

## COVID-19 AND LIBRARY PUBLIC SPACE TRANSFORMATIONS

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### Abstract

The paper discusses the transformation of library spaces that occurred as a result of the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, as well as the directions of further spatial changes in library spaces under new pandemic conditions. The study is based on the integrated use of research methods. As part of the study, the functional-planning organization of library spaces was analyzed before and during the pandemic, and the content of the crisis of the social institution of libraries in the new conditions was formulated. The experience of transformations of other types of buildings – offices, restaurants, hospitals, etc. – was examined and the appropriateness of using these design techniques in library spaces was examined, individual planning techniques were highlighted as fundamental for further space-planning transformations, and considered as basic recommendations for adaptations, reconstruction and construction of new library buildings. Particular attention is paid to updating the focus on maintaining public health, including through the more active implementation of appropriate environmental standards in the construction.

Keywords: Architecture; COVID-19; Library; Public space; Safety; Social distancing; The actual normal; The new normal.