libraries can invite everyone to knowledge #mcDermottAward

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MIT Libraries
@mitlibraries

Bourg: turning libraries inside out by pushing MIT research out to the world #mitfutureoflibrary #McDermottAward

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MIT SA+P
@mitsap

the library has transformed to become a lens for educating the greatest amount of people possible @dadjaye #Futureoflibrary #mcdermottaward

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Lee Moreau
@moreaulee

So, it's official. Libraries are magic. @ArtsatMIT #mcdermottaward @anamiljacki @dadjaye

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Thanks to the panelists for a great discussion! Do you have thoughts to share on the future of the academic library? Visit our [Idea Bank](#).



The Future of Libraries | Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Task Force is charged with seeking broad input from the MIT community and from domain experts on how the MIT Libraries ought to evolve and provide leadership in the reinvention of research libraries.



TT Mobile US
@TTMobile_us

#McDermottAward is now trending in USA, ranking 45

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Sandy Alexandre
@salexandy

As a researcher, what excites me most about tonight's inspiring #McDermottAward conversation on libraries are the sincerely expressed and...

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Lee Moreau
@moreaulee

@mchris4duke You were fantastic on the Library of the Future panel tonight @MIT! So inspiring! @ArtsatMIT #McDermottAward #gravitywaves

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Lee Moreau
@moreaulee

One of the most uplifting conversations I've heard in a long time. Wow. Future of the Library at @ArtsatMIT. #mcdermottaward @dadjaye

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Arts at MIT
@ArtsatMIT

Wow! Thank you, @jaytiese, @mchris4duke, @anamiljacki and @NADAAAinc! Of course, a special thank you to #McDermottAward winner @dadjaye!

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