Future Library

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http://medialab.futurelibrary.gr

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION | Future Library’s exclusive donor
HOW would you imagine the Public Library of the future? What would you like to do within a modern library? What is the role of the public library in today’s society and what community needs might it be expected to meet?

MEDIA Labs, the new Future Library project aims to provide some answers to the questions raised above. The project, which is due to be completed by December 2013 and is funded by the "Stavros Niarchos" Foundation, will allow Future Library to develop new, attractive, comfortable and creative spaces in nine Public Libraries across Greece. Google is also providing support and assistance in the form of office design expertise and training for the staff of the nine libraries.
BUT... WHAT EXACTLY IS A MEDIA LAB AND WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE WITHIN A LIBRARY SPACE?

In fact... the MEDIA LAB could be part of the blueprint for a modern public library! It acts as a hub for creativity, collaboration, innovation and learning fuelled by ideas, art, culture, science, humanities and technology through which public libraries can better support and engage with their local communities.

MEDIA LAB will provide teenagers, students, professionals, unemployed people and immigrants with opportunities to immerse themselves in ideas and technology, through services that focus on the development of their creativity.

ATTRACTIVE DESIGN COMBINED WITH USEFUL SERVICES

Within a MEDIA Lab you can produce and edit a video, create a digital story, record a radio spot or even your own song, hold a meeting or just surf the internet and access exclusive digital content, while at the same time relaxing in a pleasant and friendly environment.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION

In February 2013 we invited 10 creative Greek architectural offices to submit their design proposals (A&M Architects, cube-concept, dARCHstudio, if_untitled architects, k&k architects, Kollektivemind*, k-studio, paan architects, Point Supreme, .27 architects).

The winners of the contest were the A&M Architects, and their design is being implemented in the Media Lab project.
**Innovative Librarians:** What’s happening with the **Generation Y**; What is **Youth Engagement** and how do you do it? What is **Mentoring**? What kind of language would we use in a face-to-face or a social media discussion with young people? What kind of concerns, interests or hobbies do young people have?

Librarians in the nine libraries will be able to respond to these challenges by co-creating new youth-oriented services, working with creative people and organizations from across their region. As part of the **MEDIA Labs** project **Future Library** will train and support the library staff so that they have all the skills necessary to help people to get the most from the new facilities.

**Collaboration:** Future Library is working with well known creative organisations such as **Google** (YouTube spaces), **Aarhus City Library** (urban media space) and the **Mozilla Foundation** (Hive New York) which will provide advice on the development of the Media Labs and also help to evaluate how far the project succeeds.

**IN DECEMBER 2013 MEDIA LABS WILL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT THE FOLLOWING LIBRARIES:**
Drama Central Public Library / Levadia Central Public Library / Papacharalabios Central Public Library of Nafpaktos / Koventarios Municipal Library of Kozani / Trikala Municipal Library / Corinth Public Library / Keratsini-Drapetsona Municipal Library / Heliopolis Municipal Library / Chania Municipal Library.

**ABOUT FUTURE LIBRARY** (http://about.futurelibrary.gr/)
The Stavros Niarchos Foundation is Future Library’s exclusive donor. The Foundation’s grant aims at developing a sustainable network of public and municipal libraries across Greece, which will further be linked to the National Library of Greece, when this moves to its new premises, at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center. The ultimate goal of this development is to reinforce the significance of libraries, as knowledge, creativity, and interaction-promoting institution in people’s minds.