SWOT Summary from posters around the building.
November 11, 2014

**STRENGTHS**

- Where else in the DC Metro Area can one find such a comprehensive collection in situ (to architectural education)?
- A significant, large, robust, topically varied collection appropriate to the field of architecture, preservation, urban design, planning, development, and landscape architecture.
- Books. Physical books to reference. Shelves of them to wander through and pick at randomly. The wealth of physical books, right in this building.
- Not having to go to McKeldin, and all that it entails.
- Equipment rental and beautiful working place by the window to work with physical books.
- Really need a quiet study space in Arch. Building. With scanner
- Class reserves.
- Place for private study, instead of an empty classroom.
- Precedent research – invaluable collection which is great to have in one place.
- Place to lounge (collaborative space to lounge)
- The ability to physically look at documents, images, publications of architecture rather than on a screen. This resource is available within our building which is critical because we need to be able to do the research during and around class hours.
- Being able to go in looking for 1 book and being able to find 5 other books on the same subject w different information.
- Quiet zone in hectic studio.
- Placemaking – a clearly defined public space in the building and larger community. Acts as an intimate library were you know your librarian/staff. Arch Library is to McKeldin as local store is to Walmart.
- Good access to great resources; friendly willing staff who enjoys helping the students.
- Cheap color prints; great arch resources; easy to grab books.
- Extensive collection of Library materials is critical important to my educational experience.
- Our extensive research could only improve if the architecture library is easily accessible.
- An attractive space that invites uses to enter, find resources, and remain in this well lit (natural day-light), reasonably furnished space.
- Immediacy of the collection to the users of the collection.
- Spontaneous use by both faculty and students in direct association with studio-design education.
- Immediacy of collection allows the best opportunity for individual student discovery of material that is inspirational to design work (this cannot be predicted, or always guided by faculty, but is commonly “found.” Only a
robust and immediate collection supports this important aspect of design education. As Picasso said, “Do not seek, find.”

- The warmth, attentiveness, and support of the last several and continuing library staff, most especially the “public face” persons, Patti Cossard and Cynthia Frank.
- The excellent record of acquisitions, particularly that effort overseen by Patti Cossard.

**WEAKNESSES**
- Perception of being outdated or outmoded.
- Not big enough. No place for quiet/group study.
- Hard to find books you're interested in, in the endless shelves.
- Hours – not open!
- Not convenient for arch students to grab books (a Lot)
- No quiet place to look up/research materials
- Computers slow. (They are the worst) Literally the worst.
- Lack of reason to draw a larger UMD/MAPP community – could strengthen ‘reason for being’
- Not enough professor involvement – help students discover the importance of Books/Folio/Visual resources Library has to offer. We won’t know it’s there w/o a little direction.
- The spontaneous trips my class have taken to the architecture library finding and checking out materials would be considerably less likely if a majority of the materials were moved to McKeldin.
- The collection long ago outgrew its space. Consequently, some materials that could be more ideally located in the “Architecture” Library are located elsewhere, primarily in McKeldin.
- Little or no documentation-follow up and integration of the Visual Resource materials with the Library resources as was a goal of the 2012 report prepared by School faculty and library staff.
- No strategy for fully introducing architecture students to the various topical themes and depth of material in the collection.
- No robust integration of intellectual resources with a comprehensively structured and highly integrated curriculum of architectural study.

**OPPORTUNITIES**
- New computer lab.
- Additional meeting space for students
- Study rooms for small group work.
- Private study cubicles for students wanting noise free space.
- Food outlet that is better than the vending machine.
- Space could become a large collaborative “war room” for professional community charrettes, for interdisciplinary collaborations, a “think & do” lab
that has the physical parameters to accommodate large scale activity or future as-yet-thought-of methods of creating.

- Place with lots of books? Doesn't necessarily need to be manned...like an extension of the studio kiosks. Maybe with rotating items monthly/ bi-monthly?
- Couches for napping
- Lounge upstairs with study group areas downstairs.
- Quiet places for students to study. There are not any places in the architecture building that are quiet.
- Private study areas (old offices?)
- Group study /lounge area?
- Studio Drawing tables for the freshmen/sophomores
- Lockers for soph. and ARCH 242 supplies
- Swipe access
- Placemaking – could be strengthened as a social and community hub.
- Free printing.
- Coffee shop (with three checks beside it)
- Café
- Therapy space
- As a MAPP resource “Media Room” VRC?
- Swipe access for students/faculty
- Integrate the kiosks?
- Studio book collective. The collection is still available at McKeldin, but to supplement the lack of immediate access in the architecture building there could be a shelf placed in each studio with open access books. Professors and students could contribute to the shelf, and by doing so give up their book for open access free sharing. No one would actually own the books, so they could not be stolen in the normal sense of the word. Regardless, everyone’s student/studio experience would be enriched, and over time we could develop a rich collection, albeit a small one.
- Could keep the Arch Library space for swipe-in collection.
- Longer hours of access to the architecture Library access is also highly desirable for research, independent study, group work, etc.
- Invest in a more grand arch. Library. This will attract more students to apply to the undergrad and grad programs. Therefore, we will generate more funds, opportunities and growth.
- Expanded hours of access due to technology allowing self check-out.
- Envision an expanded Architecture-Art Library.
- Utilize envisioned Architecture-Art Library as a Fund Raising Opportunity to establish the economic basis for Capital Investment allocation by the State and the University (1/3 to ½ the cost).
- Re-think the combined use of the existing Visual Resources Collection Space – plus the Library resources to meet those “needs” or “preferences” that are inconsistent with research-study “library/information access” uses.
• Complementary use of print material and digital information.
• Digital access as an initial research tool – leading to more in-depth print material study/research.
• Greater integration of curricular subject foci with library-information resources.

THREATS
• Despite being imbued with technology, it feels like a dinosaur in the building.
• Taking it away!
• Affect architecture department reputation? Impact on attracting new students. – I second this. 3 more endorsements.
• Is it going to affect accreditation?
• I would not attend this school without a library – agree!!, Check! Already suffering enrollment.
• Paying staff – perhaps keep the space staffed by one or two TA’s and make swipe access like labs.
• We have MAPP TA’s in TSC, why not the library?
• One of the reason why I chose to apply and come to the Master of Architecture Program at university of Maryland over Pratt and Northeastern is because it has an architecture library. The library is easily accessible and is very critical to my extensive research. By closing the architecture library, it will make my research more difficult and hinder my learning experience. In addition, my fellow classmates from my undergraduate school (not from university of Maryland) know that we are closing the architecture library. It will deter them from applying to University of Maryland. Instead they will apply elsewhere.
• Removal of a substantial portion of the print materials to McKeldin or any other off-site location.
• Ideology that print materials are a thing of the past to be entirely replaced by on-line digital access to materials.
• View that centralization is more efficient and economical than decentralization: the single big library vs. multiple branch libraries. Branch libraries bring the material to the users. Centralization is efficient for the staff, not efficient for the users.
• Over reliance on statistical data such as gate counts, numbers of books checked out, numbers of books re-shelved as an indicator of value of use. This is highly misleading, as the nature and frequency of use is related to types of courses. Lecture and seminar courses require specific, narrowly focused research by the individual. Whereas, studio courses that account for roughly 1/3 architecture credits require far more diverse utilization, and disguise actual numbers of users because multiple students utilize shared references in studios ranging from 5 to 45 students.
• Inattentiveness of faculty to the collection and its management.
• Zealous enthusiasm for change at any cost.
• Library staffs lack of appreciation for the importance of the idea of “precedent” and “type” as a basis for architectural-urban comprehension and design work, and hence a devaluation of documented resources.
• Library staffs lack of appreciation for comparative study of various examples related to a subject to gain understanding, particularly true of side by side comparisons of visual material.
• Inability to track down resources, whether checked out to individuals or to studio kiosks.
• Expansion of Socialization and Collaboration Spaces at the expense of Library-Research-Study spaces that are largely individual and require quiet and non distracting space for work (as distinct from spaces like the highly collaborative “great space.”
• Loss of staff support.