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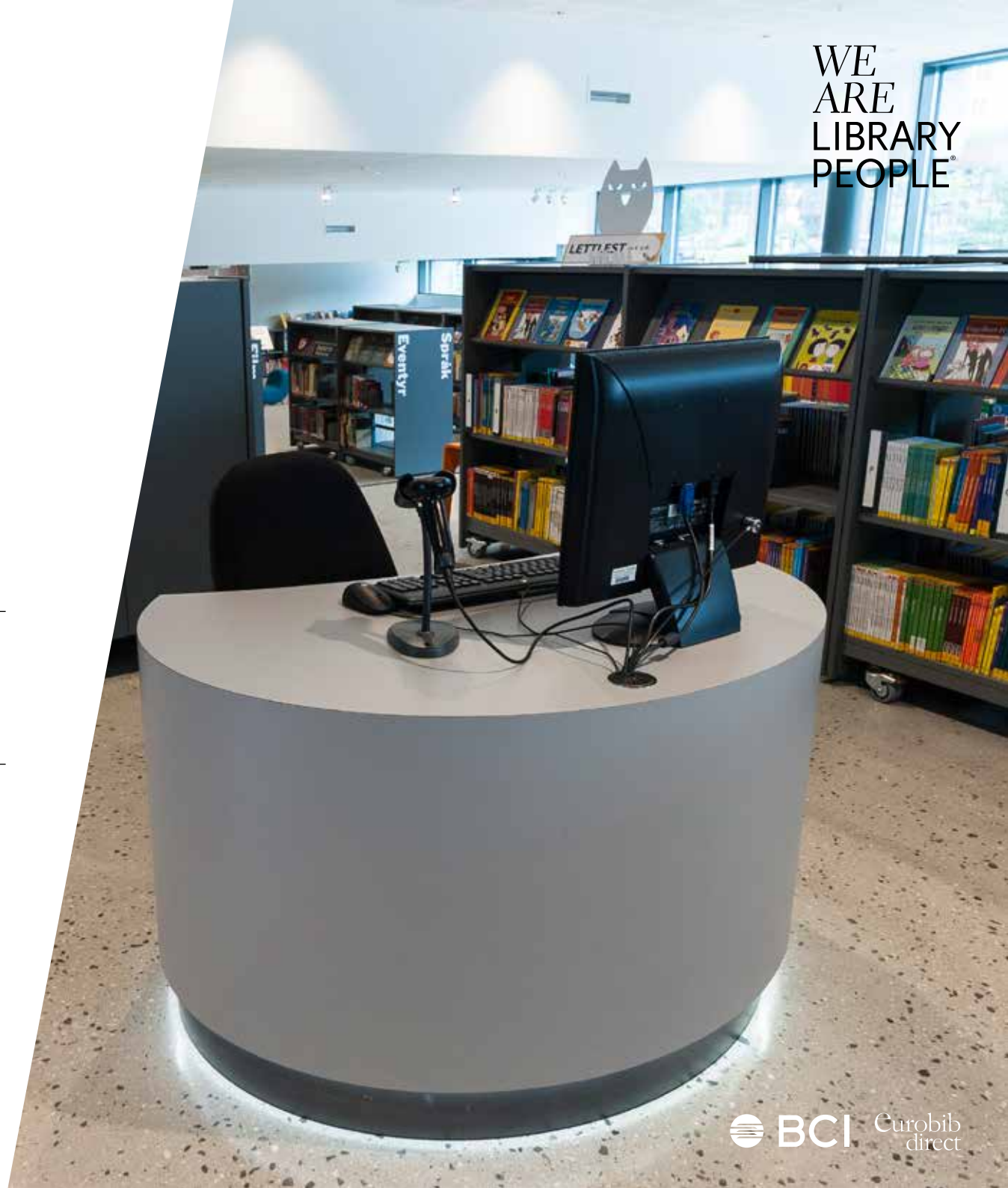


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# NARVIK PUBLIC LIBRARY NORWAY

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CASE STUDY





Interior design by Lykke Jørgin  
from our design office in Denmark

“There is a great atmosphere  
in the library”

### A new life for Narvik library

“We wanted a library, where people would want to stay - and that is what we now have,” says library manager Tonje Farset from Narvik library.

In 2013, the City Council decided that Narvik should have a new library. The municipality therefore looked for new premises and found the ideal location at “The 4th corner”, a building housing various cultural activities situated on Narvik town square - this was the start of the new library.

On 9th April, 2016, Tonje Farset opened the doors for the citizens of Narvik and welcomed them to a library they at first didn't know they actually needed...

“We were previously located in the basement of the Town Hall. When the Town Hall was renovated, we moved temporarily into the central premises of “Gate 1” and people rediscovered the library. Now that our new library has opened, we are experiencing a whole new atmosphere. People are looking forward to visiting the library and are telling us, that they've missed a library with the current atmosphere,” says Tonje Farset.



## Full of people – all the time

There is no doubt that the new library has become a favourite among the citizens of Narvik. Tonje Farset dreamed of a library where people wanted to spend time, with an open atmosphere where both young families and students could be. It seems they have turned the dream into reality.

“People spend a lot of time here, and we see students, young families as well as young people. Previously, we did not see that many young people and we only had limited facilities for those who wanted to sit and study. But now the study areas in the library are occupied all the time. During exam time, students had to queue outside and rush in to find a place to sit.” she says.

The youngest users of the library (preschool) have their completely own oasis. They can gather around a table, where they can draw, play and read. The interior designer suggested a table shaped like a flower, and the library manager could not refuse this.

“We decided on a grey colour and in addition, we had some custom made lamps that are placed in the middle of the table – the overall impression is fantastic! There is a great atmosphere, and it seems like the children are having a great time with all the characters and books,” says Tonje Farset.





“The library is prepared for the digital future with several digital and interactive solutions”

### More than 70,000 books

Fortunately, the new seating areas have not affected the shelving space. In the bright, open library, the book collection adds up to more than 70,000 books, with 50,000 more books in stock.

“The challenge was to find shelving that could hold so many books and at the same time give the room a facelift. This is where BS Eurobib did a great job. With the exception of the shelving in the non-fiction department, the height of the shelving is no higher than 1.55 m. To break up the straight and tight lines in the library, we chose to use curved shelving in between. Colour wise, we decided to go for mostly grey shelving, and I'm very happy with this choice. All details of the building are in the exact same colour, so it really was a stroke of luck”, says the satisfied library manger.

“We have also prepared the library for the digital future with several digital and interactive solutions that are able to show photos and scan books. Digital posters, book vending machines, music box and a panoramic wall all result in a vivid and contemporary library, which we hope will look fantastic and modern in 30 years. Most important was that the solutions we chose would last for a long time. We now have a library of high quality that people seek to use and that was the dream. They look around and are very pleased. Now Narvik finally has a library, which the citizens of Narvik deserve” says Tonje Farset.



## Recent Projects

- International School of Beijing, China
- Dokk1, Aarhus Public Library, Denmark
- Francois Villon Public Library, France
- Kongsberg Public Library, Norway
- Dag Hammarskjöld Library, Sweden
- Herning Public Library, Denmark
- Narvik Public Library, Norway
- Barrhead Public Library, United Kingdom
- Kista Public Library, Sweden
- Edmonton Highlands branch library, Canada
- Angoulême Public Library, France
- Darmstadt University and State Library, Germany
- Wevelgem Public Library, Belgium
- Dresden Neustadt Public Library, Germany
- Kuwait National Library, Kuwait
- Den Helder Public Library, Netherlands

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“ Innovation is what characterizes how we work with library design. Your project may be big or small, but our aspirations always remain the same ”