

REHAMPING

Division III Showcase Proposal



Introduction

At the root of the Hampshire philosophy is the celebrated belief in the power of collaboration. The interconnected endeavors of our community make Hampshire College a powerhouse of intellectual and creative energy. As the school continues to evolve under this philosophy, many of its spaces remain static. Our spaces must become more responsive to the dynamic needs and desires of this community.

Rehamping is a student initiated group whose goal is to involve students, faculty, and staff in the process of space-based transformations. It is our belief that on-campus spaces should reflect the needs and desires of the community as a whole. Our redesign work reflects our philosophy in that many voices are incorporated into our proposals. Currently, we have been working with the first floor of the library.

We are very pleased with the renovations that took place during the summer in the library and we have been discussing ways in which the new lounge on first floor can be further enhanced. Many people flock to this newly created corner and we think that because of its prime location and new lounge re-purposing, it would be an ideal place to celebrate the Division III experience.

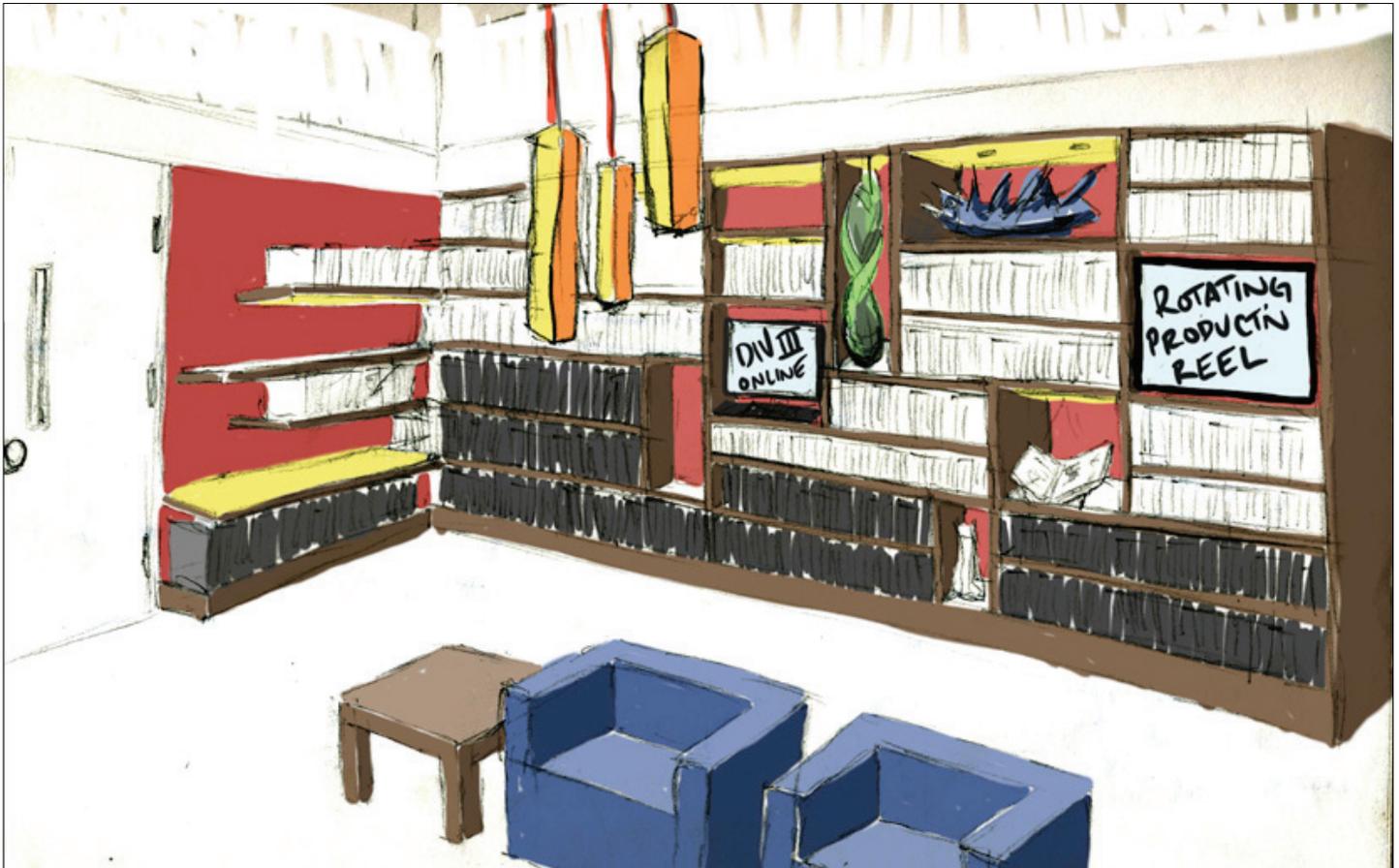


Current

The Division III is one of the most unique and representative aspects of being a Hampshire student yet nowhere on campus is there a lively and inspiring representation of this quintessential piece of the Hampshire curriculum. The inherent diversity of Division III projects can easily be forgotten especially when there is no space that works to preserve and share the achievements of past Hampshire generations. The Division III project is often times not just a bound book; formats include film, installations, performances and studio art. Currently the only spatial representation of Division III projects are two sections in the library that house only the black bound books.

With this deficit of representation in mind, Rehamping hopes to reinvigorate the far corner of the library first floor by making a permanent yet transformable Division III showcase. This would take the form of a built-in, modular shelving unit, whose flexibility allows it to accurately represent a wide range of past and future Division III projects. The showcase would be a multimedia display, with spaces for Division III black bound books, artists' books, films in the form of DVD's, audio productions in the form of CD's, and small installation art and art objects. Enabling this versatility are mounted units of linked cubbies that span the height of the unit and allow long horizontal shelves to be mounted at varying heights. One cubby houses a large, LCD screen. This screen will primarily show samples of recent Division III work in addition to upcoming events, presentations,

performances, and openings. Reamping will establish the update system by creating a blog with an interactive calendar. This will enable Division III students to post announcements and upload samples of their work. This information will be placed into PowerPoint slides on a weekly basis. The slide show will run on a continuous loop, similar to the Magic Board. Reamping will assume responsibility for the creation of the system and the programming of these slide shows. We are creating a student group called STEWARDS (Students That Engage with Archiving Representations of Div III). This group will orchestrate the showcase's programming, including updating the slide-show and soliciting and displaying artwork. Since the system will be in place, other students will be able to easily assume control of the showcase through the student group, engaging both curators and students interested in exploring curation.



Proposed

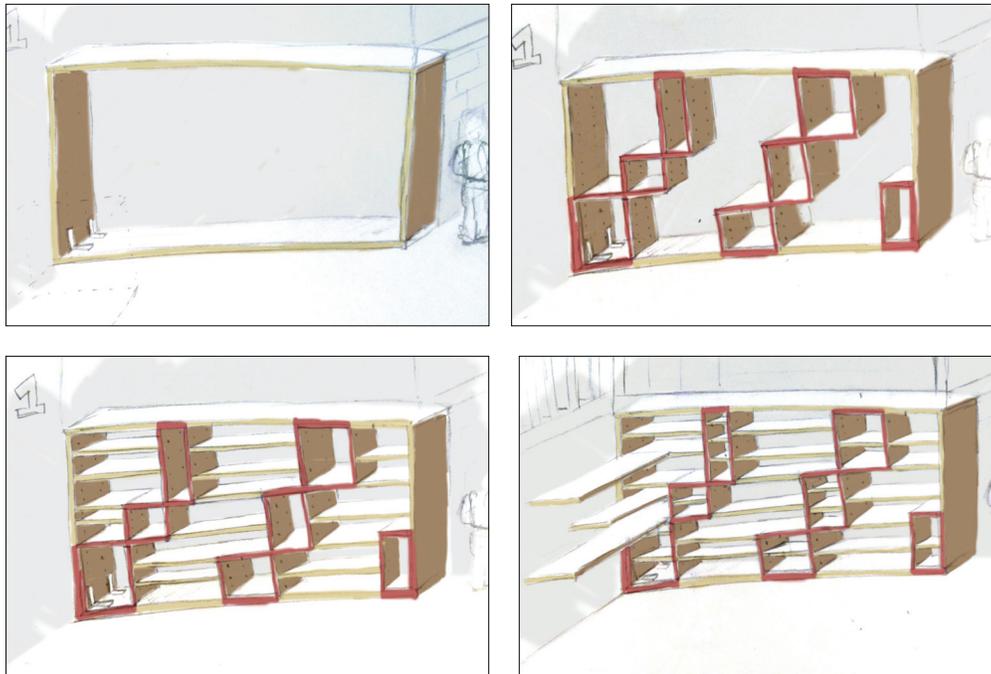
Another large cubby in the showcase houses a computer opened to D-Space (the already established online Division III database), so that students, faculty, and staff can browse electronically published Division III projects. This visibility will make more people aware of D-Space. Our design of the showcase allows it to have the same level of flexibility and versatility as the current metal shelving. Its aesthetic integrates the vernacular geometry of the library's architecture yet distinguishes the corner as a special space.

In creating this representative Division III showcase, current and future generations of Hampshire students, faculty, and staff, as well as prospective students and visitors will be able to better access the great body of knowledge that comes from this inspired community. The showcase will be a powerful way for prospective students to gain a more profound understanding of the school. It will honor and make visible one of Hampshire's most defining characteristics, the Division III. It will be a living, accessible, and adaptable monument to this unique right of passage.

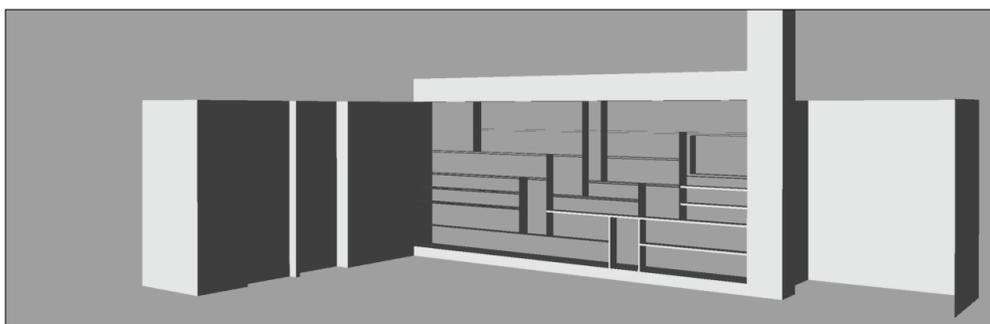
Fabrication

Our hope is to fabricate and install the Division III showcase during a student-run January-term course (EPEC, Experimental Program in Education and Community). Up to this point, our design work has not only involved careful consideration of the final product, but also how that product is to be fabricated within a one month time frame and under particular constraints (fire code, budget, etc.). In other words, we have been designing the process, allowing it to strongly influence our physical design work. Our preliminary designs for the showcase piece enable it to be fabricated completely off-site, not interrupting current activities in the space. Its modularity enables it to be assembled and mounted in a minimal amount of time (ideally two days or less).

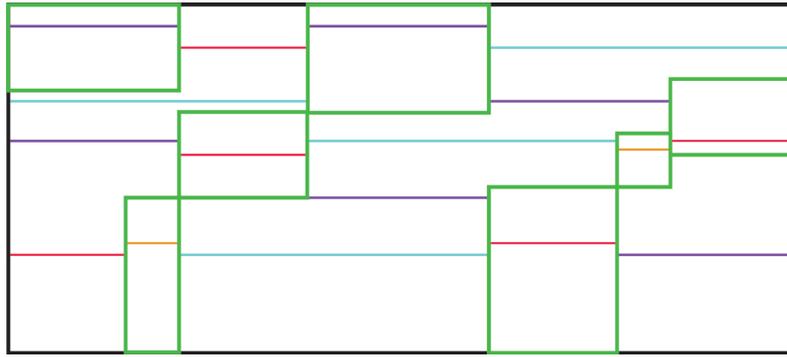
The shelf is composed of mounted and removable wood members. The larger structural cubbies are secured to the wall while the horizontal shelves are removable and adjustable. These shelves are what imbue the unit with adaptability. The mounts for these shelves are built into the structural cubbies and outer most sides at integrals of three inches. We envision a peg-and-hole support system that makes for easy adjustment. The number of shelves and their various heights can be easily transformed to fit standard-sized and over-sized books, and DVD and CD cases. There will be three standard lengths of horizontal spans, so that more combinations are possible with fewer shelves. When there are excess wood shelves, they can be stored with the surplus metal shelving in the basement of the library building.



Representation of modular fabrication



Digital representation



Digital representation showing three standard lengths of shelving

The unit is primarily made of white oak and pine wood and mounted with non-visible metal components. The wood will be finely finished, although we have not yet determined what stains or colors will be employed. We have been focusing on the specifics of the form and will now begin to move into exploring finish details, all while adhering to code. We will consult Larry Archey and Buildings and Grounds about code adherence as we finalize our plans. Finishes will be chosen collaboratively through interactive, on-site installation surveys and informal charrettes. It is our goal to make sure that the concerns of all constituents are taken into account.

Before January term begins, the design will be nearly finalized, that way our energy during the EPEC course can be focused on fabrication, paying especially close attention to finish/detail work. We are designing the showcase so that it can be built in three weeks and installed in less than two days. We wish to collaborate with Physical Plant throughout the entire process, ideally through weekly meetings during which we present our progress. This will give us the opportunity to seek advice when it is needed and give Physical Plant the chance to offer their own input. It will also allow for more quality assurance of the showcase throughout the entire fabrication process.

The core Rehamping group consists of about 7 students, who collectively have had a variety of experiences working with wood and industrial design at many different scales. Individually we have built bed frames, tables, furniture, tree platforms, surfboards, theater sets, benches, interactive art installations, and bookshelves. As we promote the design build course, we will continue to connect with other student carpenters as well as students who are interested in exploring wood working for the first time.

Currently we are searching for the appropriate fabrication facility. Ideally, we need access to a wood shop and small space where we can store wood for the duration of the project. The space does not have to be exclusively ours. We are flexible and would be grateful to have scheduled access. Having a working relation with Physical Plant throughout the approval process, material selection, and fabrication of the showcase would further enrich this experience for all involved.

Resources

We have been in close contact with Committee on Community Development (COCD) throughout our design process and they have enthusiastically offered support for the project. We look forward to working with them to finalize costs and procure funding for the wood, hardware, stains, and LCD monitor. Media Services has offered its assistance in helping us to find the most suitable screen for the media component and we will speaking with Information Technology staff about what computer would work best to control the information screen and D-Space interface.

Library Logistics

In the showcase, two shelves will be reserved for the earliest Division III books in the library collection. The remaining shelves that are designated for book use will hold Division III books spanning from the most recent graduates moving back in time year by year until these shelves are at capacity. The remaining Division III books (from the years in between the early collection and the more contemporary collection) will be housed in their current location on the library second floor. One to two shelves in the Division III showcase will be reserved for books from these in between years. Twice a semester, a new year can be featured. Also, when there are reunions, that class' books can be on display. Signage will clearly show which years are on display in the showcase and which are upstairs on the second floor. For example, it may read (Showcase: 1962-1966, 1998-2010; Second Floor: 1967-1997). This rotation of work will be managed by the STEWARDS student group.

We propose moving the World Language Resource to the Open Reserve shelf for the their remaining duration. The small map kiosk can be relocated to the blank wall area to the left of the door to technical services.

New books can be move to the top of the CD shelving unit (half height) that separates the computer area from the path to Media Services. This is a very visible part of the first floor, especially from the circulation desk and the library entrance. The books can be displayed in a variety of ways; for example they can be propped up with individual metal or wood book holders or Rehamping can build a long canted unit that rests on the top of the CD shelving unit. Patrons can peruse the new book collection and newspapers all in this accessible and visible entry lounge.

Moving Forward

Because there is currently no set approval process in place for student initiated projects, we have drafted this proposal so that we can connect with any and all administrative heads and staff who might be involved with granting approval. We are excited about moving forward, but cannot secure funding until approval of the process is granted. Once granted, we can finalize our budget and work closely with all stakeholders in further developing and finalizing the design. We look forward to further developing this project.

Rehamping

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