

Construction

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Suzzallo Library

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

The University of Washington completed work last year on a \$31 million renovation of Suzzallo Library.

The project included a seismic retrofit of the historic 318,000-square-foot building, which faces Red Square. The project seismically ties the original 1925 library with additions built in 1935, 1947 and 1963.

During a major earthquake, the additions would likely have failed to move in unison, possibly resulting in extensive damage. (About 60 percent of the seismic work had been completed at the time of the 2001 Nisqually earthquake.)

Structural frames of the additions were tied together with steel beams, and new shear walls were poured.

Work also included demolishing slab sections and building corners for the shear wall, structural bracing and seismic floor knitting. The sections built in 1925 and 1935 received mechanical and electrical upgrades, and masonry walls were reinforced to keep stones from falling off during an earthquake.

Plaster ceilings had to be restored after they were demolished to install fire sprinklers and electrical systems.

The project was completed in three phases over a two-year period, throughout which the library remained open.

The project won an American Institute of Architects national library-design award in April.

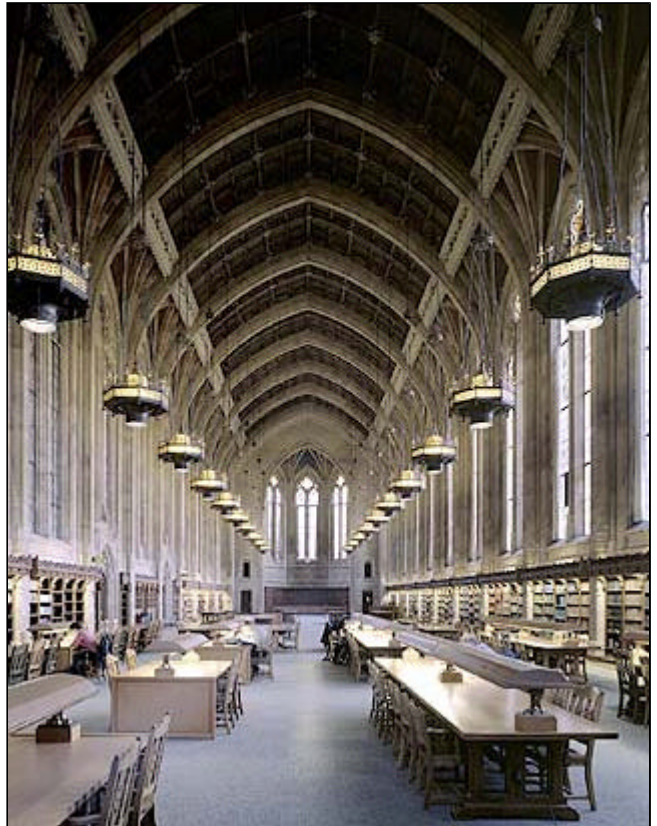


Photo by Fred Housel

The project team:

Owner: University of Washington, Seattle

Prime architect: Mahlum Architects, Seattle

Associate architect: Cardwell Architects, Seattle

General contractor: Turner Construction, Seattle

Structural engineer: Magnusson Klemencic Associates, Seattle

Mechanical engineer: CDi Engineers, Lynnwood

Electrical engineer: Travis, Fitzmaurice & Associates, Seattle