

# GEISEL LIBRARY SELF-GUIDED TOUR



*John Baldessari, Read/Write/Think/Dream*  
UCSD Stuart Collection 2001  
Photo by Philipp Scholz Ritterman



9500 GILMAN DRIVE #0175G  
LA JOLLA, CA 92093  
(858) 534-3339

Brochure designed by C. Garcia

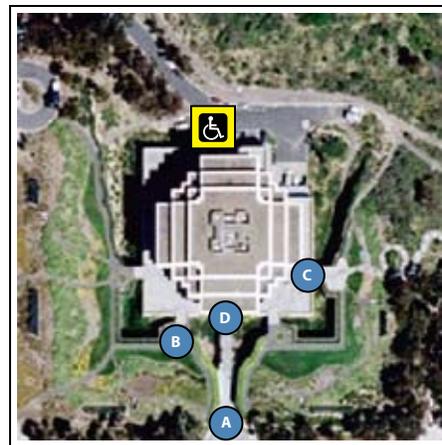
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## WELCOME TO UC SAN DIEGO'S GEISEL LIBRARY BUILDING!

This self-guided tour is designed to help you find the many hidden treasures within one of San Diego's greatest landmarks and the visual icon for UC San Diego. During this tour, you will learn about the building and its many fun, interesting, and unique features. When exploring Geisel Library, please keep your visit to the first and second (main) floors of the library as the upper floors are reserved for quiet study. We hope you enjoy visiting the Geisel Library building. If you need any assistance or additional information about the UC San Diego Library, please direct your questions to the Geisel Information Desk.



## ART IN & AROUND GEISEL LIBRARY



- A** At the beginning of the walkway leading into Geisel Library is a metal sculpture often referred to as the silent tree. The tree is part of an art installation called *Trees* by artist Terry Allen. *Trees* is part of the UC San Diego Stuart Collection, a unique collection of site-specific works of art located across campus.
- B** On the west side of the building, on the third-level forum (the stairs to the forum are on the right and left sides of the main entrance), is a life-size bronze statue of Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known to his many fans as Dr. Seuss. The statue, an original sculpture by Lark Grey Dimond-Cates, shows Geisel sitting at his desk while a towering 7 ½ foot "Cat in the Hat," the sculptor's depiction of Geisel's alter ego, looks over his shoulder.
- C** While still on the third-level forum, take a walk over to the east side of the building and view the *Snake Path* leading down the hill. The path, made entirely of slate tiles, was designed by artist Alexis Smith and is part of the Stuart Collection. The snake winds its way around a book by an Edenic garden, marking a symbolic path to Geisel Library, the intellectual heart of the campus.

Named one of the world's 25 most modern libraries, the futuristic concrete and glass Geisel Library building was designed by world-renowned architect William Pereira in 1970. This campus landmark was named for Audrey and Theodor Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss) in 1995. The building's unique geometric design has inspired descriptions such as "a beacon" or "a grounded spaceship bringing knowledge to an imperfect world." Pereira, admired for his futuristic designs, is also known for works such as the Transamerica Tower in San Francisco, the master-planned community of Irvine, space-launch facilities at Cape Canaveral, and the Houston Center. In 1992, underground wings on the east and west sides of the building were built by Gunnar Birkerts & Associates. The addition was designed to add extra space while preserving the original silhouette of the building. The underground wings are a remarkable architectural feat; in spite of their subterranean nature they let in as much natural light as is found on the upper floors.

Outside the Library you may hear the carillon chime. The carillon is an acoustical instrument which can be played "live" via a keyboard housed in a small bunker-like room on the roof. The carillon was donated to UC San Diego by Joe Rubinger. The University Carillonneur takes music requests for the chimes and oversees a music commissioning program for the carillon.

- D** The highlight of the main entrance to Geisel Library is the *READ/WRITE/THINK/DREAM* installation by artist John Baldessari. The installation, also part of the Stuart Collection, encourages visitors to reflect and dream, featuring images of UC San Diego students standing upon books, resembling columns in Greek architectural structures. Notice the television and computer in the upper corners, reflecting that information can be obtained from a variety of media.

## GEISEL EAST, 2ND FLOOR



The East Wing of Geisel Library—known as Geisel East—is focused on supporting student collaboration and group or individual study in a fully wireless space. There are powered tables and carrels, group study rooms, a presentation practice room, and the Geisel East Learning Commons. There also is a Child-Friendly Group Study Room for student-parents. Games, puzzles, and toys to challenge your mind are also available. During the academic term Geisel East is a premiere study location for students with late night study needs, remaining open 24 hours a day, 5 days a week.

## GEISEL WEST, 2ND FLOOR



The West Wing of Geisel Library—known as Geisel West—focuses on supporting students and researchers as they explore the myriad of fields of study at UC San Diego. The Research Assistance Desk is located here, providing help to those starting out or needing guidance as they pursue information related to their research. Research assistance is also available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through both Text and Instant Messaging. There are powered tables, casual and study seating, and the Geisel West Learning Commons.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES



Special Collections & Archives houses rare and unique materials that are used for research and includes Mandeville Special Collections, UC San Diego Archives, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography Archives. Special Collections & Archives holds over 250,000 books, more than 35 million manuscripts, and numerous maps, photographs, art works, and other original media. Strengths of the collections include the Spanish Civil War; early voyages of exploration to the Pacific; marine science and oceanography; contemporary American poetry; California and San Diego history; Melanesian anthropology; artists' books; and the culinary history of the American Southwest and Latin America. Special Collections also houses the personal archive of Theodor Seuss Geisel, including most of his original drawings for his many children's books, his advertising artwork, and his World War II editorial cartoons.

## GEISEL WEST, 1ST FLOOR



The Library supports innovative, award-winning faculty research, teaching, and performance in visual arts, music, film, and theater and dance. The Library's art books, musical scores, and media collections are housed here. The media collections cover a wide range of media materials, including audio (CD, LP, tape), digital images, and moving image materials (DVD, video, 16mm film). Course-focused media materials are made accessible here and there are individual and group listening and viewing facilities.

Maps on last page of brochure.

## GEISEL EAST, 2ND FLOOR

1 As you enter this part of the Library, look in the stairwells to see model planes created by UC San Diego students for the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics' annual "Design, Build & Fly" competition. Keeping watch over the planes is a bust of Dr. Harold J. Urey, one of the founders of the UC San Diego Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Urey won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1934 for his discovery of heavy hydrogen.

After you enter the Geisel East area, you will be greeted by a life-size action figure, a "Chameleon JumpSuit" from the popular Journeyman Project "Legacy of Time" computer video game. More information about the suit, which was donated by UC San Diego alumnus and video game pioneer Michel Kripalani, can be found in the exhibit display adjacent to the installation.

The Geisel East Learning Commons is a visually and intellectually stimulating environment, with exhibits and displays that showcase student-built projects and inspire users to envision the work of professional scientists and engineers.

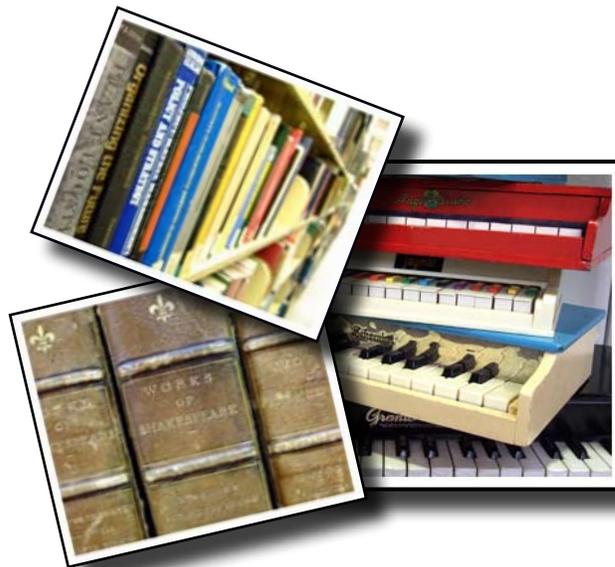


## GEISEL WEST, 2ND FLOOR

4 Current periodicals, newspapers, and microforms are located in this area. Available are regional, national, and international newspapers, journals, and magazines in all areas of the social sciences and humanities, the arts, the physical sciences and engineering. Here you can relax and enjoy a popular magazine or daily newspaper, catch up on the latest research, or get assistance in locating or accessing information.

The Library's Data & Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Lab provides a dedicated computing environment for locating and managing GIS and other data to UC San Diego community members across nearly every discipline.

The Government Documents Collection housed here includes publications produced by the United States, California, and San Diego city governments, as well as publications from the European Union.



## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

2 A permanent art installation is located just north of Special Collections & Archives in the exhibit area. The *Alphabet of Bones*, by Joyce Cutler-Shaw, is a three-dimensional piece from Mandeville Special Collections and is located in the soffit overhead. Anatomically-correct drawings of the bones of pigeons, located on the walls, depict the characters in the *Alphabet of Bones*.

3 Exhibitions in the Special Collections & Archives display cases change several times per year and generally display a wide range of unique materials that showcase the university's rich and varied special collections. Selections from the Seuss Collection are usually exhibited during the summer and the month of March when UC San Diego celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday. Around the corner is the Seuss Room, the Library's largest lecture and meeting room, named in honor of Theodor Seuss Geisel.

## ARTS LIBRARY

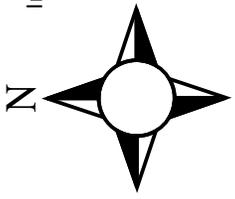
5 Because space is at a premium in the Arts Library, there is "compact shelving" for housing the extensive collection of print materials. Open study areas with abundant natural light, comfortable reading chairs, and computers make this area popular with individuals and groups of students.

6 Straight ahead is one of Geisel Library's subterranean gardens. The glass structures you may have noticed outside are skylights that project through the buried perimeter of the building's addition, allowing natural light to penetrate the below-ground levels of the structure.

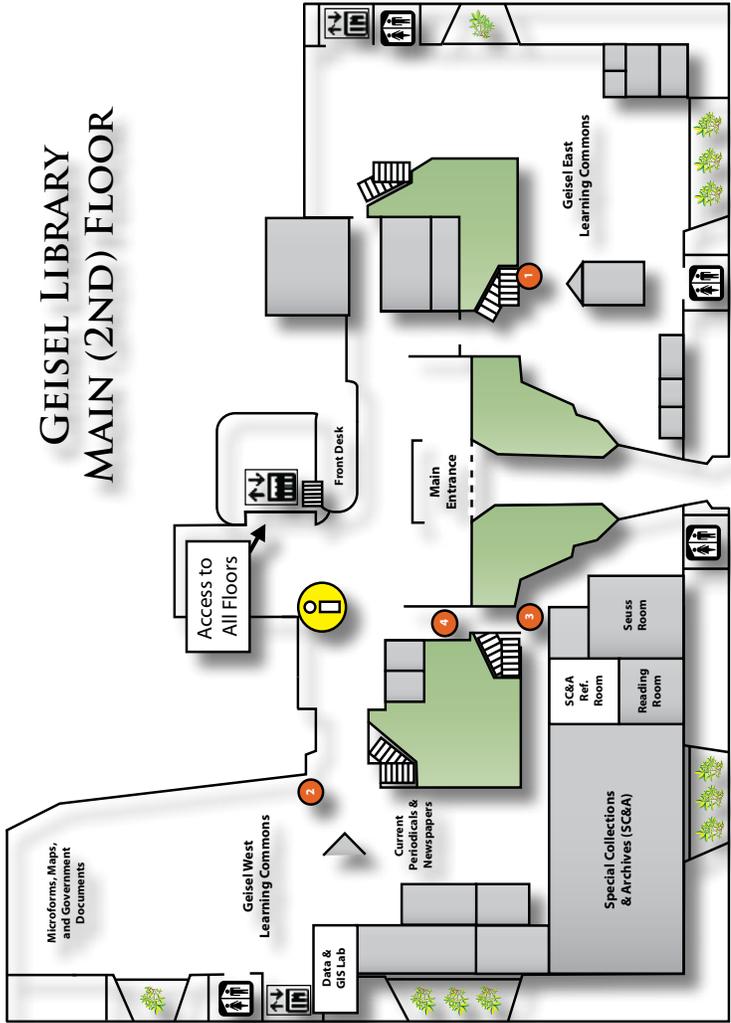
Intended for social learning and collaborative study, this space is equipped with large tables, lounge seating, mobile whiteboards, and mobile laptop chairs. Two of the group study rooms also offer technologies through which you can project your laptop to a larger display for group viewing.

# MAP LEGEND

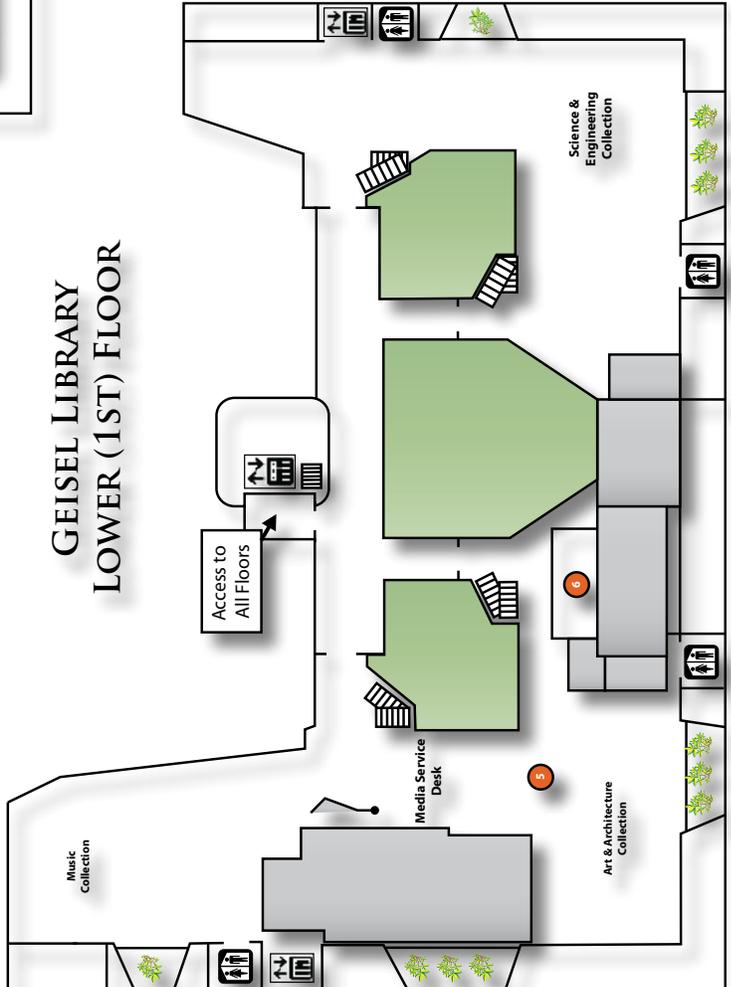
-  Restrooms
-  Stairs
-  Elevator(s)
-  Information Desk
-  Indoor point of interest
-  Outdoor point of interest
-  Staff Areas
-  Restricted Areas



## GEISEL LIBRARY MAIN (2ND) FLOOR



## GEISEL LIBRARY LOWER (1ST) FLOOR



For more information on Geisel Library parking and access for patrons with disabilities, please contact the Information Desk at (858) 534-0133.