

Finishing an IKEA Billy Bookcase Library Wall

Compact project reference card for planning a cohesive teal library wall with trim, lower doors, brass hardware, and a ladder element.

BEST FOR	PROJECT TYPE	SCOPE
Homeowners, DIY readers, decorators, contractors, and design-office readers	Editorial prototype / built-in-style library wall	Five repeated BILLY bays coordinated as one wall-wide design

Project summary

The project treats the bookcases, lower cabinetry, trim, crown/filler, paint, hardware, ladder, and optional ceiling detail as one coordinated room design. The visual goal is a more integrated, custom-looking library wall while keeping the underlying modular storage practical.

Skill and time

Skill level: confirm capability with the installer or contractor. Duration depends on site conditions, preparation, assembly, trim work, paint system, cure time, and the selected build method.

Reference dimensions and working envelope

Retained project references for planning, not site-confirmed final dimensions: five BILLY bays at 31.5 in each; planning width 157.5 in / 4000.5 mm; BILLY depth 11 in / 279 mm; BILLY with extension 93.25 in / 2369 mm; modeled height including a 5 in crown/filler assumption 98.25 in / 2496 mm. Confirm the actual wall width, ceiling height, floor level, plumb, and clearances on site.

Main materials and specifications

ITEM	PROJECT REFERENCE	STATUS / NOTE
Shelving	IKEA BILLY bookcases; BILLY height extensions	Selected project components; confirm exact variant and availability before purchase
Lower storage	OXBERG lower doors	Selected project component; confirm quantity and compatibility with the chosen layout
Finish	Sherwin-Williams Cascades SW 7623	Approved finish reference; use a compatible system and test a small area
Hardware	Amerock Davenport BP36601CZ knobs	Approved hardware reference; verify mounting details and quantity
Trim	Thicker shelf fronts, crown moulding, filler, and surrounding trim	Sizes and profiles depend on the room and selected finish details
Access feature	Rolling ladder route / proxy	Planning route; verify rail, anchoring, clearance, and load requirements before field use

Tools

- Tape measure, level, square, pencil, and layout references.
- Drill/driver, appropriate fasteners, clamps, and assembly tools selected for the actual wall and substrate.
- Sanding or deglossing tools, bonding primer, compatible paint, and application tools.
- Trim-cutting and finishing tools selected for the chosen profiles and build method; verify before purchase.

Before you start

- Measure the actual wall width in more than one place and confirm ceiling height, floor level, plumb, substrate, studs, and services.
- Decide whether the room needs standard BILLY units, height extensions, shallower shelving, a single-bay feature, or a corner arrangement.
- Check the full-depth and ladder-projection envelope before fixing trim or planning circulation.
- Prepare a finish test patch on the actual surface. Clean and degrease, scuff/degloss, prime with a compatible bonding primer, apply the compatible topcoat, allow cure time, and evaluate adhesion before broad application.

Build sequence

- Confirm the wall-wide proportions and review the dimensioned drawing before buying or cutting materials.
- Prepare the room and bookcase parts. Assemble and align the bookcase run, then create the cabinet-like lower base.
- Add thicker shelf fronts, trim, crown, and filler as one visual layer. Keep transitions and build-ups consistent across bays.
- Apply the complete teal finish system only after surface preparation and a successful test patch.
- Coordinate the ladder route and ceiling detail separately from the core shelving if site conditions or budget require it.
- Style the shelves with restrained books and objects so the repeated structure and built-in look remain visible.

Project files available in the article

- Dimensioned DXF drawing
- Dimensioned drawing PDF
- Downloadable STEP model
- 3D model review PDF

Shopping notes

- Use the retained IKEA BILLY, BILLY height-extension, and OXBERG references only after confirming the exact variant, dimensions, compatibility, availability, and quantity for the site.
- Use the retained Sherwin-Williams Cascades SW 7623 and Amerock Davenport BP36601CZ references as project selections; verify current product details and purchase requirements before ordering.
- Treat trim, primer, topcoat, fasteners, ladder hardware, and consumables as layout- and site-dependent unless confirmed by the final field design.

Safety and site notes

- Do not treat the planning envelope as proof of fit or field readiness. Confirm all dimensions and substrate conditions before installation.
- Secure bookcases and any ladder rail system to suitable structural support using an appropriate installation method. Required anchoring and specialist checks remain site-specific.
- A digital model demonstrates modeled geometry only. It does not prove tactile access, friction, wet stability, durability, finish performance, or actual-site behavior.

Use this card as a planning reference alongside the article. Confirm site conditions, product compatibility, finish performance, and installation requirements before purchase or construction.