



## REGULAR MEETING – LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, 7:00 PM  
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at [norwalkct.gov/meetings](https://norwalkct.gov/meetings).



Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial \*9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Sherelle Harris at [sharris@norwalkpl.org](mailto:sharris@norwalkpl.org) with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
  - A. **Regular Meeting: DATE**
- IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- V. **REPORTS**
  - A. **President**
    - 1. Moment of Silent: Greg Burnett
    - 2. Debate/Voting at Main Library

3. Strategic Planning Next Steps

**B. Library Director**

1. Capital and Main Library Expansion Budget Update
2. Statistical Comparison FY 2024-25
3. Updated Policy Approvals
  - Circulation Policy
  - Homebound Policy
  - Materials Donation Policy
  - Museum Passes Policy
4. Part-time Staff Hourly Rate Increase Request
5. Library Van Update
6. Main Library New Reading Room Furniture
7. Text Message Notifications
8. Public Copiers/Printers with Credit Card Option
9. Passport Service

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

# NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE

July 2025

DEPARTMENT	SUBDEPARTMENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Sum of REVISED BUDGET	Sum of LTD EXPENSE ACTUAL AS OF 06/09/2025	Sum of AVAILABLE EXPENSE BUDGET AS OF 07/10/2025
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0381 TECH TEEN ROOMS	15,000.00	14,984.57	15.43
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0458 MAIN LIBRARY 1ST FLOOR CARPET	125,000.00	116,172.17	8,827.83
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0532 BUILDING PLAN FOR MAIN LIBRARY	15,000.00	4,500.00	10,500.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0548 NORWALK NEWSPAPER DIGITIZATION	205,948.00	182,747.99	
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0571 NORWALK DIGITAL DIGITIZATION	42,000.00	41,961.04	38.96
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0589 STRATEGIC PLAN LIBRARY	55,000.00	2,487.43	52,512.57
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0604 INNOVATION PLACE HEADQUARTERS	25,000.00	24,971.59	28.41
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0605 SONO BRANCH REPURPOSING	403,949.00	403,949.00	-
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0606 LIBRARY SIGNAGE	10,000.00	9,999.37	0.63
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0626 NORWALK HISTORY ROOM EQUIP	10,000.00	9,972.68	27.32
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0633 MOBILE POPUP LIBRARY	75,000.00	74,970.50	29.50
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0660 GNLV ABATEMENT/RENOVATION	96,000.00	96,000.00	-
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0661 BOOK DROP	12,000.00	12,000.00	-
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0662 LIBRARY EXPANSION ARCHITECTURA	2,020,000.00	837,856.37	1,182,143.63
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0670 MAIN LIBRARY ADULT READING FUR	20,000.00	20,000.00	-
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0692 MAIN LIB ADA COMPL DOOR HANDLE	47,500.00	-	47,500.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0693 SONO LIB ADA COMPL PARKING LOT	46,362.00	-	46,362.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0694 SONO SECURITY ALARM & INTECOM	11,000.00	-	11,000.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0695 SONO LIB SECURITY CAMERAS	18,036.50	18,036.50	-
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0696 MAIN LIB SECURITY CAMERAS	18,036.50	18,036.50	-
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0724 LIBRARY VAN	84,113.00	-	84,113.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0725 LAPTOP VENDING MACHINES	17,000.00	-	17,000.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0784 LAPTOP DISPENSERS	70,000.00	68,876.04	1,123.96
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0785 AUDITORIUM REFRESH	143,000.00	138,971.10	4,028.90
COMMUNITY SERVICES	LIBRARY	C0828 TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES	71,300.00	42,249.67	28,061.42
			3,656,245.00	2,138,742.52	1,493,313.56



Org	Object	Project	Description	Life Rev Budget	Encum/Req.	Life Actual	Life Available
09206210	5777	C0662	MAIN LIBRARY PARKING & EXPANSI	\$450,000.00	\$8,143.63	\$37,856.37	\$404,000.00
09216210	5777	C0662	LIBRARY EXPANSION ARCHITECTURA	\$1,570,000.00	\$0.00	\$800,000.00	\$770,000.00
131310	5796	AFD01	ARPA GENERAL PURPOSE LIBRARY	\$1,420,000.00	\$1,160.00	\$1,414,467.96	\$4,372.04

ORG	OBJECT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	YEAR	PO/REF2	REFERENCE	AMOUNT	VDR NAME/ITEM DESC	COMMENTS
09206210	5777	C0662	MAIN LIBRARY PARKING & EXPANSI	2025	2401568	W 10102024	\$ 16,999.15	COMPLETE EXCAVATING SERVICES, LLC	TANK REMOVAL AT 3 BELDEN AVE.
09206210	5777	C0662	MAIN LIBRARY PARKING & EXPANSI	2025	2401568	W 10102024	\$ 12,864.52	COMPLETE EXCAVATING SERVICES, LLC	TANK REMOVAL AT 3 BELDEN AVE.
09206210	5777	C0662	MAIN LIBRARY PARKING & EXPANSI	2025	2501722	W 09192024	\$ 2,000.00	GILL & GILL ARCHITECTS, LLC	3 BELDEN FLOOR PLANS
09206210	5777	C0662	MAIN LIBRARY PARKING & EXPANSI	2024	2401568	W CCITY12	\$ 5,992.70	COMPLETE EXCAVATING SERVICES, LLC	TANK REMOVAL AT 3 BELDEN AVE.
							\$ 37,856.37		

ORG	OBJECT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	YEAR	PO/REF2	REFERENCE	AMOUNT	VDR NAME/ITEM DESC	COMMENTS
09216210	5777	C0662	LIBRARY EXPANSION ARCHITECTURA	2024		RECLASS	\$ 800,000.00	CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT	NWLK LIBRARY EXPANSION PROJECT

ORG	OBJECT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	YEAR	PO/REF2	REFERENCE	AMOUNT	VDR NAME/ITEM DESC	COMMENTS
131310	5796	AFD01	ARPA GENERAL PURPOSE LIBRARY	2025	2401092	W 09122024	\$ 7,920.00	BIG EAST ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC	Environmental Site Assessment
131310	5796	AFD01	ARPA GENERAL PURPOSE LIBRARY	2024		CASH 6/18	\$ (5,343.83)		ARPA GENERAL EXPENSE
131310	5796	AFD01	ARPA GENERAL PURPOSE LIBRARY	2024		3 BELDEN	\$ 1,385,974.56		1ST DIST WTR DEPT-PROPRTY SALE
131310	5796	AFD01	ARPA GENERAL PURPOSE LIBRARY	2024	2401092	W CCITY12	\$ 4,970.00	BIG EAST ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC	Environmental Site Assessment
131310	5796	AFD01	ARPA GENERAL PURPOSE LIBRARY	2024	2401092	W CCITY12	\$ 9,950.00	BIG EAST ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC	Environmental Site Assessment
131310	5796	AFD01	ARPA GENERAL PURPOSE LIBRARY	2024	2401092	W CCITY12	\$ 6,250.00	BIG EAST ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC	Environmental Site Assessment
131310	5796	AFD01	ARPA GENERAL PURPOSE LIBRARY	2024	2401093	W CCITY14	\$ 2,017.74	AHNEMAN KIRBY LLC	On-Call Surveying
131310	5796	AFD01	ARPA GENERAL PURPOSE LIBRARY	2024	2401093	W CCITY14	\$ 579.49	AHNEMAN KIRBY LLC	On-Call Surveying
131310	5796	AFD01	ARPA GENERAL PURPOSE LIBRARY	2024	2401092	W CCITY14	\$ 2,150.00	BIG EAST ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC	Environmental Site Assessment
							\$ 1,414,467.96		

Expenditures

1.1 million left - Design (?)

Connecticut Library Construction Projects (completed and in process) to December 2022

Town/Library	Project Complete Date, or Status	State Library Approval	Bond Comm. Approval	Type of Project	Architect or Architectural Firm	State Library Grant	Other State Grants	Municipal Funds	Federal Grants	Other Funding	Total Project Cost
Bloomfield - McMahon Wintonbury Library	3-obtaining funding	Nov-22		Addition	TSKP Studio	\$1,000,000					
East Windsor - Library Association of Warehouse Point	3-obtaining funding	Nov-22		Accessibility, remodeling	Noyes Vogt Architects	\$95,335					
Middletown - Russell Library	3-obtaining funding	Nov-22		Accessibility, code compliance, remodeling	HMA2 Architects	\$250,000					
Public Library of New London	3-obtaining funding	Nov-22		Accessibility, remodeling, maint.		\$95,000					
Stamford - Ferguson Library	3-obtaining funding	Nov-22		Energy conservation		\$250,000					
North Stonington - Wheeler Library	3-obtaining funding	Nov-21		Major alteration	TSKP Studio	\$1,000,000					
West Haven - Allingtown Branch	3-obtaining funding	Nov-21		New construction	Sapienza Architects LLC	\$1,000,000					
Waterford Public Library	2-pending contract	Nov-19		Major Alteration	Silver/Petrucci + Associates	\$250,000					
Bloomfield - Prosser Library	2-pending contract	Nov-21	Mar-22	New construction	TSKP Studio	\$1,000,000					
Essex Library Association	2-pending contract	Nov-21	Mar-22	Accessibility, energy conservation		\$73,293					
Hebron - Douglas Library	2-pending contract	Nov-21	Mar-22	Code compliance		\$232,666					
Waterbury - Silas Bronson Library	2-pending contract	Nov-21	May-22	Accessibility		\$250,000					
Pomfret Public Library	2-pending contract	Nov-18	Dec-21	Addition	Evelyn Cole Smith Architects, LLC	\$421,800					
Bridgeport - Lower East Side Branch	2-pending contract		Jun-18	New Construction			\$2,432,648				
Haddam - Brainerd Memorial Library	2-pending contract	Nov-20	Jul-21	Major alteration	J.W. Huber, Archtect	\$675,000					
New Britain Public Library	1-in constr.	Nov-21	Jul-20	Maintenance	Quisenberry, Arcari, Malik Architects LLC	\$250,000					
Durham Public Library	1-in constr.	Nov-20	Dec-21	Accessibility & Remodel		\$146,957					
Coventry - Booth & Dimock	1-in constr.	Nov-15	Dec-20	Accessibility, Code, Remodel, Energy Cons.	Drumme Rosane Anderson Inc.	\$850,000					
Meriden Public Library	1-in constr.	Nov-19	Jul-20	Major Alteration	TSKP Studio	\$ 1,000,000					
Bridgeport - Upper East Side Branch	1-in constr.	Nov-16	May-17	Conversion	Antinozzi Associates, PC	\$1,000,000					

Connecticut Library Construction Projects

Town/Library	Project Complete Date, or Status	State Library Approval	Bond Comm. Approval	Type of Project	Architect or Architectural Firm	State Library Grant	Other State Grants	Municipal Funds	Federal Grants	Other Funding	Total Project Cost
Bethany - Clark Memorial Library	1-in constr.	Nov-19	Dec-20	Access, Remodel, Energy Cons., Emergency Prep	Silver/Petrucci Associates	\$131,214					
New Milford Public Library	1-in constr.	Nov-18	Dec-19	Major Alteration & Addition	Lothrop Associates LLP	\$1,000,000					
Stratford Library Association	1-in constr.	Nov-16	Jun-18	Major Alteration (Children's Area)	Drummey Rosane Anderson Inc	\$333,705					
East Haven Public Library	2022	Nov-20	Jul-21	Maintenance		\$159,375					
Bridgeport - Newfield Branch	2022	Nov-17	Feb-18	Addition & Remodeling	Antinozzi Associates, PC	\$1,000,000		\$6,391,433			\$7,391,433
Danbury Public Library	2022	Nov-18	Dec-19	Remodeling		\$100,000		\$156,110			\$256,110
Glastonbury - Welles Turner	2022	Nov-18	Jul-20	Addition	TLB Architecture, LLC	\$1,000,000					
Lebanon - Jonathan Trumbull Library	2022			Addition & Remodeling	Jacunski Humes	\$0	\$1,000,000				
New Haven - Stetson Branch	2022	Nov-15	May-16	New Construction	Zared Enterprises	\$1,000,000	\$5,166,150	\$900,000		\$822,086	\$7,888,236
Ridgefield Library	2022	Nov-18	Dec-19	Remodeling	Doyle Coffin Architecture	\$40,400					
Warren Public Library	2022	Nov-19	Jul-20	Access	Milton Gregory Grew	\$49,400					\$138,444
Weston Public Library	2022	Nov-18	Dec-19	Code Compliance, Remodel, Energy Cons.	Peter Gisolfi Associates	\$82,500					\$166,951
Putnam	2021	Nov-13	Dec-19	New Construction	Johnson Roberts Associates	\$1,000,000					
Branford - James Blackstone Mem.	2021	Nov-08	Apr-18	Addition & Remodeling	Silver/Petrucci & Associates	\$1,000,000					
Greenwich Library	2021	Nov-18	Dec-19	Major Alteration	Peter Gisolfi Associates	\$586,717					\$1,057,501
Hartford - Park Branch	2021	Nov-15	May-15	New Construction	Tai Soo Kim Partners	\$1,000,000	\$11,100,000				
Milford Public Library	2021	Nov-17	Dec-18	Accessibility, Code Work, Remodeling	R. S. Oliver	\$212,750					\$604,001
Naugatuck - Howard Whittemore	2021	Nov-18	Dec-19	Maintenance - Flooring		\$40,000					\$87,508
Old Lyme - Phoebe Griffin Noyes	2021	Nov-17	Dec-18	Major Alteration	LLB Architects	\$1,000,000					\$3,050,000
Stonington Free Library	2021	Nov-18	Dec-19	Accessibility, Code Work, Emer, Remodel	Dewright Design LLC	\$145,000					\$289,969
Cromwell Belden Library	2020	Nov-08	Apr-18	Addition & Remodeling	Silver/Petrucci & Associates	\$1,000,000					\$3,655,143
Groton Public Library	2020	Nov-14	Jul-15	Code, remodel, maintenance	Quisenberry Arcari	\$413,875					\$828,087
Madison - E.C. Scranton Library	2020	Nov-15	Apr-18	New Construction, Alteration	Drummey Rosane Anderson Inc	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000				

Connecticut Library Construction Projects

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New London - Public Library	2020	Nov-13	Nov-14	Remodeling	Lindsay Liebig Roche	\$75,000					\$133,222
Portland Public Library	2020	Nov-17	Apr-18	Accessibility, Remodeling, Energy	Munkittrick Associates	\$108,452					\$332,255
Simsbury Public Library	2020	Nov-17	Feb-18	Major Alteration	Butler Rowland Mays Architects	\$405,525					\$906,050
Westport Library	2020	Nov-13	May-17	Addition & Remodeling	HMA2 Architects	\$1,000,000					\$15,584,728
Cheshire Public Library	2019	Nov-15	Sep-16	Remodeling	Carow Architects Plus	\$250,000					
Derby Public Library	2019	Nov-15	Aug-16	Maintenance & repair	Silver/Petrucelli & Associates	\$100,000					
Seymour Public Library	2019	Nov-16	Feb-17	Code compliance, energy		\$112,500					\$231,248
Berlin Peck Library	2018	Nov-15	Feb-17	Accessibility & Remodeling	Kaestle Boos Associates	\$125,500	\$9,675				
Burlington Public Library	2018	Nov-13	Jul-15	Addition & Remodeling	Techton Architects	\$1,000,000					
Meriden Public Library	2018	Nov-12	Jun-13	Remodeling		\$33,907					
Newtown - C.H. Booth Library	2018	Nov-15	Mar-16	Remodeling		\$27,500					\$55,187
North Canaan - Douglas Library	2018	Nov-14	Mar-15	Remodel & maintenance		\$11,023					
West Haven - Ora Mason Branch	2018	Nov-15	Jan-17	Accessibility and Remodeling	Sapienza Architects	\$203,898					\$705,124
Winchester - Beardsley Library	2018	Nov-15	Jan-17	Maintenance - Parking lot		\$67,500					\$135,000
Griswold - Slater Library	2017		Aug-11	Maintenance & repair		\$0	\$125,000			\$5,500	\$130,500
North Stonington - Wheeler Library	2017	Nov-13	Nov-14	Remodeling		\$111,969					
Tolland Public Library	2017	Nov-13	Feb-14	Addition & Remodeling	Ken Best, DRG	\$1,000,000					\$2,600,000
Weston Public Library	2017	Nov-14	Jul-15	Code compliance, Emergency	Peter Gisolfi Associates	\$256,357					\$1,537,876
Windham - Willimantic Public	2017	Nov-14	Mar-15	Remodel, energy, maintenance	MacMillan, Pazdan, Smith	\$500,000					\$1,146,884
Columbia - Saxton B. Little Free Library	2016	Nov-13	Jul-15	Addition & Remodeling	Drumme Rosane Anderson Inc	\$596,150	\$150,000	\$478,566			\$1,224,716
East Hartford - Raymond Library	2016	Nov-08	Oct11,Jan14	Addition, Remodeling, Maint.	Tuthill & Wells	\$1,345,666	\$3,225,000	\$2,405,897		\$210,000	\$7,219,311
Farmington Library	2016	Nov-14	Mar-15	Remodel - Makerspace	Tuthill & Wells	\$57,000				\$57,000	\$114,000
Groton - Mystic & Noank Library	2016	Nov-14	Mar-15	Code compliance	Noyes Vogt Architects	\$20,570				\$69,783	\$90,353

Connecticut Library Construction Projects

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Meriden Public Library	2016	Nov-11	Jan-12	Remodel & maintenance		\$62,667		\$152,151			\$214,818
New Fairfield Public Library	2016	Nov-13	Feb-14	Remodeling, ADA, Energy, Etc.	Lazarus and Sargeant	\$751,253					
New Haven Public Library	2016	Nov-11	Aug-12	Remodeling and Expansion	New Haven, City of	\$318,524		\$646,730			\$965,254
Salisbury - Scoville Library	2016			Renovation	Poesis Design	\$0					\$1,522,888
Wallingford Public Library	2016	Nov-14	Mar-15	Remodel - Makerspace	Tuthill & Wells	\$229,625	\$248,948				\$478,613
Lyme Public Library	2014			New Construction		\$0	part \$500K				
Manchester - Whiton Branch	2014		Oct-11	Major Alteration		\$0	\$425,000	\$497,418			\$922,418
Middlebury Public Library	2014	Nov-06	Jun-07	Addition & Remodeling	Kenyon & Cutler	\$500,000		\$698,000		\$927,980	\$2,125,980
Norwich - Otis Library	2014	Nov-12	Jun-13	Remodeling		\$18,516		\$10,000		\$36,241	\$64,757
Ridgefield Library	2014	Nov-06	Jun-07	Addition & Remodeling	Herbert S. Newman & Partners	\$500,000		\$5,000,000		\$14,660,787	\$20,160,787
Sherman Library	2014	Nov-08	Jul-10	Addition & Remodeling	Tuthill & Wells	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	\$931,791	\$99,000	\$1,372,795	\$3,603,586
Vernon - Rockville Public Library	2014	Nov-09	Jun-12	Addition & Remodeling	Moser, Pilon, & Nelson	\$1,000,000	\$550,000			\$2,141,480	\$3,691,480
Bethel Public Library	2013	Nov-07	Feb-08	Major Alteration		\$710,722	\$268,904			\$1,490,098	\$2,469,724
Meriden Public Library	2013	Nov-08	Apr-09	Remodeling		\$144,205		\$17,093	\$302,500		\$463,798
Naugatuck - Howard Whittemore	2013	Nov-08	Apr-09	Maintenance	Hoffman Architects	\$103,333				\$185,764	\$342,641
Avon Free Public Library	2012	Nov-08	Aug-10	Addition & Remodeling	Tuthill & Wells	\$1,000,000		\$7,001,101		\$500,000	\$8,501,101
Cheshire Public Library	2012	Nov-09	Mar-11	Remodeling	Tuthill & Wells	\$50,000		\$142,338			\$242,338
Hartford - Dwight Branch	2012	Nov-05	Jan-06	Addition & Remodeling	Margaret Helfand	\$500,000		\$1,201,325			\$1,701,325
Hartford Public Library	2012	Nov-10	Mar-11	Major Alteration	Sevigny Architects	\$153,333		\$788,893			\$942,226
New London - Public Library	2012	Nov-08	Apr-09	Remodeling	Lindsay Liebig Roche	\$11,333				\$22,667	\$34,098
West Hartford - Bishop's Corner	2012	Nov-08	Apr-09	Remodel, ADA, Energy	Tuthill & Wells	\$153,333		\$646,518		\$75,000	\$874,851
East Haven Public Library	2011	Nov-08	Apr-09	Energy Conserv.		\$122,744					\$368,232
Meriden Public Library	2011	Nov-09	Jul-10	Energy Conserv.		\$91,666		\$89,015	\$122,468		\$303,149

Connecticut Library Construction Projects

Town/Library	Project Complete Date, or Status	State Library Approval	Bond Comm. Approval	Type of Project	Architect or Architectural Firm	State Library Grant	Other State Grants	Municipal Funds	Federal Grants	Other Funding	Total Project Cost
Farmington - Barney Branch	2010	Nov-07	Feb-08	Major Alteration		\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000		\$1,055,120	\$3,055,120
Greenwich - Byram-Shubert Branch	2010	Nov-05	Jan-06	Addition & Remodeling	Michael Tribe	\$323,207					
North Branford - Atwater Library	2010	Nov-07	Feb-08	Addition & Remodeling	Schoenhardt Architects	\$1,000,000		\$3,348,579			\$4,348,579
Branford - James Blackstone Mem.	2009		Feb-08	Maintenance		\$0	\$600,000	\$401,948			\$1,001,948
Bridgeport - Black Rock Branch	2009	Nov-97	Mar-02	Addition & Remodeling	Schoenhardt Architects	\$375,000					\$3,955,000
Darien Library	2009			New Building	Peter Gisolfi Associates	\$0					
Haddam - Brainerd Memorial Library	2009	Nov-08	Apr-09	Remodeling		\$72,834		\$139,167		\$6,500	\$218,501
Hamden Public Library	2009	Nov-08	Apr-09	Remodeling		\$13,000					
North Branford - Smith Library	2009	Nov-06	Jun-07	Addition & Remodeling	Schoenhardt Architects	\$500,000					\$4,775,456
Somers Public Library	2009	Nov-06	Jun-07	Addition & Remodeling	Tai Soo Kim	\$500,000		\$3,882,937		\$145,000	\$4,527,937
Guilford Free Library	2008	Nov-04	Feb-05	Addition & Remodeling	Tuthill & Wells	\$500,000		\$6,400,000			\$6,900,000
Hartford	2008	Nov-99	Oct-02	Major Alteration	Fletcher Harkness Cohen M.	\$500,000					
Killingly - Killingly Public Library	2008	Nov-06	Jun-07	Remodeling		\$33,135					\$179,338
Simsbury Public Library	2008	Nov-04	Feb-05	Addition & Remodeling	Dale Cutler	\$500,000	\$5,000	\$5,480,473		\$795,516	\$6,780,989
Stamford - Ferguson Library	2008	Nov-07	Feb-08	ADA/Accessibility	Herbert S. Newman & Partners	\$113,815				\$77,711	\$344,895
Wallingford Public Library	2008	Nov-04	Feb-05	Addition & Remodeling	Tuthill & Wells	\$500,000					\$12,065,000
West Hartford Public Library	2008	Nov-05	Jan-06	Addition & Remodeling	Tuthill & Wells	\$500,000		\$7,962,778	\$325,000	\$326,170	\$9,113,948
Westbrook Public Library	2008	Nov-04	Feb-05	Addition & Remodeling	Best Joslin Architects	\$500,000		\$3,550,000		\$185,683	\$4,235,683
Wethersfield Public Library	2008	Nov-01	Oct-02	Major Alteration	Tuthill and Wells	\$400,000		\$793,846		\$50,000	\$1,243,846
Hamden	2007	Nov-04	Feb-05	Remodeling		\$10,946				\$21,893	\$32,839
Monroe - Edith Wheeler Library	2007	Nov-01	Nov-02	New Building	Tuthill and Wells	\$500,000		\$4,848,048		\$938,646	\$6,286,694
New Britain Public Library	2007	Nov-02	Dec-03	Major Alteration		\$149,586	\$38,000	\$26,507		\$234,665	\$448,758
New London - Public Library	2007	Nov-04	Feb-05	Addition & Remodeling	Richard Gipstein	\$333,333				\$694,468	\$1,027,801

Connecticut Library Construction Projects

Town/Library	Project Complete Date, or Status	State Library Approval	Bond Comm. Approval	Type of Project	Architect or Architectural Firm	State Library Grant	Other State Grants	Municipal Funds	Federal Grants	Other Funding	Total Project Cost
Norwalk - Rowayton Library	2007	Nov-05	Jan-06	Major Alteration	Michael Stein	\$143,833					\$431,500
Salisbury - Scoville Library	2007	Nov-04	Feb-05	Major Alteration		\$25,000				\$69,754	\$94,754
Ansonia Public Library	2006	Nov-00	Oct-02	Energy Conserv.	Salamone & Associates, PC	\$141,333		\$211,907		\$189,869	\$543,109
Bristol Public Library	2006	Nov-01	Sep-02	Addition	Tuthill and Wells	\$500,000		\$11,484,680			\$11,984,680
Essex Library Association	2006	Nov-04	Feb-05	Addition & Remodeling	Best Joslin Architects	\$500,000				\$2,143,000	\$2,643,000
Franklin - Calvert Library	2006	Nov-02	Mar-04	Major Alteration	Best Joslin Architects	\$64,129	\$20,000	\$1,000		\$138,324	\$223,453
Hartford - Goodwin Branch	2006	Nov-00	Oct-02	Addition & Remodeling	Cohen, Michael	\$450,000					
New Haven - Hill Branch	2006	Nov-01	Oct-02	New Construction?	Pozzi Associates	\$500,000		\$7,416,767			\$7,916,767
Norwalk Public Library	2006	Nov-01	Oct-02	Addition & Remodeling	Schoenhardt Architects	\$500,000		\$2,800,000			\$3,300,000
Southbury Public Library	2006	Nov-02	May-03	New Building	Tuthill & Wells Architects	\$500,000		\$6,989,725		\$841,649	\$6,780,989
Willington	2006	Nov-04	Feb-05	Addition & Remodeling	Dale Cutler	\$500,000		\$2,972,606			\$3,472,606
Wilton	2006	Nov-02	May-03	Addition & Remodeling	Tai Soo Kim	\$500,000		\$4,800,000		\$5,997,916	\$11,297,916
Windsor Public Library	2006	Jan-04	Mar-04	Addition & Remodeling	Best Joslin Architects	\$500,000		\$538,289			\$6,038,289
Bethel Public Library	2005	Nov-01	Oct-02	Addition & Remodeling	Jeter, Cook & Jepson	\$500,000		\$6,436,150	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$7,186,150
Fairfield Public Library	2005	Nov-02	May-03	ADA/Accessibility, Code, Re model	Herbert S. Newman and Partners	\$607,854		\$10,696,292			\$11,304,146
Plainville	2004	Nov-99	Mar-00	Addition & Remodeling	Tuthill and Wells	\$500,000		\$4,400,000			\$4,900,000
Salem Public Library	2004	Nov-00	Oct-02	New Building	Noyes Vogt Architects	\$500,000		\$1,100,000		\$32,646	\$1,632,646
Branford	2003	Nov-98	Mar-00	Addition & Remodeling	Arbonies, King and Vlock	\$172,306					
Griswold - Slater Library	2003	Nov-01	Oct-02	ADA/Accessibility	Richard Sharpe Associates, PC	\$28,766					
North Canaan - Douglas Library	2003	Nov-99	Apr-01	ADA/Accessibility	Sinclair, Ernest Barry	\$54,945					
Plymouth	2003	Nov-00	Apr-01	Building Code	Tuthill and Wells	\$7,768					
Watertown	2003	Nov-97	May-98	ADA/Accessibility & Code	Ames and Whitaker	\$148,666					
Colchester - Cragin Memorial Library	2002	Nov-98	Sep-00	Addition & Remodeling	Tuthill and Wells	\$500,000					

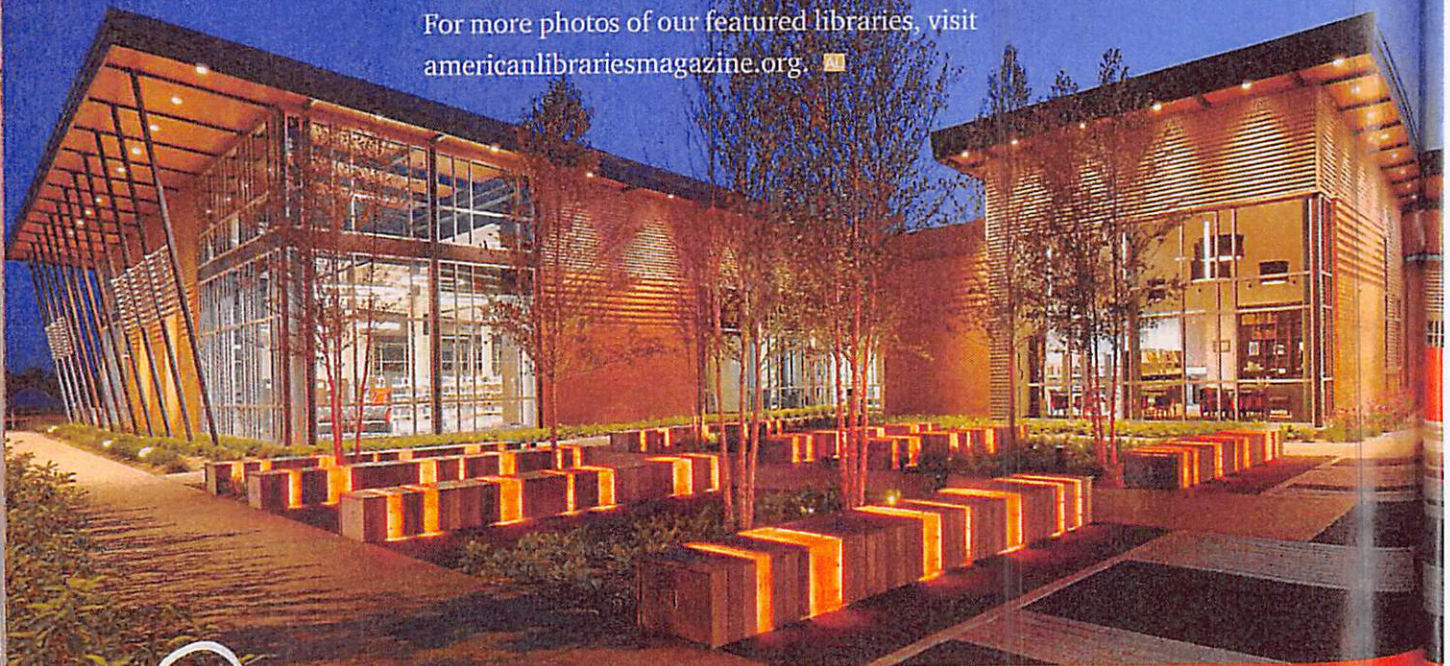
Connecticut Library Construction Projects

Town/Library	Project Complete Date, or Status	State Library Approval	Bond Comm. Approval	Type of Project	Architect or Architectural Firm	State Library Grant	Other State Grants	Municipal Funds	Federal Grants	Other Funding	Total Project Cost
Derby Neck Library	2002	Nov-96	Apr-97	Addition & Remodeling	Buchanan, George	\$500,000					
Granby	2002	Nov-99	Mar-00	Major Alteration	Humes, Brian	\$159,878					
Rocky Hill	2002	Nov-97	May-98	Remodeling		\$40,662					
Stonington Free Library	2002	Nov-98	Mar-99	Energy Conserv.	Bosco, Philip	\$12,375					
West Haven Library	2002	Nov-96	Apr-97	ADA/Accessibility	William Sapienza	\$26,960	\$40,480				
Cornwall Library	2001	Nov-98	Jul-99	New Building	Kenneth MacLean	\$462,000					
East Granby Public Library	2001	Nov-97	Mar-00	New Building	Gallihier, Baier, & Best	\$500,000					
Mansfield Public Library	2001	Nov-96	Apr-97	Addition & Remodeling	Schoenhardt Architects	\$282,380					
Redding	2001			Addition & Remodeling	Centerbrook Architects						
Stafford Springs	2001	Nov-98	Jul-99	New Building & Energy	Schoenhardt Architects	\$500,000					
Trumbull	2001	Nov-93	Feb-94	Addition	Gustavson & Verelley Architects	\$350,000					
Chaplin Public Library	2000	Nov-96	Apr-97	Major Alteration	Boroson, Kenneth	\$270,000					
Derby Public Library	2000	Nov-91	Jul-93	Addition & Remodeling	Pozzi Associates	\$495,000					
Eastford Public Library	2000	Nov-96	Apr-97	Major Alteration	Smith, Evelyn Cole	\$190,642					
Old Saybrook - Acton Public Library	2000	Nov-99	Sep-00	Addition & Remodeling	Tuthill and Wells	\$500,000					
Stamford	2000	Nov-93	Oct-94	New Building	Bien, Robert	\$350,000					
Woodbridge	2000	Nov-95	Jun-96	Addition & Remodeling	Gallihier, Baier & Best	\$350,000					

2018

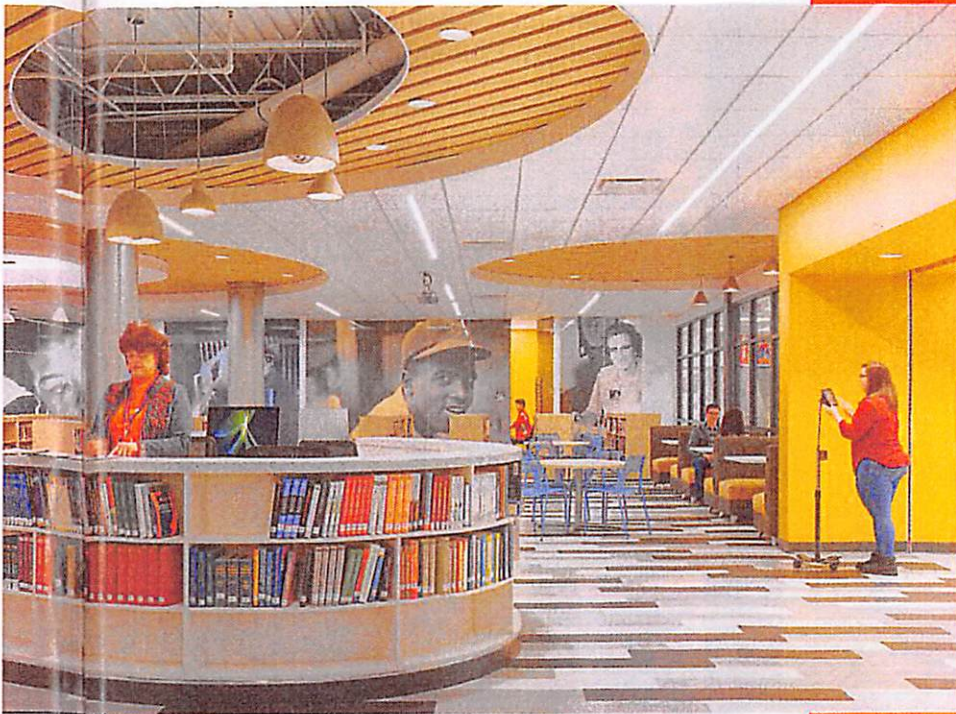
# LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE

Welcome to the 2018 Library Design Showcase, *American Libraries'* annual celebration of new and renovated libraries. These shining examples of innovative architectural feats address user needs in unique, interesting, and effective ways. Renovations and expansions continued to dominate submissions, showing how communities are finding novel ways to conserve and honor existing spaces while moving them well into the 21st century. For more photos of our featured libraries, visit [americanlibrariesmagazine.org](http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org).



Tune in to the August 31 episode of *American Libraries Dewey Decibel* podcast for conversations about library architecture and design.

Listen at [bit.ly/deweydecibel](http://bit.ly/deweydecibel) or find us on iTunes.



## HIGH SCHOOL INSPIRATIONS

### North Stafford (Va.) High School Library

North Stafford High School's library was transformed from a dark, outdated, uninspiring space into a state-of-the-art facility inspired by academic libraries, complete with a makerspace, collaborative rooms, instructional areas, and an immersion lab. Floor-to-ceiling glass doors feature the likenesses of seven historical figures chosen by the student body, including Maya Angelou, Jackie Robinson, and John Glenn. **PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Stantec **SIZE:** 9,500 square feet **COST:** \$2 million **PHOTO:** Tom Holdsworth Photography

## AN INFORMATION OASIS

### Route 9 Library and Innovation Center, New Castle, Delaware

The Route 9 Library and Innovation Center is a much-needed island of resources and services for an area in New Castle bound by industrial waterways and interstate highways. A perforated, copper-colored steel roof mimics a leafy tree canopy offering safety and security, while inside the building a gathering area is available for community events and programming. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Perkins + Will **SIZE:** 44,000 square feet **COST:** \$20.1 million **PHOTO:** Mark Herboth Photography



## REBIRTH AFTER TRAGEDY

### Joplin (Mo.) Public Library

The new library in Joplin, Missouri, is a symbol of rebirth and a testament to the town's perseverance in the years following the devastating EF5 tornado that destroyed much of the city in 2011. Larger by more than 22,000 square feet than the library that was destroyed, the new building has a cultural center with indoor and outdoor space for the community to gather and learn. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Sapp Design Architects/OPN Architects **SIZE:** 58,000 square feet **COST:** \$14.4 million **PHOTO:** Gayle Babcock/Architectural Imageworks

## IMPRESSIVE FACELIFTS

### Alcuin Library, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota

Designed by famed Bauhaus architect Marcel Breuer in 1965, Alcuin Library is an architectural landmark. But it needed a modern overhaul. CSNA Architects' renovation transformed it from a dark, dense, collection-centered facility, to one that embraces openness and space for campus use while still maintaining the integrity of Breuer's original design. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** CSNA Architects **SIZE:** 80,547 square feet **COST:** \$21 million **PHOTO:** Fred Fuhrmeister

### Forsyth County (N.C.) Central Library

Forsyth County demolished a portion of its old library building—actually two incongruous structures built 30 years apart—to create a seamless, light-filled, modern third place for the community with more than 50,000 square feet of new space. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** RATIO **SIZE:** 101,000 square feet **COST:** \$23.8 million **PHOTO:** Monica Slaney

### Dayton (Ohio) Metro Library, Main Library

Dayton Metro Library contributed to the revitalization of downtown Dayton with a renovation and expansion of its main library that added four times more public space to the facility. Massive windows look out into an adjacent city park, and a 165-seat theater and 300-seat auditorium provide space for recitals, performances, and events. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** LWC Incorporated **SIZE:** 224,000 square feet **COST:** \$64 million **PHOTO:** Ken Schory

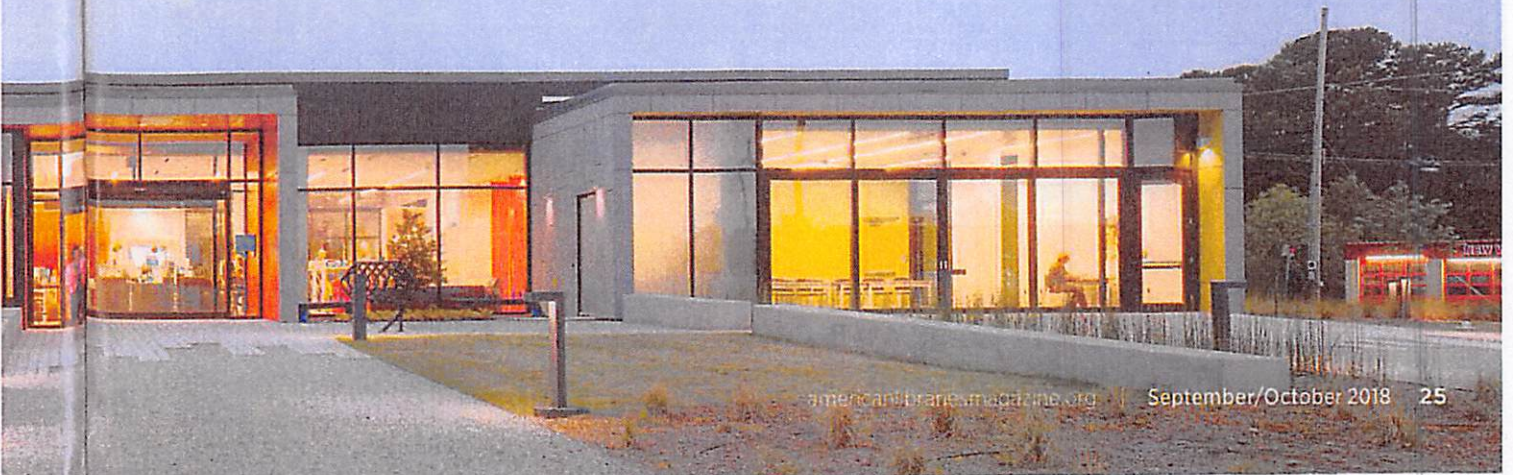




## SUSTAINABLE SPACE

### Richland Library St. Andrews, Columbia, South Carolina

The renovation of Richland Library St. Andrews transformed the building into a sustainable facility that brings needed green space to the community. After moving the parking lot behind the building, architects used the area to create a patio overlooking an accessible garden that's irrigated by a rain-water cistern. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Liollio Architecture **SIZE:** 15,000 square feet **COST:** \$7.5 million **PHOTO:** Paul Warchol



## HIGHER LEARNING

### R. Howard Webster Library, Concordia University Library, Montreal

← The renovated R. Howard Webster Library is an immersive visual and auditory experience. Audio clips greet patrons as they enter the library, and green walls filled with plants create natural clean air. The library features 22 types of study areas, including silent reading rooms, zero-noise rooms, presentation practice rooms, and a technology section with 3D printing and virtual reality capabilities.

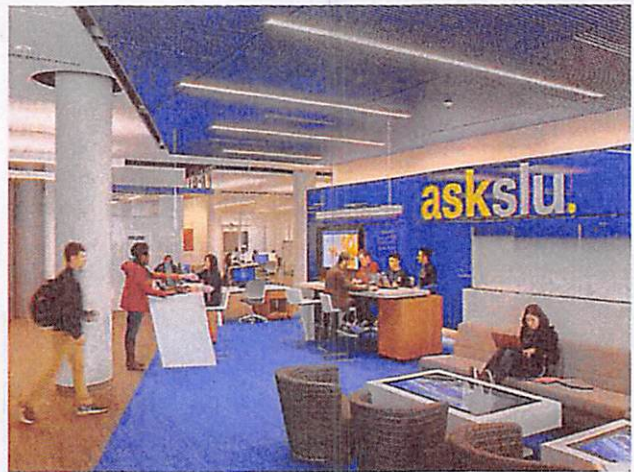
**PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Menkes Shoener Dagenais LeTourneau Architectes **SIZE:** 135,670 square feet **COST:** \$37 million Canadian **PHOTO:** Adrien Williams/Concordia Library





### John M. Olin Library, Washington University, St. Louis

The Newman Tower of Collections and Exploration, which rises from an atrium, is the centerpiece of Washington University's renovated John M. Olin Library. The glass tower features four levels of space for study and instruction, as well as display areas for rare materials and collections. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Ann Beha Architects **SIZE:** 205,000 square feet **COST:** \$18 million **PHOTO:** Alise O'Brien Photography



### Learning Resource Center, Suffolk County (N.Y.) Community College

Suffolk County Community College's new library is a literal beacon of light for students: Its lantern-inspired glass center rises above the roof and illuminates the interior of the building by day and the campus by night. A large information commons and collaborative working space sits within the "lantern." **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** ikon.5 architects **SIZE:** 68,000 square feet **COST:** \$24 million **PHOTO:** Jeffrey Totaro

### St. Louis University Academic Technology Commons

The standout feature of St. Louis University's (SLU) Pius XII Memorial Library renovation is a new technology commons that reimagines the academic library service model. Inspired by the Genius Bar at Apple Stores, the "AskSLU" concierge service features walk-up information desks where patrons can receive technical support from both students and faculty. **PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** RATIO **SIZE:** 24,409 square feet **COST:** \$5 million **PHOTO:** Sam Fentress

## PEACEFUL RETREATS

### Richland Library Ballentine, Irmo, South Carolina

Nestled in the woods, Richland Library Ballentine was designed to provide a tranquil escape for the community to learn and create. Its central space was modeled after a living room, with a corner space available for artistic pursuits and a large window that provides a view of the surrounding woodlands. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Liollio Architecture **SIZE:** 14,000 square feet **COST:** \$8.6 million **PHOTO:** Paul Warchol

### Central Library, Austin (Tex.) Public Library

Austin's massive new library merges urbanity with nature. Situated downtown and overlooking Lady Bird Lake and Shoal Creek, the library is a technology-rich hub with indoor and outdoor reading areas, makerspaces, an art gallery, cooking demo spaces, and a rooftop garden. A rainwater harvesting system and solar panels add sustainable elements to the building. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Lake/Flato Architects/Shepley Bulfinch **SIZE:** 200,000 square feet **COST:** \$125 million **PHOTO:** Atelier Wong Photography

### South Central Regional Library, Louisville (Ky.) Free Public Library

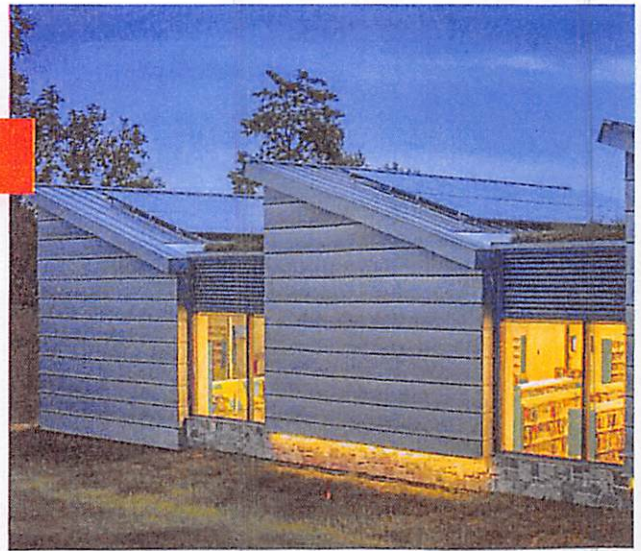
South Central Regional Library makes the most of its tree-filled site. Despite its considerable size, the silver geometric facility blends into the environment thanks to its sloping, grass-covered roof and large windows that allow for unfettered views of foliage throughout the building. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** JRA Architects/MSR **SIZE:** 40,000 square feet **COST:** \$14.5 million **PHOTO:** Brandon Stengel



## CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST

### Community Library of DeWitt and Jamesville, New York

The new Community Library of DeWitt and Jamesville is an open, light-filled space with reading and activity areas that pinwheel outward from a central lobby. Natural limestone used throughout the exterior and interior of the building is an homage to the region's connection to limestone quarries and the Erie Canal, which was used to transport quarried rock. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** King + King Architects **SIZE:** 23,700 square feet **COST:** \$8 million **PHOTO:** Revette Studios



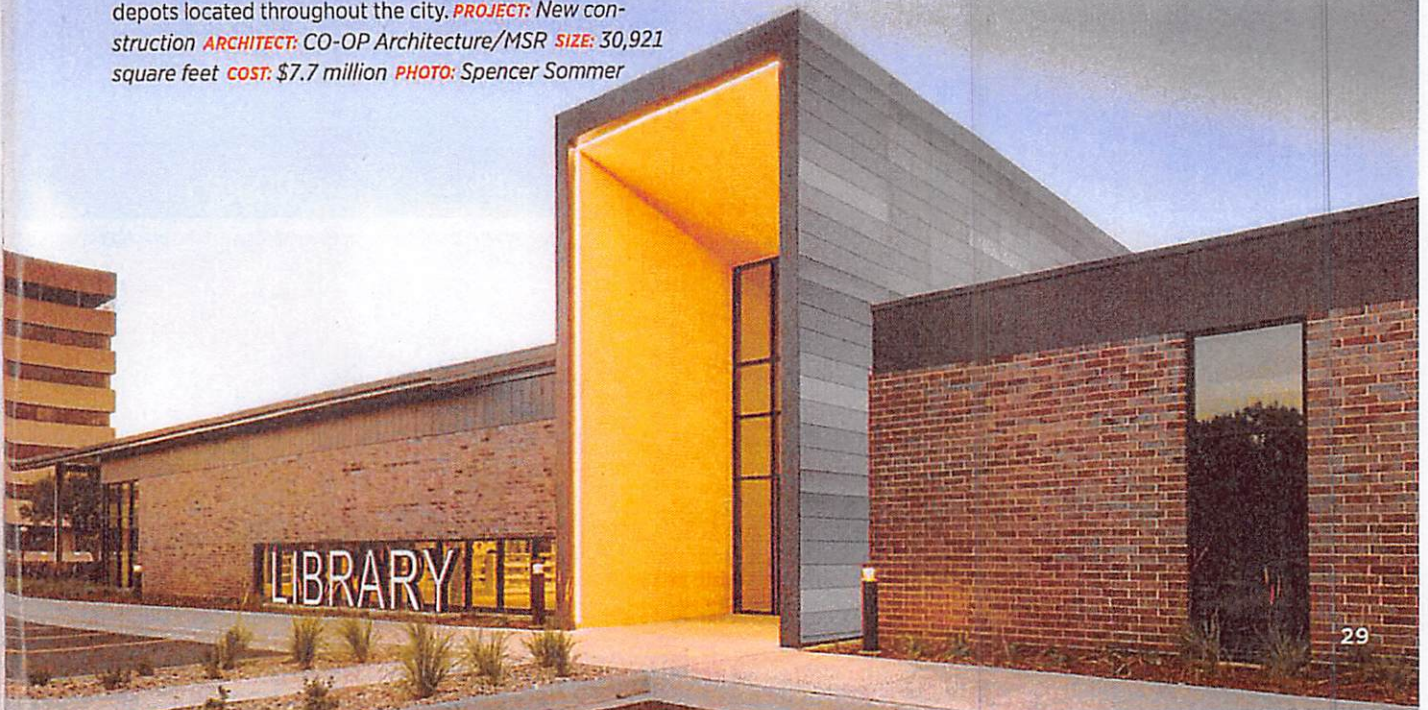
### Auburn Avenue Research Library, Atlanta

One of four archive and research centers in the US devoted to Africana and African-American collections, Auburn Avenue Research Library completed an extensive renovation that repositioned its entire structure, built in 1994, moving the auditorium, seminar rooms, and galleries to the street-level floor for better community access. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Perkins + Will **SIZE:** 106,500 square feet **COST:** \$14.3 million **PHOTO:** Jonathan Hillyer




### K. O. Lee Aberdeen (S.Dak.) Public Library

The new K. O. Lee Aberdeen Public Library is a bright, roomy facility that serves as a center for both learning and creativity, with reading nooks, community rooms, and a demonstration kitchen. Its linear configuration recalls the historic Craftsman and Prairie-style railroad depots located throughout the city. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** CO-OP Architecture/MSR **SIZE:** 30,921 square feet **COST:** \$7.7 million **PHOTO:** Spencer Sommer



ALA/AIA

# LIBRARY BUILDING AWARDS

The following libraries are winners of the 2018 Library Building Awards, sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and the American Library Association's Library Leadership and Management Association. The awards recognize the best in library architecture and design and are open to any architect licensed in the United States. Projects may be located anywhere in the world. 

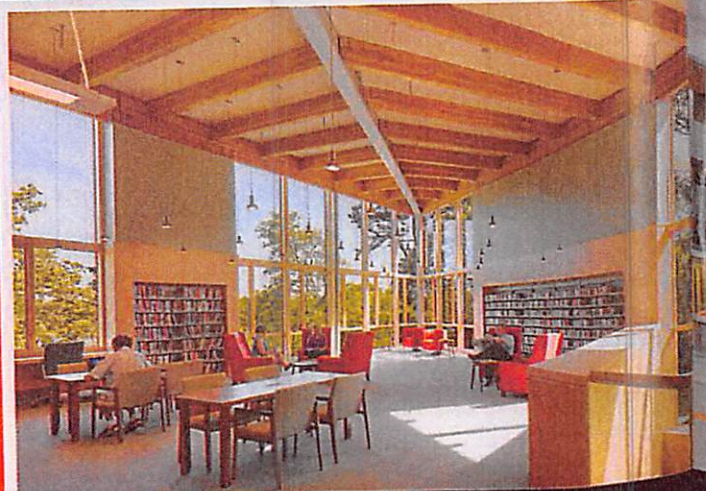


▲ **Santa Monica (Calif.) Public Library, Pico Branch**

ARCHITECT: Koning Eizenberg Architecture  
PHOTO: Eric Staudenmayer

▶ **Eastham (Mass.) Public Library**

ARCHITECT: Oudens Elio Architecture  
PHOTO: Chuck Choi





▲ **Central Library, Austin (Tex.) Public Library**

ARCHITECT: Lake|Flato Architects/Shepley Bulfinch  
PHOTO: Atelier Wong Photography

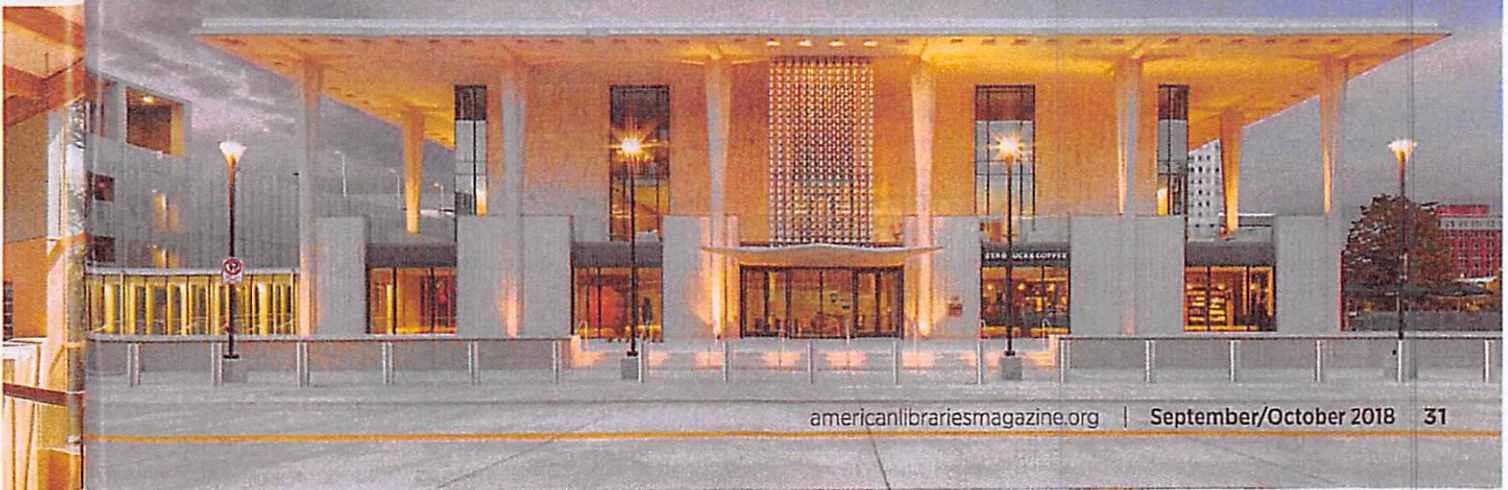
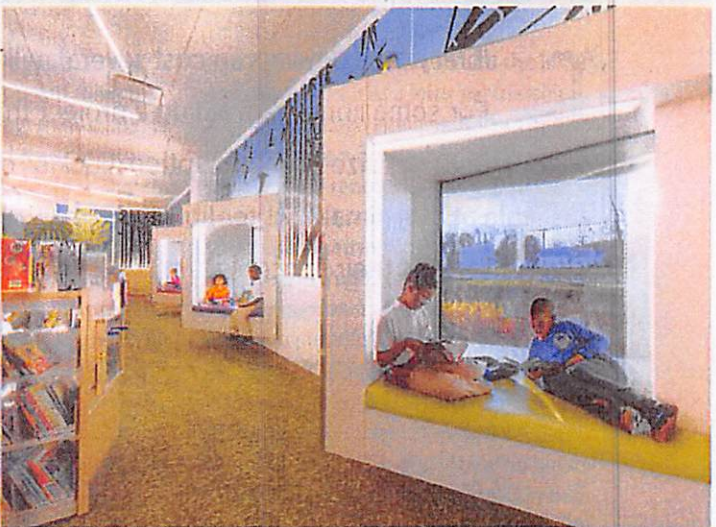
▶ **Prince George's County (Md.) Memorial Library System, Laurel Branch**

ARCHITECT: Grimm + Parker Architects  
PHOTO: Sam Kittner

▼ **Tulsa City-County (Okla.) Central Library**

ARCHITECT: MSR  
PHOTO: Lara Swimmer

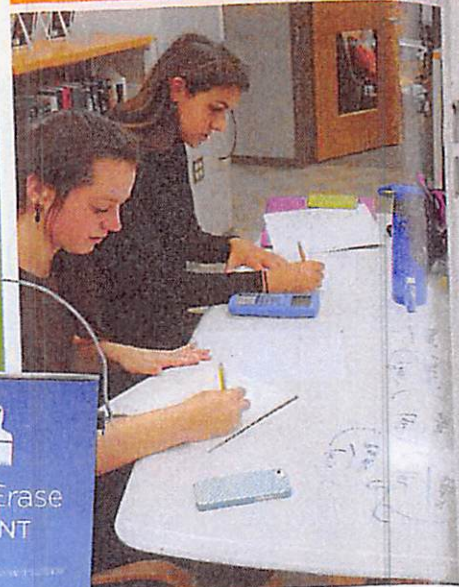
▼ **Hastings (Neb.) Public Library**  
ARCHITECT: The Clark-Eriksen Partners  
PHOTO: Paul Brokering



# DESIGN on the CHEAP

Library renovation  
on a budget

By Phil Morehart



Library renovations can cost several million dollars or more. For some libraries, funding a project that size—or even half that size—isn't an option. Luckily, design options are available at a minimal cost for libraries that want to change the look and feel of their space.

## START WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

The first step in any design project, big or small, is intense self-reflection. Brian Lee, architect and design partner at Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill, has designed libraries around the world, including the award-winning Chinatown branch of Chicago Public Library (CPL), which opened in 2015. He stresses the importance of research and an inward gaze when trying to design on a budget.

"Go back to your library's purpose—the mission—and all the programs that you believe are necessary, and develop strategies to achieve them," Lee says.

Joel Sanders, principal at New York City-based firm Joel Sanders Architect, echoes Lee's approach and recommends doing a feasibility study first. "What are your goals? What do you need? And what do you foresee as

shortcomings?" he says. "Then work with a designer to do preschematic plans on how to accomplish that, going from low budget to high budget."

Lee and Sanders agree that design ideas requiring little or no funds to implement may present themselves. You may be able to use existing furniture, shelves, and partitions.

"The trend right now is to create spaces that sponsor more interactive learning," Sanders says. "See if you can accomplish that with free-standing furniture instead of having to build something. That could mean simply rearranging furniture in ways that allow people to work comfortably together."

Lee recommends reexamining your space. "Look at what you have, and try to do more with less," he says. "An exhibition space could be a lounge space. A niche or alcove in a wall outside of the

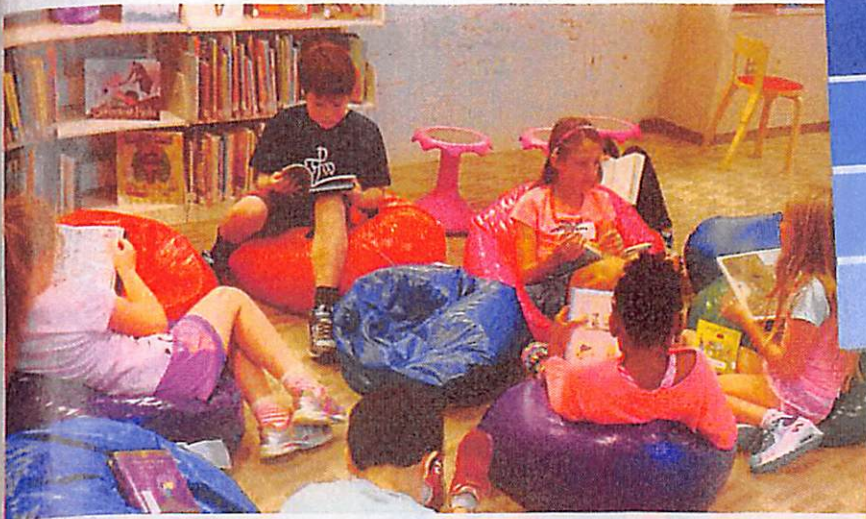
general circulation area can be used as a new quiet study area using furniture. Look at ways that space can be doubly used or consolidated."

## WEED AND WEED SOME MORE

Space is a valuable commodity in most libraries, and creating new space in already cramped facilities can be a challenge. At Francis W. Parker School in Chicago, Mary Catherine Coleman, lower and intermediate school library and information services specialist, and Annette Lesak, middle and upper school librarian, found a simple way to create more space in their library: weeding.

Even in a well-funded private school like Francis Parker, library budgets can be tight. In 2014, Coleman and Lesak were charged by their administrators with rethinking and updating the almost 10,000-square-foot school library when they succeeded the librarian who had previously worked there for 35 years.

"The space was very much rooted in a very old-school look," Coleman says. "It had about 90,000 volumes of books and really tall bookcases. It was just not conducive to student use and engagement. No one really went in there."



As part of its DIY makeover, Francis W. Parker School in Chicago created whiteboards on tabletops (left), bought beanbag chairs (above), and freed up space by weeding (right).



Coleman and Lesak's first task was to remove unused and out-of-date books, one of which hadn't been circulated since 1917, according to the stamp on its still-intact check-out card. The weeding project freed up a massive amount of space, Coleman says. Its ripple effect changed the look and feel of the entire library.

"It made us think: 'What else can we do to make the space more engaging?'" she says.

### THE DIY APPROACH

Coleman says that she and Lesak turned to social media to find inspiration for low-budget renovation and design tips. It was a game changer, Coleman says.

"Seeing what else is out there is really helpful," Coleman says. "Pinterest, Twitter, and Instagram—look at what other libraries are doing. And even beyond the library. What is happening in collaborative and work spaces? You can see things you can do in your space that will fit your community and the culture at your school."

Using ideas gleaned from their research and social media as a guide, Coleman and Lesak revitalized the now-open space. They bought whiteboard paint for the library's tables, allowing students to draw

and write on them. They repainted the walls. The renovations allowed them to look with fresh eyes at how their students interacted with them and the library.

"We began to rethink seating so that the library wasn't just rows of tables," Coleman says. She and Lesak bought beanbag chairs from Overstock.com and acquired old couches that nearby offices were getting rid of to create a casual hangout spot for kids. It changed how the library was perceived by students and faculty.

"Kids could find information, but they could also collaborate and use the space in different ways," Coleman says. "Teachers were more open to bringing students there [after the change]."

### THE MONEY IS THERE

Paying for your renovation project, regardless of its size, may require some creativity.


"You have to think of innovative financing ideas," Lee says. If conducting a larger-scale project that requires construction, he recommends seeing if tax increment financing (TIF) funds might be available. Lee uses the forthcoming Roosevelt Square branch of CPL, designed by Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill, as an example. More than \$7 million in TIF

monies were allocated to build the library, since it was built as a joint partnership with the Chicago Housing Authority. Such funds may be more than a library needs for a smaller renovation project, but Lee says it shows how financing is available if you think creatively and strategically.

Coleman and Lesak funded a portion of their approximately \$5,000 renovation using monies already in the library's budget, but they augmented it in an unusual way—again, by weeding.

"Our previous administration spent \$6,000 a year on magazine subscriptions that we just didn't need anymore," Coleman says. "We significantly reduced those and opened up more funds to purchase materials."

"It was easy. We worked with the budget we had," she says. "But we reworked and rethought how we spent it."

This philosophy can apply to your entire renovation project: Everything you need, from additional space to financing, may already be in your library. You just have to find it. 



PHIL MOREHART is an associate editor at *American Libraries*.

# REPURPOSE WITH A

# PURPOSE



**Converting  
nonlibrary spaces  
into public libraries**

by Fred Schlipf and  
John A. Moorman



Photo: Dan Schwam/ADP, Inc.

Inside the Do Space in Omaha, Nebraska, a former bookstore.

# POSSIBLE

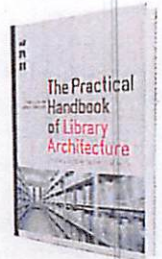
**W**hen a community needs a new library building, people frequently suggest converting existing—usually vacant—structures into a library. Converting nonlibrary spaces into libraries has much in common with remodeling and expanding existing libraries, but it's a far different undertaking.

When possible conversions loom on the horizon, libraries must be prepared. In all conversion situations, one of the major problems involves the building shaping the library rather than the library shaping the building. Many spaces may lack the basic functional needs of libraries, such as ceilings high enough for reflected uplighting, sufficient power supplies, workable configurations of spaces, desirable natural light, good sight lines, sufficient floor strength, and flexibility of design. If too many of the basic needs are compromised, the result is at best dysfunction and at worst an amazing waste of money.

### Begin with a plan

Always start by preparing a building program to evaluate possible conversions. If you don't have one, people will start pointing out what interesting features could be provided in certain existing structures. By and large, these will be features you don't need. Unless you have a lot of experience with library building construction, hire a building consultant to write your program—an experienced professional librarian with a degree accredited by the American Library Association and not an architect.

Because there are many issues in library planning in addition to space needs, building programs need to be detailed, with



This is an excerpt from *The Practical Handbook of Library Architecture: Creating Building Spaces That Work* by Fred Schlipf and John A. Moorman (ALA Editions, 2018).

information on required floor loading, accessibility, lighting, acoustics, furnishings, shelving, floor coverings, electrical supplies, sight lines, exit control, security, flexibility, and other areas. Programs should always be written without regard to available spaces, so that they can be used as measuring sticks to test the feasibility of using a proposed space. There will inevitably be compromises, but starting with the ideal program helps everyone become aware of what these compromises are.

### Reasons to choose conversion

There are good and bad reasons for converting existing spaces to libraries.

#### THE GOOD

- **Location.** Sometimes the best locations already have buildings on them that can be reused.
- **Parking.** If a building has a parking lot in good repair, the library is spared the cost of constructing a new one.
- **Utility hookups.** The cost of bringing water, natural gas, electric power, data, sanitary sewers, and storm sewers to a new site can be very high. If everything is already in place, conversions will be less expensive.
- **Buildings that are in good shape and fairly easy to convert.** The best examples are modern big-box stores, particularly if their mechanical, electrical,

and plumbing (MEP) systems are in good condition.

- **Modern buildings available for conversion.** A building constructed after about 1980 is likely to be accessible to users with disabilities and not suffer from asbestos, lead paint, or other problems that will be extremely expensive to overcome.

#### THE BAD

- **Saving money.** Few people have any concept of how much it costs to convert an old building to a library. Library owners need to remind stakeholders that almost all conversions will involve constructing new restrooms, replacing existing lighting, adding electrical outlets, upgrading or replacing HVAC systems, providing new plumbing in staff work areas and lunchrooms, removing unwanted partitions, adding windows, improving insulation, and so on.
- **Some conversions may come with unacceptable limitations.** The previous owners of a building must have no rights of any kind whatsoever over the subsequent use of the property. The library needs full title to the building, including the site, allowing it to make any changes it wants and to sell off the building and site and move on at any time it wants. Any proposed limitations must be deal killers.

### Buildings to consider

**Big-box stores.** Of all the projects for converting nonlibrary buildings to libraries, conversions of big-box stores are among the most successful. Modern big-box stores have a number of advantages:

- grade-level entries
- single floors, eliminating the need for elevators and staircases and reducing the number of staff required for supervision
- concrete slab-on-grade floors that can carry the weight of books
- high ceilings, making lighting far easier
- large parking lots
- utilities connected. Most big-box stores will have electric power, natural gas, water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and data connections already in place.
- modern wiring

They also have potential problems:

- virtually no windows. How easily windows can be retrofitted will depend on the type of construction.
- potentially undesirable locations. Libraries need big-box stores where chains went bankrupt, not where a store moved out because the location was far from ideal.
- cheap construction. Since big-box stores are economically constructed, you will need engineers and architects to evaluate the condition of a building you are considering.

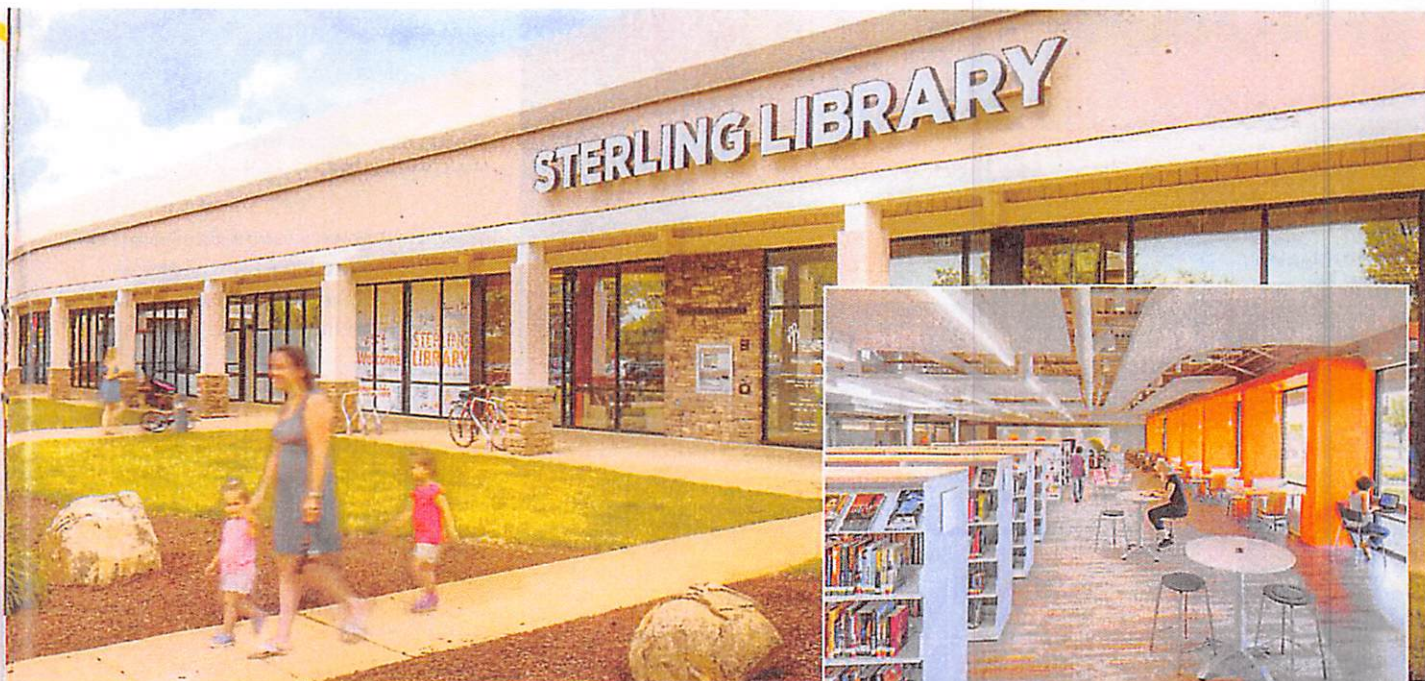
Big-box stores were designed to meet the retail needs of modern populations, and these have a lot in common with the library needs of modern populations, which makes the entire conversion project a lot easier.

**Schools.** Empty school buildings abound. Unfortunately, most have been abandoned for good reasons: They have outlived their natural life or were badly designed to begin with.

Most old schools will not meet a variety of building codes. Schools dating back to the 1970s or earlier may be awash in asbestos and lead paint. Despite the stability of schools, floors will probably not be strong enough to carry the weight of books. About the only space in an old school building that can be converted to a workable library is the gymnasium. Some gyms—like the



Jefferson-Madison Regional Library's Northside branch in Charlottesville, Virginia, was once a building supply store.



Loudoun County (Va.) Public Library used a vacant space in a shopping center for its Sterling branch.

one in Westwood Elementary School in Oklahoma City—have been converted to attractive and functional libraries, but that presumes that the gym is large enough to meet the requirements for all those library functions that need to be in a single, open space. An even larger question is, once the gym is converted to a library, what happens to the rest of the school building? The last thing a library needs is to be part of an otherwise abandoned building.

**Banks.** Some communities have successfully converted bank buildings to public libraries. Some banks are more strongly constructed than many other commercial buildings, and they may be capable of carrying the weight of books without extra reinforcement.

Most bank conversions must consider what to do with old vaults. Vaults are strongly built and will probably be too expensive to remove. In the conversions we have seen, most vaults have been used for storage or office space. Obsolete vault doors may make interesting reminders of the building's history, but you'll at least have to disable the locking mechanisms and install some kind of bolted-on flanges on the floor that prevent the doors from swinging.

Many banks have drive-through service windows. It might be possible to convert them to book pickup windows. But drive-up service windows in libraries are not always successful because library users sometimes treat them not only as

places to pick up held books but also as short-order windows, where library users can request items that are not on hold but have to be searched and retrieved from throughout the library.

**Department stores.** Some communities have converted abandoned department stores into public libraries. With the coming of big-box stores and shopping centers, department stores tend to become available for other uses.

Department stores typically do not have floors strong enough to support library loads. In order to reduce loads, it may be necessary to use shorter shelving units and space them more widely apart, significantly increasing the amount of space necessary to store a given number of books. Lack of floor strength may be one of the greatest challenges in converting department stores to libraries.

**Strip malls.** There are advantages to housing a library in a former strip mall.

**PLACING PUBLIC LIBRARIES NEXT TO RETAIL STORES IS GOOD FOR BOTH.**

Strip malls may be in highly visible locations, and placing public libraries next door to retail stores is good for both. But there are a number of potential problems.

Strip malls come and go. A dying strip mall is no place for a public library. Just as good commercial neighbors can be of great benefit to libraries (and libraries can greatly benefit the nearby businesses in strip malls), businesses can change quickly. Because libraries in strip malls are right next to the other businesses, if the clothing stores, toy stores, and bookstores are quickly replaced by liquor stores, tobacco shops, video gambling parlors, and bars, the desirability of the libraries' locations can quickly change.

As speculative commercial structures, strip malls may be very cheaply constructed and quickly thrown up. If someone is proposing a planned strip mall as a location, you'll need your architects and engineers to check out the quality of proposed construction, just as you will want them to evaluate completed buildings. Some strip malls do not have fire walls between stores. As a result, a fire that starts in one store can quickly spread to adjacent stores through their attics. Expansion is probably impossible without acquiring an



The Do Space in Omaha, Nebraska, is housed in a former big-box bookstore.

adjacent unit, and fire codes may make it impossible to join two units together.

In general, the only good public library use of strip malls may be as rented spaces for library branches or as temporary locations while main libraries are being rebuilt.

**Abandoned government buildings.** Some communities have converted former government structures to public

libraries. Sometimes this can be very successful. Rantoul, Illinois, for example, converted a former US Air Force base bowling alley into a public library, but this was no ordinary bowling alley. It was a huge and sturdy structure with high ceilings and no load-bearing columns to get in the way.

Our experience is that old city buildings were often abandoned for good reason.

New buildings were constructed because the old ones were seriously inadequate. The old buildings may have toxic asbestos or lead paint. Parking may be inadequate for public library service.

Even worse, cities may run old buildings into the ground once new buildings are under way. If maintenance has stopped for more than a year, there may not be much left, certainly not enough to make the conversion to a public library economically sensible.

### Seeking help

Converting nonlibrary buildings to public libraries is done all the time. Sometimes everything works out beautifully, but on other occasions the library ends up spending far more on a reworked but dysfunctional building than it would spend on a brand-new one, and in addition is saddled with higher operating costs for the life of the building.

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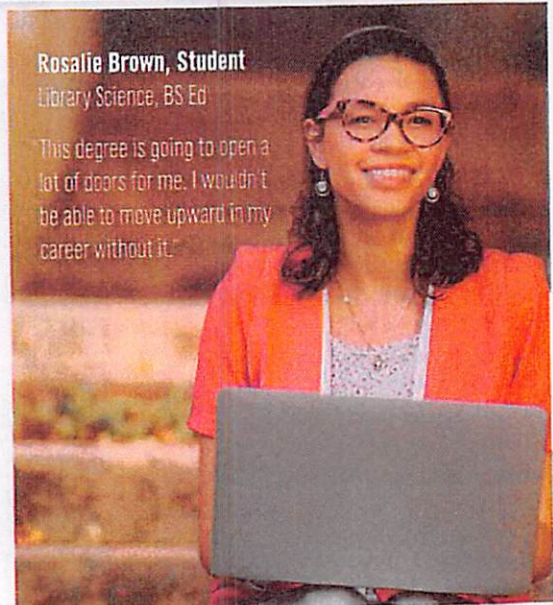


Photo: Dan Schwalm/HDR, Inc.

When people pressure you to accept or purchase an existing building, always get help before saying “yes.”

- The help includes a building program written without any conversion job in mind. Once it is finished, the program can be compared with the proposed building to be sure that the spaces you need can be provided there. Sometimes a building will be so unsuitable for reuse that your consultant’s opinion may be enough to stop things.
- An architect can help evaluate the building to ensure that it is in good condition and can be converted to a functional, modern library at a reasonable cost. Your architect will review code implications to be sure that modernizing the building will not embroil the library in a maze of code compliance issues. Your architect can also check for EPA concerns, such as asbestos, possible buried fuel tanks, and so on. In many cases, a quick examination will lead to the rejection of the proposed conversion project.

- Your architects may bring in engineers to evaluate the structure of the building, the condition of MEP services, any hidden threats, the ease of opening up internal spaces, and any difficulties involving accessibility.
  - If the project passes initial checking, your programmers, architects, and engineers will need to review the ability of the building to meet all specified functional needs.
  - At this point, your architects will need to develop a cost estimate. This is a dangerous area, particularly when it comes to remodeling. There may be pressure on your architect to lowball costs. In all cases of this type, your architects and other experts will need to report on projected remodeling costs, functional compromises that would result from remodeling, and the likely cost of building a similar structure from scratch.
- Rejecting a proposed conversion job may be unpopular with your community. This is one area where your hired outside experts will prove their worth. They can deliver the

bad news and then go home to distant communities where their annoyed neighbors will not snarl at them at the supermarket.

If all of this sounds negative, it’s because there are numerous pitfalls in conversion projects. Luckily, many excellent libraries are constructed by converting other buildings, so it’s a matter of caution rather than outright rejection. In general, fairly new buildings with wide-open spaces, high ceilings, good windows, sidewalk-level entrances, concrete slab floors, up-to-date MEP systems, and sufficient parking seem to offer the best possibilities. [AL](#)



**FRED SCHLIFF** spent nearly 33 years as director of Urbana (Ill.) Free Library. He’s done formal building consulting for more than 150 libraries and quick consulting for many more.



**JOHN A. MOORMAN** has worked as director of five public libraries and a multi-type library system, most recently Decatur (Ill.) Public Library and the Williamsburg (Va.) Regional Library.

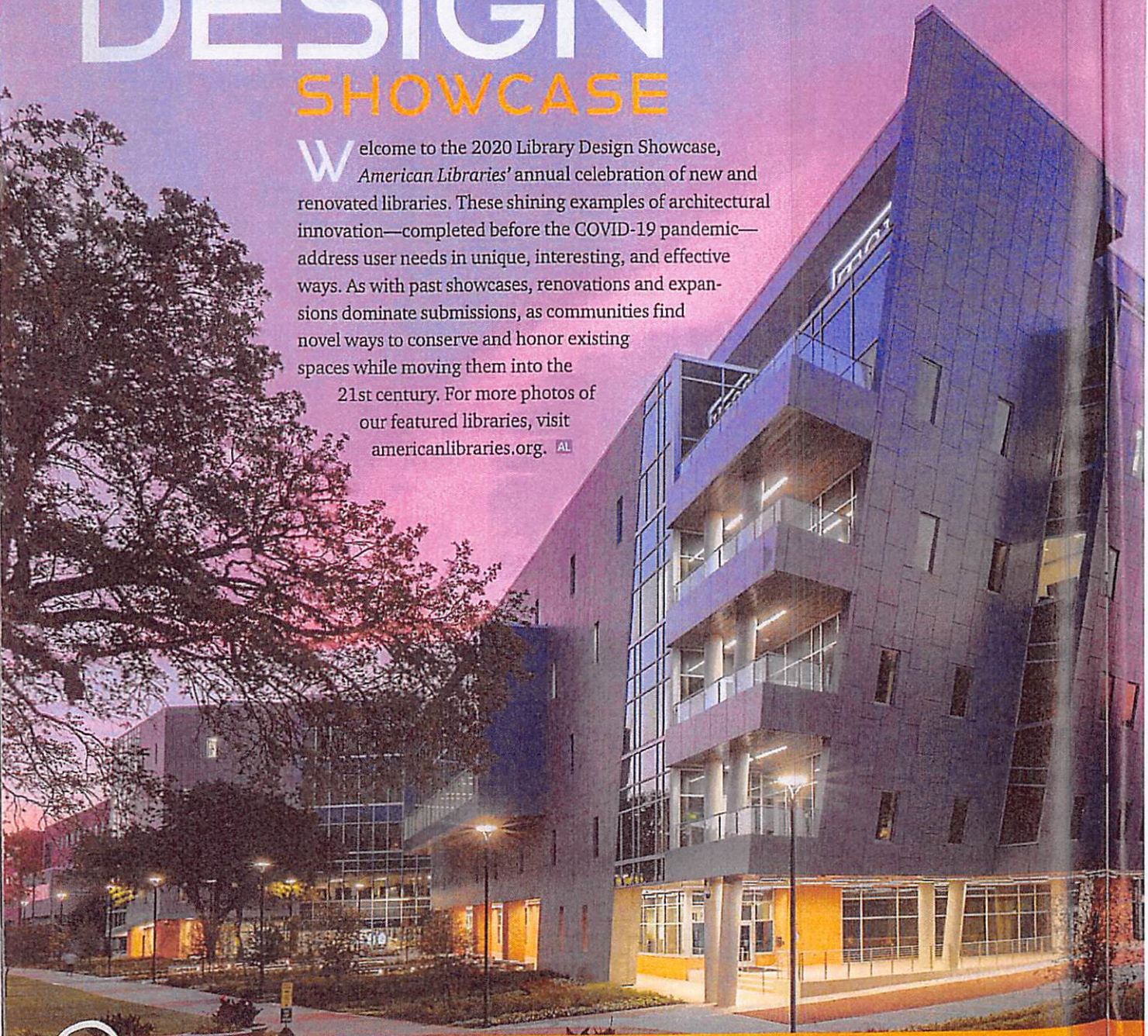


Tulsa City-County Central Library  
Winner of a 2018 AIA/ALA Library Building Award

2020

# LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE

Welcome to the 2020 Library Design Showcase, *American Libraries'* annual celebration of new and renovated libraries. These shining examples of architectural innovation—completed before the COVID-19 pandemic—address user needs in unique, interesting, and effective ways. As with past showcases, renovations and expansions dominate submissions, as communities find novel ways to conserve and honor existing spaces while moving them into the 21st century. For more photos of our featured libraries, visit [americanlibraries.org](http://americanlibraries.org). AL



Tune in to the August episode of *American Libraries' Dewey Decibel* podcast for conversations about library architecture and design.

Listen at [bit.ly/deweydecibel](http://bit.ly/deweydecibel)

## HIGHER LEARNING

### ▼ Library Learning Center, Texas Southern University in Houston

The new Library Learning Center at this historically Black university features a bold, angular design that draws visitors into the five-level atrium, which serves as the heart of the building. Designed to foster a collaborative learning environment, the building features classrooms, meeting spaces, computer labs, study areas, a gallery, and café. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Moody Nolan **SIZE:** 137,000 square feet **COST:** \$44 million **PHOTO:** Kayla Hartzog

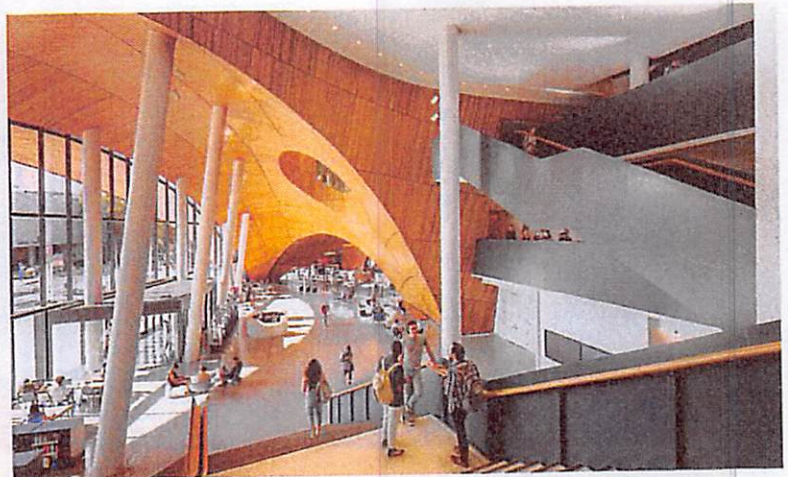


### ▲ Hesburgh Library, University of Notre Dame in Indiana

The renovation of Hesburgh Library transformed the midcentury modern facility into a place for advanced contemporary scholarship. The project brought natural light into the building's interior and integrated materials that complement the existing aesthetic. The entrance gallery, which spans the first and second floors, now connects the main entrance and upper 12 floors through an atrium-style opening, and an enhanced technology area lets students access digital services and resources. **PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Shepley Bulfinch; Alliance Architects **SIZE:** 146,650 square feet **COST:** \$25.1 million **PHOTO:** Jonathan Hillyer

### ▼ Charles Library, Temple University in Philadelphia

The bold new Charles Library houses multiple campus and academic resources, including a student success center, a digital fabrication and technology studio, and Temple University Press. The library is committed to an all-mobile technology strategy, offering laptops and charging banks on every floor, as well as flexible workspaces that adapt to changing technological needs. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Snøhetta; Stantec **SIZE:** 220,000 square feet **COST:** \$175 million **PHOTO:** Michael Grimm



## SHARED SPACES

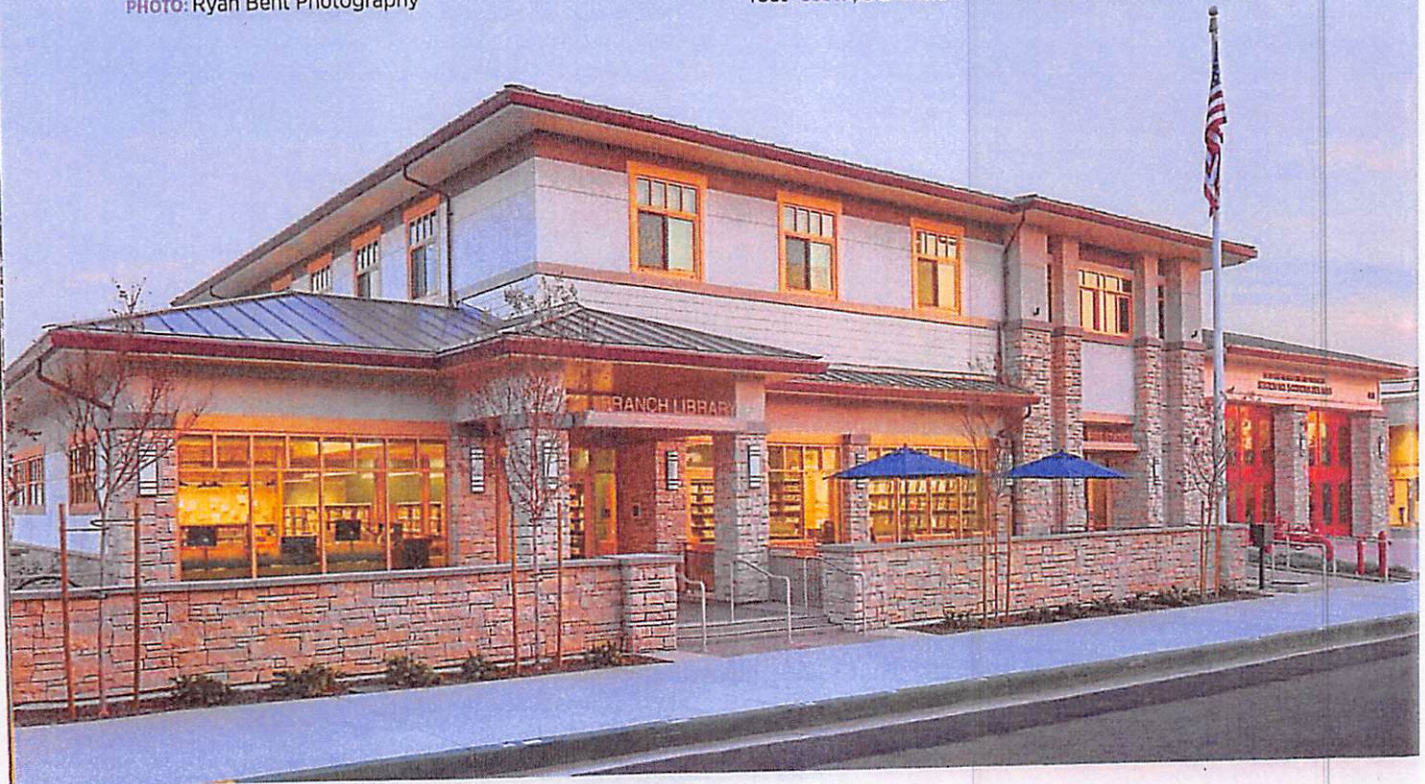


### ▲ Pierson Library in Shelburne, Vermont

Connected to Shelburne's newly restored historic town hall, the new Pierson Library replaces a smaller building that suffered from moisture and air-quality problems. Designed for net-zero energy, the library features high-performance mechanical systems and building envelope. Using passive daylighting strategies, local and recycled materials, rooftop solar panels, and onsite stormwater treatment, the public library expects to save approximately \$200,000 in lifetime energy costs. **PROJECT:** New construction/renovation **ARCHITECT:** Vermont Integrated Architecture **SIZE:** 19,221 square feet **COST:** \$5.8 million **PHOTO:** Ryan Bent Photography

### ▼ Newport Beach (Calif.) Public Library, Corona Del Mar branch

Affectionately known as "The Fibrary," the newly combined library and fire station construction project replaces two older adjacent buildings, maximizing interior space, energy efficiency, and parking areas. The library features a colorful children's area, reading spaces for teens and adults, stroller parking, and an outdoor porch for year-round use by the seaside community. The interior incorporates the work of a local artist to highlight the area's history. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** WLC Architects **SIZE:** 10,314 square feet **COST:** \$6.8 million **PHOTO:** Dale Christopher Lang



## RUSTIC SETTING

### ► The Community Library in Ketchum, Idaho

The renovation and expansion of the almost 45-year-old building that houses the privately funded and governed nonprofit Community Library stays true to the facility's original mountain lodge-inspired design while incorporating new spaces for physical and digital collections, technology, and civic engagement. The library was awarded a 2020 ALA/IIDA Interior Design Award for a Public Library.

**PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** RATIO **SIZE:** 27,000 square feet **COST:** \$10 million **PHOTO:** Gabe Border



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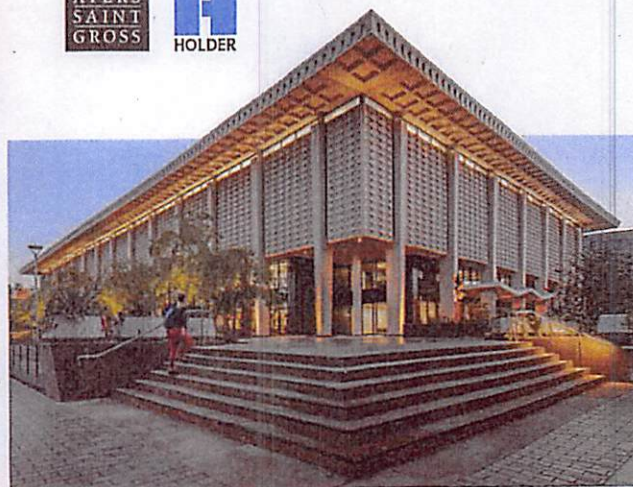
**EPISODE 51**  
Telling Stories with Pictures

**EPISODE 50**  
Privacy Concerns

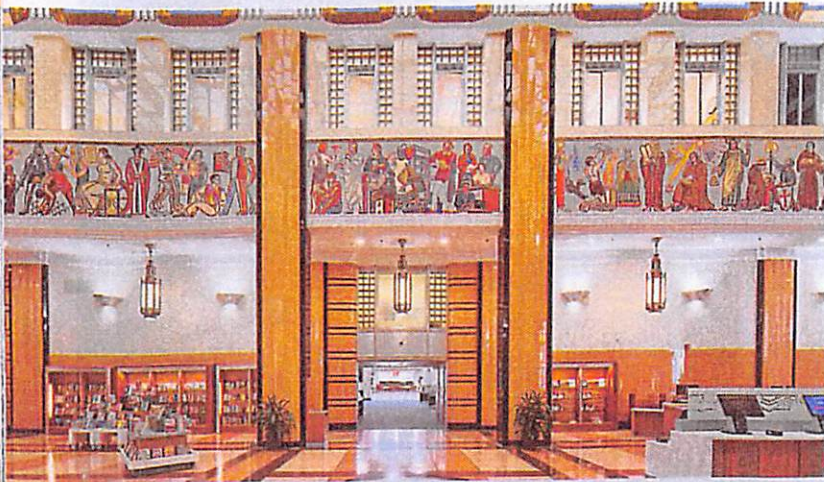
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## Thank you.

Ayers Saint Gross and Holder Construction are grateful for the opportunity to reinvent the iconic Hayden Library at Arizona State University!



## RENOVATING HISTORY



### ◀ Toledo-Lucas County (Ohio) Public Library, Main Library

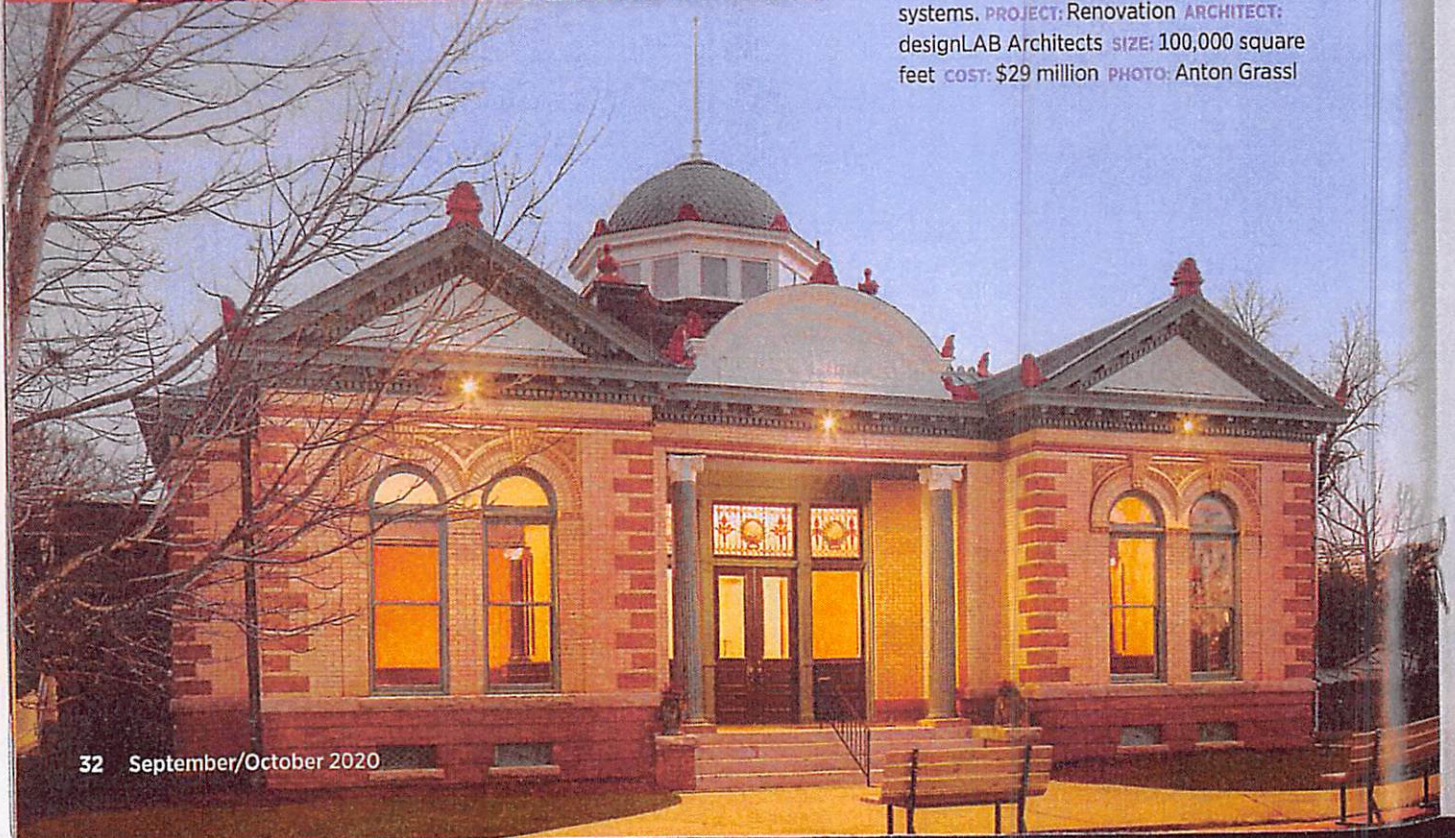
The renovation of Toledo-Lucas County Public Library used the art deco geometric motifs and colors found in the building's central court as the basis for new millwork to create a unifying theme, in particular in the meeting rooms, technology training lab, makerspace, recording studios, and audio/video collections. The library's entrance was also updated: Patrons now enter through a bright, backpainted glass-clad promenade flanked by a glass-enclosed community meeting room and a business incubator that showcases start-ups using the library.

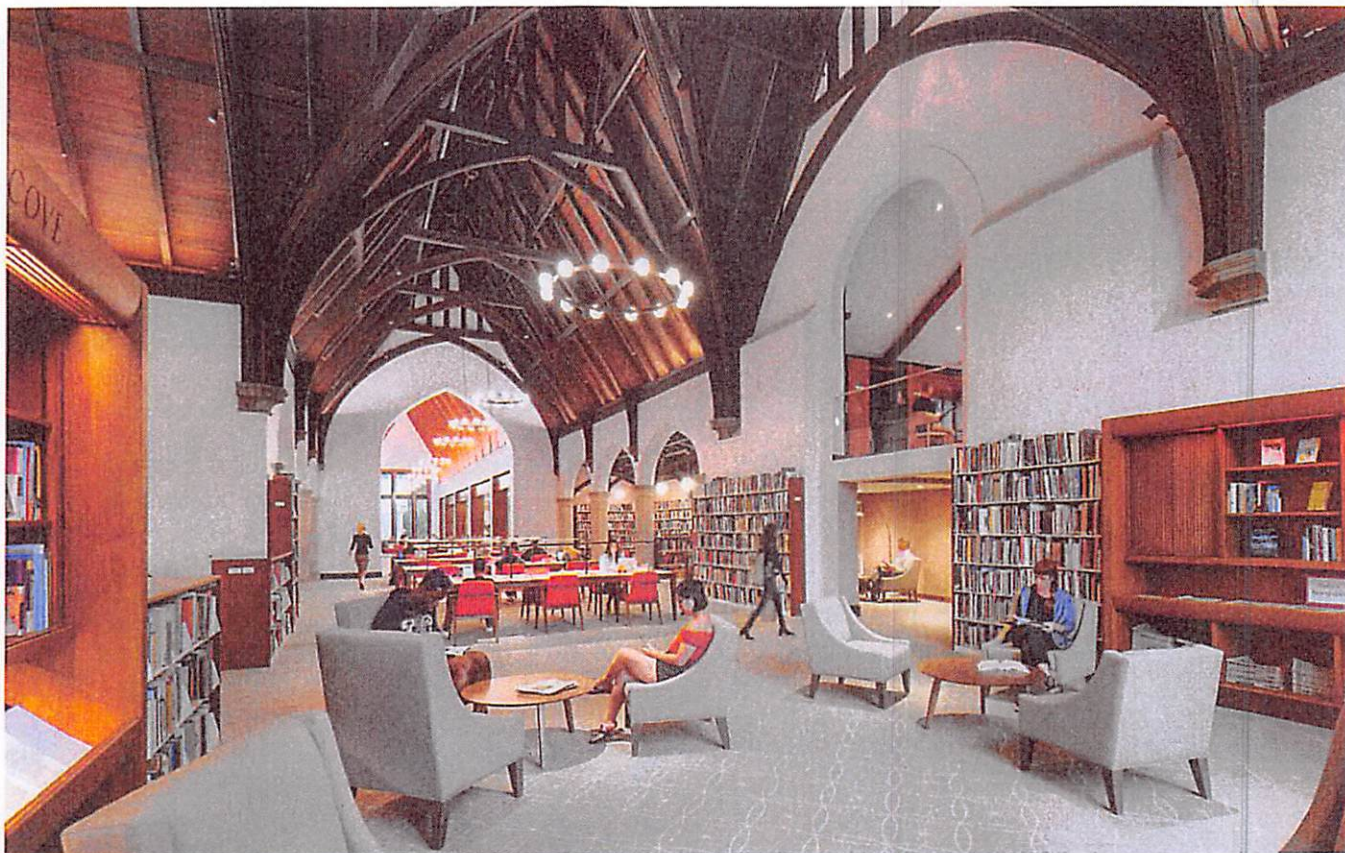
**PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** HBM Architects **SIZE:** 105,000 square feet **COST:** \$8.4 million **PHOTO:** Roger Mastroianni



### ◀ Providence (R.I.) Public Library

Providence Public Library recently completed the state's largest-ever library renovation project with an interior overhaul of its 1950s-era Empire Street wing. The project expanded the library's community learning venues, flexible spaces, quiet study spaces, teen loft, children's library, and 260-seat auditorium. The renovation also relocated the special collections suite for better public access and upgraded the library's safety systems. **PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** designLAB Architects **SIZE:** 100,000 square feet **COST:** \$29 million **PHOTO:** Anton Grassl





### ▲ Lutnick Library, Haverford (Pa.) College

Five additions to Lutnick Library, completed from 1864 to 1967, had buried the building's historic core, creating a dark and disorienting facility. Selective demolition and new construction generated a new space that respects the building's history and added warm, contemporary learning areas, including a reading room, a digital scholarship commons, an art gallery, a café, and a research room, as well as climate-controlled storage for the library's Quaker and other special collections. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Perry Dean Rogers Partners Architects **SIZE:** 63,700 square feet **COST:** \$35.2 million **PHOTO:** Chuck Choi

### ◀ Union County (S.C.) Carnegie Library

The renovation of Union County Carnegie Library brought the 115-year-old building back to its original glory. The design and construction teams restored its authentic paint colors, terra cotta and granite accents, brick detailing, and wooden cornices, dentils, and columns on the building's exterior, as well as the interior's wood floors, plaster walls, pressed-tin ceiling, and stained-glass skylight. The library won the 2019 South Carolina Preservation Honor Award from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History for its renovation. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture **SIZE:** 13,460 square feet **COST:** \$2 million **PHOTO:** Firewater Photography



### ▲ Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore

The renovation of Enoch Pratt Free Library expanded services, technology, and space for staff and patrons while also restoring historic materials and finishes—plaster, millwork, terrazzo, decorative metal elements and paintings, and lighting—to their original state. Period design motifs provided inspiration for the new graphics and murals that were installed throughout the building, from the upper floors to the children's department on the lower levels. **PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners **SIZE:** 290,000 square feet **COST:** \$115 million **PHOTO:** Joseph Romeo Photography

## IMPRESSIVE FACELIFT



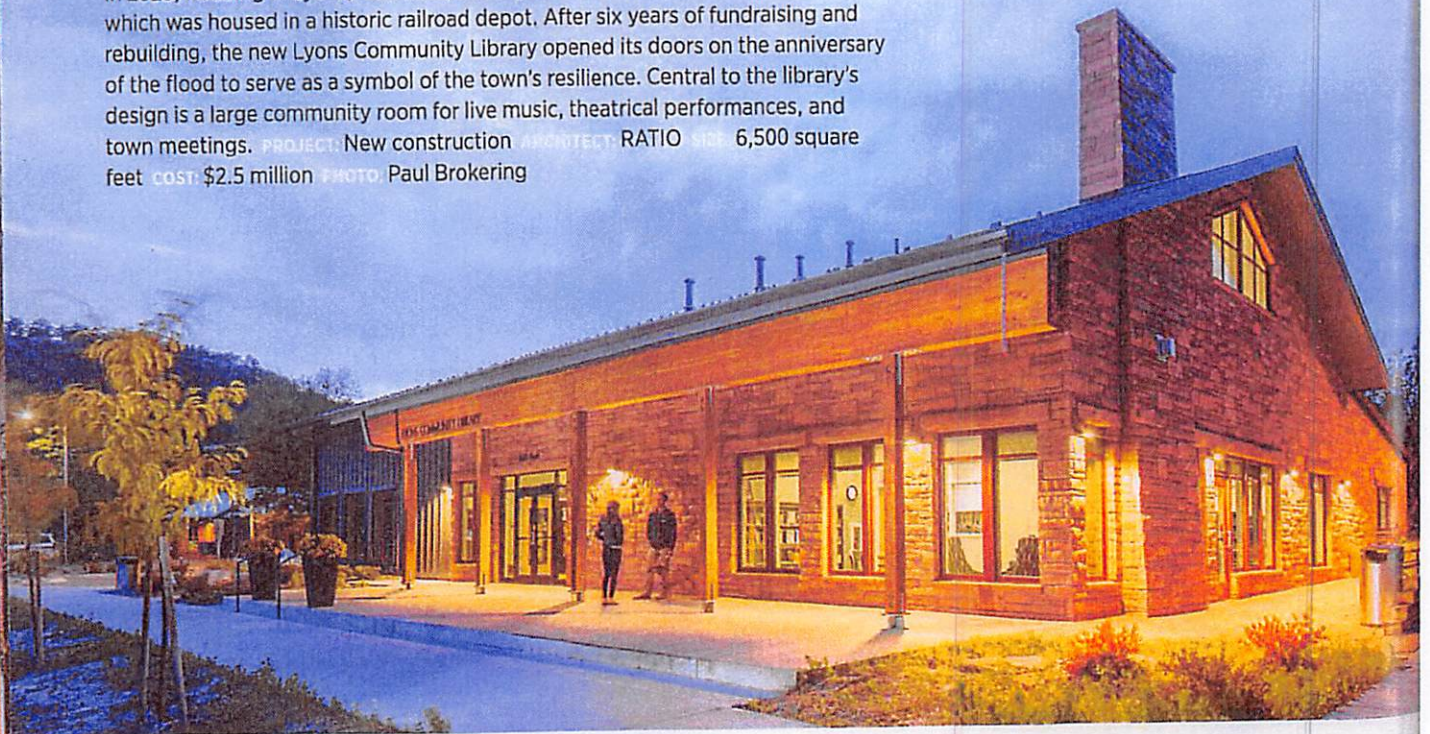
### ◀ Toronto (Ont.) Public Library, North York Central Library

Originally built in 1987, this post-modern building required renovations to bring it into the 21st century. A grand staircase now frames the building's seven-story atrium and improves air circulation throughout. A new creation loft on the second floor includes a digital innovation lab with 3D printers, audio and video recording facilities, and a fabrication studio with sewing equipment. A new children's department contains interactive and electronic learning stations that support preschool literacy and children with special needs. **PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Diamond Schmitt Architects **SIZE:** 168,000 square feet **COST:** \$11 million **PHOTO:** Lisa Logan Photography

## REBUILDING AFTER DISASTER

### ▼ Lyons (Colo.) Community Library

In 2013, flooding in Lyons, Colorado, destroyed the small town's public library, which was housed in a historic railroad depot. After six years of fundraising and rebuilding, the new Lyons Community Library opened its doors on the anniversary of the flood to serve as a symbol of the town's resilience. Central to the library's design is a large community room for live music, theatrical performances, and town meetings. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** RATIO **SIZE:** 6,500 square feet **COST:** \$2.5 million **PHOTO:** Paul Brokering



In the age of COVID-19, architects merge future-facing innovations with present-day needs

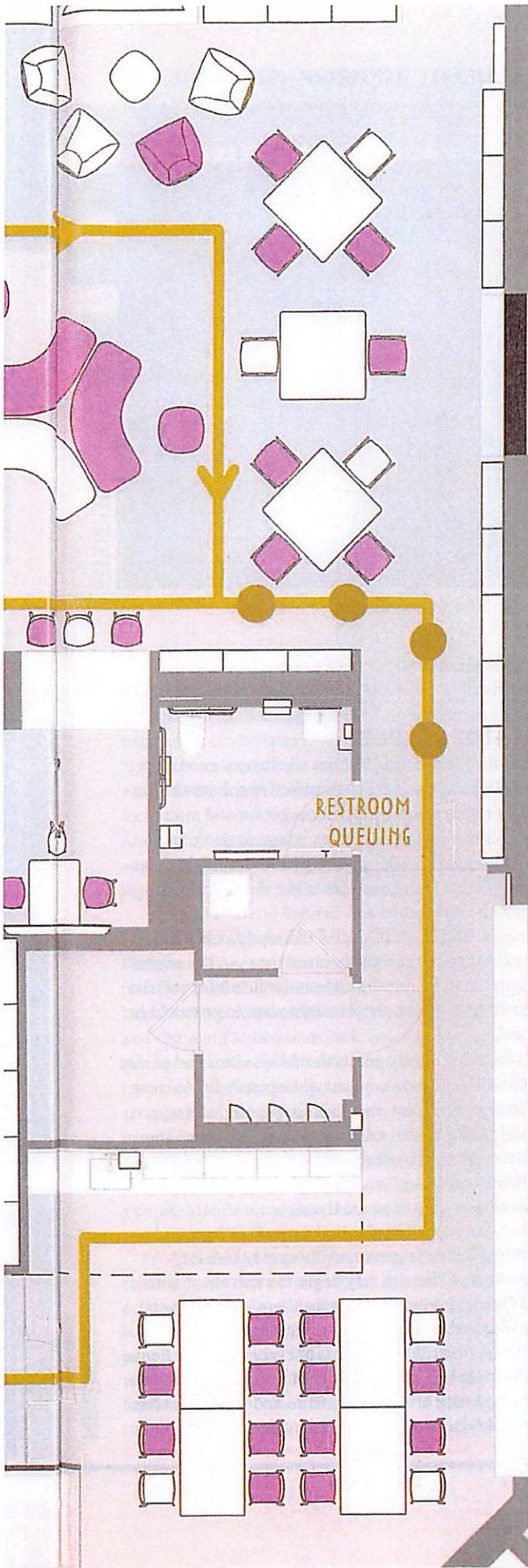
# Virus-Responsive Design

by Lara Ewen

**L**ibraries have always been spaces for discovery. But in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been tasked with transforming themselves into places that allow users to physically distance while being more digitally connected than ever. As some institutions emerge from months of shutdowns, design and architecture experts seek to meet current health and safety challenges as well as safeguard these community spaces against an uncertain future.

Traci Engel Lesneski, CEO and principal at Minneapolis-based national architecture firm MSR Design, which has worked with hundreds of libraries across the country, says libraries are ideal spaces for innovative design solutions. "It's not a stretch to think about the ways that libraries have modeled what's next in the world," she says. "Libraries can talk to the





BARRIERS/SNEEZE GUARDS



From left: A floor plan for furniture removal at Hennepin County (Minn.) Library's Eden Prairie branch; dividers at Tulsa City-County (Okla.) Library's Central location encourage physical distancing.

public about how important these things are and advocate [for them]. They can provide hands-on learning and access to certain technologies that people don't have access to in their everyday lives."

Yet libraries have had to find new ways to provide that access. "[COVID-19] is aggravating the digital divide," says Susan Nemitz, director of Santa Cruz (Calif.) Public Libraries (SCPL). "There are a number of people who don't have access to the internet and computers, because we haven't opened up yet." She says that effective design solutions will have to bridge not just physical and digital distance, but socioeconomic distance as well.

"We find that, more and more, our community is isolated," she says. "And we've been moving away from being a warehouse of books to being a social connector." Nemitz, whose library system passed a \$67 million bond issue to replace and remodel all 10 of its buildings before the pandemic hit, says she's had to reimagine her library's mission. "The COVID crisis has thrown a wrench into who we are and what we believe," she says. "Do we build our buildings for the situation we're in now, or the situation in the long run?"

The answer may be both. "This will not last forever," says Amanda Markovic, architect and associate principal at GBBN Architects, a multinational architecture and interior design firm that has built multiple libraries and civic spaces around the country. "But there's a possibility that it will happen again. So I think [design] is about ensuring there's flexibility, making sure there aren't as many hard walls in these spaces to allow

Illustration: MSR Design; photos: Lara Swimmer

## TEMPORARY SIGNAGE



Signage, such as these designs by GBBN Architects, can be a playful way to provide visual cues or instructions to patrons for maintaining physical distance or cleaning surfaces that they touch.

for the expansion and contraction [of our spaces] that will be necessary when these things arise.”

### AN EARLY START

Libraries that were in the process of renovating before COVID-19 almost immediately pivoted, repurposing certain design features to address the new normal. “There have been some fortunate coincidences that were not intended to be in reaction to a pandemic but that we can use,” says Markovic. “For instance, at Baldwin Borough Public Library [in Pittsburgh], we put casters on the stacks to make them easy to move around. We can now use them to create little pods. And at Carnegie Library [of Pittsburgh], we’re implementing cleanable surfaces and discussing an HVAC system that allows for increased ventilation.”

Some privacy features have been reimagined as safety enhancements. “We’ve been in a debate about gendered versus nongendered toilet rooms,” says Lesneski. “When you put the lens of the pandemic over that, we should be moving toward more privacy, and privacy that allows for parent and child, or parent and older parent, or people who need to use medication, or transgender people. So we’ve been talking more about [creating bathrooms that consist of] roomlets with a sink, where everything is all contained.”

Libraries that have been unable to provide public access during the pandemic may have an unusual opportunity to upgrade. “One of our libraries that was renovated had its entire collection digitized when it was removed for the renovation,” says Thomas M. Hotaling, architect and principal at Ann Beha Architects, a Boston-based design firm that works with education and cultural clients. “I’m wondering if this might be a good time for [other] libraries to digitize their

collections. If the funding is available, this is an ideal time to think about that.”

### CLEAN AND SIMPLE

Certainly funding is an issue. But not all changes need to be expensive. In fact, some of the most effective enhancements libraries can employ involve only elbow grease and motivation. “One of the things that works is just cleaning,” says Markovic. “A good old ‘let’s wipe things down.’ And do that often.” She says that high-touch areas like doors and desks should ideally be nonporous and cleaned often. “I think of gyms,” she says. “You have to wipe down equipment after using it, and that becomes easy, because they put the wipes near the equipment. So putting wipes near furniture and the front desk and near where people might want to go would be a visual cue.”

Lesneski says that library guests should also be a part of that process. “We will have to take personal responsibility to clean up after ourselves and have trust in other people,” she says. “And we might have to start carrying around sanitizer.” She explains that rooms can be designed or redesigned to incorporate built-in receptacles for sanitizing wipes and feature signage that directs visitors to use them.

Technology solutions can also make spaces cleaner and safer. Touchless lights, faucets, and doors may become more common, and libraries may begin to experiment with automated cleaning protocols. “Maybe there’s an automatic occupancy sensor that turns on a UV light that [could kill] the most recent virus, like task lights at every computer,” says Cindy Kaufman, principal associate at Holt Architects, a New York design firm with offices in Syracuse and Ithaca that has worked on several university libraries and learning spaces.



**“This will not last forever. But there’s a possibility that it will happen again.”**

—AMANDA MARKOVIC, architect and associate principal at GBBN Architects

At Baldwin Borough Public Library in Pittsburgh, GBBN Architects put casters on the stacks (background) to make them easy to move around.

“Or what if it was a little machine that sits right next to you and does a quick cleaning?”

Kaufman cautions against the use of antimicrobials, as those treatments can be largely ineffective and potentially unhealthy. “I think some people are using antimicrobial treatments, but we [at Holt] don’t recommend them because we have a huge focus on sustainable design and healthy design,” she says. Antimicrobials can prevent the growth of microorganisms but won’t always kill them, she says. “If a facility is on top of cleaning, they can kill the virus that way.”

### PRODUCTS AND PLACEMENT

Design can do more than just help keep things clean. It can also provide visual reminders of social distancing, as seen in the large circles painted on lawns in New York City’s Domino Park and Chicago’s Millennium Park. Indoors, that can translate into strategic furniture placement. “Especially in facilities that don’t have money [to remodel], I see the possibility that furniture is arranged in a completely different way, so you spread out how people can sit,” says Kaufman. “You could spread out a row or a long table and remove every few chairs. If people need to face each other, you could put up a barrier or a sneeze guard or a panel. Mobile screens can be another way to create separate seating.”

Product design is quickly evolving to meet the needs of environments that practice social distancing. “You’re seeing products pop up”—such as planters, fabric screens, and marker boards that act as dividers—“[that] feel natural but also keep people at a distance,” Lesneski says. Furniture still needs to be welcoming, she adds, because otherwise people won’t want to be there. “We can’t look like we’re living in a surgical ward,” she says. “And we don’t want to end up in terrible places with

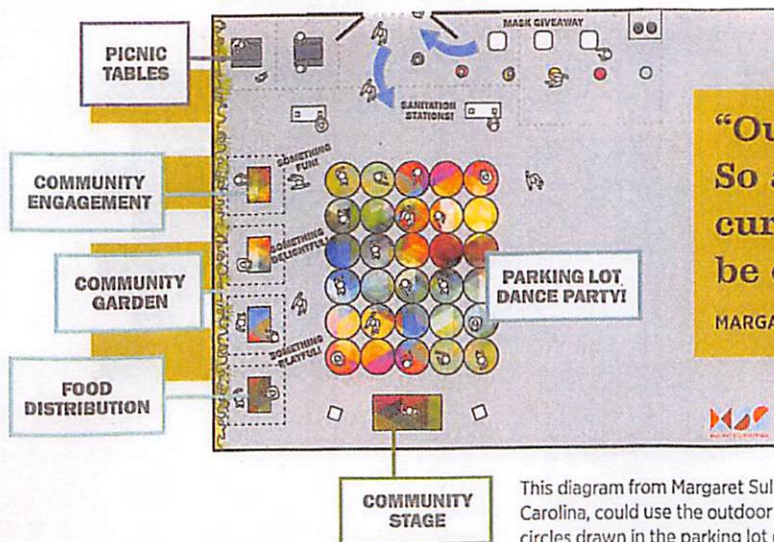
windows that are sealed shut and seating that’s not comfortable, and furniture that’s been bolted into place to prevent people from moving too close.”

She says comfort is also about control. “The more control we have over our environment, the more content we feel,” says Lesneski. “Like controlling the lights, airflow, height of a table, or size of its surface. The more control, the more secure and able to focus we are.”

Libraries can also get their communities involved in the design process. Margaret Sullivan, principal at Margaret Sullivan Studio, a New York City–based design firm that specializes in libraries and learning institutions, says that working with local graphics shops and inviting artists and graphic designers to create temporary signage can help libraries find vibrant and playful ways to speak to their patrons. “This is a great time to pay young designers in your community,” she says. “A great impact investment strategy would [also] be to hire local architects and designers to come up with cool design solutions for social, learning, and community spaces that foster social distancing in a fun, creative way.”

Storage solutions will also need to be developed as spaces become more malleable. “Social distancing will impact the amount of furniture that’s in a space, at least for the present,” says Hotaling, who suggests libraries might even see a return to old-fashioned reading carrels. “We were asked [by a library client] what to do with all the furniture now there. Where will it be stored, and should library designers be thinking about library furniture that can be easily stacked?” Hotaling says storage considerations will also affect collections, as many libraries now have a process for quarantining materials. “Libraries have to dedicate space for books to sit for three days and then be cleaned too,” he says.

## OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING



This diagram from Margaret Sullivan Studio reimagines how Richland Library in Columbia, South Carolina, could use the outdoor space at its North Main branch. For example, six-foot-diameter circles drawn in the parking lot could be used to distance dance party attendees.

**“Outside is safer than inside. So are the services going to be curbside pickup? Will there be outdoor programming?”**

MARGARET SULLIVAN, principal at Margaret Sullivan Studio

### OUTSIDE THE BOX

As scientists learn more about the transmission of COVID-19, the importance of using outdoor space as much as possible has repeatedly been stressed. “Outside is safer than inside,” says Sullivan. “So are the services going to be curbside pickup? Will there be outdoor programming?” She adds that librarians will need to think about how many people can be inside a facility and what those people will be doing. “Then you can start to get granular,” she explains. “For the first phase of opening, maybe we have this many tables we need to clean every night and this many computers that need to be sanitized. That’s an interesting way to think about the true cost of the work.”

Designers are also thinking about how to better ventilate indoor spaces. “Everyone is looking at improved indoor air quality for HVAC systems, more operable windows, more fresh air, and more air circulation,” says Hotaling. “Fresh air is proven to make for a healthier environment.”

Fostering the impression of a natural environment can also soften spaces and encourage spatial division. “I could see using a mobile system of translucent panels featuring images of greenery and nature,” says Kaufman. “Or what if there were curtains that were able to move around the ceiling on a track to create private areas, and that let light through, and that are cleanable, and that could be drawn from one position to another?”

As libraries bring the outdoors inside, they’re also bringing traditional indoor services outside. “There’s a trend in creating outside spaces and leaving our Wi-Fi on,” says Nemitz of SCPL. “Maybe even expanding coverage so we can be a Wi-Fi hotspot, so students can use it at 4 a.m. if they don’t have Wi-Fi at home, whether we’re open or not.” Nemitz is also considering a wireless printing service, so library guests can print from their connected devices for curbside pickup.

“We have a lot of people who love print books and who are suddenly motivated to download books,” says Nemitz. “This kind of thing is going to forever change us. There’s an audience that can’t physically come to our building, and this allows people who previously felt barriers to participate.”

Not all outdoor improvements are tech-driven. “Sometimes the old becomes new again,” says Nemitz, pointing to old book drops located near several branches in her system. “The public loves [them]. The staff collects and quarantines the books. And some of our libraries have a drop-off island, and with curbside pickup it’s ideal.”

Even entrances can become design features. “Our design allows the library to be open and closed in sections,” says Nemitz, who adds that SCPL adopted the concept from a library in Madison, Wisconsin. “We can open just the children’s area or just the adult area, and we can serve different client-els at different times.”

### LOOKING AHEAD

Designers say that the COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity not just to modify libraries but to improve them for future use.

“This is about so much more than having less seating and different planning,” says Kaufman. “It’s about human-environmental interactions, and how can we affect human behavior with simple design tools. In my mind, it’s imagery and spatial reconfiguration that can help people feel more [connected] to each other. Buildings will need to create more usable spaces for people to spread out more, and users need to trust the staff.”

Lesneski says that a lot of existing built environments have barriers that hinder inclusivity at multiple levels, including racially and socioeconomically. She cites a discussion moderated by the Canadian Urban Institute ([bit.ly/AL-CUI](https://bit.ly/AL-CUI)). Ironically, a shift to more equitable spaces will happen because the virus has made decision makers “uncomfortable,” she says. “We [should] remember to expand our lens so that it’s not just about the pandemic but also a long-term overhaul.”



LARA EWEN is a freelance writer based in Brooklyn, New York.

2022

# LIBRARY DESIGN

## SHOWCASE

The year's most impressive  
new and renovated libraries

By Sallyann Price

**W**elcome to the 2022 Library Design Showcase, *American Libraries'* annual celebration of new and renovated libraries that address user needs in inventive, interesting, and effective ways. This year's slate—similar to last year's—features building projects completed during the ongoing pandemic. Despite continued challenges and shifting trends, like the rise in popularity of outdoor programming and convertible features that can adapt to any reality, beautiful new facilities and updated spaces have continued to open to the public. Overhauls and expansions again take center stage, highlighting the innovative ways that communities are honoring existing structures while moving them into the future. For more photos of the showcase entries, visit [americanlibraries.org](http://americanlibraries.org) on September 1. **AL**



Tune in to the September episode of our *Call Number* podcast  
for conversations about library architecture and design.

Listen at [bit.ly/  
CallNumberPodcast](https://bit.ly/CallNumberPodcast)



## ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND

### ◀ **Fulton County (Ga.) Library System, Central Library in Atlanta**

The interior design of the renovated downtown Central Library prioritizes accessibility, flexibility, and transparency, with large windows, multipurpose collaboration spaces, and a two-story atrium wrapping around a central staircase. The building, which is LEED Gold-certified, also emphasizes sustainability. By renovating instead of building entirely new, the library was able to reuse 95% of its existing structure.

**PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Cooper Carry, Moody Nolan **SIZE:** 193,000 square feet  
**COST:** \$44.2 million **PHOTO:** Jonathan Hillyer

### ▼ **Charlotte and William Bloomberg Medford (Mass.) Public Library**

The new Medford Public Library is the first net-zero-energy public library in Massachusetts, meaning that it creates more energy on site than it consumes. More than 600 solar panels line the building's curved, hull-like roofs, which were inspired by the city's rich history as a clipper ship manufacturing hub. The library offers a 100-person multipurpose meeting room, makerspace, tech lab, local history room, and separate reading rooms for adults, teens, and children.

**PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Schwartz/Silver Architects **SIZE:** 45,000 square feet  
**COST:** \$27.5 million **PHOTO:** Paul Burk





## WINDOWS TO THE WORLD

### ▲ Albert B. Weaver Science-Engineering Library and Main Library at University of Arizona in Tucson

Overhauling two floors of two campus libraries in tandem involved converting areas dense with shelving into airy, versatile spaces for student collaboration. The redesign relied on the buildings' original concrete waffle-slab construction and incorporated stunning views of the sunny Tucson campus. Service points and wayfinding elements are shared across the two libraries for a seamless experience. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** The Miller Hull Partnership, Poster Mirto McDonald **SIZE:** 105,000 square feet **COST:** \$16 million **PHOTO:** Chipper Hatter



### Robarts Common at University of Toronto Libraries ▲

The expansion of Robarts Common introduced 50,000 square feet of space for solo and group study over four floors, as well as a new accessible entrance and plaza. The faceted glass façade is a counterpoint to the original concrete structure, bringing in natural light to both illuminate student activity within and invite engagement with the community. **PROJECT TYPE:** Expansion **ARCHITECT:** Diamond Schmitt **SIZE:** 50,000 square feet **COST:** \$31.4 million Canadian (\$24.5 million US) **PHOTO:** Diamond Schmitt

## FOSTERING CREATIVITY

### ▼ Carroll County (Md.) Public Library, Exploration Commons at 50 East in Westminster

Exploration Commons at 50 East is a collaborative learning center outfitted with a workforce development program that includes a state-of-the-art makerspace and a commercial teaching kitchen. The renovation involved retrofitting an existing basement space and adding an exterior elevator, stairs, and a large-format, professional-quality meeting room. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Manns Woodward Studios **SIZE:** 14,000 square feet **COST:** \$6 million **PHOTO:** Maximilian Franz



### ▼ Pasco County (Fla.) Libraries, Starkey Ranch Theatre Library Cultural Center in Odessa

Biophilic design—or the practice of connecting people with nature in built environments—influenced the layout of this library, a partnership with the Pasco County School District to serve students at a neighboring school and the community at large. Glass walls and skylights maximize views of the wetland preserves surrounding the library, and the main entrance includes a living wall of greenery and natural wood accents. The courtyard between the library and the school features a stage for outdoor lectures and programs, performances, movie screenings, and storytimes. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** FleischmanGarciaMaslowski **SIZE:** 28,940 square feet **COST:** \$12 million **PHOTO:** Seamus Payne Commercial Photography



September/October 2022 25

## FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

### ► Sevier County (Tenn.) Public Library System, Williams Family Seymour branch

The expansion of the Seymour branch more than tripled the library's original size, transforming it from a cramped, shadowy space into a bright, open-concept library with a skylight and craftsman-influenced woodwork throughout. The new children's area includes a whimsical story room with murals inspired by historic events, and the library now devotes spaces to tweens, teens, and all-ages programming.

**PROJECT TYPE:** Expansion **ARCHITECT:** SRA Architects **SIZE:** 10,089 square feet **COST:** \$2.5 million **PHOTO:** Robin Cogdill



### ▼ Conyers–Rockdale (Ga.) Library System

This project involved converting a 3,200-square-foot portion of the library's adult collection into a dynamic place for teens to gather and learn. Working within the constraints of the existing structure, the architects added new angular bulkheads overhead to define spatial zones, create a sense of progression, and provide visual interest (unobstructed park views help, too).

**PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture **SIZE:** 3,200 square feet **COST:** \$146,000 **PHOTO:** Kris Decker/Firewater Photography





## SCENIC ROUTES

### ▲ Missoula (Mont.) Public Library, Main Library

The interior main staircase at the heart of Missoula's new Main Library was inspired by a mountain climb, drawing patrons upward through four floors of books and communal spaces, flanked by views of the Montana landscape. The library is colocated with four other organizations, including two science education centers and Missoula Community Access TV, and features a marketplace, demonstration kitchen, genealogy center, and an exterior patio on the top floor for public engagement. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECTS:** MSR Design, A&E Architects **SIZE:** 106,675 square feet **COST:** \$40.7 million **PHOTO:** Lara Swimmer




### ▲ Salt Lake County (Utah) Library, Daybreak branch

The new Daybreak branch was designed to meet neighborhood needs by focusing on outdoor just as much as indoor pursuits. In addition to an amphitheater, the branch boasts a landscaped walking path lined with native plants and a rooftop garden with views of the surrounding mountains. The rooftop space is covered with a solar panel canopy, which has contributed to the library's LEED Gold certification and distinction of being the first net-zero municipal building in Utah. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Arch Nexus **SIZE:** 27,059 square feet **COST:** \$12.6 million **PHOTO:** Salt Lake County Library

2022 ALA/AIA

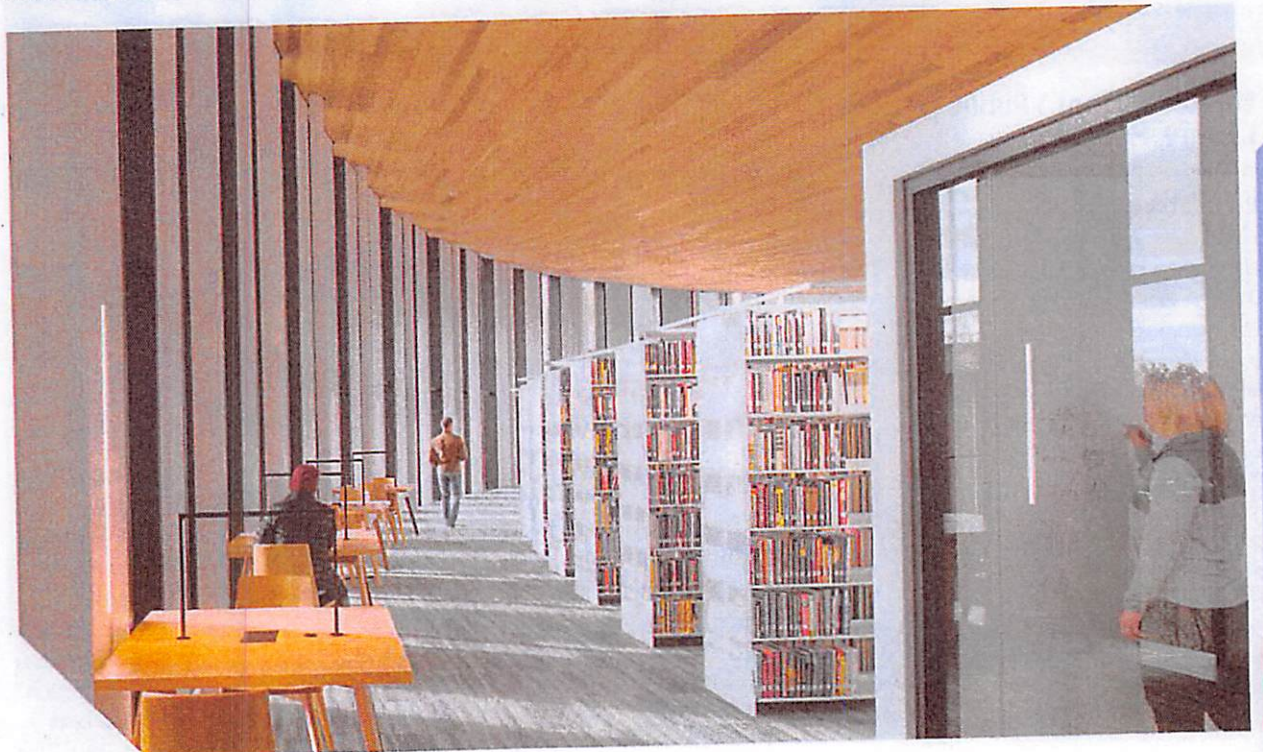
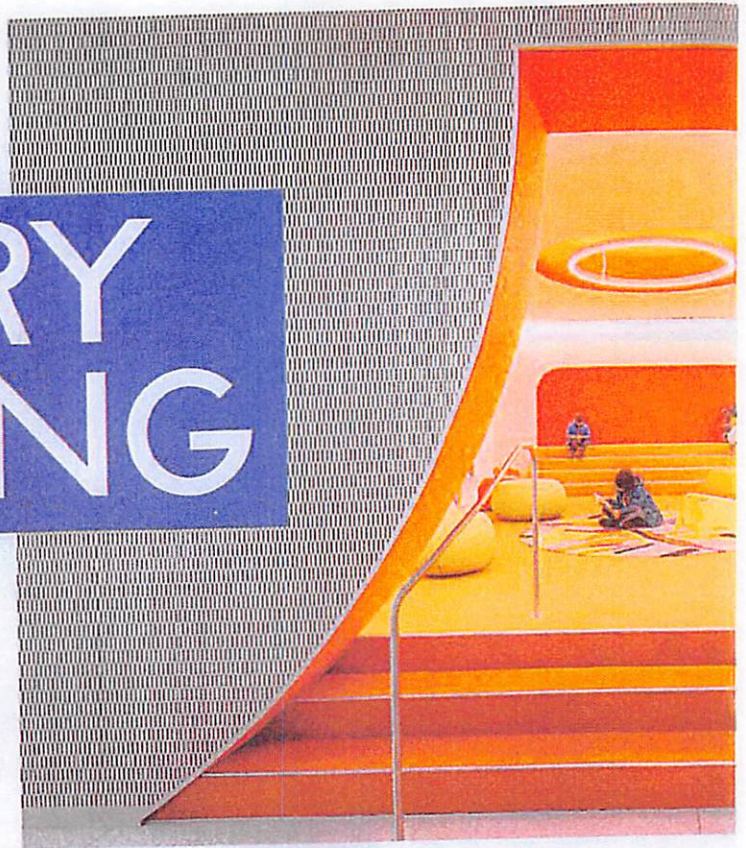
# LIBRARY BUILDING AWARDS

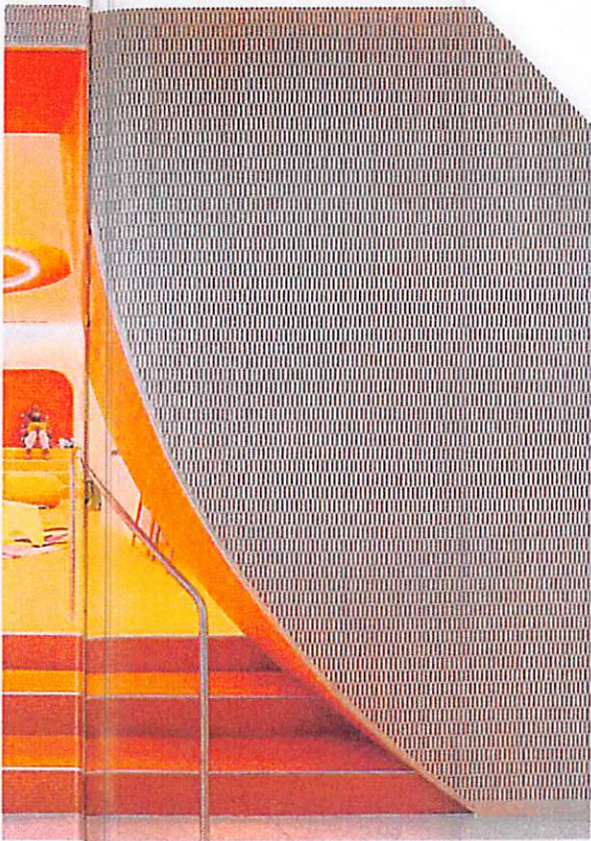
## AWARDS

The following libraries are winners of the 2022 Library Building Awards, sponsored by Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures (a division of the American Library Association) and the American Institute of Architects. The awards recognize the best in library architecture and design and are open to any architect licensed in the United States. Projects may be located anywhere in the world. 

▲ **Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library, Adams Street branch**

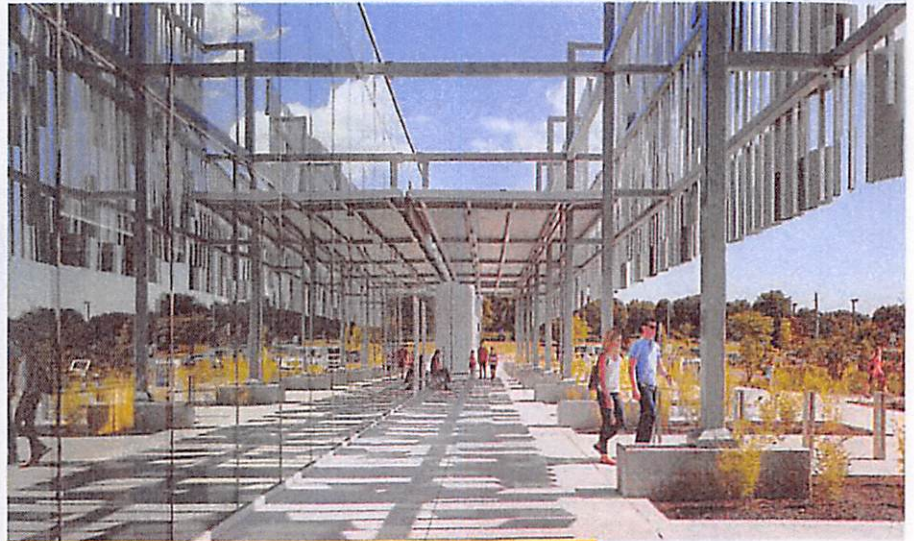
**ARCHITECT:** WORKac (Work Architecture Company)  
**PHOTO:** Bruce Damonte





▶ **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C.**

ARCHITECT: OTJ Architects  
PHOTO: Trent Bell



▲ **Olathe (Kans.) Public Library, Indian Creek branch**

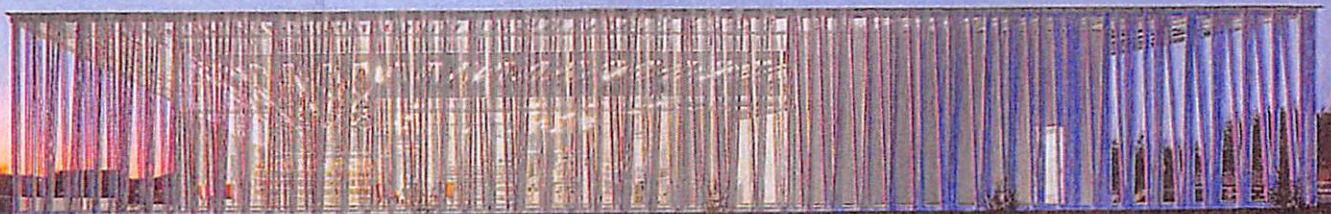
ARCHITECT: Gould Evans  
PHOTO: Michael Robinson Photography

◀ **Cruzen-Murray Library, College of Idaho in Caldwell**

ARCHITECT: Richärd | Kennedy Architects  
PHOTO: Gabe Border

▼ **Maricopa County (Ariz.) Library District, Asante branch**

ARCHITECT: Richärd | Kennedy Architects  
PHOTO: Roehner + Ryan



# 2023 LIBRARY DESIGN

The year's most impressive new and renovated libraries

showcase

BY Sallyann Price

Welcome to the 2023 Library Design Showcase, *American Libraries'* annual celebration of new and renovated libraries that address patron needs in exciting and effective ways. This year's selections represent a return to prepandemic normalcy and demonstrate a firm step into the future, with physical spaces designed to draw in communities, celebrate local history, and acknowledge diverse natural environments. For these overhauls and expansions, form and functionality reign. **AL**

**SALLYANN PRICE** is a writer and editor based in Seattle.



## LIVING HISTORY



### ◀ Cincinnati and Hamilton County (Ohio) Public Library, Walnut Hills branch

The oldest branch in its system and the first of several of Cincinnati's Carnegie libraries, Walnut Hills recently underwent its first significant improvements since its construction in 1906. The branch is now fully accessible. The architects preserved its French Renaissance-style details—red brick, a tile roof, and birch-stained mahogany interior paneling—while doubling its square footage, building more meeting and community spaces, and adding a parking lot. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Fishbeck, Interior Project Management **SIZE:** 22,820 square feet **COST:** \$12.3 million **PHOTO:** Kati Best Photography



### ◀ San Mateo County (Calif.) Libraries, Atherton branch

This light-filled library sits within this wooded northern California community's newly built civic center complex. The site features front and back porches for quiet reading and community connections, an indoor-outdoor makerspace, and a curved design that embraces the surrounding redwoods. The adjacent historic town hall, built in the 1920s, has been converted into the library's multipurpose event space, and retains elements of its classic California mission style. **PROJECT TYPE:** Adaptive reuse **ARCHITECT:** WRNS Studio **SIZE:** 11,874 square feet **COST:** \$20.1 million **PHOTO:** Bruce Damonte

### ▲ Kanawha County (W.Va.) Public Library, Main Library in Charleston

The federal building in downtown Charleston, built in 1911, was originally used as a post office and courthouse. The local library acquired the limestone structure in the 1960s and renovated the interior extensively while preserving its classical façade. Its latest renovation involved adding a west wing to serve as a new entrance; a south wing featuring a café, makerspace, and teen area; and a sky bridge connecting the library to a parking garage. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Silling Architects **SIZE:** 80,000 square feet **COST:** \$32 million **PHOTO:** Josh Beeman Photography

## SCHOOL DAYS

### ▶ Ramapo College of New Jersey, Peter P. Mercer Learning Commons in Mahwah

The renovation and expansion of the former George T. Potter Library, now part of the new Peter P. Mercer Learning Commons, turned the space into a collaborative study and technology center to meet students' evolving needs. The exterior aligns with the original design of neighboring buildings while the new slate-and-glass façade offers enhanced thermal performance, ample daylight, and mountain views. The library's sprawling physical collection has been centralized on the lowest level to make room for collaborative spaces and expanded technology infrastructure. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Bohlin Cywinski Jackson **SIZE:** 80,000 square feet **COST:** \$35 million **PHOTO:** Christian Phillips Photography



### ▼ Central Piedmont Community College, Hagemeyer Library in Charlotte, North Carolina

The Parr Center, the largest building constructed in Central Piedmont Community College's six-decade history, serves as its first-ever student union and gateway to central campus. The complex also includes a theater, an art gallery, a dining area, stunning views of downtown Charlotte, a redeveloped quad, and the new Hagemeyer Library. The library is now outfitted with a makerspace, podcasting and green-screen rooms, and plenty of indoor and outdoor study space. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECTS:** Morris-Berg Architects, Moody Nolan **SIZE:** 66,321 square feet **COST:** \$29.8 million **PHOTO:** Darnell Vennie





◀ **University of Alabama, Angelo Bruno Business Library in Tuscaloosa**

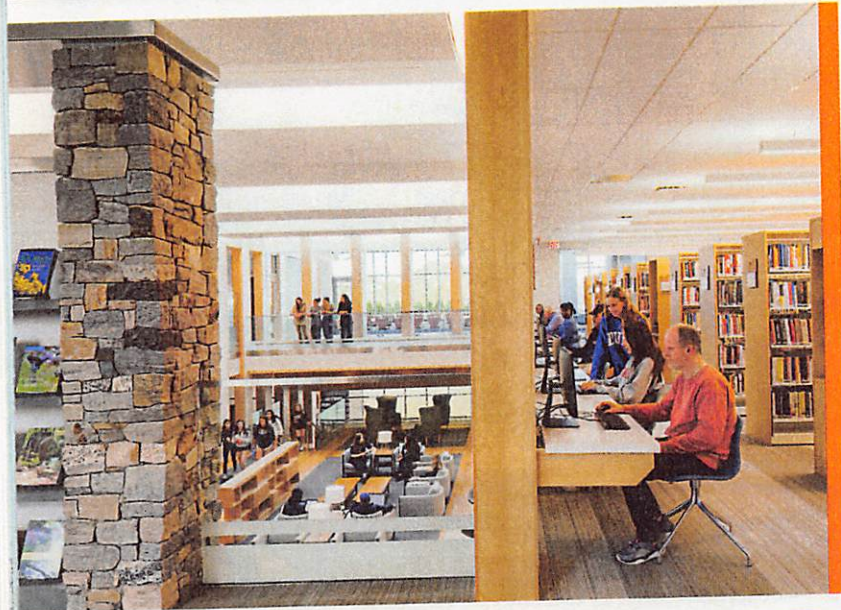
Though the exterior of this 1994 structure remains unchanged, the interior has been dramatically reimagined and reorganized to support students from the Culverhouse College of Business and the Manderson Graduate School of Business. The Jones Business Analytics Information Commons, a new addition, includes a large stock exchange ticker, and the Bloomberg Research Lab replicates real-time trading for students pursuing careers on Wall Street. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** B Group Architecture **SIZE:** 69,700 square feet **COST:** \$9 million **PHOTO:** Jonathan Norris Photography

**SCENIC ROUTE**

▶ **Albuquerque Bernalillo County (N.Mex.) Library System, International District branch**

The Caravan East nightclub on Route 66 was a country music destination for decades before closing its doors in 2016. The new library, built where Caravan East once stood, honors the nightclub's history with a wooden dance floor and a replica of its old sign. The branch also boasts a multigenerational activity room (the first such space in the system), an adult reading room that houses the library's world language collections, a central fireplace, and sweeping mountain views. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** RMKM Architecture **SIZE:** 25,000 square feet **COST:** \$15.7 million **PHOTO:** Patrick Coulie Photography





## CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS

### ◀ Bullitt County (Ky.) Public Library, Central Library in Shepherdsville

The new Central Library was envisioned as an eco-friendly oasis in the heart of the town's main shopping corridor. It features a geothermal HVAC system, rain gardens, and 610 rooftop solar collectors, which produce an estimated 50% of the building's electrical usage. The campus also boasts four courtyard gardens, each representing one of the four classical elements—earth, air, water, and fire—and the four seasons with native plants that flourish throughout the year. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Omni Architects **SIZE:** 45,000 square feet **COST:** \$10.5 million **PHOTO:** Frank Döring Photography

### ◀ New Canaan (Conn.) Library

Known for its midcentury modern architecture, New Canaan is home to iconic structures like Philip Johnson's Glass House and Noyes House, as well as the serpentine River Building at Grace Farms. The new facility references these traditions: dramatic glass elements punctuate dry-laid stone walls, and decorative copper pipes symbolize New England's forests. Expansive flat roofs support solar panels, long overhangs provide shade and reduce energy use, and a new adjacent park offers green space. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Centerbrook Architects and Planners **SIZE:** 42,000 square feet **COST:** \$40 million **PHOTO:** Jeff Goldberg/Esto

### ◀ Contra Costa County (Calif.) Library, Pleasant Hill branch

This new library is partially located on a 100-year flood plain, so its blueprint included flood mitigation strategies, such as stormwater retention basins. Its energy-efficient design incorporates local maple and cedar materials, aims for net-zero carbon emissions, and provides radiant heating and cooling, natural ventilation, and a rooftop solar panel array. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Bohlin Cywinski Jackson **SIZE:** 23,788 square feet **COST:** \$34.5 million **PHOTO:** Matthew Millman Photography



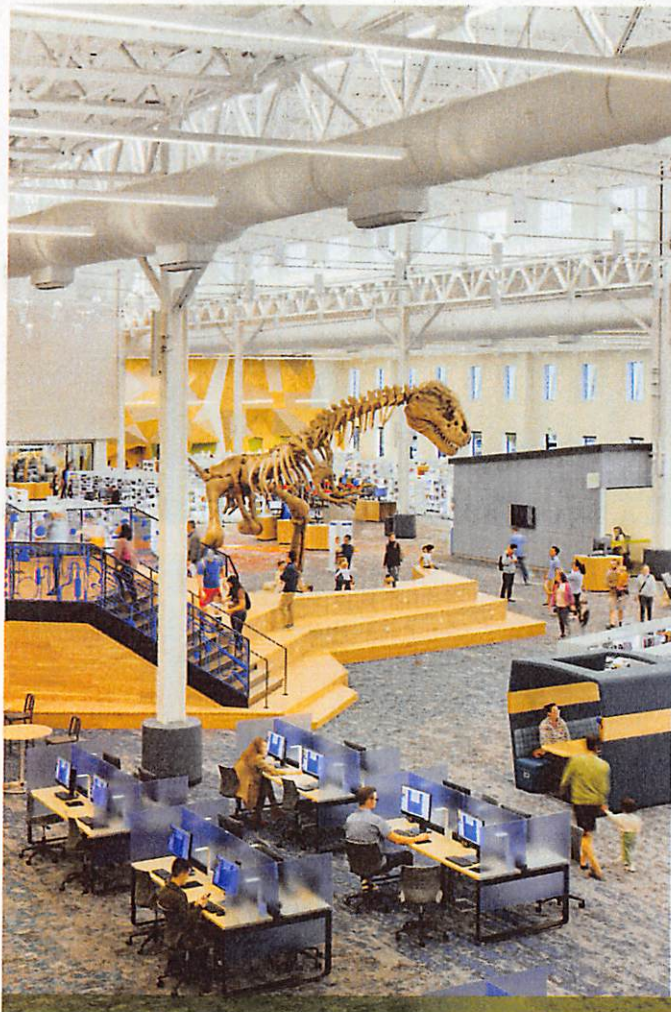
## TOTAL TRANSFORMATIONS

### ▲ Middle Country Public Library in Centereach, New York

This Long Island library moved to its current location in 1972 and has continued to grow to suit shifting demographics and surging demand—including adding a branch in the nearby Selden community. The renovated space in Centereach features state-of-the-art makerspace equipment, an audio-video recording room, and acoustically separated meeting rooms. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECTS:** Bermello Ajamil & Partners, JR Keller **SIZE:** 8,000 square feet **COST:** \$3.4 million **PHOTO:** Jeffrey Totaro

### ◀ Frisco (Tex.) Public Library

This former factory and warehouse, with its soaring ceilings and tilt-wall design, once produced goods ranging from chicken nuggets to rocket parts. The conversion means that this Dallas suburb now has its first standalone library, with design elements reminiscent of the dogtrot-style homes of the Texas Blackland Prairie region in the 19th and early 20th centuries—particularly the interior breezeway connecting the two main points of entry. The site also houses a full-scale T. rex model and honors the area's ecological history with native plants and bioswale water collection. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Gensler **SIZE:** 158,086 square feet **COST:** \$62 million **PHOTO:** Connie Zhou Photography



2023

# ALA/AIA LIBRARY BUILDING awards

The following libraries are winners of the 2023 Library Building Awards, sponsored by Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures (a division of the American Library Association) and the American Institute of Architects. The awards, recognizing the best in library architecture and design, are open to any architect licensed in the US. Projects may be located anywhere in the world. **AL**

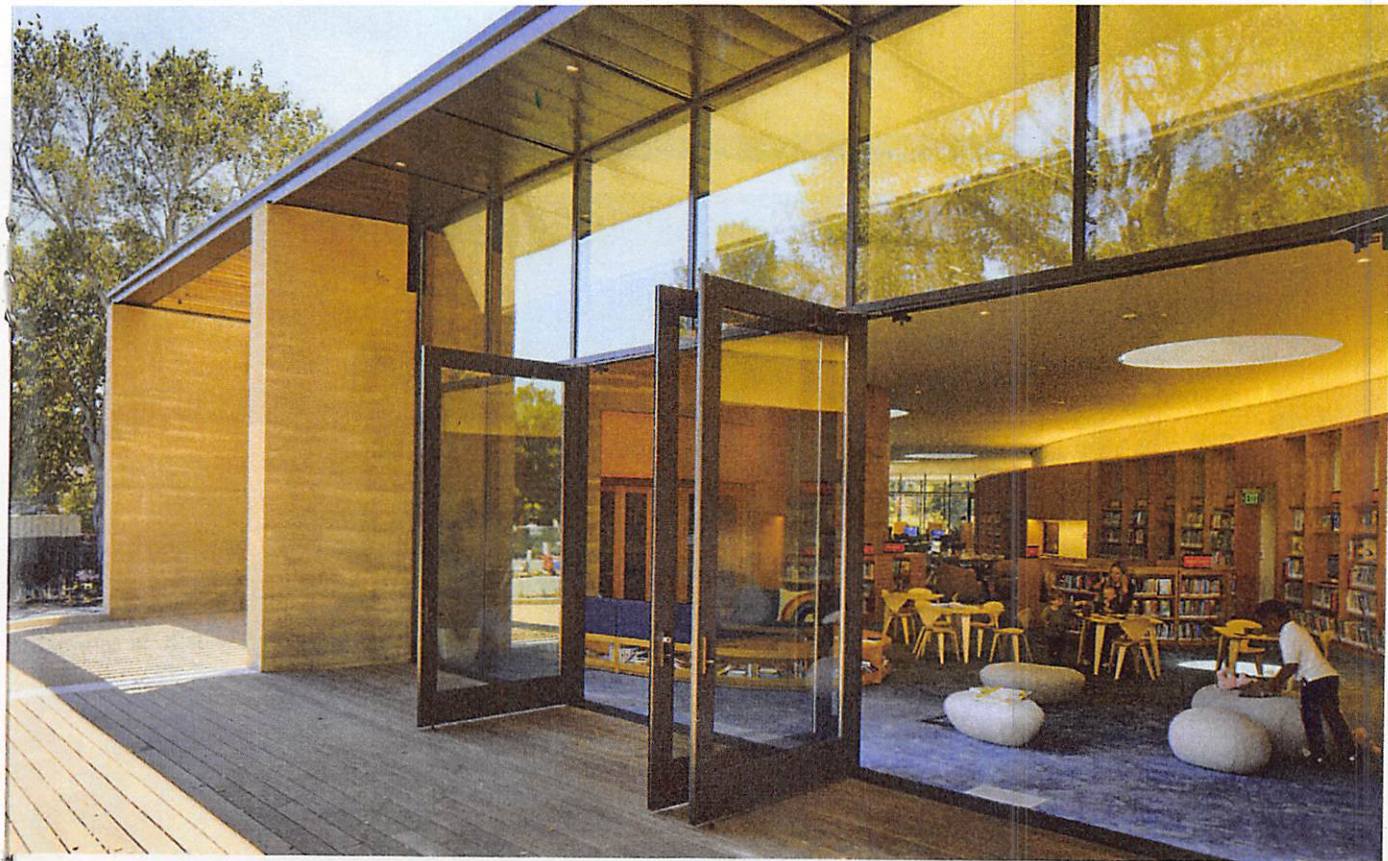


▲ **Louisville (Ky.)  
Free Public  
Library, Northeast  
Regional branch**

ARCHITECTS: MSR Design and  
JRA Architects  
PHOTO: Cory Klein

◀ **Woburn (Mass.)  
Public Library**

ARCHITECT: CBT  
PHOTO: Robert Benson  
Photography



▲ **San Mateo County  
(Calif.) Libraries,  
Atherton Library**

ARCHITECT: WRNS Studio  
PHOTO: Bruce Damonte



◀ **Student Success  
District, University  
of Arizona in Tucson**

ARCHITECTS: The Miller Hull  
Partnership and Poster  
Mirto McDonald  
PHOTO: Chipper Hatter



◀ **Missoula (Mont.)  
Public Library,  
Main Library**

ARCHITECTS: MSR Design  
and A&E Design  
PHOTO: Lara Swimmer

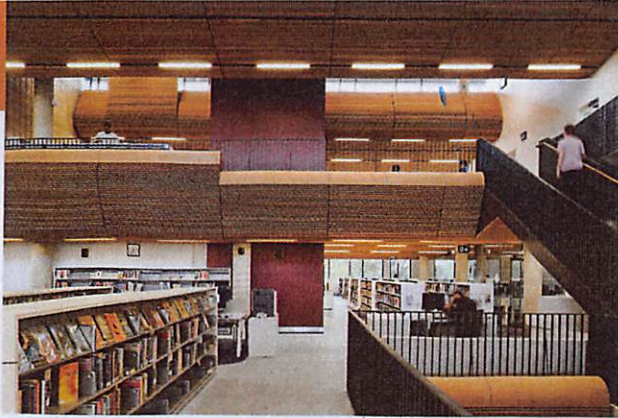
# 2024 LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE

BY Phil Morehart

Welcome to the 2024 Library Design Showcase, *American Libraries'* annual celebration of new and renovated libraries throughout North America. Like the profession itself, library facilities are in a constant state of rebirth and reimagination. Libraries have evolved from places devoted strictly to scholarship and materials collection to true *third spaces*, where diverse communities come together to congregate, learn, and grow while also honoring local history and the environment. This year's showcase selections deserve to be celebrated as prime examples of this progress. **AL**

**PHIL MOREHART** is a communications manager at the American Library Association.

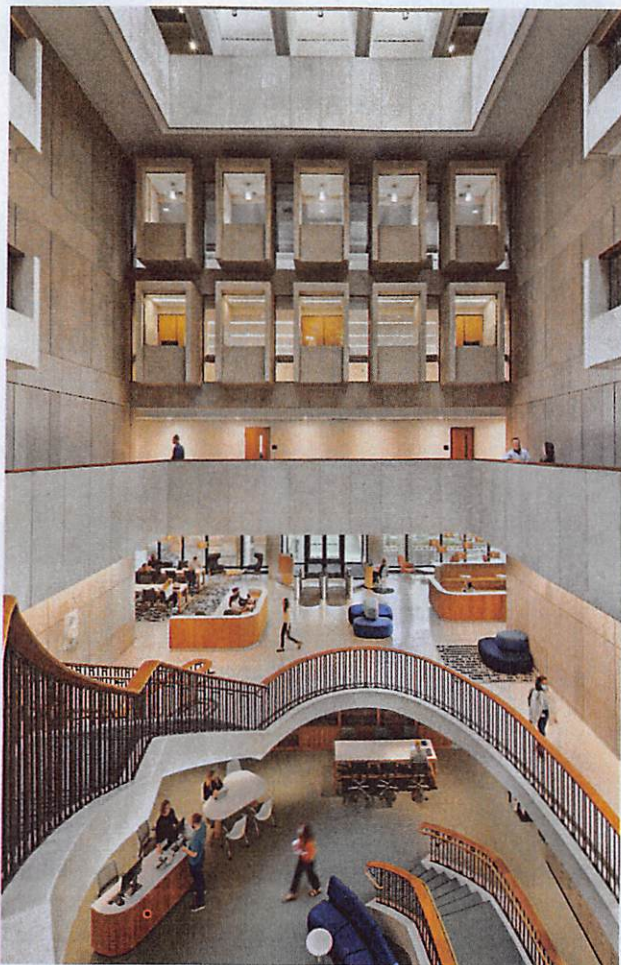




## FROM BRUTAL TO BEAUTIFUL

### ◀ Toronto Public Library, York Woods branch

The York Woods renovation and addition retains the original 1970 brutalist library and connected theater while enhancing them with a new 2,000-square-foot glass entrance pavilion, topped with a timber roof to create a welcoming entryway. The interior retains the original structure but now incorporates exposed concrete beams softened with wood and vibrant acoustic panels. A new two-story transparent atrium and amphitheater staircase opens the space, improves orientation, and creates a safe, accessible environment for users. For local youth, the library also has an updated early literacy center, a teen section with a kitchenette and adaptable furniture, and—in anticipation of plans to establish a music school on the property—a new instrument-lending library. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Diamond Schmitt **SIZE:** 41,000 square feet **COST:** \$11 million Canadian (\$8 million US) **PHOTO:** Lisa Logan Photography



### ◀ Harvard Medical School, The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine in Boston

This reinvigoration of interiors and services transformed an insular, unwelcoming brutalist limestone building from 1965 into a dynamic learning facility. The final phase of this project was completed in July 2023, with work done in phases starting in 2019 while the library remained open. The first floor now serves as the center of library activity, with collaborative seating areas, a café, a campus store, and a versatile event space. Circulation relocated to the lower level, while quiet study zones were moved to the upper level to enhance focus. The interior design, now configured to optimize access to natural light, introduces curved forms, organic and reflective textures, and biophilic motifs that infuse the library with warmth. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Shepley Bulfinch **SIZE:** 42,407 square feet **COST:** \$17 million **PHOTO:** Robert Benson

## RESTORATION RENOVATION

### ◀ Brown County (Wis.) Library, East branch

The East Branch Project was an ingenious renovation project that transformed an old health club—complete with a swimming pool that had to be filled in—into a modern, attractive library. The design included adding a drive-up window, multiple study rooms, a divisible meeting room, a wellness and calming room, seating next to an enclosed fireplace, and the

conversion of an adjacent empty lot into an enclosed garden space. Historic maps and images from the library's archives have been used as murals throughout the building, enhancing its connection to the community. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Somerville Architects and Engineers **SIZE:** 16,400 square feet **COST:** \$6.3 million **PHOTO:** Gary Parker Photography

## FUTURISTIC VISIONS

### ▶ Lexington (Ky.) Public Library, Marksbury Family branch

The new facility addresses critical needs in one of Lexington's most diverse communities by offering spots for gathering and creative expression. Maximizing limited outdoor space, the branch's exterior entryway includes seating designed into the hardscape that extends into the interior, creating a fluid transition between inside and outside. The cornerstone of the facility is its first-floor paseo: a spacious, multifunctional area that encourages meetups and civic activity. Extending off the paseo are meeting spaces and makerspaces. Natural light floods the central atrium, enhancing the vibrant atmosphere. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** EOP Architects/Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning **SIZE:** 30,000 square feet **COST:** \$17.4 million **PHOTO:** JL Jordan Photography

### ▼ Grimes (Iowa) Public Library

An airy, two-story lobby with open stairs beneath a prairie-inspired sculpture greets visitors as they step inside the new Grimes Public Library. The rest of the first floor includes a children's collection and play area, youth program room, sensory room, coffee bar, community meeting rooms, public art gallery, and staff spaces. A mezzanine for teens overlooks the children's section, providing young patrons with spaces, collections, and technology to call their own. The second floor houses the adult collection, which includes a lounge and homey fireplace. The exterior palette of brick, split-face limestone, black-metal panels, and wooden soffits carry into the interior to add warmth and texture. All textures and joint patterns throughout the building were oriented vertically and at a



random pattern to emulate books sitting on shelves. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** INVISION **SIZE:** 22,300 square feet **COST:** \$11.8 million **PHOTO:** Cameron Campbell/Integrated Studio



## ADVANCEMENTS IN ACADEMICS

### ▼ Georgia State University, North Library Study Commons in Atlanta

For this innovative renovation and expansion project, Georgia State University converted a parking area beneath one of its main library buildings into a 19,000-square-foot, student-focused Study Commons. The Study Commons, which added more than 200 seats to the library, includes four gender-neutral, single-user restrooms; a wellness room for nursing mothers; group study and meeting rooms of various sizes; a quiet study room; and a student-operated café. Open until 2 a.m. most days of the week, the Study Commons provides an ideal location for late-night learning after the rest of the facility closes. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** PRAXIS3 **SIZE:** 19,000 square feet **COST:** \$8.2 million **PHOTO:** McGinn Photography



### ▲ Indiana University Bloomington, Education Library

Serving Indiana University's School of Education, this once-in-a-generation renovation breathed new life into a space that hadn't been updated since it opened over three decades ago. Once, the facility mostly comprised rows of tall bookshelves holding legacy microfiche and print collections, including bound journals and dissertations, that no longer reflect the needs of today's students. The library is now a more open, comfortable setting for them to gather and learn. The transformation introduced WORKshop, a simulated classroom that offers teachers-in-training a more realistic setting in which to practice their skills. It also added dozens of new study spaces, including several private rooms and a book discussion area with a long U-shaped sofa that encourages collaboration. Future educators can also take advantage of expanded access to the library's children's literature collections, including a Social Justice Book Gallery. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Fanning Howey **SIZE:** 19,000 square feet **COST:** \$2.1 million **PHOTO:** Natalie Norton

## RED-HOT KIDS ZONE

### ► Calgary (Alberta) Public Library, Fish Creek branch

As part of an extensive building-wide renovation, this branch revamped its second-floor children's area with the addition of Engine 23, a donated, decommissioned fire engine. Previously installed in the former Central Library, the 20-ton engine moved to storage when that building closed in 2018. Now at Fish Creek, it's the cornerstone of an immersive playing and learning experience for children and families, providing a hands-on approach to literacy skill-building and safety education. Young patrons can get behind the wheel, fiddle with switches and levers, dress up in fire gear, play with an interactive map, and enjoy storytimes with local firefighters. An accessible cab gives children and parents who can't access the



fire engine a way to engage in the experience. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** BRZ Partnership Architecture Inc., Carswell Consulting Engineers, and F&D Scene Changes **SIZE:** 50,231 square feet **COST:** \$4 million Canadian (\$2.9 million US) **PHOTO:** Calgary Public Library



## CREATING SPACE FOR EVERYONE

### ▲ Meridian (Idaho) Library District, Orchard Park branch

Using community input and data gathered from focus groups, MSR Design created a library focused on removing barriers to access and expanding all-inclusive services and programs, especially for neurodivergent patrons. The Orchard Park branch's layout goes beyond merely providing a dedicated sensory space. Rather, it creates a holistic experience that's

mindful of sound, durability, lighting, and an extension of tactile surfaces, especially in the children's sections. While there, young patrons can play with touch-sensitive light panels, run their hands through illuminated strands of light, and build their own play area using large blocks, tubes, and other shapes. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECTS:** MSR Design (interior)/CSHQA Inc. (exterior) **SIZE:** 16,218 square feet **COST:** \$3.8 million **PHOTO:** Farm Kid Studios



## AT ONE WITH NATURE

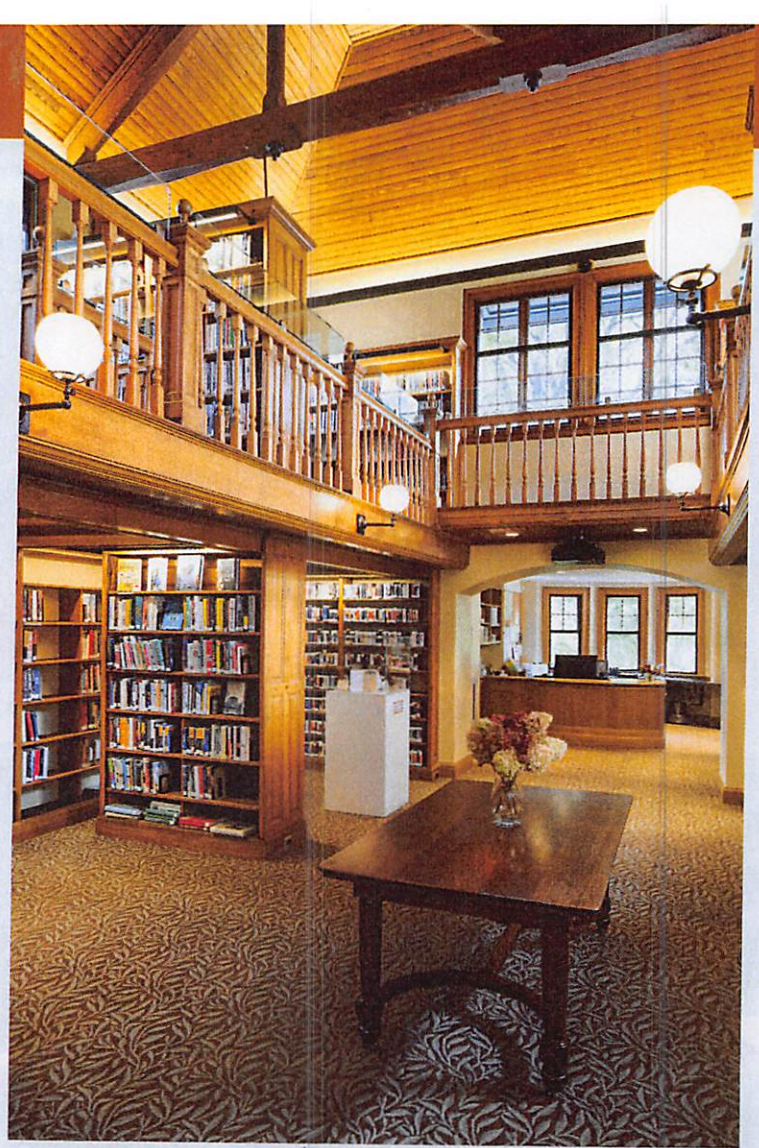
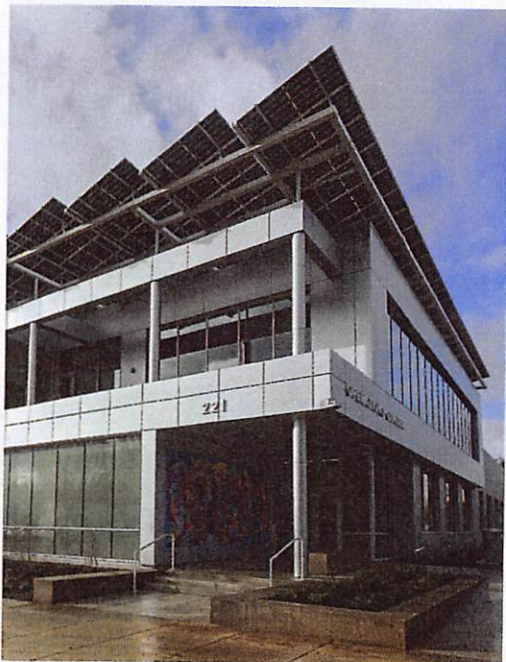
### ◀ Oregon (Wis.) Public Library

In order to expand, the library of this quaint, southern Wisconsin village moved out of downtown and now sits adjacent to the Keller Alpine Meadows and Lerner Conservation parks. The design embraces these natural surroundings, with windows on every floor that provide sweeping views of the parks and flood the library with light, creating a peaceful, bright ambience. Indoor and outdoor learning spaces support the community and integrate the facility into the landscape. A path between the library and conservation park connects to a walking and bike trail and serves as a StoryWalk featuring picture books. Native plants, grasses, and trees are part of prairie restoration plans for the site. Additionally, the library is equipped with solar panels, efficient windows and lighting, water-conserving plumbing fixtures, and a geothermal system. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** OPN Architects **SIZE:** 31,257 square feet **COST:** \$12.4 million **PHOTO:** Alex Michl/OPN Architects

## FORM AND FUNCTION BEHIND THE SCENES

### ▼ Multnomah County (Ore.) Library Operations Center in Portland

The new Operations Center is the beating heart of Multnomah County Library. It's where new books and collections come into the system and hold items are sorted and transferred. There's space for 500,000 library materials and more than 60,000 linear feet of specialized outreach materials, with which the system supports patrons in new immigrant communities, schools, retirement communities, shelters, and other settings. It also uses automated materials handling technology that gets library items to patrons efficiently while making library staffers available for public-facing customer service. The renovated former Safeway building also has more than 600 photovoltaic roof panels and is designed to achieve net-zero energy use. Most of the building is not open to the public, except for Rose City Reads, a storefront operated by the Friends of Multnomah County Library that sells weeded library books, donated books, and other merchandise. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction/renovation **ARCHITECT:** Hennebery Eddy Architects **SIZE:** 73,000 square feet **COST:** \$56.6 million **PHOTO:** Bob Kerns Photography



## HISTORIC FACELIFT

### ▲ Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Connecticut

Built in 1893, Hotchkiss Library was a gift to the town of Sharon by educator, philanthropist, and heiress Maria Bissell Hotchkiss in memory of her late husband; it lies within the Sharon Historical District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The library's restoration and expansion honor its rich history while bringing it into the 21st century with updated spaces, technology, accessibility, and energy efficiency. The architects chose complementary materials and forms—such as the masonry arch over the new entrance, the new roof pitch, and the fascia and soffit—to echo the existing architecture. Custom wall sconces were installed around the mezzanine to replicate fixtures that appear in an antique photograph of the library. Great care was taken to not over-restore; to create a lived-in patina, the woodwork was cleaned and oiled but not stripped and refinished. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** QA+M Architecture **SIZE:** 6,600 square feet **COST:** \$2.8 million **PHOTO:** Jake Snyder, Red Skies Photography

2024

# ALA/IIDA LIBRARY INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS

The American Library Association (ALA) and the International Interior Design Association are pleased to present the winners of the 2024 Library Interior Design Awards. Submissions, open to any library worldwide, are judged by industry professionals based on aesthetics, design, creativity, and function. Of the selected projects, one is named Best of Competition. The winners were recognized in June at ALA's Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Diego. **AL**





## ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

*More than 30,000 square feet*

### ▲ Main Library at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico City

**DESIGN FIRM:** The Beck Group

**PHOTO:** Mauricio Milenkó Rodríguez Panić

### ◀ D. B. Weldon Library at Western University in London, Ontario

**DESIGN FIRM:** Perkins&Will

**PHOTO:** Scott Norsworthy

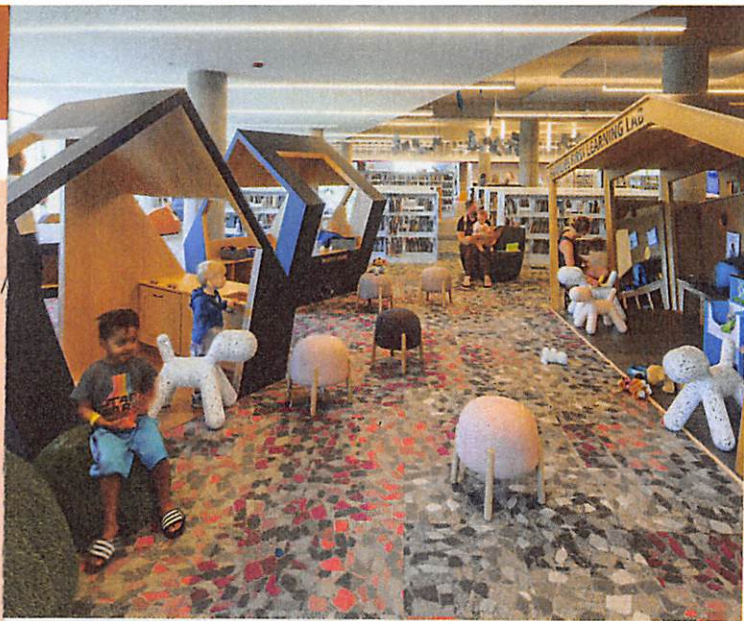
*30,000 square feet and under*

### ▶ North Study Commons at Georgia State University in Atlanta

**DESIGN FIRM:** PRAXIS3

**PHOTO:** McGinn Photography





## PUBLIC LIBRARIES

*More than 30,000 square feet*

### ▲ Missoula (Mont.) Public Library, Main Library

**DESIGN FIRM:** MSR Design

**PHOTO:** Lara Swimmer

### ◀ Shanghai Library East in China

**DESIGN FIRM:** Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects

**PHOTO:** RAWVISION Studio

*30,000 square feet and under*

### ▲ Indianapolis Public Library, West Perry branch

**DESIGN FIRM:** HBM Architecture

**PHOTO:** Megan Ratts Photography

### ▼ Contra Costa County (Calif.) Library, Pleasant Hill branch

**DESIGN FIRM:** Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

**PHOTO:** Matthew Millman Photography





**BEST IN  
COMPETITION**

## OUTSTANDING HISTORIC RENOVATION PROJECT

### ▲ The Commons at Helm Library, Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green

**DESIGN FIRM:** Gensler, Lockett & Farley  
**PHOTO:** McGinn Photography

## SINGLE SPACE

### ▶ Reading Room in Robarts Common at University of Toronto Libraries in Ontario

**DESIGN FIRM:** Superkül  
**PHOTO:** doublespace photography

## ON THE BOARDS

### Mesa (Ariz.) Public Library, Gateway branch

**ANTICIPATED COMPLETION:** March 2025  
**DESIGN FIRM:** Richärd | Kennedy Architects,  
White Baux Studio

### Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library, Marion-Franklin branch

**ANTICIPATED COMPLETION:** August 2025  
**DESIGN FIRM:** EVOKE Studio, Schooley Caldwell



2025

# LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE

The year's most  
impressive new and  
renovated libraries

by Phil Morehart

Welcome to the 2025 Library Design Showcase, *American Libraries'* annual celebration of new and renovated libraries throughout North America.

Today's libraries are places where people from diverse communities can connect, learn, and grow. The institutions featured in this year's showcase embody the library's role as a true third space while honoring local histories and cultures and adhering to sustainable practices.

These constructions and remodels represent a range of budgets, geographies, and styles. From showstopping tourist attractions to creatively repurposed buildings—including a former post office and a pizza parlor—these entries meet patron needs in delightful and surprising ways. **AL**

**PHIL MOREHART** is a communications manager at the American Library Association.





## PRACTICAL UPGRADES

### ◀ Oceanside (N.Y.) Library

Accessibility was at the forefront of Oceanside Library's renovation and expansion. The main entrance was relocated closer to parking and an adjacent crosswalk, and the building's outdated elevator was replaced with two hydraulic elevators. Entry plaza features such as ramps, benches, and bike racks signify that everyone is welcome. Other new amenities include a STEM workshop, demonstration kitchen, craft room, and café. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** H2M architects + engineers; MDA designgroup architects & planners **SIZE:** 48,000 square feet **COST:** \$40 million **PHOTO:** Robert Lowell Photography

## COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

### ◀ Cincinnati and Hamilton County (Ohio) Public Library, Downtown Main Library

This renovation reimagines the Downtown Main Library as a gathering place in the heart of the business district while celebrating the local arts and music scene. A new central atrium with a spiral staircase links spaces for children, teens, and adults. The stairs' glass guardrails feature the names of 1,602 music recordings that span 75 years of Cincinnati's musical heritage. Two redesigned street-level plazas open the library to the city, providing flexible outdoor spaces for events, performances, and everyday use. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Champlin | EOP; Group 4 Architecture **SIZE:** 540,000 square feet **COST:** \$43.4 million **PHOTO:** Wes Battoclette



### ◀ San Diego Public Library, Pacific Highlands Ranch Library

The design of the debut Pacific Highlands Ranch Library is inspired by the area's agrarian past. Three exterior porches create one large community area connecting the library to the public promenade. Glass walls retract to provide direct access to these porches from the library, allowing for indoor and outdoor events. A courtyard installation by a local artist pays tribute to cuneiform clay tablets, native flora and fauna, and the languages of peoples who have historically inhabited this part of San Diego. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** HGW Architecture **SIZE:** 18,000 square feet **COST:** \$20.2 million **PHOTO:** Auda & Auda Photography



## PORTALS TO THE PAST

### ▶ St. Louis County (Mo.) Library, Clark Family branch

A highlight of the new Clark Family branch is the Emerson History and Genealogy Center that holds the library's extensive genealogy and local history collection. The space includes six interactive family-search screens and a memory lab where patrons can record their own family histories. There's also a dedicated room for digitizing photos and converting VHS tapes into digital files. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Lamar Johnson Collaborative **SIZE:** 77,110 square feet **COST:** \$40.7 million **PHOTO:** Kim Rodgers Photography



### ▶ Samuel Freudenthal Memorial Library at Trinidad (Colo.) State College

The renovated Freudenthal Library now houses a variety of environments for learning, including open study spaces, collaborative areas, closed meeting rooms, a student lounge with a fireplace and original mosaic art, an outdoor courtyard, a fire pit, a study hall for focused activity, classrooms, and a new makerspace. The lower level was revamped to house the Loudon-Henritze Archaeology Museum, which offers visitors an overview of millions of years of the area's history. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** studiotrope **SIZE:** 32,473 square feet **COST:** \$9.5 million **PHOTO:** studiotrope



## ROOM WITH A VIEW

### ▶ Denver Public Library, Central Library

Central Library's renovation includes safety and security upgrades and a reconfiguration that accommodates modern programs and services while enhancing the library's role as a tourist destination. Notable improvements include the creation of the Park View Room, with panoramic views of Civic Center Park and the Denver skyline, and a reimagined central hall with open stairs sculpted to represent a folded bookmark. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** studiotrope **SIZE:** 540,000 square feet **COST:** \$59.4 million **PHOTO:** David Lauer Photography

## SUPERIOR SUSTAINABILITY



### ◀ Nashville (Tenn.) Public Library, Donelson branch

An ode to atomic-age architecture, the new Donelson branch is a sleek, modern structure with clean lines and a striking breeze-block wall. This LEED Gold-certified building includes a geothermal heating and cooling system, solar panels, and a bioswale planted with native species. To foster inclusivity and accessibility, pictograms are used in wayfinding signage whenever possible, with English, Spanish, and Arabic text included when needed. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** HASTINGS Architecture **SIZE:** 25,000 square feet **COST:** \$27 million **PHOTO:** McGinn Photography



### ◀ Chabot College Library and Learning Connection in Hayward, California

Chabot College's four-story Library and Learning Connection is a major upgrade from its previous library, with triple the number of study rooms, double the classrooms, and a dedicated space for specialized learning communities and student services. A light-filled atrium and central staircase connect all floors, encouraging movement, visibility, and shared experiences. The building's sustainability features—including energy-efficient materials and an exterior shading system that enhances comfort—have earned it LEED Gold certification. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Group 4 Architecture; HMC Architects **SIZE:** 97,000 square feet **COST:** \$79.74 million **PHOTO:** Lawrence Anderson

### ▼ Deschutes Public Library, Redmond (Ore.) Library

The new Redmond Library prioritizes openness, adaptability, and sustainability. The building is powered by a rooftop photovoltaic array that meets 100% of the structure's annual energy needs. Its all-electric design incorporates mass timber construction such as dowel-laminated panels, which reduce total carbon emissions while maintaining excellent acoustics and achieving the warmth of exposed wood. Large flowing spaces, mobile shelving, and configurable furniture invite multiple uses, while creative labs range from podcasting suites to study rooms. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** The Miller Hull Partnership; Steele Architects **SIZE:** 40,000 square feet **COST:** \$43 million **PHOTO:** Lara Swimmer Photography



## HONORING INDIGENOUS CULTURES

### ► Mearns Centre–McPherson Library, University of Victoria (B.C.) Libraries

The newly expanded student space in the Mearns Centre–McPherson Library emphasizes University of Victoria's commitment to Indigenous values, reconciliation, and decolonization. Key elements include artwork by a local two-spirit Indigenous artist that is integrated throughout the floor plan and a wall-length map depicting the complex historical relationships between Indigenous people and settlers to the region, created in collaboration with the university's anthropology department. **PROJECT**

**TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Jensen Chernoff Thompson Architects **SIZE:** 240,000 square feet **COST:** \$1 million Canadian (about \$758,000 US) **PHOTO:** UVic Photo Services



### ► Labriola National American Indian Data Center at Arizona State University in Tempe

The renovation of the Labriola Center created a centralized Indigenous knowledge zone on the second floor of Hayden Library for celebrating and engaging with American Indian and Indigenous scholarly works and creative writing. The center, led by Indigenous librarians, is a multifunctional space outfitted with formal and informal study areas, murals, a state-of-the-art performance and event venue, and a circulating collection. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Ayers Saint Gross **SIZE:** 4,006 square feet **COST:** \$715,000 **PHOTO:** Chris Goulet/Arizona State University

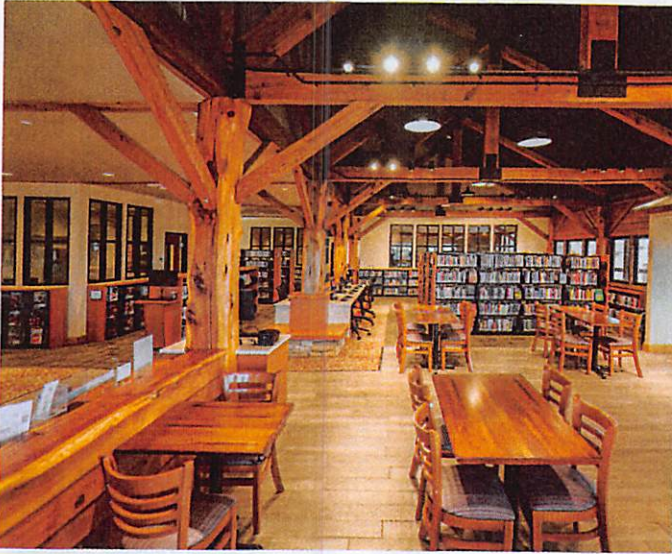


## CELEBRATING ICONS

### ◀ Fulton County (Ga.) Library System, Martin Luther King Jr. Library

Martin Luther King Jr. Library, which sits blocks from King's boyhood home and church in Atlanta, has been transformed from a once dark, unaesthetic facility into a colorful, vibrant space fitting of its namesake. Multiuse functionality was key to the new design: The children's craft area can convert into a meeting room in the evening, and the teen area transforms into a seminar space during school hours. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture **SIZE:** 4,224 square feet **COST:** \$983,375 **PHOTO:** Rion Rizzo/Creative Sources Photography

## RADICAL REIMAGINING



### ◀ Lake Travis Community Library West in Spicewood, Texas

Renovations at the Lake Travis West location highlight the area's unique country character while paying homage to the building's previous life as a pizza restaurant. Open-table seating and pendant lights maintain the pizza-joint vibe, and the former drive-through window is now a pickup spot for reserved materials. The library repurposed the outdoor dining space as a covered patio with hanging lights, fans, shades, and Wi-Fi to provide an accessible 24/7 workspace. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Ascension Architecture **SIZE:** 5,000 square feet **COST:** \$4.6 million **PHOTO:** Regan Morton Photography

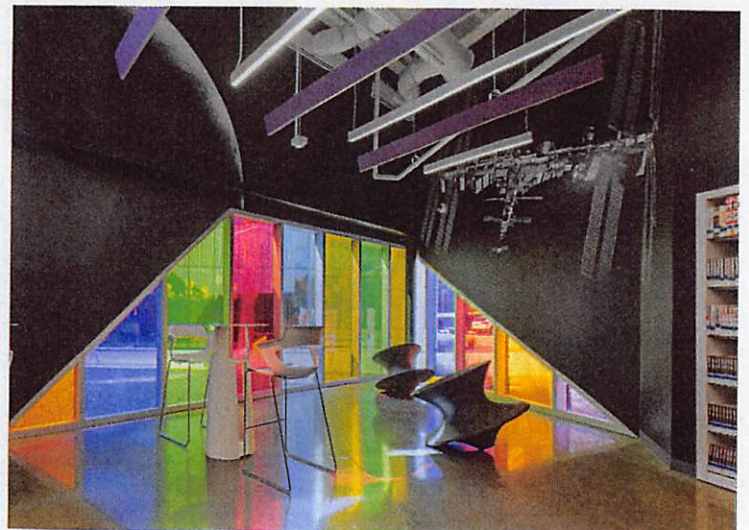


### ▼ McCallum High School in Austin, Texas

Inspired by wabi-sabi, a style that celebrates simplicity and imperfection, McCallum High School redesigned its library on a next-to-nothing budget. Hand-me-down furniture, lamps, and plants were gifted by families of students and staffers. Library aides and creative students painted murals during their off periods, with paint donated from Austin Resource Recovery. Soft lighting was used to make the library feel cozy rather than institutional. Costs mostly consisted of paintbrushes and light bulbs. **PROJECT TYPE:** Redesign **ARCHITECT:** Jain Orr (coordinator) and community **SIZE:** 11,000 square feet **COST:** \$200 **PHOTO:** Shuxian Liu

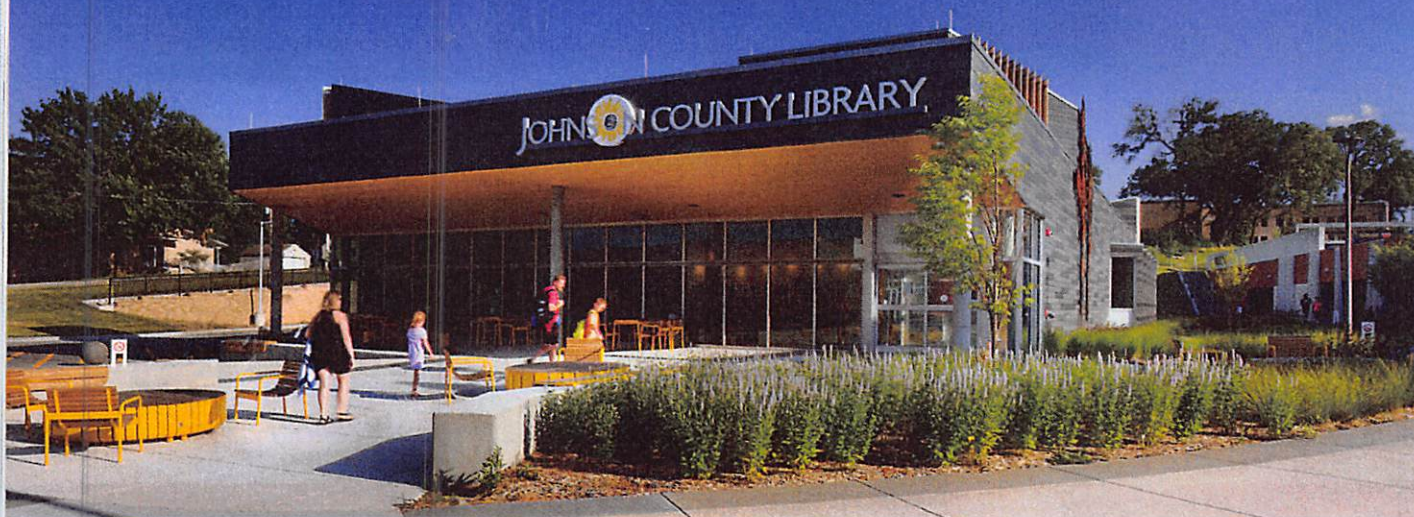
### ▶ Houston Public Library, Shannon Walker Neighborhood Library

Once a forgotten post office, the Shannon Walker Neighborhood Library—named after NASA's first Houstonian astronaut—is an art-filled public gathering center with high-tech equipment for content creators; dedicated spaces for children, adults, and teens; flexible meeting areas; a café; a podcast studio; and private study rooms. Multicolored windows flood the interior and exterior with a spectrum of hues, shifting throughout the day and night to stimulate visual and temporal awareness. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** BRAVE/architecture **SIZE:** 23,260 square feet **COST:** \$16.3 million **PHOTO:** SpawGlass



# 2025 ALA/AIA LIBRARY BUILDING AWARDS

The following libraries are winners of the 2025 Library Building Awards, sponsored by Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures (a division of the American Library Association) and the American Institute of Architects. The awards recognize the best in library architecture and design and are open to any architect licensed in the US. Projects may be located anywhere in the world. **AL**



## ▲ Johnson County (Kans.) Library, Merriam Plaza branch

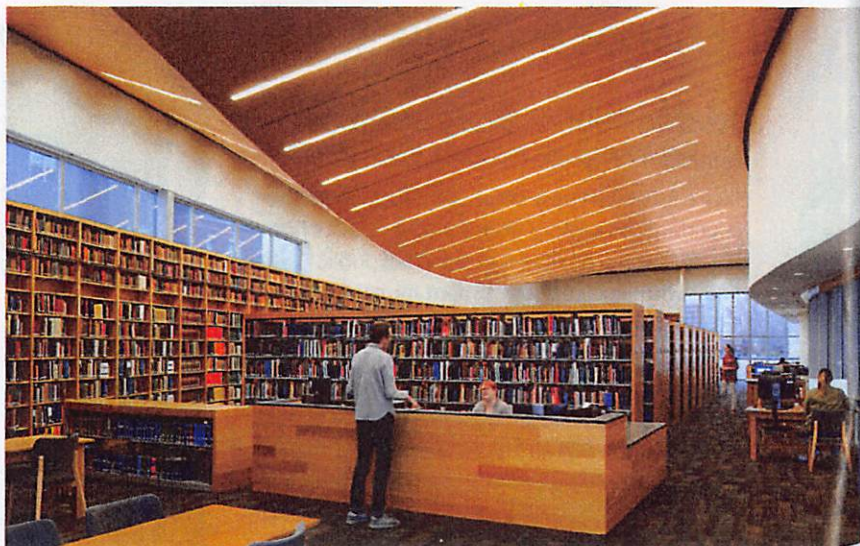
**ARCHITECT:** Dake Wells Architecture

**PHOTO:** Gayle Babcock/Architectural  
Imageworks LLC

## ▶ Center for Missouri Studies, State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia

**ARCHITECT:** Multistudio

**PHOTO:** Steve Hall Photography





▼ **Columbus (Ohio)  
Metropolitan Library,  
Hilltop branch**

**ARCHITECT:** Gresham Smith  
**PHOTO:** Lauren K Davis

▲ **Spokane (Wash.)  
Public Library, Liberty  
Park branch**

**ARCHITECT:** Integrus Architecture  
**PHOTO:** Lara Swimmer Photography

▼ **Contra Costa County  
(Calif.) Library,  
Pleasant Hill branch**

**ARCHITECT:** Bohlin Cywinski Jackson  
**PHOTO:** Matthew Millman Photography







Norwalk Public Library Statistical Comparison 2024-2025

POPOP TRUCK CHILD (Seasonal)	17	9	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
POPOP TRUCK ADULT (Seasonal)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BEACH GIVEAWAYS (Seasonal)	1000	556	391	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	391
TAX DEPARTMENT GIVEAWAYS	408	85	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
FRIENDS FREE BOOK GIVEAWAYS	35800	31500	3000	3000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6000
NORWALK READS GIVEAWAYS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Partnerships															
ADULT	285	355	35	36	38	37	39	38	43	45	43	46	41	33	474
CHILDREN'S	55	73	10	12	14	6	4	4	6	8	6	6	8	6	90
GOAL 5: SOCIAL MEDIA															
FACEBOOK Likes	4219	4729	4736	4754	4783	4787	4793	4800	4810	4815	4820	4829	4837	4931	4931
INSTAGRAM Followers	3880	8694	3723	3722	3738	3751	3778	3782	3801	3831	3855	3889	3921	3988	3988
TIKTOK (SoNo)	331	455	486	512	522	559	583	596	600	599	613	621	634	638	638
YOUTUBE Views	18121	6939	820	954	1025	554	238	304	306	230	297	294	390	288	5700
LIBGUIDE Views	28141	25465	2493	1964	1059	967	945	1796	1879	1442	1215	1093	1275	3121	19249
WEBSITE Views - Main	238545	234181	26049	25424	23659	23470	20948	21902	30686	28500	26049	28747	28361	29923	313718
WEBSITE Views - SoNo	16103	16122	2872	5510	5412	5385	5409	5698	5709	5954	5978	5450	4998	5147	63522
GOAL 6: USAGE INDICATORS															
DOOR COUNT - MAIN	301385	327653	28795	36708	24535	31045	23692	23184	27041	27881	30378	29970	28257	28931	340417
DOOR COUNT - SONO	48668	65614	5708	4945	4369	4452	3344	3560	3486	3496	4292	4300	3999	4333	50284
TOTAL DOOR COUNT	350053	393267	34503	41653	28904	35497	27036	26744	30527	31377	34670	34270	32256	33264	390701
LIBRARY CARDS ADM															
LIBRARY CARDS ADM	1767	1973	205	236	143	138	116	92	155	159	168	128	162	138	1840
LIBRARY CARDS ADS	625	614	45	60	48	22	48	30	49	48	59	44	51	51	555
LIBRARY CARDS CHM	4713	13505	46	97	29	29	24	14	41	33	474	28	31	39	885
LIBRARY CARDS CHS	53	39	7	3	14	1	1	0	1	1	3	4	0	0	35
LIBRARY CARDS YAM	20	22	6	30	7	1	1	0	1	2	4	2	1	1	56
LIBRARY CARDS YAS	12	12	1	5	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	3	0	16
LIBRARY CARDS MAIN TEMP	46	90	4	0	5	1	1	1	4	1	3	7	2	8	37
LIBRARY CARDS SONO TEMP	11	56	2	0	2	0	4	2	2	6	1	1	2	3	25
GOAL 6: USAGE INDICATORS															
TOTAL NEW LIBRARY CARDS - ADULT	2373	2319	250	296	191	160	164	122	204	207	227	172	213	189	2395
TOTAL NEW LIBRARY CARDS - CHILD	633	599	53	100	43	30	25	0	42	34	477	32	31	39	906
TOTAL NEW LIBRARY CARDS - YA	54	34	7	35	7	1	4	0	1	3	5	3	4	1	71
TOTAL NEW LIBRARY CARDS - TEMP	96	148	6	0	7	1	0	0	6	7	4	8	4	11	54
TOTAL NEW LIBRARY CARDS	7278	16160	316	396	234	190	189	122	246	241	704	204	244	228	3974

Norwalk Public Library Statistical Comparison 2024 - 2025

<b>VALID NON-EXPIRED CARDS</b>	<b>38241</b>	<b>37450</b>	<b>37399</b>	<b>37174</b>	<b>36697</b>	<b>36342</b>	<b>36081</b>	<b>34341</b>	<b>34794</b>	<b>35751</b>	<b>35852</b>	<b>35541</b>	<b>35099</b>	<b>35293</b>	<b>35293</b>
<b>VALID DATABASE ONLY CARDS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>VALID STUDENT ISSUED CARDS</b>	<b>11799</b>	<b>11799</b>	<b>11896</b>	<b>11893</b>	<b>11877</b>	<b>11580</b>	<b>11550</b>	<b>11551</b>	<b>11540</b>	<b>11535</b>	<b>11698</b>	<b>11694</b>	<b>11685</b>	<b>11996</b>	<b>11996</b>
<b>TOTAL WIFI</b>	<b>108169</b>	<b>134286</b>	<b>13762</b>	<b>14417</b>	<b>11984</b>	<b>13626</b>	<b>15192</b>	<b>14814</b>	<b>17262</b>	<b>14157</b>	<b>15145</b>	<b>14909</b>	<b>15341</b>	<b>14922</b>	<b>175531</b>
<b>TOTAL DOWNLOADS</b>	<b>73293</b>	<b>85447</b>	<b>8844</b>	<b>8776</b>	<b>8352</b>	<b>8379</b>	<b>8819</b>	<b>9019</b>	<b>10174</b>	<b>9311</b>	<b>9185</b>	<b>9545</b>	<b>9735</b>	<b>9384</b>	<b>109523</b>
WIFI HotSpot Kit Checkouts	294	168	10	13	9	12	11	10	10	9	9	6	5	4	108
Laptop Checkouts	318	677	81	81	40	64	54	42	111	96	91	68	42	66	836
MUSEUM PASSES CHECKOUTS	336	368	63	65	30	43	36	29	22	29	23	53	48	40	481
MATERIAL CHECKOUTS ADM	48039	44542	4451	4360	3659	3725	3542	3205	3836	3678	3779	3538	3425	3646	44844
MATERIAL CHECKOUTS ADS	9296	4492	359	299	407	690	586	558	669	636	515	680	643	609	6651
MATERIAL CHECKOUTS CHM	62685	62051	8383	5836	4594	5073	4966	3839	4875	5021	5351	4419	4251	5292	61900
MATERIAL CHECKOUTS CHS	11036	11191	941	796	817	958	823	659	925	742	1228	973	881	970	10713
MATERIAL CHECKOUTS YAM	3196	3344	578	383	252	198	268	249	300	341	340	310	247	431	3897
MATERIAL CHECKOUTS YAS	655	476	50	34	47	27	33	45	91	60	81	73	82	100	723
MATERIAL CHECKOUTS POPUP TRUCK ADUL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MATERIAL CHECKOUTS POPUP TRUCK CHILD	799	808	131	62	22	36	50	23	25	27	38	31	14	29	488
MATERIAL RENEWALS ADM	26208	25075	2183	2180	2200	2198	1793	1835	1947	1814	2051	1948	1851	1727	23727
MATERIAL RENEWALS ADS	4809	2854	167	135	126	224	294	301	326	306	570	249	292	256	3246
MATERIAL RENEWALS CHM	21455	19766	1536	1497	1347	1444	1588	1419	1498	1260	1682	1756	1189	905	17121
MATERIAL RENEWALS CHS	4697	4426	426	367	392	444	337	316	450	333	403	415	355	320	4558
MATERIAL RENEWALS YAM	1966	1735	157	185	172	117	124	90	125	139	115	108	130	107	1569
MATERIAL RENEWALS YAS	231	383	34	51	30	6	14	8	48	61	32	25	27	20	356
MATERIAL RENEWALS POPUP AD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MATERIAL RENEWALS POPUP CH	193	145	11	13	15	11	13	15	8	8	9	20	4	2	129
<b>TOTAL RENEWALS CHECKOUT</b>	<b>59559</b>	<b>54384</b>	<b>4514</b>	<b>4428</b>	<b>4282</b>	<b>4444</b>	<b>4163</b>	<b>3984</b>	<b>4402</b>	<b>3921</b>	<b>4862</b>	<b>4521</b>	<b>3848</b>	<b>3337</b>	<b>50706</b>
<b>TOTAL MATERIAL CHECKOUT</b>	<b>135706</b>	<b>126904</b>	<b>15047</b>	<b>11929</b>	<b>9877</b>	<b>10826</b>	<b>10369</b>	<b>8659</b>	<b>10864</b>	<b>10639</b>	<b>11455</b>	<b>10151</b>	<b>9638</b>	<b>14414</b>	<b>133868</b>
<b>TOTAL CHECKOUTS</b>	<b>195265</b>	<b>181288</b>	<b>19561</b>	<b>16357</b>	<b>14159</b>	<b>15270</b>	<b>14532</b>	<b>12643</b>	<b>15266</b>	<b>14560</b>	<b>16317</b>	<b>14672</b>	<b>13486</b>	<b>23798</b>	<b>190621</b>
<b>TOTAL NON-ENGLISH HELP</b>	<b>5946</b>	<b>6778</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>6846</b>
<b>TOTAL REFERENCE</b>	<b>68597</b>	<b>85526</b>	<b>5976</b>	<b>7066</b>	<b>5923</b>	<b>6213</b>	<b>5766</b>	<b>6002</b>	<b>6405</b>	<b>6378</b>	<b>7307</b>	<b>7267</b>	<b>8946</b>	<b>8893</b>	<b>82142</b>
<b>TOTAL ZOOM BOOKINGS</b>	<b>1556</b>	<b>1523</b>	<b>5976</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>7325</b>
<b>TOTAL ROOM BOOKINGS</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1040</b>
<b>GOAL 6: USAGE INDICATORS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEPT</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE</b>	<b>YTD</b>
PUBLIC COMPUTERS ADM Sessions	11844	12275	1038	1229	932	1199	954	938	965	871	1153	977	898	989	12143
PUBLIC COMPUTERS ADS Sessions	3876	1343	0	0	43	166	187	129	194	168	303	228	234	262	1914
PUBLIC COMPUTERS YAM Sessions	164	106	29	45	57	57	30	26	62	45	35	10	23	35	454
PUBLIC COMPUTERS YAS Sessions	282	114	0	0	2	1	6	0	1	3	10	6	4	6	39
PUBLIC COMPUTERS CHM Sessions	746	839	114	115	37	67	41	61	40	95	159	128	112	190	1159
PUBLIC COMPUTERS CHS Sessions	128	537	104	122	51	21	3	17	19	55	80	75	55	52	654
PUBLIC KIOSKS Main Sessions	152	335	20	39	25	21	19	16	47	49	45	30	20	31	392

Norwalk Public Library Statistical Comparison 2024-2025

PUBLIC KIOSKS SoNo Sessions	69	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	9	4	21	45
PUBLIC COMPUTERS ADM Minutes	933907	833142	81512	98457	78212	90025	70065	68992	58600	54485	64738	53408	52742	61154	832390
PUBLIC COMPUTERS ADS Minutes	173563	80154	0	0	4256	13946	14301	9291	17141	12427	15771	12288	12029	14381	125831
PUBLIC COMPUTERS YAM Minutes	7550	13306	5355	5244	18278	24672	12322	9681	10163	7577	6237	709	2561	4335	107134
PUBLIC COMPUTERS YAS Minutes	12577	10399	0	0	6	1	169	0	95	44	78	70	50	80	593
PUBLIC COMPUTERS CHM Minutes	52784	52543	8409	7081	1965	3833	1617	2893	1300	4769	5471	3317	4011	7380	52046
PUBLIC COMPUTERS CHS Minutes	4716	21987	4177	5280	2511	1047	81	2156	895	2135	2021	2600	1553	2020	26476
PUBLIC KIOSKS Main Minutes	12221	79800	15150	18044	15394	12965	12614	2039	5885	8697	8178	3744	3027	5464	111201
PUBLIC KIOSKS SoNo Minutes	2376	2190	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	315	1557	357	629	2858
TOTAL ADULT SESSIONS	15720	13618	1038	1229	975	1365	1141	1067	1159	1039	1456	1205	1132	1251	14057
TOTAL YA SESSIONS	446	220	29	45	59	58	36	26	63	48	45	16	27	41	493
TOTAL CHILD SESSIONS	874	1596	218	237	88	88	44	78	59	150	239	203	167	242	1813
TOTAL KIOSK SESSIONS	221	364	20	39	25	21	19	16	47	49	56	39	24	52	407
TOTAL MAIN SESSIONS	12906	13555	1201	1428	1051	1344	1044	1041	1114	1060	1392	1145	1053	1245	14118
TOTAL SONO SESSIONS	4355	2023	104	122	96	188	196	146	214	226	404	318	297	341	2652
TOTAL ADULT MINUTES	1107470	913296	81512	98457	82468	103971	84366	78283	75741	66912	80509	65696	64771	75535	958221
TOTAL YA MINUTES	20127	23705	5355	5244	18284	24673	12491	9681	10258	7621	6315	779	2611	4415	107727
TOTAL CHILD MINUTES	57500	98233	12586	12361	4476	4880	1698	5049	2195	6904	7492	5917	5564	9400	78522
TOTAL KIOSK MINUTES	14597	81990	15150	18044	15394	12965	12614	2039	5885	8697	8493	5301	3384	6093	114059
TOTAL MAIN MINUTES	1006462	978791	110426	128826	113849	131495	96618	83605	75948	75528	84624	61178	62341	78333	1102771
TOTAL SONO MINUTES	193232	114730	4177	5280	6773	14994	14551	11447	18131	14606	18185	16515	13989	17110	155758
TOTAL SESSIONS	17261	15578	1305	1550	1147	1532	1240	1187	1328	1286	1796	1463	1350	1586	16770
TOTAL MINUTES	1199694	1093521	114603	134106	120622	146489	111169	95052	94079	90134	102809	77693	76330	95443	1258529
GOAL 7: COLLECTION SIZE	2023	2024	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	YTD
Books on CD/Kits (spoken word)	2858	2176	2034	2120	2432	2150	2270	2254	2226	2143	2142	2108	2141	2145	2145
Music	1715	1279	1197	1281	1592	1347	1350	1352	1352	1352	1352	1352	1352	1325	1325
DVDs	22242	21754	20499	20609	20741	20612	20382	20444	20220	20080	20113	20123	19950	20037	20037
eBooks	809271	935867	1010894	1072304	1088318	1111109	1103857	1130501	1157857	1027971	989805	1062817	1040515	1045032	1045032
eAudioBooks	561125	687522	711828	724379	730455	738576	642495	751649	758976	768806	779634	786089	793394	817541	817541
eAV (movies and TV)	58053	63587	62257	63858	63673	64173	64671	65087	60649	64171	64154	65432	66934	67548	67548
eMagazine (Overdrive)	4758	5037	5185	5292	5351	5470	5531	5534	5633	5724	5576	5672	5747	5732	5732
Adult Print Books	71834	71843	69884	70054	70177	70559	70963	70973	71076	71642	71887	71679	71590	71266	71266
YA Print Books	10377	10117	9620	9790	9824	9710	9632	9464	9443	9378	9461	9390	9471	9471	9471



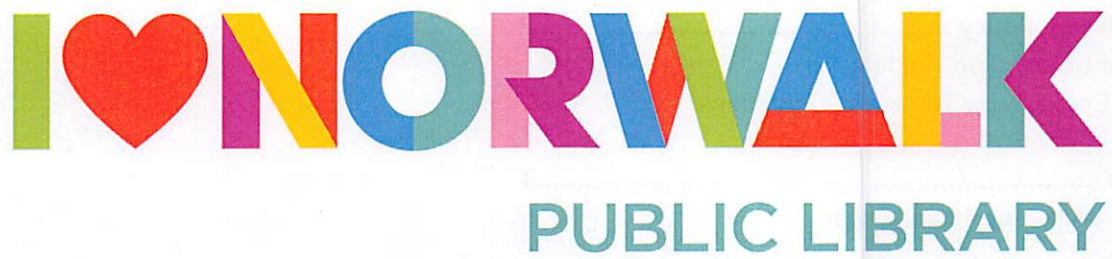
# **NPL POLICIES**

Circulation

Homebound

Materials Donation

Museum Passes



# Circulation Policy

DRAFT

*Updated by the Norwalk Public Library Board of Directors  
September 11, 2025*

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## **I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

### **NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY OVERVIEW**

The Norwalk Public Library (NPL), comprised of the Main Library, 1 Belden Avenue, and the South Norwalk Branch Library (SoNo), 10 Washington Street, has 160,000 print books for public circulation. Our collection also includes board games, blood pressure monitors, museum passes, and sizable physical and digital movie, magazine, and newspaper collections accessible to NPL card holders both remotely and within our buildings.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Norwalk Public Library, with our open access to diverse resources, serves as the information and cultural center for Norwalk's citizens and businesses.

### **CIRCULATION OBJECTIVE**

Library materials belong to Norwalk residents. The library director prioritizes the protection of library materials in collaboration with the library board of directors. The circulation objective supports the library's mission. NPL's goal is to have every eligible Norwalk resident obtain a library card and to responsibly use the materials. While NPL is fine free, replacement fees and other charges are levied to recoup costs for lost or damaged items, and to ensure fair access to library materials.

### **CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY GUIDELINES**

**The Connecticut State Library's BorrowIT CT/DeliverIT CT** regulations stipulate that Connecticut residents obtain a public library card from their town of residency. Once the card is obtained, cardholders may register their cards at other public libraries in Connecticut with the identification required by those libraries. These regulations allow public library card holders to borrow physical materials from most public libraries in Connecticut. The borrower is responsible for returning materials to the libraries from which they borrow. If patrons return items from other libraries, staff will transfer care of those items to the **BorrowIT CT/DeliverIT CT** system. Returns are not immediate. Returns can take up to six months and the borrower is responsible for any fees incurred.

## **II. GENERAL CIRCULATION POLICY**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF LIBRARY CARD HOLDERS**

Library cards are non-transferrable. Third-party permission may be given to a designee to pick up items on hold in their stead. If done in person, the designee's library card or ID will be requested for proof of identity. Parents are automatically allowed to pick up their children's holds. Having family members' cards linked is particularly helpful when identifying family members who are allowed to pick up each other's holds. Cardholders and designees are strongly encouraged to have their library cards for transactions. They will be required to provide the month and day of the cardholder's birthday when they don't have the card and when transactions take place by phone.

Library card owners are responsible for all activity on their library card. Parents/guardians are responsible for all activity on their minor's library card.

### III. LIBRARY CARDS

#### GETTING A LIBRARY CARD: LIBRARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Patrons may apply for a library card in person or online.
- Online applications must be completed in person in order to show appropriate ID and proof of residence.
- Library cards expire on the last day of the month, three (3) years after the card is issued.
- Temporary cards and cards for non-residents who work or attend school in Norwalk expire on the last day of the month, one (1) year after the card is issued.
- There is no cost to renew expired library cards, or to replace them; however, any charges exceeding \$25.00 must be paid before a renewal or replacement card is issued. Borrowers follow the same process as getting a new card, providing appropriate ID and proof of residence.
- While we require proper identification to be shown at the time of opening or renewing a library card, the only information recorded into our system is full name, phone number, email, home address, and birthday.

#### LIBRARY CARDS FOR ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER

##### Residents

To qualify for a Norwalk Public Library card, residents must verify their identity and Norwalk residency by presenting either one ID from section A or two IDs from section B.

**A.** Photo IDs that are signed, valid, current, and include the applicant's name and Norwalk address:

- \*Connecticut driver's license
- \*Connecticut photo ID
- \*Emergency Individual Fact Sheet
- \*U.S. passport with photo and home address

**NOTE: If the passport does not list a home address, then a second ID will be required.**

**B.** Two printed pieces required, one from each column:

**PROOF OF IDENTITY**

- \*Employee photo ID
- \*School ID with photo (current year)
- \*Green Card/Permanent Resident Card with photo
- \*U.S. Military Card with photo

**PROOF OF CURRENT NORWALK RESIDENCY**

- \*Norwalk tax bill
- \*Lease/rental agreement
- \*Auto registration
- \*Mail addressed to applicant's Norwalk address within three months

**A post office box address is not considered proof of Norwalk residency.**

**Non-Connecticut state IDs with a Norwalk address are not acceptable.**

**Photo IDs that have been expired for four months or more are not acceptable.**

##### Open Doors Shelter Residents

Adults who reside at Open Doors must provide a letter from a case manager on Open Doors letterhead verifying Merritt Street residency. Once the letter is presented, staff will process the application. If the adult has children under the age of 18 who want library cards, those names must be on the letterhead as well. Please note that these cards expire on the last day of the month, one (1) year after the card is issued.

### **Domestic Violence Crisis Center Residents**

Adults who reside at Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) housing in Norwalk must provide a letter from a case manager on DVCC letterhead. For their safety, DVCC addresses in Norwalk and Stamford are acceptable. If the adult has children under the age of 18 who want library cards, those names must be on the letterhead as well. Please note that these cards expire on the last day of the month, one (1) year after the card is issued.

### **Emancipated Minors**

The State of Connecticut issues a letter of emancipation to emancipated minors. To obtain a library card, emancipated minors must present a State of Connecticut letter of emancipation, appropriate ID, and verification of Norwalk address as described in the GETTING A LIBRARY CARD section.

### **Homebound Patrons**

To obtain or renew a library card and to check out items, homebound services are provided to NPL cardholders who are Norwalk residents and are temporarily or permanently unable to travel to the library. Homebound patrons must provide a letter designating an adult, age 18 and older, as their representative. To obtain a library card for a homebound patron, the designee must present proof of identification and residency on behalf of the patron, along with an application completed, signed, and dated by the patron. To renew a library card, the designee must present proof of identification and residency on behalf of the patrons. To check out items, the designee must have the patron's library card. The designee will be asked for their identification, as well. Cards expire on the last day of the month, three years after the card is issued. Please see our homebound policy.

### **Adult Temporary Cards**

Temporary cards are given to Norwalk residents 18 and older who can only provide an ID from the PROOF OF IDENTITY section, or who can only provide information from either column of section B, but not from both. The cardholder has access to our virtual/online materials and may borrow a maximum of two (2) physical items at one time. Temporary cards expire the last day of the month, one (1) year after the card is issued. **"For use in NPL only" is added to the name label on the card.** Patrons who receive temporary cards are urged to bring in the missing requirements as soon as possible so the cards can be upgraded to full-privilege cards

### **LIBRARY CARDS FOR YOUTH AGE 17 AND UNDER**

- Minors must accompany a parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult when applying for a library card.
- Parents/legal guardians must present a current, valid photo ID and proof of Norwalk residency.
- A responsible adult, 18 and over, may also present physical or photocopied proof of identification and residency on behalf of the parent/guardian, along with an application completed, signed, and dated by the parent/guardian.
- By signing the library card application, parents/legal guardians assume responsibility for all materials borrowed on youth cards and for payment of replacement or other charges.
- If the parent/legal guardian does not have a photo ID, please see the YOUTH TEMPORARY CARD section.
- Youth from birth to age 11 are assigned the CHILD patron type in the Integrated Library System (ILS), also known as the library system database.
- Youth ages 12 to 17 are assigned the YOUNG ADULT (YA) patron type in ILS, but are given the choice of the youth card design or the adult card design. **Youth library cards expire on the last day of the month, three (3) years after the card is issued, or on the last day of the month of the patron's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.** This should be reflected in the expiration date. If a youth card expires within four months of the patron turning 18, the patron type classification will be YA.

## **Schools and Nonprofit Organizations**

Organization library cards are intended for schools and nonprofit organizations to check out books to be used at their institution. Applications must list a designated card owner, such as a director, assistant director, principal, manager, or finance director, from within the organization, who will be responsible for the card and lost items. The owner's name will be placed on the C/O address line of the organization's library account. The applicant must show proof that he/she is employed by the organization and provide a letter on company letterhead stating that they have permission to apply for an organization card. The application should include the names of employees who have permission to use the card. The names will be placed in the note field on the record. If the card owner leaves the organization, the card can be transferred to another owner by submitting the transfer request in writing on company letterhead. These cards expire on the last day of the month, one year after the card is issued.

## **Youth Temporary Cards**

Temporary cards are issued to youth ages 12 to 17 under the following circumstances:

- No parent/guardian/responsible adult is present to apply for a library card.
- The minor attends school in Norwalk and can present a current, valid school ID or report card.
- Parent/guardian is present but cannot show required proof of identification, or proof of Norwalk residency per the PROOF OF IDENTITY section requirements.

Youth temporary cardholders have access to our virtual/online materials and may borrow a maximum of two (2) physical items at one time. Temporary cards expire the last day of the month, one (1) year after the card is issued.

**The phrase "For use in NPL only" is added to the name label on the card.** All patrons who receive temporary cards are urged to bring in the missing requirements as soon as possible so the cards can be upgraded to full-privilege cards.

## **Norwalk Public Schools Student Cards**

NPL and Norwalk Public Schools (NPS) have partnered to provide every student in the NPS district with equitable access to NPL's digital and physical resources through the integration of student ID numbers as barcodes on NPL's children's and young adult library cards. All students enrolled in Norwalk Public Schools are automatically issued a digital NPL card using their student ID number. This library card is valid for accessing digital resources and borrowing up to five (5) physical items.

Students who already have a library card will retain both cards; both are fully functional.

Students may obtain a physical library card at any NPL location. A parent or guardian must be present and provide valid identification.

## **LIBRARY CARDS FOR NON-NORWALK RESIDENTS**

Non-Norwalk residents can have their hometown cards registered with Norwalk Public Library by bringing in a photo ID, proof of residency, and their unexpired hometown library card that has the expiration date on it. See PROOF OF IDENTITY section. The expiration date is set by the hometown library. In the absence of an expiration date, staff will provide a courtesy expiration of three weeks from the date of the transaction to give patrons time to renew their library cards or to bring in the library card with a valid expiration date.

## **Work in Norwalk**

Non-Norwalk residents who work in Norwalk may be issued a library card for use only in the Norwalk Public Library System. **The phrase "For use in NPL only" is added to the name label on the card.** A photo ID and proof of current employment are required for applicants employed in Norwalk. Acceptable proof of employment are a recent pay stub or a current work-based email. Business cards and undated work photo IDs are not sufficient proof of current employment in Norwalk. This card expires on the last day of the month, one (1) year after the card is issued.

### **Attend School in Norwalk**

Non-Norwalk residents who attend school in Norwalk may be issued a full-privilege library card with a current, valid Norwalk school ID, official school paperwork, or online documentation confirming an applicant's current enrollment, along with proof of current home address. This card expires on the last day of the month, one (1) year after the card is issued.

### **FORGOTTEN LIBRARY CARDS**

Borrowing without a library card present is allowed if the borrower shows acceptable identification in order to protect patron accounts. Acceptable identification is listed in the PROOF OF IDENTITY section. If library cards are forgotten during library visits and patrons wish to check out items, renew items, or obtain the card number, a photo ID is preferable; however, other forms of ID can be used. They include, but are not limited to:

CT driver's license/photo ID  
Passport  
Work ID

Student ID  
Class schedule with student's name  
Bus schedule with student's name

If patrons do not have photo ID, then a few identifying questions will be asked, such as, but not limited to:

Address  
Birthday (Month/Day)  
Phone number

It is preferred that patrons have their library cards when calling the library to renew items. If they do not, then identifiable questions will also be asked. For patrons who regularly fail to bring their library card, a replacement card will be recommended, provided the patron in question can meet the requirements for a card.

### **RENEWAL/REPLACEMENT OF LIBRARY CARDS**

There is no cost to renew or replace lost or expired cards. Expired accounts are renewed for the time period corresponding to the type of library card involved, i.e., a standard adult card renews for another three years, a non-resident Norwalk employee card for another one year, and so on. Unless expiration is imminent, a replacement for a lost card can be issued using the original expiration date.

- Charges exceeding \$25.00 must be paid before a renewal or replacement card is issued.
- Appropriate ID and proof of residency/employment/schooling must be verified again.
- For patrons under age 18, all parental information must be validated and updated before renewing card. Parent/guardian or designated adult with photocopy of parent/guardian ID and required documentation must be present. **Temporary cards are an exception, please see the YOUTH TEMPORARY CARDS section.**

## **IV. CIRCULATION OF MATERIALS**

## **NON-CIRCULATING MATERIALS**

Office materials, reference collection materials, and current issues of magazines do not circulate unless the department supervisor approves the transaction.

## **HOLDS/RESERVES**

Card holders may place a maximum of 30 holds per account at any given time. DVDs, Blu-rays, and hardware items will be held for two days. Because DVDs and Blu-rays are only held for two days, staff will alert patrons of their holds by phone if there is no email address listed on the account. If the patron is not available, a message will be left that items are available for pickup, but for patron privacy the names of the items will not be revealed. All other items are held for seven days. Other means of correspondence, based on information in the patron's account, will be sent to notify them that their items are ready for pick up.

Museum passes are not available for holds/reserves. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis only.

## **RENEWALS**

Circulating items may be renewed a maximum of seven times in person, by phone or online, unless another borrower has placed a hold on the item, library fees exceed \$25.00, or the library account has expired. Museum passes are not renewable.

## **CHECK OUT ANYWHERE / RETURN ANYWHERE**

Borrowers may check out and return both adult and children's materials at checkout desks anywhere in the system and return them anywhere in the system. The exception is museum passes. They must be returned only to the point of distribution per the borrower's agreement.

## **LIBRARY NOTIFICATIONS**

NPL attempts to communicate with patrons for a variety of reasons regarding borrowed materials. Some of them are listed below. The library is not accountable for correspondence that does not successfully reach the intended recipient.

### **Courtesy Notice**

A courtesy notice is sent one day before an item reaches its due date. The library is not responsible for correspondence that does not successfully reach the intended recipient. When correspondence is returned or bounces back, a staff member will try to reach the patron to get updated contact information.

### **Overdue Notice**

Overdue notices are sent after the due date has passed. The timing of these notices depends on the type of item borrowed. The library is not responsible for correspondence that does not successfully reach the intended recipient. When correspondence is returned or bounces back, a staff member will try to reach the patron to get updated contact information.

## Billed Items Notice

Borrowers are billed for replacement of unreturned items. The timing of these notices depends on the type of item borrowed. The library is not responsible for correspondence that does not successfully reach the intended recipient. When correspondence is returned or bounces back, a staff member will try to reach the patron to get updated contact information.

## OVERDUE AND BILL NOTICES

Description	Loan Period	Renewal Period	Renewals Allowed	Overdue sent	Bill Sent
Audiobooks	21	21	7	1 at 7 days overdue	1 at 21 days overdue
Blu-rays	7	7	7	1 at 3 days overdue	1 at 7 days overdue
Board Games	7	7	7	1 at 3 days overdue	1 at 7 days overdue
Board Games - In house	1	0	0	1 at 1 day overdue	1 at 6 days overdue
Books	21	21	7	1 at 7 days overdue	1 at 21 days overdue
DVDs	7	7	7	1 at 3 days overdue	1 at 7 days overdue
ENLV	56	56	7	1 at 7 days overdue	1 at 21 days overdue
Hardware	14	14	7	1 at 3 days overdue	1 at 7 days overdue
ILL Materials	21	0	0	1 at 3 days overdue	1 at 14 days overdue
Kiosk Laptops – In house	1	0	0	1 at 2 hours overdue	1 at 9 hours overdue
Kits	21	21	7	1 at 7 days overdue	1 at 21 days overdue
Magazines	7	7	7	1 at 3 days overdue	1 at 7 days overdue
Museum Passes	3	0	0	1 at 3 days overdue	1 at 6 days overdue
Music/Misc. CDs	21	21	7	1 at 37 days overdue	1 at 21 days overdue
Paperbacks	21	21	7	1 at 7 days overdue	1 at 21 days overdue

## INCOMPLETE RETURNS

It is the cardholder's responsibility to make sure that all parts of multi-part items are returned. If an item is returned missing one or more pieces, the item will not be removed from the borrower's account. Staff will try to contact the patron. If the problem is not resolved, the item will eventually be billed for replacement. Borrowers are charged either for the missing piece(s) or, in some cases, the entire item in question.

## REPLACEMENT COSTS

Cardholders are responsible for paying the replacement cost based on the type of material lost or damaged beyond repair. The library sets the standard replacement costs and processing fees for items. **Please note that the library does not accept replacement items for lost or damaged materials.**

## DEFAULT REPLACEMENT COSTS FOR MATERIALS

The library does not accept replacement items provided by patrons for lost or damaged materials. If no replacement cost is indicated on an item's record, items will be charged as follows.

ITEM	REPLACEMENT COST
Audiobooks	\$50
Blu-rays and DVDs - Adult	\$25
Blu-rays and DVDs – Children's	\$10
Blu-rays and DVD Cases	\$1
Books – Adult Hardcover	\$25
Books – Adult Mass Market Paperback	\$8
Books – Adult Trade Paperback	\$15
Books – Children's Board	\$6
Books – Children's Hardcover	\$15
Books – Children's Paperback	\$8
Board Games	\$25
CDs	\$18
Kit Bag – Children's Department	\$10

**The library does not source single replacement discs. A replacement charge for the entire audiobook, Blu-ray/DVD series, CD set will be charged if any of the discs are lost or damaged.**

## PAYMENT METHODS FOR LOST ITEMS

Fees for lost items may be paid at Norwalk Public Library circulation desks or online. We accept cash, checks, credit/debit cards, and money orders made payable to Norwalk Public Library. Payment may also be mailed to either library location by sending to the attention of the circulation department. The library does not accept American Express. **We also do not accept \$50 or \$100 bills.** Patrons are reimbursed funds paid for lost items if the items are returned in useable condition, with payment receipt, within thirty (30) days of payment. Credit card payments may be reimbursed to the original credit card used. All other forms of payment will be reimbursed by check from the City of Norwalk. No refunds will be offered for materials returned after the 30-day grace period following payment of replacement cost.

## PARTIAL PAYMENT PLAN

When accumulated charges exceed the \$25.00 limit, a stop is automatically placed on the borrower's card. In hardship cases, Circulation staff members may decide to allow special payment arrangements.

## CLAIMS RETURNED

When a borrower believes an item has been returned, but the computer shows it as outstanding, reference staff will check the shelf for the item. If the item is not found, the circulation staff may offer to renew the item(s) if possible, to give the patron more time to search at home. As a last resort, staff may use the claims returned function in the library circulation system. This is generally considered a one-time option for each borrower.



## Homebound Services Policy

### Bringing the Library to You

Are you a Norwalk resident who is unable to visit the library due to medical/physical immobility? Eligible patrons can have up to 10 library items delivered to them every 3 weeks. There is no fee for this service.

To apply, please complete the following forms.

- [Application for Homebound Services](#)
- [Reading and Material Preference form](#)
- [Hold Harmless Release form](#)

**Call the main library at 203.899.2780 Ext. 15109** if you cannot complete the forms online.

**Call the SoNo library at 203.899.2790 Ext. 15911** if you cannot complete the forms online.

#### Additional Information:

- Homebound services are provided to Norwalk Public Library resident card holders who are temporarily or permanently unable to travel to the library.
- When requesting this service, the patron may be asked to describe the need for homebound services.
- Delivery and pickup of materials will be at regularly scheduled times every three weeks. The delivery days are Wednesdays or Saturdays between 11:30am and 2:30pm.
- Library staff will check out the requested materials on the patron's library card.
- Items borrowed will be picked up three weeks from the day they were originally delivered.
- Materials that are not readily available may be placed on hold. The patron will receive notification when the materials are being delivered.
- Homebound patrons are responsible for fees associated with lost or damaged materials.

**Any abuse of this service will result the loss of the privilege to use it.**

Approved by the NPL Board of Trustees DATE



## Material Gifts and Donations

Norwalk Public Library (NPL) welcomes gifts of books, DVDs, and music CDs for the following:

1. Local History Room Collection
2. General (Main Library and South Norwalk (SoNo) Library adult or children's collections)

Please specify which of the two (2) categories you are donating, or if your donation is a general donation for the library to determine how to use.

All donations become the exclusive property of NPL. NPL reserves the right to dispose of any gifts that are given to the library. Materials not added to library collections may be used for programs or given to other local organizations such as, but not limited to schools and senior centers.

### GUIDELINES

NPL accepts material donations at our main library, 1 Belden Ave. and our SoNo library, 10 Washington St. on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** during business hours.

### THE GENERAL RULE:

**If you would not want this item on your shelves, please don't donate it to NPL.**

- Please do not donate damaged books with stains, broken bindings, missing pages, mustiness, mildew, water damage or excessive notes or highlighting.
- Magazines, record albums (vinyl), 8-tracks, cassettes, and videocassettes (VHS) are not accepted.
- Non-fiction, informational books should be no more than two (2) years old to avoid providing outdated or inaccurate information to patrons; some topics, like technology or medical information must be newer than two (2) years old.
- NPL does not accept textbook or encyclopedia donations.

NPL does not appraise donations or attest to the fair market value of materials. However, NPL will provide a gift receipt that has an area for the donor to fill in the value. Donors should make an itemized list of donated items and/or seek expert assistance in establishing value if needed for tax purposes.

**Donations will only be accepted during library hours when given to a staff member.**

PLEASE DO NOT leave donations when the library is closed.

PLEASE DO NOT leave donations in our book returns.

PLEASE DO NOT leave donations on library premises without speaking to a staff member.

If you are considering a large volume donation of books or other materials, please call the Library Director at 203.899.2780 ext. 15123 before bringing your gifts to the Library.

We DO NOT pick up donations.

**Approved by the NPL Board of Trustees 7.11.25**

# MUSEUM PASS POLICY



Museum passes are available to adults, age 18 and older, with a library card in good standing in the Norwalk Public Library system. Passes are available at adult circulation desks on a walk-in basis only.

Checkout is limited to one (1) per household for three (3) consecutive days. Passes cannot be reserved or renewed. At six (6) days overdue, borrowers will be charged the FULL replacement cost of the museum pass. **The charge varies from \$75 to \$500, depending on which museum pass was borrowed.**

Museum passes must be returned to the circulation desk of the library from where they were borrowed. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN MUSEUM PASSES IN THE BOOK DROP. Returning them any place other than the circulation desk from where they are checked out will result in a \$5.00 fee.

**RETURNING MUSEUM PASSES LATE MORE THAN TWICE WILL RESULT** in losing the privilege of borrowing any pass for (6) months.

Due to the popularity and the limited availability of museum passes, patrons and all members of a single household are asked to wait two (2) business days before borrowing another museum pass.

My signature below confirms that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of this agreement.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## OFFICE USE ONLY

Patron Barcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass Barcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Museum Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**LIBRARY REMAINING BALANCES FROM FYE2025 WAGES**

<b>OBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>REMAINING BALANCE FYE2025</b>
5110	Regular Wages	\$52,998 (3%)
5120	Overtime Wages	\$1,955 (5%)
5121	Premium Wages	\$1,543 (25%)
5140	Part Time Wages	\$62,845 (9%)
5150	Longevity	\$475 (8%)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$119,816</b>

**Estimate 6.23.25**

Part-time (PT) payroll  
 March April May 2025: \$167,880

\$167,880 x4 = \$671,523.12/annual  
 (42-47 employees)

PT cap hours 19.5/week  
 19.5x52 weeks = 1,014 hours/year  
 for each PT employee

**SCENARIO 1 PER EMAIL BELOW**

\$1 raise for all PT staff except shelvers (who received a minimum wage increased January 2025) and custodians.

56 PT employees: \$1, 027,041.84  
 \$1, 027,041.81 - \$671.523.12 =  
**\$355,518.72 additional needed**

**SCENARIO 2 PER EMAIL BELOW**

\$2 raise for all staff except shelvers (who received a minimum wage increased January 2025) and librarians (who haven't had a raise since before 2012).

56 PT employees: \$1, 078,344  
 \$1, 078,344 - \$671.523.12 =  
**\$406,820.88 additional needed**

**SCENARIO 1: \$1 Raises for all positions except shelver and custodians: 12 MONTHS**

QTY	Library Position	YEAR (EMPLY QTY x 12)	YEAR (INDIV x 12)	1/2 Year (6Mths)	1/2 Year (6mths)	5 Months	5 Months (INDIV)	Monthly (INDIV)	BI- Weekly	Weekly	Daily	Wages	Hrs/Wk
8	PT SHELVER	\$62,784.00	\$7,848.00	\$31,392.00	\$3,924.00	\$26,160.00	\$3,270.00	\$654.00	\$327.00	\$163.50	\$122.63	\$16.35	10
2	PT CUSTODIANS	\$31,824.00	\$15,912.00	\$15,912.00	\$7,956.00	\$13,260.00	\$6,630.00	\$1,326.00	\$663.00	\$331.50	\$127.50	\$17.00	19.5
4	PT LIBRARY CLERKS (PTLC)	\$67,392.00	\$16,848.00	\$25,272.00	\$8,424.00	\$28,080.00	\$7,020.00	\$1,404.00	\$702.00	\$351.00	\$135.00	\$18.00	19.5
30	PT LIBRARY ASSIST (PTLA)	\$561,600.00	\$18,720.00	\$168,480.00	\$9,360.00	\$163,800.00	\$7,800.00	\$1,560.00	\$780.00	\$390.00	\$150.00	\$20.00	19.5
11	PT LIBRARIANS (PTL)	\$280,977.84	\$25,543.44	\$153,260.64	\$12,771.72	\$74,501.70	\$10,643.10	\$2,128.62	\$1,064.31	\$532.16	\$204.68	\$27.29	19.5
1	SECRETARY	\$22,464.00	\$22,464.00	\$134,784.00	\$11,232.00	\$65,520.00	\$9,360.00	\$1,872.00	\$936.00	\$468.00	\$180.00	\$24.00	19.5
56	<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>\$1,027,041.84</b>	<b>\$107,335.44</b>	<b>\$529,100.64</b>	<b>\$53,667.72</b>	<b>\$371,321.70</b>	<b>\$44,723.10</b>	<b>\$8,944.62</b>	<b>\$4,472.31</b>	<b>\$2,236.16</b>	<b>\$919.80</b>		←→ 12 MTHS

**SCENARIO 2: RECOMMENDED 2025-26 PT Rates \$4 raises for librarians and \$2 raises for all other positions 12 MONTHS**

QTY	Library Position	YEAR (EMPLY QTY x 12)	YEAR (INDIV x 12)	1/2 Year (6Mths)	1/2 Year (6mths)	5 Months	5 Months (INDIV)	Monthly (INDIV)	BI- Weekly	Weekly	Daily	Wages	Hrs/Wk
8	PT SHELVER	\$62,784.00	\$7,848.00	\$31,392.00	\$3,924.00	\$26,160.00	\$3,270.00	\$654.00	\$327.00	\$163.50	\$122.63	\$16.35	10
2	PT CUSTODIANS	\$35,568.00	\$17,784.00	\$17,784.00	\$8,892.00	\$14,820.00	\$7,410.00	\$1,482.00	\$741.00	\$370.50	\$142.50	\$19.00	19.5
4	PT LIBRARY CLERKS (PTLC)	\$71,136.00	\$17,784.00	\$26,676.00	\$8,892.00	\$29,640.00	\$7,410.00	\$1,482.00	\$741.00	\$370.50	\$142.50	\$19.00	19.5
30	PT LIBRARY ASSIST (PTLA)	\$589,680.00	\$19,656.00	\$176,904.00	\$9,828.00	\$171,990.00	\$8,190.00	\$1,638.00	\$819.00	\$409.50	\$157.50	\$21.00	19.5
11	PT LIBRARIANS (PTL)	\$319,176.00	\$29,016.00	\$174,096.00	\$14,508.00	\$84,630.00	\$12,090.00	\$2,418.00	\$1,209.00	\$604.50	\$232.50	\$31.00	19.5
1	SECRETARY	\$22,464.00	\$22,464.00	\$134,784.00	\$11,232.00	\$65,520.00	\$9,360.00	\$1,872.00	\$936.00	\$468.00	\$180.00	\$24.00	19.5
56	<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>\$1,078,344.00</b>	<b>\$92,088.00</b>	<b>\$426,852.00</b>	<b>\$46,044.00</b>	<b>\$327,240.00</b>	<b>\$38,370.00</b>	<b>\$7,674.00</b>	<b>\$3,837.00</b>	<b>\$1,918.50</b>	<b>\$797.63</b>		←→ 12 MTHS