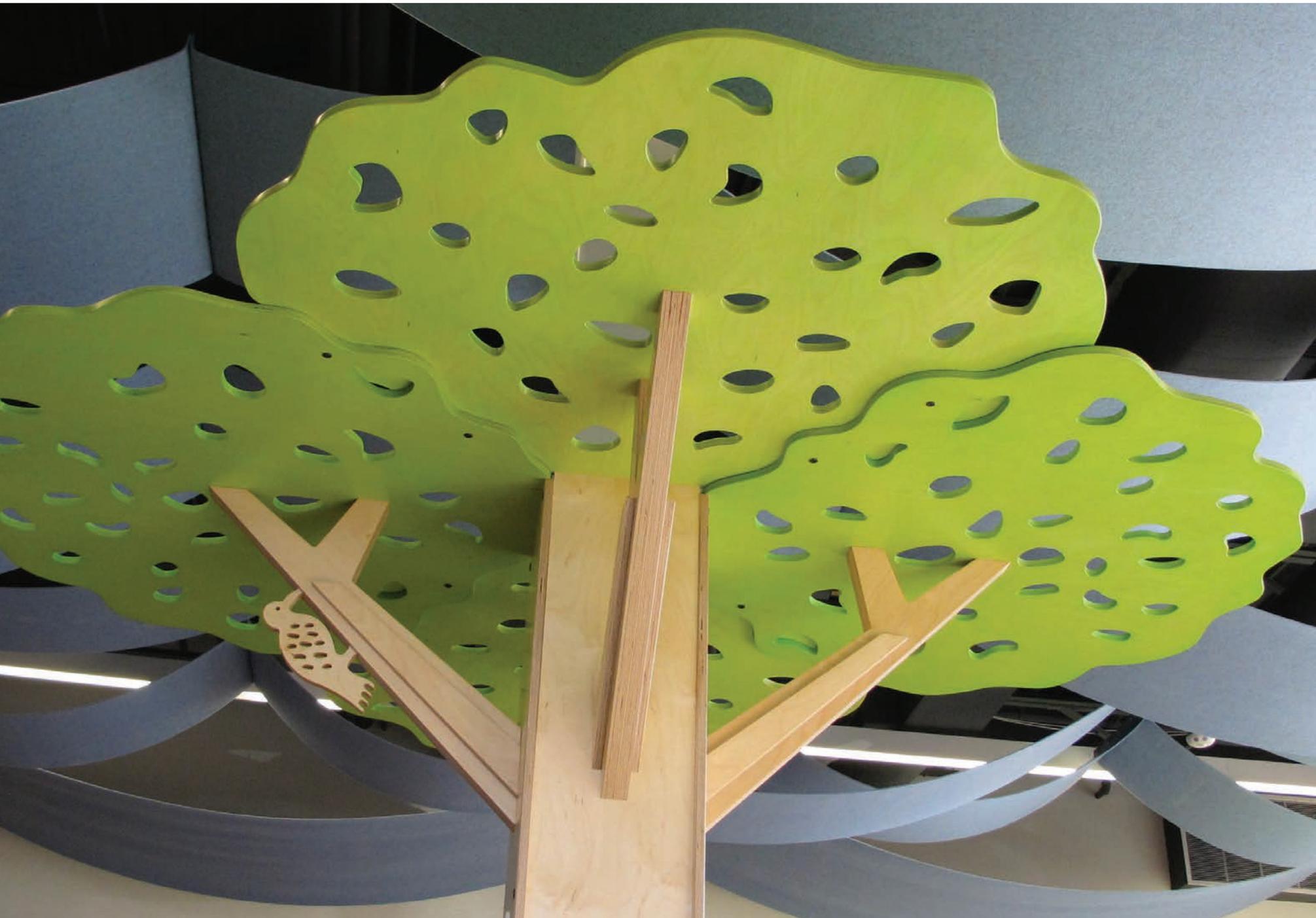




TMC LearnPLAY 

Case Study

Oxford Lane Library
Oxford, Ohio



TMC LearnPLAY

Case Study

Oxford Lane Library
Oxford, Ohio

Branch Manager: Rebecca Smith

Architect: SHP Design

Design + Fabrication: TMC The Makers Creative

TMC LearnPLAY

Case Study

The Lane Library is located in Oxford, Ohio. The library wanted to create an Early Learning Space that celebrated the uniqueness of this special community, capturing endearing designs from the architecture of the downtown buildings, Miami University's classic brick architecture and the beautiful surrounding farms. The library director took pictures of the town for inspiration and authenticity. From these pictures, the TMCkids' design team incorporated the town's building styles and colors to add a custom feel to our LearnPLAY structures. Interestingly shaped windows were framed with wood trim accents; architectural moldings on the facades added contrast and dimension. The director requested we incorporate the Farmer's Market, as it is a popular venue in the town. Along with this broad, conceptual assignment, we were given a plan view of the space from the architect. We "went to town" so to speak and began designing and laying out the vignette flow. As one enters the Lane Library Early Learning Space, they are greeted by the familiar sights of the town's large clock and Farmer's Market.



The Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market with clock and farm table pictured right, provides a place for children to PLAY. The clock hands move, and a sign asking "What time's lunch?" offers a place to talk time, numbers and meal time for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The Farmer's Market backdrop captures prominent awnings found at Oxford. In a colorful, illustrative style are fruits, vegetables and flowers. A sign perched on top defines the space and offers a letter/word component as well. We added a wood farm table to create a place for fruits, vegetables and a cash register. A wooden hook on the side of the table was added to hang little canvas bags to encourage children to carry the market items to the kitchen and prepare a meal. A window was added for an element of surprise.





The Town Buildings

Pictured above are the town buildings in muted colors and architectural trim elements common in the town of Oxford. Here we also added flourishes to spark conversation: a bird in a bird's nest perched on a windowsill and a little brown dog. The Learning Panels are easy to switch out for new discovery related to many subject matters, so there can always be a fresh look when patrons visit the library. We decided to build a bell tower based on the venerable and traditional architecture at Miami University. We custom matched Miami University's brick color and to emulate the patina copper roof, we chose our standard Barracuda Blue finish. An enchanting anchor which provides a transition between the town, university and the farming area, we transformed an existing steel pillar into a tree with wood panels clad to its sides. The four branches extend out to support a canopy of leaf foliage with CutThru leaf shapes.



The picture here captures the town's architectural characteristics that provided a backdrop for the Learning Panels. The bell actually moves to "toll", but without making sound. Fun to toll though!





A plaque specific to Miami University's Bell Tower adds details and offers questions to ponder such as, "Do you know why bell towers were built throughout the centuries?" or "Can you think of other ways to tell time?"





The Kitchen

For more PLAY in the library, the Kitchen with a little kitchen table and stool set provides an opportunity to share lots of meals and conversation. We incorporated many thoughtful details: hooks for an apron and pot holders, spoon rack, pat-a-cake appliqué was added for song and poetry, measuring cup rack with a book shelf for added learning—Give a Moose a Muffin could be a perfect standby or discuss color and size with the measuring cups. Shelves below the counter make it easy to store dishes, pots and pans and other items. The refrigerator has heavy duty, non-pinching hinges and a magnetic face, perfect for alphabet letters or our magnets, recipes or grocery lists. This kitchen is built like yours at home...heavy duty and ready.



The Farm



Farming is another important part of the Oxford community. The Potting Shed with Chicken Coop and Workshelves, Tractor and Planting Box made a perfect fit. Boxes were added throughout the space for book and puppet storage.

TMC LearnPLAY

119 East Ann Street

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

734-622-0080

tmcfurniture.com

©2021 TMC Furniture Inc.

Designs are sole property of TMC Furniture Inc.

THE MAKERS CREATIVE



Mildred and Penelope Perimeter Chairs added charm and character to the space and in keeping with the farm motif.