



# Libraries through the lens

## Central Saint Martins Library, London

**THIS month's Libraries through the lens sees University of the Arts Central Saint Martins college library take centre stage.**

Photographed by Thomas Guignard on a recent trip to London, the library – like the rest of the college's campus – occupies a re-purposed industrial site.

Thomas says: "In 2011, the University of the Arts London's Central Saint Martins college traded most of its scattering of locations throughout the city for a new campus just north of King's Cross station. For the art school's new flagship location, architects Stanton Williams joined a

former Victorian granary and two transit sheds with a new building.

"Entrance to the campus is through the south facing granary, designed in 1851 by Lewis Cubitt, which has been converted to house the library. Thanks to this strategic location and a separate entrance, the library remains accessible to students after hours.

"The structure's industrial past remains visible through the conversion to a modern library, from unadorned brick walls bearing the shadows of later additions to sturdy cast iron columns, heavy barn doors and painted wall markings. These rough elements are offset by clean and

functional shelving, welcoming furniture and an abundance of house plants. Display cases, a materials library and large working tables provide tools and inspiration for students.

"While access to the campus and library is restricted to UAL members only, a small number of visitor spots are available daily upon online advance booking. This policy and the warm welcome of the library staff allowed me to visit this unique location during a recent trip through London and finally feature a UK library in the pages of *Information Professional!*"