

The New York Public Library

The Stephen A. Schwarzman Building (SASB)

Location	New York, New York	Size	600,000 square feet
Architect	Mecanoo and Beyer Blinder Belle	Cost	\$173 million (estimated)
Services	MEP/FP, Tech Design, Commissioning	Completed	2023



The Stephen A. Schwarzman Building is a National Historic Landmark providing a great range of public programming within its walls including events and exhibits, as well as valuable research. Starting from a master plan, the design team evaluated the needs of the iconic building which, included improving infrastructure and the visitor experience. Underutilized spaces were transformed for public use and research, while MEP/FP infrastructure serving multiple spaces were prioritized and replaced.

The scope of work within The Stephen A. Schwarzman Building included selective and phased renovations to increase public spaces and address aging MEP/FP and IT infrastructure and systems. Systems design and component selections were strategic and several project challenges were taken into consideration. Maintenance of indoor environmental conditions for the library's significant collections, varying occupancy patterns, enhanced thermal comfort, and priceless architectural interiors were all critical. Modifications to the central chilled water plant, replacement of air handling units, incorporation of a new Building Management System (BMS), upgrades to IT and electrical services and distribution, and new core restrooms were just a few of the infrastructure measures implemented to enhance the operation of the building systems. Given the strict environmental conditions in several of the spaces throughout the building, it was imperative that the new equipment be commissioned to ensure performance.



Images: John Bartelstone Photography