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# american libraries

SPRING 2009

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



## First the Good News

Design & Construction  
Showcase

Public Television's  
Wanda Urbanska Explains  
How Vendors Are Helping Libraries Go Green



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## Libraries Will Be Built by Leonard Kniffel

This *American Libraries* digital supplement is the second in what we hope will be an ongoing addition to the benefits offered to you in return for your membership in the American Library Association. The focus in this issue is on new facilities, featuring an expanded showcase containing 83 library building or renovation projects. This far exceeds the number we were able to spotlight in the April print issue of *AL*.

Whether the months ahead bring a speedy or slow economic recovery to our country, libraries will continue to be planned and built, and they will continue to serve as part of the solution to what ails the nation. The design

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The recession has cast a pall over workplaces everywhere and has overshadowed every other aspect of budgeting and planning, even at ALA, where in March Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels announced that the Association would have to cut staff and dip into reserves to close a budget shortfall.

Despite this gloomy outlook, ALA's Association of College and Research Libraries opened a facility March 23 for *Choice* magazine in a new building in Middletown, Connecticut. Ground was broken last year—before anyone had imagined the economy was going to get so bad so quickly—but like most building projects, the new *Choice* offices were years in the planning. The condominium features retail space on the ground floor, office rental on the second level, and *Choice* occupying the entire 7,635-square-foot third floor. The venerable reviewing magazine for university and college libraries has withstood the test of time, maintained its high standards, and from its new digs can lead the way into the future with both print and online aids for acquisitions professionals, whose shrinking budgets are likely to make selection ever more difficult.

The *Choice* offices are a hopeful sign that library building projects will continue through to completion in the months ahead. Watching our book budgets and staffs get slashed is a painful prospect, but we've been there before and must continue to demonstrate that an investment in libraries is an investment in financial recovery. If the *Choice* offices haven't already convinced you that good things are still happening, the magnificent selection of new and renewed libraries in this issue should do the job. ■



The new *Choice* offices in Middletown, Connecticut, occupy the top floor of this new condominium.

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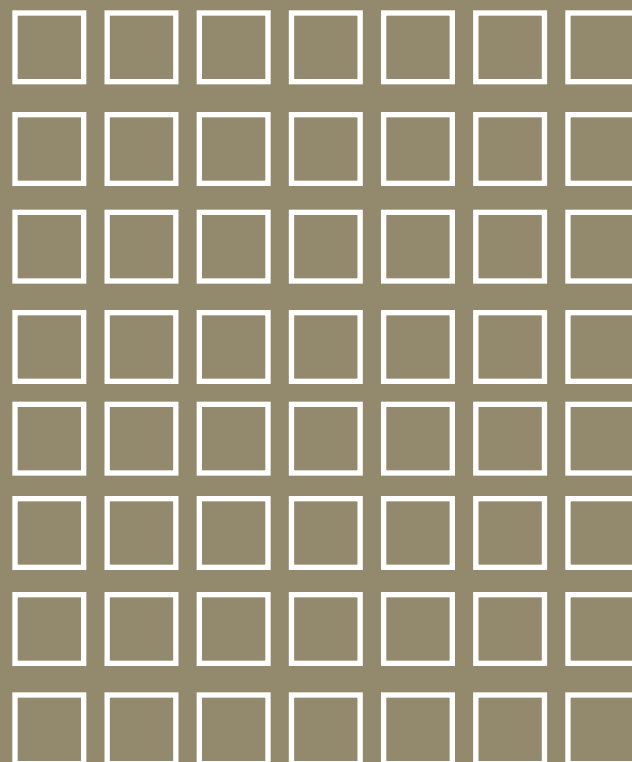
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★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Library Building Awards

**T**he following libraries are winners of the 2009 Library Building Awards, sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and ALA's Library Leadership and Management Association. The biennial award recognizes distinguished accomplishment in library architecture by an architect licensed in the United States for any library in the U.S. or abroad. This year's competition was open to all libraries completed since December 1, 2002.





Gentry Public Library occupies a preexisting brick building that the community wanted to maintain. Existing columns were developed into lighting columns that also provide book display space, while the original building's existing pressed-metal ceiling was preserved.

Marlon Blackwell Architect  
marlonblackwell.com  
Size: 11,970 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$1.32 million  
Photo: Timothy Hursley



## NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FRANCIS MARTIN LIBRARY



The renovation of the Francis Martin Library transformed a dark, cheerless, outdated space to inspire and connect the members of the community. Reflective Barisol forms a ceiling that folds away in some areas to increase height, while the diagonal shelf arrangement and curved walls create a dynamic space for children.

1100 Architect P.C.  
1100architect.com  
Size: 4,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$830,000  
Photo: Timothy Furzer



The new Chongqing Library is an urban complex that respects the culture of its 1947 predecessor while projecting a modern image. The building's form is based on the Chinese architectural tradition of the courtyard and the multi-story atrium halls of western libraries. The use of water in a sculptural reflecting pool symbolizes Chongqing's location at the convergence of two of China's most important rivers.

Perkins Eastman  
perkinseastman.com

Size: 490,500 sq. ft.

Cost: \$38.6 million

Photo: ZhiHui Gu/Courtesy Perkins Eastman



CHONGQING (CHINA) LIBRARY

## HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY



## MINNEAPOLIS CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Minneapolis Central Library is well-known for the metal "wing" hovering over the central Library Commons space. Flanking the Commons are two rectangular volumes with large open floors and no interior load-bearing walls. The library features dedicated spaces for many different groups, including a Children's Library with materials in more than 30 languages, a teen center designed by teens, the New Americans Center for recent immigrants, and a major business-services department.

Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects  
pcparch.com

Size: 353,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$138.7 million

Photo: Jeff Goldberg/ESTO

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY C. V. STARR EAST ASIAN LIBRARY



The Starr Library reflects both campus design guidelines and the library's Asian mission. The screen, an important element in traditional Asian architecture, was interpreted as an array of cast bronze grilles on the library's exterior. Behind the grilles, perforated metal screens were installed to block almost half of the direct sunlight from entering the building, reducing the cooling load.

Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects  
twbta.com

Size: 67,984 sq. ft.

Cost: \$46.4 million

Photo: Michael Moran





## BIBLIOTECA CENTRAL ESTATAL WIGBERTO JIMÉNEZ MORENO, LEÓN, GUANAJUATO, MEXICO

The library is the first building of Forum Cultural Guantajuato, a 9.6-hectare municipal cultural center. The exterior was constructed in glass, painted steel, and white cantera, a variety of Mexican stone. Construction was planned to preserve existing tabachines and jacaranda trees, many of which are more than 50 years old.

Pei Partnership Architects

[ppa-nyc.com](http://ppa-nyc.com)

Size: 92,570 sq. ft.

Cost: \$12 million

Photo: Alberto Moreno Guzmán

## PALO VERDE LIBRARY

The Palo Verde Library occupies a new mixed-use building that also incorporates a community center and the existing public pool, recreational park, and ball field. The interior walls are faceted with recycled aspen oriented strand board panels that help the library meet acoustic requirements.

Gould Evans Associates/Wendell Burnette Architects

[gouldevans.com/wendellburnettearchitects.com](http://gouldevans.com/wendellburnettearchitects.com)

Size: 16,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$5.8 million

Photo: Bill Timmerman

## PHOENIX PUBLIC LIBRARY



## SCOTTSDALE (ARIZ.) PUBLIC LIBRARY



## ARABIAN LIBRARY

The Arabian Library's design reflects the desert slot canyons of Arizona. The main reading room is clad in acoustically absorbent perforated wood treatment that mitigates noise spillover from adjacent areas. The library is currently undergoing LEED certification.

richard+bauer architecture

[www.richard-bauer.com](http://www.richard-bauer.com)

Size: 21,202 sq. ft.

Cost: \$7.4 million

Photo: Mark Boisclair



# 24<sup>th</sup> Library Building AWARDS PRESENTATION

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The background of the page is a detailed architectural drawing, likely a site plan or floor plan, showing various building footprints, pathways, and landscaping elements. Overlaid on this are two teal-colored banners, one at the top and one at the bottom, each featuring a row of five orange stars. The year '2009' is prominently displayed in large, orange, outlined numerals. Below it, the words 'LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE' are written in a bold, brown, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines.

# 2009

## LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE

Projects submitted to this year's Library Design Showcase balanced many types of sensitivities: to history, to technology, to the immediate surroundings, and to accessibility. In this issue, *American Libraries* highlights 83 new and renovated library facilities, including more than 50 that are exclusive to this digital supplement.





MEDINA COUNTY (OHIO) DISTRICT LIBRARY





MEDINA COUNTY (OHIO) DISTRICT LIBRARY

## MEDINA LIBRARY

The renovation of the Medina Library tripled its size. Environmentally sensitive features include low-VOC carpet and paints, recycled upholstery, recycled-resin paneling, and large, low-emissivity glass windows that reflect heat outside while reducing the amount of artificial light needed. Other accoutrements include fireplaces in the fiction area and the quiet reading room, a decorative glass mosaic mural of the county landscape, a window in the children's department that looks into a working beehive, and 66 public computers.

### *Renovation and Expansion*

David Milling Architects

dmaa.com

Size: 50,000 sq. ft. expansion, 76,000 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$20.4 million

Photo: William H. Webb, Infinity Studio

## JAMES V. BROWN LIBRARY

To better serve area children and families, Lycoming County (Pa.) Library developed a downtown lot adjacent to the original library into the Kathryn Siegel Welch Children's Wing. The three-story addition features a theme of "The Amazing Wilds," which ties into northern Pennsylvania's "The Pennsylvania Wilds" tourism theme. The first floor, devoted to children, features a maze at the center of the room with interactive activities and brightly colored shelving that helps children who can't yet read traditional signs to navigate. The second floor is dedicated to teens and tweens, while the third floor houses the library's adult literacy program, meeting and conference spaces, and the Friends' bookstore.

### *Expansion*

Larson Design Group

larsondesigngroup.com

Size: 26,400 sq. ft. expansion

Cost: \$4.1 million

Photo: Eric Stashak Photography



LYCOMING COUNTY (PA.) LIBRARY SYSTEM





SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### NOE VALLEY/SALLY BRUNN BRANCH

Before renovation, this 1916 building had a number of serious problems: a low seismic rating, soiled and cracked exterior masonry, a leaky roof, worn interior finish, poor accessibility, and a spectacular main reading room marred by inappropriate fluorescent lighting and other intrusions. The rehabilitation protected the building's noteworthy features—including the structure's brick-and-terra-cotta facade, the interior marble-lined staircase, and the popular community garden—while improving lighting, installing WiFi, and adding accessible restrooms and an elevator.

Renovation and Expansion  
Carey & Co. Inc. Architecture  
careyandco.com  
Size: 286 sq. ft. expansion, 6,096 sq. ft. total  
Cost: \$5.7 million  
Photo: David Wakely

#### OLDSMAR (FLA.) PUBLIC LIBRARY



The new Oldsmar Public Library was designed to characterize "Old Florida" architecture. Key construction components include cast stone, painted stucco, and clay barrel tile roofing. The interior is adorned with paddle fans, pendant lights, stained wood beams, and natural light through clerestory windows.

New Construction  
Harvard Jolly Architecture  
harvardjolly.com  
Size: 19,800 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$4.9 million  
Photo: George Cott, Chroma Inc.





WORCESTER COUNTY (MD.) LIBRARY

## OCEAN CITY BRANCH

Environmentally sensitive features at Ocean City's new library include parking spaces located under part of the building to reduce the size of the heat island, a geo-thermal heat pump system, the use of native vegetation that requires little watering, and pervious paving. The building is clad in a combination of metal panels and cementitious siding/trim; the interior finish includes recycled carpets with low-VOC adhesives, bamboo floors in the circulation area, and exposed structural framing.

*New Construction*

BSA+A

[simpers.com](http://simpers.com)

Size: 12,691 sq. ft.

Cost: \$5.2 million

Photo: Charles Uniatowski

Photography/BSA+A

## HIGHLAND PARK (TEX.) LIBRARY



The renovation of the 1930 Highland Park Library included upgrades to the lighting, windows, signage, and service desks. Custom features were designed to efficiently use space while remaining sensitive to the historic structure and style of architecture.

*Renovation*

Komatsu Architecture

[komatsu-inc.com](http://komatsu-inc.com)

Size: 5,700 sq. ft.

Cost: \$2.45 million

Photo: Thomas McConnell





NORFOLK (VA.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### MARY D. PRETLOW ANCHOR BRANCH

The Pretlow Branch was designed for technology, with a 40-PC Adult Computer Center that can stay open after hours, a Teen Zone with 20 computers and a big-screen TV, and an Early Childhood Learning Center with 20 computers. Flat-screen monitors near the lobby broadcast news and library programming, while public meeting rooms are equipped for teleconferencing and distance-learning programs.

#### *New Construction*

The Design Collaborative  
designcollaborative.cc  
Size: 31,500 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$7.9 million  
Photo: The Design Collaborative and Alexandra R. Fenton

#### LANE LIBRARIES, HAMILTON, OHIO



#### HAMILTON LANE LIBRARY

The renovation of the 143-year-old Lane Public Library was made possible by moving several backroom operations offsite. The space that freed up made possible a dedicated teen department, a quiet study area, a revitalized children's department, and improved traffic flow in the building.

#### *Renovation*

SHP Leading Design  
shp.com  
Size: 25,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$1.9 million  
Photo: Nikki Shoemaker





NEW CASTLE COUNTY (DEL.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

## JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

### EAST CAMPUS LIBRARY

The design of the East Campus Library incorporates two main areas: a square-shaped core that contains traditional reading rooms, book stacks, and offices; and a curved “wing” that houses the open study areas. The building contains 45 group study rooms, including nine with LCD monitors, and a large flexible-use area with movable furniture and whiteboards.

#### *New Construction*

The Design Collective  
[designcollective.com](http://designcollective.com)  
 Size: 108,200 sq. ft.  
 Cost: \$31.1 million  
 Photo: Michael Dersin,  
 The Design Collective



### HOCKESSIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The 10,000-square-foot expansion of Hockessin Public Library takes the form of a glass pavilion, cantilevered so it floats over the neighboring flood plain. The addition, which houses the children’s library, overlooks a densely vegetated county park on one side and wetlands on another.

#### *Expansion*

ikon.5 architects  
[ikon5architects.com](http://ikon5architects.com)  
 Size: 12,000 sq. ft. expansion, 25,000 sq. ft. total  
 Cost: \$8.5 million  
 Photo: James D’Addio



## GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, STATESBORO

### ZACH S. HENDERSON LIBRARY

The renovated Henderson Library is the largest building on the university's prominent east-west pedestrian corridor. Originally built as a precast-concrete box in 1972, the renovated library visually connects the historic buildings to the north of the library with the newer buildings along the walkway.

*Renovation and Expansion*  
Cogdell & Mendrala  
Architects

[cogdellmendrala.com](http://cogdellmendrala.com)

Size: 103,000 sq. ft. expansion, 235,000 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$23.3 million

Photo: Richard Leo Johnson/Atlantic Archives



## HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



### CENTRAL LIBRARY

The largest renovation in Houston Public Library's history converted 12,600 square feet of administrative space into public space. It also doubled the size of the Kids Area, added a Teen Room, updated the IT infrastructure, and replaced old escalators with a Grand Staircase and upgraded elevators. Much of the furniture is reused from the original building, and other sustainable features include recycled-rubber flooring and motion-sensor light switches.

*Renovation*

Prozign Architects

[prozign.com](http://prozign.com)

Size: 268,663 sq. ft.

Cost: \$19.3 million

Photo: Prozign Architects





## UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NEW YORK

### JEFFERSON HALL LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER

Jefferson Hall is the first new academic building at West Point in more than 35 years. The design is intended to advance the campus's 19th-century Military Gothic style to modern times, with more than 1,500 tons of granite cladding the building, sandstone window surrounds, a three-dimensional West Point arch at the main entry, and double-height windows that echo similar features in neighboring buildings.

#### New Construction

STV Inc. in collaboration with Holzman Moss Architecture

[stvinc.com/holzmanmoss.com](http://stvinc.com/holzmanmoss.com)

Size: 141,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$74.5 million

Photo: Tom Kessler, courtesy of STV Inc. and Holzman Moss Architecture



## HEROLD MAHONEY LIBRARY

The Mahoney Library is the centerpiece of a campus expansion completed in fall 2008. The new building quadruples the space of the previous library, with 400 reader seats, 50 public computers, 24 media-viewing stations, eight group-study rooms, and a library-instruction classroom. Cultural and civic events will be hosted in a public reading room, which overlooks the new eastern quadrangle and connects to the main reading room by a gallery walk.

New Construction  
TLCD Architecture

[tlcd.com](http://tlcd.com)

Size: 34,734 sq. ft.

Cost: \$10.5 million

Photo: Technical Imagery Studio



## SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE, PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA







UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, OREM

Utah Valley University's library is built for a student population projected to grow significantly—from 24,000 to 40,000 students in the next decade. The building has the capacity for 33% growth in its existing 221,000-volume print collection, as well as built-in physical and technological adaptability, with raised floors, flexible technology workstations, and universal design and planning. Featured spaces include social and family study areas adjacent to major entries; reading rooms occupying the fourth and fifth floors that provide views of desert, lake, and mountains; teaching labs; and a 150-seat lecture hall.

**New Construction**  
**Alspector Architecture**  
 alspectorarchitecture.com  
 Size: 190,000 sq. ft.  
 Cost: \$48 million  
 Photo: Paul Warchol

## TANIMURA AND ANTLE FAMILY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Tanimura and Antle Family Memorial Library was built to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standard, with high-performance glass that filters out infrared light and reduces unwanted heat, water-saving landscaping and bathroom fixtures, and a high level of recycled content in the library's carpet, tile, and building materials.

**New Construction**  
**EHDD Architecture**  
 ehdd.com  
 Size: 136,151 sq. ft.  
 Cost: \$69 million  
 Photo: Don Porter, CSUMB

## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, MONTEREY BAY







## ARIZONA STATE LIBRARY, PHOENIX

### POLLY ROSENBAUM STATE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY BUILDING

The archive building was designed with colors and shapes reminiscent of a desert cliff face. Built primarily from 6-inch precast concrete, the facility includes two layers of roofing to prevent water penetration, a fan wall system to control the temperature throughout storage spaces, a humidity room used for document restoration, and a cold room and blast freezer to provide protection from insects. Financial shortfalls, however, have forced the library to make access by appointment only through the end of the fiscal year.

#### *New Construction*

DWL Architects + Planners  
[dwlarchitects.com](http://dwlarchitects.com)

Size: 124,330 sq. ft.

Cost: \$28.7 million

Photo: Neil Koppes, Koppes  
Photography



### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

#### BANCROFT LIBRARY

The rehabilitation of the Bancroft Library corrected several shortcomings of the original 1950 construction. The new building includes a sophisticated HVAC system with three air-filtering levels to eliminate dust, the university's most advanced security system, the building's first true instructional space, and an exhibit area four times larger than its predecessor. The renovation also made direct entry to the library possible for the first time; previously, patrons could only access the Bancroft library through another library to which it is attached.

#### *Renovation*

Ratcliff/Noll & Tam  
[ratcliffarch.com/nollandtam.com](http://ratcliffarch.com/nollandtam.com)

Size: 129,651 sq. ft.

Cost: n/a

Photo: David Wakely





MARSHALL (MICH.) PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The renovation of Marshall High School's library addressed safety and security issues by converting the original L-shaped space to a more open one with better sight lines. This visibility is maintained with shorter 42-inch-tall bookcases, a new glass-walled computer lab, a glass-walled conference room, and two unwallled class group areas that each have pull-down screens on the wall and LCD projectors. The renovation relocated the entrance from a dead-end corridor to a high-traffic school lobby, and created two covered outdoor balcony reading areas.

*Renovation and Expansion*

Kingscott Associates Inc.

kingscott.com

Size: 3,400 sq. ft. expansion, 18,200 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$724,000

Photo: Kingscott Associates Inc.

## WINDLAND SMITH RICE LIBRARY

The library occupies the first floor of a new three-story building for the school's 4th- through 8th-graders. In honor of the building's namesake, whose renowned nature photographs adorn the walls, the lobby features related motifs, including a metal-and-glass staircase resembling an unwinding roll of film, a terrazzo floor patterned like a camera aperture, and a translucent fiberglass ceiling panel representing a camera lens. The library itself features two computer labs, a distance-learning lab, eight self-check-out stations, and four study rooms with whiteboards and wireless internet access.

*New Construction*

Fleming/Associates/Architects P.C.

flemingarchitects.com

Size: 53,256 sq. ft.

Cost: \$9.0 million

Photo: Rick Bostick/INVISION

## ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE







## ST. AGNES/ST. DOMINIC ACADEMY, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

### VERITAS RESEARCH CENTER AND CYBRARY

The Veritas Research Center serves students of all ages, from pre-K through grade 12. Distinct spaces within the facility are intended for varying age levels, and a distance-learning center that seats 60 is also open for community organizations. The Cybrary houses 30,000 print books and provides access to 37,000 more electronically; the reading area is located along the outer wall, with views of the outside provided by nearly full-height windows.

*New Construction*

Fleming/Associates/Architects P.C.

[flemingarchitects.com](http://flemingarchitects.com)

Size: 26,033 sq. ft.

Cost: \$4.8 million

Photo: Rick Bostick/INVISION

## ALEXANDRIA (VA.) PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### T. C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL

Highlights of the library serving Alexandria's largest public high school include 20-foot-high, north-facing windows that provide light and a view of a green roof; a wireless network; and space to accommodate three classes simultaneously. While the library is smaller than the library in the previous school building, library usage has increased by more than 50% since the new building opened.

*New Construction*

Moseley Architects

[moseleyarchitects.com](http://moseleyarchitects.com)

Size: 10,280 sq. ft.

Cost: n/a

Photo: Sisson Studios Inc.



## SIERRA CANYON SCHOOL, CHATSWORTH, CALIFORNIA

### BURTZLOFF LIBRARY

The Burtzloff Library is the academic center of the school's new Science and Humanities Building. Technical features include wireless access to electronic resources in all rooms, data ports at all study carrels, and a technology lab. The library has a 150-foot wall of curving windows overlooking the San Fernando Valley.

*New Construction*

Parallax Associates

[parallaxassociates.com](http://parallaxassociates.com)

Size: 8,770 sq. ft.

Cost: \$2.5 million

Photo: Tom Bonner







ARLINGTON (VA.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

## SHIRLINGTON LIBRARY

Located on the ground floor of a new four-story, 50,000-square-foot building that also comprises a performing arts center, Arlington County (Va.) Library's 15,000-square-foot Shirlington Library offers three times the space of its previous temporary home. Two 75-foot granite slabs that mark the separate entrances of the library and Signature Theatre add to the strong sculptural statement.

### *New Construction*

The Lukmire Partnership  
Size: 15,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$16.7 million  
Photo: Eric Taylor, Boris Feldblyum

## MEDINA COUNTY (OHIO) DISTRICT LIBRARY



## BRUNSWICK LIBRARY

David Milling Architects incorporated a number of green features in its \$7.6-million renovation and expansion of Medina County's Brunswick (Ohio) Library, including tiles made from recycled glass bottles, bamboo flooring, low-VOC carpet and paints, and low-e glass windows.

### *Renovation and Expansion*

David Milling Architects  
dmaa.com  
Size: 10,000 sq. ft. expansion, 30,000 sq. ft. total  
Cost: \$7.6 million  
Photo: William H. Webb, Infinity Studio





BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## ROSEDALE LIBRARY

At Baltimore County (Md.) Public Library's Rosedale branch, James Bradberry Architects transformed an existing wing into an interactive, child-sized village called Storyville. The \$1-million early literacy learning center for children ages 5 and under includes a baby garden, a seashore, a construction site, a two-story cottage, a theater, a market, and—of course—a library.

### Renovation

James Bradberry and Architects

jamesbradberry.com

Size: 2,588 sq. ft.

Cost: \$1.0 million

Photo: Matt Wargo

## ABILENE (TEX.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

### MOCKINGBIRD BRANCH

For less than \$500,000, Michaels Associates converted a former grocery store into the 11,880-square-foot Mockingbird branch of the Abilene (Tex.) Public Library.

### Renovation

Michaels Associates Design Consultants

madcinc.com

Size: 11,880 sq. ft.

Cost: \$442,000



## LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SCHNECKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA



## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

At Lehigh Carbon Community College in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania, MKSD Architects transformed a former office building into a modern 28,760-square-foot learning resource center. The \$3.43-million project opened up the floor plan; added skylights, more windows, and a glass-walled reading room; and incorporated a media resource room and 52-work-station information commons, a "smart technology" classroom, and other meeting rooms, study areas, and conference rooms.

### Renovation and Expansion

MKSD Architects

mksdarchitects.com

Size: 2,638 sq. ft. expansion, 28,760 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$3.4 million

Photo: Steven Wolfe Photography



## DARIEN (CONN.) LIBRARY

The new Darien (Conn.) Library utilizes traditional materials such as brick and slate and timeless design in a thoroughly modern, gold-LEED-certified facility that includes self-checkout and an automated material handling system. All four levels of the 57,000-square-foot building are connected by a light-filled atrium that overlooks an outdoor reading courtyard.

### *New Construction*

Peter Gisolfi Associates

[petergisolfiassociates.com](http://petergisolfiassociates.com)

Size: 57,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$17 million

Photo: Robert Mintzes

## SEQUOYA BRANCH LIBRARY

The first Madison (Wis.) Public Library facility to earn LEED silver certification—fulfilling a 2008 city requirement for all new municipal buildings—the \$1.72-million Sequoya branch incorporates numerous sustainable features and also serves as a teaching example for environmental practices. Notable green features of the 20,470-square-foot library, which is part of a larger mixed-use development, include large glass windows with solar and glare controls, low-VOC paint and finishes, and innovative wastewater technologies.

### *Build-out*

Engberg Anderson

[www.engberganderson.com](http://www.engberganderson.com)

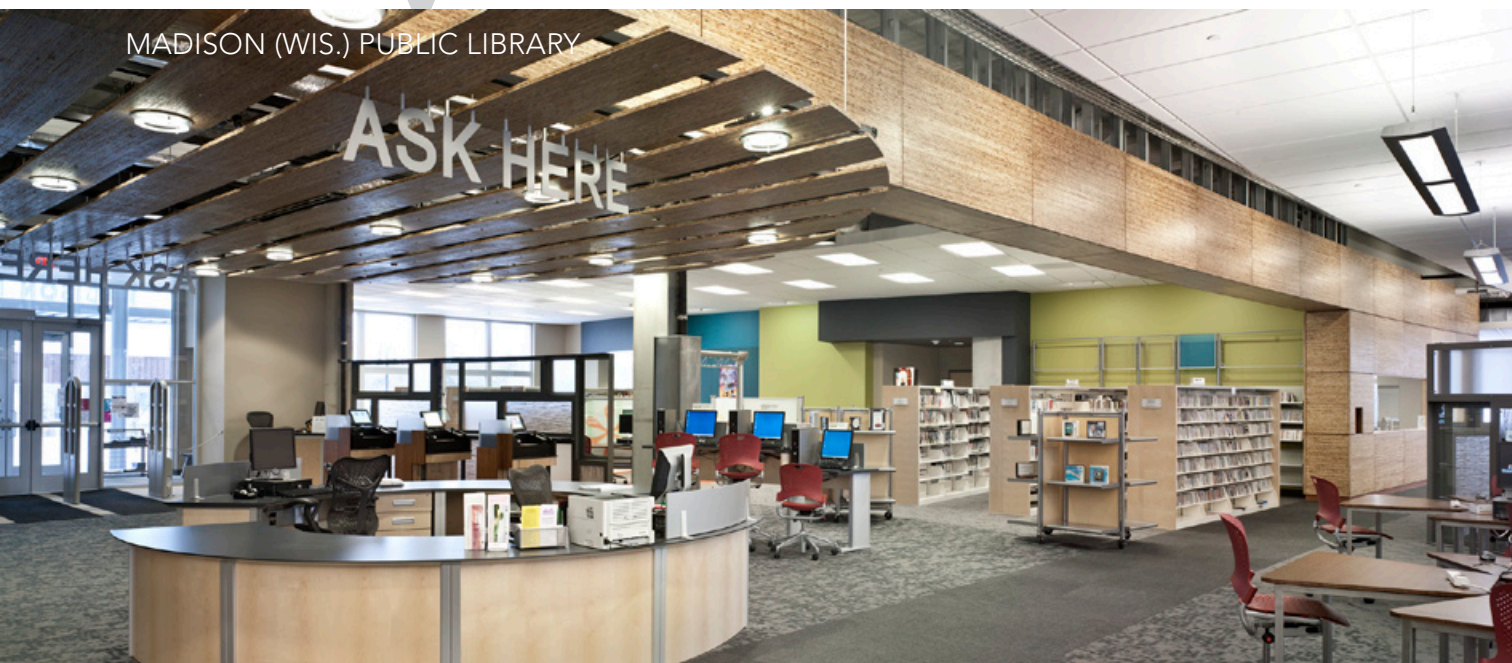
Size: 20,470 sq. ft.

Cost: \$1.7 million

Photo: Mike Rebholz



## MADISON (WIS.) PUBLIC LIBRARY





## HPL EXPRESS SOUTHWEST AND HPL EXPRESS DISCOVERY GREEN

Houston Public Library's first "express" branches mark the transition from book-based collections to computer-based ones and use vibrant color to separate program spaces. HPL Express Southwest (below)—which has the highest usage rate of any branch—is a \$1-million, 3,636-square-foot mixed-media facility that includes custom computer workstations, real-time interaction with an off-site librarian via plasma screen, and a Wii system to encourage teenage patron use. HPL Express Discovery Green is a 350-square-foot facility that serves as a reading room for Discovery Green Park.

*New Construction (Southwest)/  
Renovation (Discovery Green)*

m Architects

m-architects.com

Size: 3,636 sq. ft. (Southwest)/350  
sq. ft. (Discovery Green)

Cost: \$1 million (Southwest)/  
\$155,000 (Discovery Green)

Photos: G. Lyon Photography  
(Southwest) and Blanca Quezada  
(Discovery Green)

## HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



## ENCINITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Part of the San Diego County Library system, the new Encinitas Library is LEED silver certified, incorporating green elements such as bamboo bookcases and a "daylight harvesting" lighting control system. The children's area features an ocean-themed recycled-art piece by Rodney "Rodrigo" McCoubrey, while a 537-square-foot special collections area displays work by local artists.

*New Construction*

Manuel Oncina Architects  
oncinaarc.com

Size: 25,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$20 million

Photo: Melissa Jacobs

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY LIBRARY





Miami-Dade (Fla.) Public Library's Kendale Lakes branch incorporates plenty of natural lighting through impact-resistant clerestory windows, and a 24-foot-high corridor directs patrons to a park in the rear—part of an ongoing effort by the library to be a compelling community destination.

*New Construction*  
Miami-Dade County General Services Administration  
Size: 15,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$6.9 million  
Photo: Mauricio Bonilla, Armando Rodriguez



KENDALE LAKES BRANCH

## MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM



### PINECREST BRANCH

Visitors to the new Pinecrest branch of the Miami-Dade (Fla.) Public Library are greeted by an eight-foot sculpture called the Flower Pot, given to the village of Pinecrest by artist Romero Britto.

*New Construction*  
BEA Architects  
beai.com  
Size: 15,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$3.5 million  
Photo: Armando Rodriguez

### LA MESA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Circulation has increased more than 25% since the opening of the new La Mesa branch of the San Diego County Library. Occupying 10,000 square feet of a 17,725-square-foot facility that will also house a post office, the \$5.8-million branch offers a flexible, open design; bookstore-like displays; exceptional day lighting; and a designated teen space.

*New Construction*  
Leach Mounce Architects  
leachmouncearchitects.com  
Size: 10,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$5.8 million  
Photo: Melissa Jacobs

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY LIBRARY







## GLENWOOD-LYNWOOD (ILL.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

With five times the space of the old building, the new Glenwood-Lynwood (Ill.) Public Library facility—situated on 14.4 acres of land overlooking a pond—has room for 70,000 volumes. Standout features of the project include floor-to-ceiling windows, Lumicor panels with natural grasses placed between two sheets of resin used as dividers, and end panels with laser-cut relief to mimic the window design.

### *New Construction*

Burnidge Cassell Associates

bca-arch.com

Size: 19,005 sq. ft.

Cost: \$6 million

Photo: Kathy Parker

A renovation of the Palm Harbor (Fla.) Library upgraded all areas of the building and includes a reorganized interior space, a redesigned children's room, an expanded teen room, and a new color scheme inside and out. The project also added energy-efficient lighting, new carpeting and tile, a fire sprinkler system, and high-impact glass window and hurricane-resistant shutters.

### *Renovation*

Toppe Consultants

toppearchitects.com

Size: 26,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$1.4 million



## PALM HARBOR (FLA.) LIBRARY



## TOPEKA AND SHAWNEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

At Topeka and Shawnee County (Kans.) Public Library, a new teen activity center called The Edge serves as an interactive spot for youth ages 12–18 to meet friends, play games, watch movies, and read. The renovated space will also play host to live band performances, Guitar Hero competitions, and karaoke.

### *Renovation*

Size: 1,643 sq. ft. renovation,

168,000 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$85,000

Photo: Jean Gardner





## GILFORD (N.H.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Most of the funding for the new Gilford (N.H.) Public Library came from a single \$3-million gift; the remaining \$600,000 was raised through a Friends capital campaign. Features of the building include a reading room with high ceiling and fireplace, an exhibition space, a teen room, and a children's area with puppet theater, interactive play structures, storytime room, and outdoor amphitheater for summer programs.

### *New Construction*

The Architectural Studio

[thearchstudio.com](http://thearchstudio.com)

Size: 14,400 sq. ft.

Cost: \$3.6 million

Photo: Elizabeth Tidd

## FARGO (N.D.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

### DR. JAMES CARLSON BRANCH

The new Fargo (N.D.) Public Library's Dr. James Carlson branch is part of a cooperative project with the Ed Clapp Senior Center, with which the branch shares an oval-shaped lobby, restrooms, and community meeting space. The project features a colorful children's area, a separate teen space, and conference and study rooms.

### *New Construction*

Meyer, Scherer, Rockcastle/  
Image Group

[msrltd.com](http://msrltd.com)

Size: 15,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$3.5 million

Photo: Dave Arntson





## BOCA RATON (FLA.) PUBLIC LIBRARY



## SPANISH RIVER LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER

The new Spanish River Library and Community Center in Boca Raton, Florida, serves as the city system's administrative headquarters as well as a regional branch. The richly detailed Mediterranean Revival-style exterior of the facility includes cast stone arches, columns, and clay barrel roof tiles. An upper terrace shaded by a trellis and roof overhang can accommodate parties, receptions, and other functions.

### *New Construction*

Harvard Jolly Architecture

[harvardjolly.com](http://harvardjolly.com)

Size: 43,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$7.5 million

Photo: George Cott/Chroma

## MUNCIE (IND.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

### KENNEDY LIBRARY

A \$2-million renovation and expansion of Muncie (Ind.) Public Library's Kennedy branch made space for a new lobby, public meeting rooms, an enlarged children's area, and a coffee shop. Woollen Molzan and Partners added 3,600 square feet to the existing 11,500-square-foot structure, which included an under-utilized wing originally built as a bookmobile garage.

### *Renovation and Expansion*

Woollen Molzan and Partners

[woollenmolzan.com](http://woollenmolzan.com)

Size: 3,600 sq. ft. expansion, 15,100 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$2 million

Photo: Woollen Molzan and Partners



## SOUTH OMAHA LIBRARY

Merging into the new joint-use South Omaha (Nebr.) Library allows the Omaha Public Library District and the local Metropolitan Community College library to provide services and amenities they could not offer separately, while the building's layout maintains separate functions, including separate entrances. Highlights of the project include a central service desk, green building features such as energy-efficient mechanical and electrical systems, and lively children's and teen spaces.

### *New Construction*

Engberg Anderson

[www.engberganderson.com](http://www.engberganderson.com)

Size: 23,300 sq. ft.

Cost: \$6.9 million

Photo: Kurt Johnson Photography



## OMAHA (NEBR.) PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT





FREDERICK COUNTY (MD.) LIBRARY SYSTEM

#### THURMONT LIBRARY

PSA-Dewberry's design for the Thurmont branch of the Frederick County (Md.) Library incorporates sustainable design through the building's site, which maximizes natural lighting while limiting solar heat gain, as well as through the use of materials like linoleum. The \$6.4-million building includes an exterior balcony with information stations about the adjacent wetlands.

*New Construction*  
PSA-Dewberry  
psadewberry.com  
Size: 25,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$6.4 million  
Photo: Eric Taylor



#### HENDERSON COUNTY (N.C.) LIBRARY ETOWAH BRANCH LIBRARY

Henderson County (N.C.) Library's new Etowah branch nearly triples the space of the former facility and includes 3,800 square feet of flexible space that currently houses the information desk, public computers, reference and adult collections, and AV materials. The \$1.3-million building by Craig, Gaulden and Davis features natural-colored interior finishes, a cork floor, and a six-foot roof overhang to mitigate the harsh summer sun.

*New Construction*  
Craig Gaulden and Davis  
cgdarch.com  
Size: 8,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$1.3 million  
Photo: Michelle Gunning/Sling Shot Imaging







## SAN JOSE (CALIF.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

### WILLOW GLEN BRANCH

The Willow Glen branch of the San Jose Public Library is a 13,380-square-foot building that replaces an outdated structure on the same site. Highlights of the \$9.12-million facility by Krong Design, which incorporates green principles and materials, include a storytelling area, vibrant children's and teen spaces, and an internet café.

#### *New Construction*

Krong Design

krongdesign.com

Size: 13,300 sq. ft.

Cost: \$9.1 million

Photo: Bernard Andre Photography



SAN JOSE (CALIF.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

### JOYCE ELLINGTON BRANCH

With more than double the space of the facility it replaces, San Jose Public Library's Joyce Ellington branch is simply organized around a central "marketplace." Spaces to serve the diverse community include an Internet café and technology center as well as a community room that connects to an outdoor plaza.

#### *New Construction*

Tetra Design

tetradesign.com

Size: 14,500 sq. ft.

Cost: \$9.9 million

Photo: Yutsai Wang



SHENANDOAH COUNTY (VA.) LIBRARY

### NEW MARKET AREA LIBRARY

The charge for the New Market Area Library was to both blend in with its historical surroundings and be as green as possible. Lineage Architects' design for the \$915,000, 4,500-square-foot building managed to do just that by using reclaimed bricks and lumber, an energy-efficient Galvalume roof that mimics area roofing, and low-maintenance siding that matches that on the nearby town hall.

#### *New Construction*

Lineage Architects

Size: 4,500 sq. ft.

Cost: \$915,000

Photo: Richard Harkness

### UPPER ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

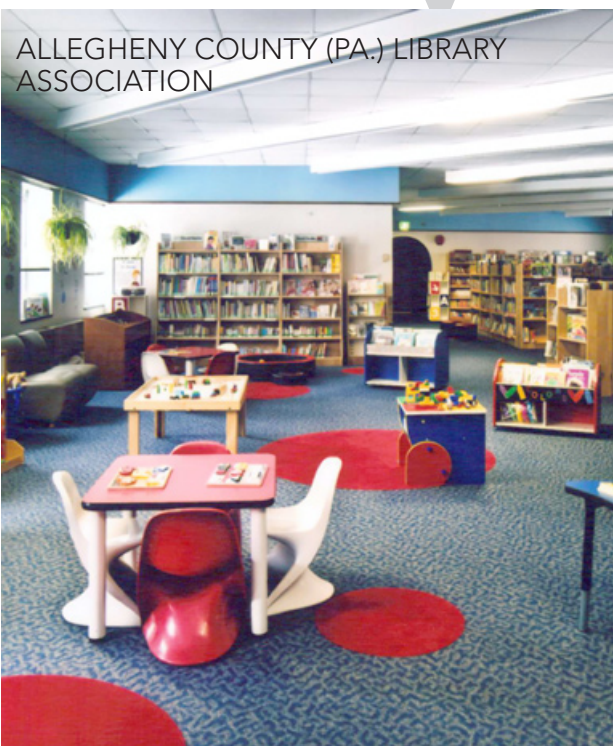
The aim of the renovation of the Upper St. Clair Township Library's children's space was to create a fun, inviting space that had a flexible floor plan, served as a vital early-learning resource, and made materials easily accessible. To accomplish this, the library added new shelving that holds more books in less space; in addition, most of the shelving units are on casters, allowing them to be easily rearranged. The additional space gained made room for a new Play to Learn Space, a destination for families with young children.

#### *Renovation*

Size: 8,000 sq. ft. renovation, 20,000 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$115,000

Photo: Justin Huffman and Carl Arendt



ALLEGHENY COUNTY (PA.) LIBRARY ASSOCIATION





CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

## HILL DISTRICT LIBRARY

Highlights of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's new Hill District include a teen lounge, a reading room with café-style seating, and a section honoring playwright August Wilson. The tribute to Wilson—who was born in the Hill District, set most of his plays there, and famously educated himself at the Carnegie library—includes a large map highlighting locations from his plays as well as a stool salvaged from the neighborhood eatery Eddie's Restaurant, which Wilson featured in *Two Trains Running*.

*New Construction*  
Pfaffmann and Associates  
Size: 8,334 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$3.15 million  
Photo: Marc Soracco Photography

## NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RE- SEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE

The renovation of New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture added a new street-level gallery as well as a center for scholars that includes an area for readings and lectures, a conference room, and private offices. The project also upgraded the center's reading and reference spaces, electronic research area, photo print vault room, stacks, and entrance lobby.

*Renovation and Expansion*  
Dattner Architects  
dattner.com  
Size: 98,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$11 million  
Photo: Ruggero Vanni/Vanni Archives







## IGNACIO (COLO.) LIBRARY

Shortly after the opening of the 11,000-square-foot Ignacio (Colo.) Library—which replaces an outgrown 1,800-square-foot facility on the same site—the number of library cardholders doubled. Andrews and Anderson Architects used rich earth-toned colors for the exterior and brighter colors from the same palette indoors in the design of the \$2.5-million structure of glass, stone, stucco, and steel.

*New Construction*

Andrews and Anderson Architects  
andarch.com

Size: 11,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$2.5 million

Photo: Ed LaCasse

## QUEEN CREEK LIBRARY

The first municipal building constructed under the town's green building policy, the new Queen Creek Library combines a library with a recreational center, offering a Teen Oasis, vibrant Mary Lou Fulton Children's Center, quiet study rooms, and wireless Internet access.

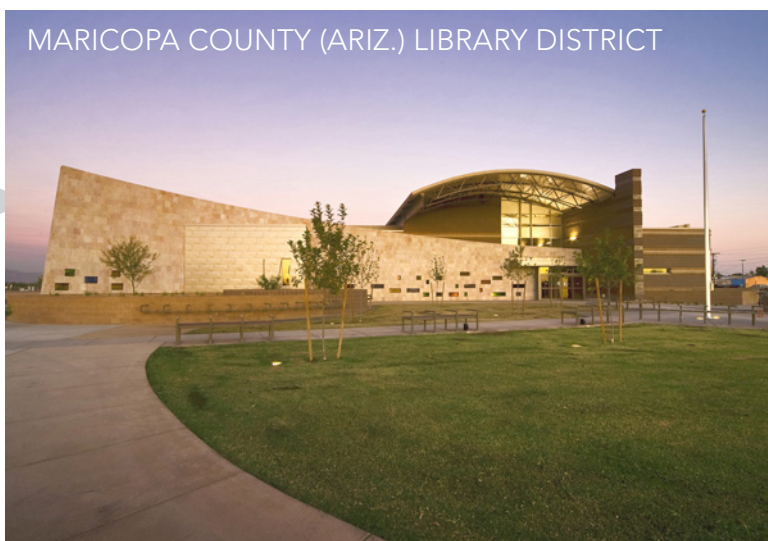
*New Construction*

Dick and Fritsche Design Group  
dfdgd.com

Size: 47,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$18.0 million

Photo: Carlos Murieta



## MARICOPA COUNTY (ARIZ.) LIBRARY DISTRICT



## MEDINA COUNTY (OHIO) DISTRICT LIBRARY

## HIGHLAND LIBRARY

Medina County (Ohio) District Library's Highland branch is a new construction that offers stunning views of the surrounding woods and wetlands. Other features of the facility include a fireplace, a tower above the circulation area, and a brass tree sculpture in the children's space.

*New Construction*

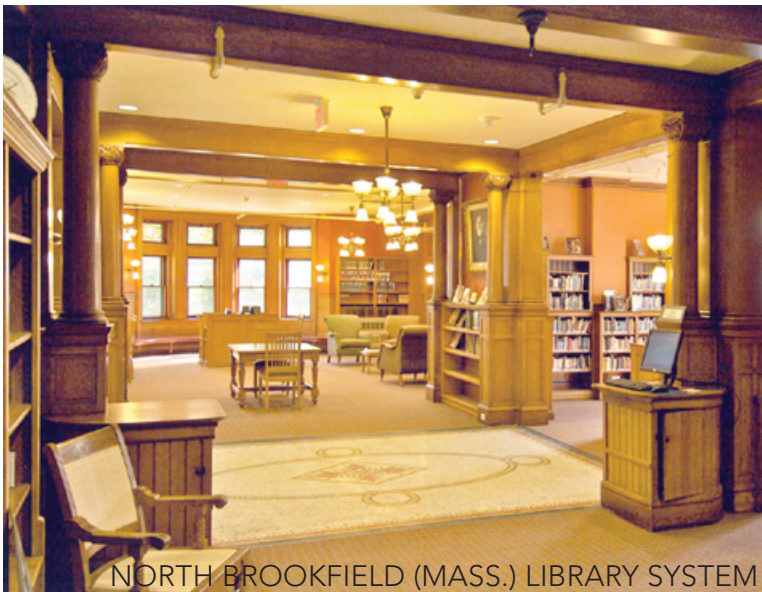
David Milling Architects  
dmaa.com

Size: 12,325 sq. ft.

Cost: \$4.7 million

Photo: William H. Webb/Infinity Studio





NORTH BROOKFIELD (MASS.) LIBRARY SYSTEM

## HASTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

J. Stewart Roberts Associates utilized careful planning to complete a \$3.6-million addition and renovation project of the historic 1890 Hoston Free Public Library in North Brookfield, Massachusetts, which is located on a small site with limited room for expansion. The addition includes an accessible entrance, an elevator, and new book stacks, while the original library was restored and circulation and reading spaces were upgraded.

### *Renovation and Expansion*

J. Stewart Roberts Associates

jsrob.com

Size: 13,740 sq. ft.

Cost: \$3.6 million

Photo: Stewart Roberts

## LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The new Learning Technology Center at North Georgia College and State University was envisioned as the academic heart of the university, supporting learning, research, and instruction through computer labs, multimedia production facilities, and distance learning sites, as well as more traditional library services. The design paid particular attention to durable and environmentally friendly materials and utilized brick, natural stone, and anodized aluminum in the exterior finishes.

### *New Construction*

The Architecture Group

thearchitecturegroup.com

Size: 88,650 sq. ft.

Cost: \$18.3 million

Photo: Ron Hart

## NORTH GEORGIA COLLEGE AND STATE UNIVERSITY, DAHLONEGA



## PRINCETON (N.J.) UNIVERSITY



## PETER B. LEWIS LIBRARY

Gehry Partners' design for Princeton University's new Peter B. Lewis Library unites the former branch libraries for astrophysics, biology, geosciences, mathematics, physics, and statistics into one facility. With walls and roofs covered in stainless steel embossed with a light-deflecting finish, the building's striking exterior also includes 26,000 square feet of glass and 35,000 square feet of clay brick.

### *New Construction*

Gehry Partners

foga.com

Size: 84,000 sq. ft.

Cost: n/a

Photo: Thomas Mayer



## CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA, LIBRARY

At California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, a renovation and expansion of the library reorganized and opened up the box-like structure of the existing building, adding much-needed daylight through the extensive use of glass—all while creating a seamless connection between old and new facilities. The project includes an information commons, a full-service Starbucks, a tiered 120-seat classroom, five 60-seat classrooms, a 24-hour computer lab, and enhanced writing and learning centers.

### *Renovation and Expansion*

Carrier Johnson + CULTURE

[www.carrierjohnson.com](http://www.carrierjohnson.com)

Size: 91,000 sq. ft. addition, 190,000 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$64.2 million

Photo: Tom Zasadzinski



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

## JOHN SPOOR BROOME LIBRARY

The renovation and expansion of the John Spoor Broome Library at California State University–Channel Islands integrated existing 1930s Mission Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival structures with a modern facility with clean lines and plenty of open spaces. Features include a louvered canopy to filter light, an outdoor reflection pool, and a bridge to the University Glen Town Center.

### *Renovation and Expansion*

Foster and Partners

[fosterandpartners.com](http://fosterandpartners.com)

Size: 71,685 sq. ft. expansion, 137,750 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$56 million

Photo: CSU Channel Islands

## CLARK UNIVERSITY, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

### ROBERT HUTCHINGS GODDARD LIBRARY

At Clark University, extensive renovation of the Robert Hutchings Goddard Library created a cutting-edge academic commons through a redesign of the existing space and the addition of 11,000 square feet. Perry Dean Rogers Partners Architects designed the \$15-million project, which added new space for the Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise, a café, a computer lab, and late-night study rooms.

### *Renovation and Expansion*

Perry Dean Rogers Partners Architects

[perrydean.com](http://perrydean.com)

Size: 11,000 sq. ft. expansion, 137,000 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$15 million

Photo: Steven Foote





## LEGACY LIBRARY

Located in the center of the Marietta College campus, the new Legacy Library combines a traditional Jeffersonian brick exterior with a technologically modern interior. Highlights of the project include a 24-hour cybercafé, a landscaped outdoor amphitheater, and a third-floor domed study space with panoramic views of campus.

### *New Construction*

Burgess and Niple

burgessniple.com

Size: 53,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$15 million

Photo: Otero



MARIETTA (OHIO) COLLEGE

## EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA



## CHRISTINE AND STEVEN F. UDVAR-HAZY LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER

Named for a prominent aviation entrepreneur and philanthropist, the Hazy Library and Learning Center at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University expresses its design concept, the metaphor of flight, through a blue-lit staircase that mimics a runway. The facility includes a presentation room with floor-to-ceiling writing wall, a central information commons, a multimedia technology center, and lounge seating with mountain views.

### *New Construction*

DLR Group

dlrgroup.com

Size: 35,711 sq. ft.

Cost: \$10.2 million

## J. MICHAEL GOODSON LAW LIBRARY

The renovation of Duke University's J. Michael Goodson Law Library in Durham, North Carolina, centers around a double-height reading room filled with light from enlarged windows. The library, which houses a collection of 625,000 volumes, offers a variety of spaces to encourage collaborative projects and quiet study.

### *Renovation*

Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott  
sbra.com

Size: 85,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$11 million

Photo: Erin Cusker/Shepley Bulfinch

## DUKE UNIVERSITY, DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA







BAY SHORE-BRIGHTWATERS (N.Y.) LIBRARY

#### PEARL AVENUE BRANCH

Sited to preserve many of the large perimeter trees and to open to a viewing garden, San Jose Public Library's Pearl Avenue branch reinforces a connection to nature through its interior patterns and colors. Anderson Brule Architects designed the 14,000-square-foot, \$8.48-million building, which includes a colorful and vibrant children's section, storytelling area, teen room, and community living room.

#### New Construction

Anderson Brule Architects  
aba-arch.com  
Size: 14,000 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$8.5 million  
Photo: Dean J. Birinyi  
Photography



SAN JOSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bay Shore–Brightwaters Public Library wanted to embellish the library renovation with unique décor elements. The entrance features beloved characters from children's literature tumbling out of their books, and custom murals inside support the theme.

#### Renovation

Janice Davis Design  
janicedavisdesign.com  
Size: n/a  
Cost: n/a





DELTA TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY,  
LANSING, MICHIGAN

Set on a ridge with a central entry and reading areas looking out toward a hardwood forest, the Delta Township District Library reflects the qualities of the site through careful use of natural light and materials. At the center of the facility is a public reading area around a soaring fireplace; other architectural details include a continuous clerestory window to allow daylight, an outdoor patio, and laminated wood beams, paneling, and trim.

*New Construction*  
Fishbeck Thompson Carr and Huber  
ftch.com  
Size: 31,294 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$7.5 million  
Photo: Bill Lindhout Photography

## LINCOLN TRAIL LIBRARIES SYSTEM

### CHAMPAIGN (ILL.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Triple the size of the small and unpopular 1970s facility it replaces, the new Champaign Public Library increases space for every department and adds a conference center, group and individual study spaces, a periodicals reading room, a teen space, a storytime room, a Friends gift shop, and a café. The facility placed special attention on effective daylighting as well as on the selection of durable and sustainable interior materials such as bamboo floors, walls, ceilings, and service desks.

*New Construction*  
Ross Barney Architects  
r-barc.com  
Size: 125,900 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$29 million  
Photo: Craig Dugan/Hedrich Blessing







## SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

### HANNAH LANDA PUBLIC LIBRARY

A \$1.63-million renovation of the Hannah Landa Memorial Branch of the San Antonio Public Library included a new roof, extensive landscaping, and the construction of an outdoor pavilion by local artist Carlos Cortés. The new Landa Gardens designed by landscape architect Dave Shows provide an urban green space with walking paths, seating areas, a community garden, and more than 7,000 new plants.

#### *Renovation*

Arizpe Group

[arizpe.com](http://arizpe.com)

Size: 5,252 sq. ft.

Cost: \$1.6 million

Photo: Landa Gardens Converancy;  
San Antonio Public Library



## LAS VEGAS-CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

### CENTENNIAL HILLS LIBRARY

Designed to earn LEED gold certification, the Centennial Hills Library incorporates recyclable carpet, linoleum countertops, drought-tolerant plants appropriate for the environment, exterior shading devices, and an efficient mechanical system. JMA Architecture Studios planned the facility, which is sited to connect to a nearby community center, park, and pedestrian trails.

#### *New Construction*

JMA Architecture Studios

[www.jmaarch.com](http://www.jmaarch.com)

Size: 45,555 sq. ft.

Cost: \$20.5 million

Photo: JMA Architecture Studios



## PALM BEACH COUNTY (FLA.) LIBRARY SYSTEM

### HAGEN RANCH LIBRARY

Its bold exterior geometric forms make the Hagen Ranch Library of the Palm Beach County (Fla.) Library System easily visible from the roadway. Highlights of the \$8-million, 34,000-square-foot building include a children's area designed around a jungle theme, a 15-acre lakefront setting, and a reading area with views of the landscape.

#### *New Construction*

Pierce Goodwin Alexander and Linville

[pgal.com](http://pgal.com)

Size: 34,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$8 million

Photo: Dana Hoff





SAN JOSE (CALIF.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### SHEPARD-PRUDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

In spite of its small site, an expansion of the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library doubled the size of the existing facility, made all areas accessible to people with disabilities, added an outdoor reading courtyard, and provided a public meeting room, program room, state reference and reading rooms, and environmentally controlled archival storage. The project was also careful to maintain respect for its National Landmark neighbor, the 1758 Cupola House.

*Renovation and Expansion*  
Traub Architecture and Design  
traubarchitecture.com  
Size: 6,000 sq. ft. expansion, 12,000 sq. ft. total  
Cost: \$2.3 million  
Photo: Betsy Ross Design

#### PETTIGREW REGIONAL LIBRARY, EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA



#### EDENVALE BRANCH

The new 22,200-square-foot Edenvale Branch of the San Jose (Calif.) Public Library—the first to serve Edenvale neighborhood—brings elements of the natural world inside through public art by Troy Corliss, whose glass-and-steel plant forms form a canopy in the busy “marketplace” center. The design also incorporated green building principles through low-E glazing, wall and roof insulation, and strategically placed overhangs.

*New Construction*  
CWA Architects  
cwa-arch.com  
Size: 22,200 sq. ft.  
Cost: \$10.3 million  
Photo: City of San Jose staff



## LAKE COUNTY (FLA.) LIBRARY SYSTEM



### CAGAN CROSSINGS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Located near the intersection of four counties, the new Cagan Crossings Community Library serves patrons living across what is known as "Four Corners." Part of the Lake County Library System, the building includes a two-story tower at the main entry, abundant casual seating, and a storytime room looking out into a quiet reading garden.

*New Construction*  
 Harvard Jolly Architecture  
[harvardjolly.com](http://harvardjolly.com)  
 Size: 30,125 sq. ft.  
 Cost: \$8.0 million  
 Photo: George Cott/Chroma

## FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, JACKSONVILLE DEERWOOD CENTER LIBRARY

The renovation project includes the merging of the library with the learning center and the addition of new classroom spaces.

*Renovation*  
 Reynolds Smith and Hills  
[rsandh.com](http://rsandh.com)  
 Size: n/a  
 Cost: \$40,000  
 Photo: Jametoria Burton



## RIVERSIDE COUNTY (CALIF.) LIBRARY SYSTEM



### WOODCREST LIBRARY

The new Woodcrest Library incorporates numerous Craftsman-style elements through exposed wood and stone details as well as careful melding of the building with the landscape. The structure includes a "water-wise" demonstration garden with drought-tolerant plants, deep overhangs and trellises, and a number of green features.

*New Construction*  
 HMC Architects  
[hmcarchitects.com](http://hmcarchitects.com)  
 Size: 10,000 sq. ft.  
 Cost: \$5.1 million  
 Photo: Ryan Beck Photography



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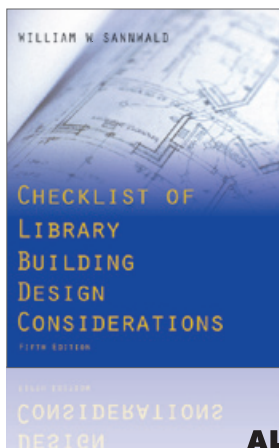


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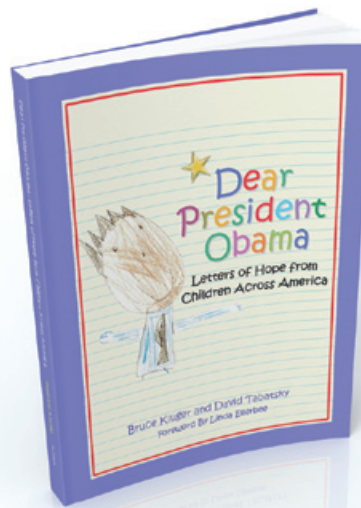
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# What are Vendors Doing to Help Libraries

# GO GREEN?

by Wanda Urbanska

# a lot

Six years ago, Joe Frueh, director of sales at the premium institutional furniture manufacturer Agati, started getting questions from library clients and designers about the green properties of his products. "It used to be the odd question," he says—the occasional query about how or where a product was made. Today such information is "a regular part of the discussion." However, in the not-too-distant-future—maybe 15 years from now—Frueh expects this line of questioning to go away entirely. Sustainable, eco-friendly products are "just going to become the norm," he says.

Likewise, Coleen Gagliardo, vice president of marketing for the library supplier Gaylord Brothers, projects "tremendous growth" in the green segment of her business, which is fast-growing but accounts for just a fraction of the overall pie. To that end, in 2007, Gaylord assigned a product manager to become the company's resident "green expert"—the person who stays current on rules and regulations and helps guide company purchasing decisions. "Green products still carry a price premium," Gagliardo notes. "But as we build up volume, those prices will go down."

So while green products are rapidly becoming the new "gold standard" of American building, furnishing, interiors and design, significant challenges exist for most everyone on the ground who makes purchasing decisions—especially in today's straitened economy when public dollars are often stretched to the limit and going green can carry an initial price pre-

mium of 20% to 80% above a conventionally produced equivalent.

## Libraries lead the way

Despite the cost differential, many believe that it is incumbent upon libraries to show leadership with environmental innovation and education, serving in their traditional role as beacons of the community.

"Libraries are the most visible and accessible of all public buildings," says William W. Sannwald, author of *Checklist of Library Building Design Considerations* (ALA Editions), the 2008 edition of which contains substantial material on green design. Libraries, he says, "need to take a lead in not only exhibiting and explaining green design techniques," but in practicing sustainable design in the built environment.

"What differentiates a green library from a conventionally





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Many believe that it is incumbent upon libraries to show leadership with environmental innovation and education, serving in their traditional role as beacons of the community.

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built library is that it's been designed and built from a systems perspective," says David Johnston, a green building consultant based in Boulder, Colorado. That means that "the building is designed to minimize fossil-fuel dependency so that it maintains the temperature and humidity to protect the collections and provide comfort for the occupants."

LEED certification standards for new public buildings and major renovation projects have set the bar for institutional construction. Forward-thinking municipalities, such as Houston, San Francisco, and San Jose to name a few, are pushing the envelope by mandating LEED as the standard for major new projects. But even without government mandates, clients have come to expect green buildings.

## Furnishing, fixtures and interiors

"Our clients are requesting that we get LEED certified or LEED silver certified," says Mark Schatz, principal with Field Paoli Architects in San Francisco. Green design, he says, "has become part of the vocabulary that architects have to have." Features that help build that vocabulary into a coherent building plan—and accumulate the all-important points to achieve LEED certification—include windows with low-emissivity glass, high-performance insulation, recycled and recyclable flooring materials and wall coverings, mechanical equipment with economizer cycles and water-conserving plumbing fixtures.

On the question of ventilation, for instance, Schatz has seen what he calls "a sea change" in thinking over the last decade. In the recent past, he says, "people were afraid of operable windows. Concerns about security overrode concerns about sustainability." But, he predicts, operational windows will not be optional for much longer as future building codes will be written to incorporate strict energy standards that specify such features.

In Norfolk, Virginia, planning is now under way for the construction of a \$50 million public library complex that will be "as energy-efficient as possible, following LEED guidelines," according to Troy Valos, assistant archivist for special collections at the Norfolk Main Library. Valos is working with library director Norman Maas and a team from the city to ensure that the new Slover Main Library—slated to break ground in 2010, with a projected completion two to three years later—will be as green as possible.

"Our goal is to become the most technologically advanced library in the country," Valos says. Among the many unique features of the project is the incorporation of an 1899 neoclassical former post office and federal court building—the former Seaboard Building,

which currently serves as the central library—into the complex. (The new and existing structures will be connected by a recessed glass atrium and courtyard.) What's more, a new planned light rail

line feeding into downtown, with a station to be located directly across from the library complex, will create multiple synergies, not the least of which is increased foot traffic. "We see this library as becoming the nexus for the entire community," says Valos.

The Norfolk team has before them the heady—albeit nerve-racking—job not only of making wise design decisions, but of selecting appropriate furnishings, fixtures, and finishes for the new complex. To supplement advice from architects and designers, many procurement professionals refer to such websites as [www.buildinggreen.com](http://www.buildinggreen.com) and [www.greendepot.com](http://www.greendepot.com), for product information and screening. David Johnston's newly launched website, [www.greenbuilding.com](http://www.greenbuilding.com), which is slanted toward residential construction, offers a primer for those wanting to learn the green basics.

Increasingly, companies themselves have begun providing those green basics to customers. Gaylord Bros, for instance, has set up a webpage called "Everyday Green" providing detailed product information. Jodi Accumanno, the company's product and catalog manager, who oversees the green lines, says the company scrutinizes vendor claims before taking on new products that are billed as green.

## Built to last

Both Agati and Gaylord Brothers offer built-to-last lines of furniture, which are never the least-expensive short-term option but offer "life-cycle" savings. "We call it legacy furniture and warranty it for 10 years," says Joe Frueh. In 2008, Agati switched to water-based top coats on the furniture to further reduce the output of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) in its products' finishes. However, Frueh says, "the greenest thing about Agati is that we make everything in the USA." The company's furniture is milled and manufactured in upstate New York, which provides multiple benefits include reducing the carbon cost of shipping product from overseas.

In the past, says Accumanno, customers "used to shy away from the eco-friendly concept." But today she finds it exciting to see "how designers have embraced green products," making ones that appeal to almost everyone. ■



Wanda Urbanska is author/coauthor of seven books, including the forthcoming anthology *Less Is More* (New Society, August 2009). She is host/producer of the syndicated public television series *Simple Living* with Wanda Urbanska and is scheduled to speak during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in July.



**The Lutron Eco-System lighting control** system can dramatically reduce a building's energy consumption through savings in the cost of lighting. This relatively new "smart" digital system—which adjusts light levels according to the amount of daylight streaming into a space, senses occupancy, allows for dimming options, and can be pre-programmed to shut on and off according to schedule—is catching on in green libraries, schools, and other institutional settings. "These day-lighting controls are definitely an idea I would recommend," says San Francisco architect Mark Schatz.



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**Atmosphere recycled rubber flooring**, made from recycled tires, has displaced carpet as the flooring of choice for the 42-location Houston Public Library system. Wendy Heger, assistant director for planning and facilities, calls these 38" x 38" flooring tiles "a green choice." The flooring is quiet, she says, "and can be cleaned with a damp mop." In addition to its acoustical benefits (the

product dampens vibrations for foot and rolling traffic noise), it promotes foot comfort and resists slips and stains. Depending on the color choice—with black being the most eco-friendly—up to 7.5 tires are saved from the landfill for every 100 square feet installed. It "does so many things right," remarks Les Carley, ToMarket® sales representative in the Houston area, "it's a show stopper."

# 10 ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS FOR YOUR LIBRARY



▲▲▲ **Gaylord Brothers' Greenplay Submarine Activity Center**, constructed with FSC-certified wood, formaldehyde-free finishes and 100% post-consumer plastic material, is a part of the Greenplay™ line of eco-friendly children's library products. A concern for the impact of toxic products on developing bodies makes buying for this age cohort the first priority for many, says Gaylord Brothers' Jodi Accumanno.

After speaking with architects, interior designers and vendors across the nation, *American Libraries* compiled a list of 10 products—or product categories—that libraries may want to consider in their quest to save energy, improve indoor air quality, and become better environmental stewards.

**Agati's Curtis ladder-back chair** is built in America with FSC-certified hardwoods, using sturdy mortise-and-tenon joinery. Each right angle is secured with a pin to further increase strength. Agati's chairs are design classics that are ergonomically engineered for lumbar support and longevity. "We expect our furniture to last for at least 25 to 35 years," says Agati's Joe Frueh; but he adds that when well maintained, under the right conditions, pieces "could last 100 years."





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### The Sydney Smart dual-flush

**toilet by Caroma** is a water-saving winner that averages 0.9 gallons per flush. The dual-flush technology—developed in Australia by Caroma and catching on in America—allows users to choose the appropriate water load, depending on whether the waste is liquid or solid. After a 400-bed Hilton hotel in San Antonio switched to Caroma dual-flush commodes in 2007, water usage dropped by a staggering million gallons a month. The Sydney Smart features an industry-leading 3.5-inch waste trap that Nick Gunia, president of Alterna Corporation, a Caroma distributor in Miami, calls “virtually impossible to clog.”

**Derbibrute roofing** is a waterproof roofing membrane with a reflective surface that helps create an energy-saving “cool roof.” Derbibrute was installed at the Looscan Neighborhood Library of the Houston Public Library system, the system’s first “green” branch. “What sets us apart from the single-ply is that we’re a multiply,” says Clint De Shon, a researcher for Derbibrute. The bright white surfacing exceeds Energy Star® reflective standards, and the product offers a 20-year warranty. “As long as it keeps its integrity, we can go in and put another membrane on top of the Derbibrute,” says De Shon.

### Armstrong linoleum flooring

is the go-to choice of interior designer Marie Fisher, who is using it for several of her library projects in the San Francisco Bay area. Armstrong linoleum, which was introduced in 1909, is making a comeback after years in the doldrums. Fisher characterizes linoleum as “outstanding ... a cradle-to-cradle product that is sustainable.” The impervious, integral material can be used on floors and tabletops. Containing 35% pre-consumer recycled material of wood dust, cork flour, and linseed oil, linoleum is more economical than cork and has what Fisher calls a desirable “old-fashioned look.”

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### Gaylord’s Iron Horse book truck

is made in America of durable, 30% post-consumer recycled domestic steel. Its round tube construction makes for a long lifespan; each truck can support up to a 500-pound load. “We could easily take these trucks and move their manufacturing to China to get the cost down,” says Gaylord Brothers’ Jodi Accumanno, “but we wouldn’t be sure of the quality and long-term viability of the product.”



### NCFI Polyurethanes’ InsulStar spray foam insulation

is what green building consultant David Johnston calls “best of class.” He says, “Insulation for any building type appropriately selected and installed is the best investment a community can make in a building’s infrastructure. Most people don’t think of insulation as an investment but as a cost. In fact, this is an investment in a building’s long-term operations.” As energy costs spiral, high-performance spray foam insulation is becoming increasingly popular, not only for its insulating properties but because it resists mold and moisture and promotes healthful indoor air quality. “We love to work long-term,” says Don Schumacher, director of marketing for NCFI. “Libraries and schools are not 20-year buildings; they’re 100-year buildings.”

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**A reusable hemp tote bag** is sold by Reusablebags.com. This dual-handled hemp tote is sturdy, roomy, made from renewable hemp, and can be imprinted with a library’s logo. What’s more, says Natalie Slater, internet communications manager for Reusablebags.com, the bag holds up after multiple uses. Moving from single-use disposable bags to reusables is one of the first—and easiest—and best moves a library can make to go green.







Two libraries' spaces for children ages 5 and under serve as models for libraries looking to create destinations for the preschool set

by Elaine Meyers and Clara N. Bohrer

Imagine a young mother and toddler on a trip to the library. After picking out a bestseller, the young mother casts a tentative look down the stacks to the children's area. Inspired by a bright poster of Clifford the Big Red Dog, she turns the stroller and heads toward it. Recognizing Clifford, her child wiggles to get out. Released from the stroller, the child veers and heads for the closest range of books. In a flash, books are flying. A delighted child sits among a jumble of books and under the disapproving glare of a well-dressed businessperson. The mother scoops up her child who begins to wail, attempts to straighten the books, smiles apologetically, and hurries toward the exit leaving her bestseller on a table. She has one thought: Leave and come back when her child is older—much older.







Can we afford to lose these customers? Can we help the young parent with the toddler pulling down books or the father trying to manage a 3-year-old while his 3rd-grader does a book report? Supporting early literacy continues to be one of public libraries' most important roles. What can we do to make our public space a family destination in order to help children, especially preschoolers, enjoy the library experience and grow into readers and lifelong library users?

Libraries serving the diverse communities of West Bloomfield, Michigan, and Phoenix faced similar questions when designing spaces for the preschool set: How could public space promote early literacy? How do we keep from becoming a playground? Can we design space and activities around the six emergent literacy skills in the "Every Child Ready to Read @ your library" initiative.

## Designing for active exploration

West Bloomfield Township Public Library (WBTPL) began a massive renovation of its flagship library in 1999, allocating 15,000 square feet for the children's area, with

about 40% of this space specifically designed for children ages 5 and under.

The library's architect and interior designer were given a crash course in early-childhood education through such books as Feinberg, Kuchner, and Feldman's *Learning Environments for Young Children* (ALA Editions, 1998) and Jim Greenman's groundbreaking *Caring Spaces, Learning Places: Children's Environments That Work* (Exchange, 2005).

They visited preschools, children's museums, and other libraries to observe best practices in action. The library held focus groups to learn from parents, childcare providers, teachers, and early-childhood experts. Librarians made suggestions

based on successful past experiences delivering youth services, and staff pored over *Gressco*, *Childcraft*, and *Constructive Playthings* catalogs for ideas.

West Bloomfield's goal was to provide a stimulating environment where children and their parents and caregivers can actively explore and interact in meaningful learning activities. The spacious room includes:

- Thematic and seasonal interactive displays and games that increase vocabulary, develop critical think-

## How do we keep from becoming a playground?







Photo: Bill Timmerman

Phoenix Public Library's Baby Zone features a ground-level activity center, floor shelving for board books, and a magnetic activity area.



Photo: Mike Greer Photography

The Learningscape at West Bloomfield Township Public Library encourages playful discovery and helps develop motor skills for babies and toddlers.



Photo: Mike Greer Photography

Interactive displays lead the way into West Bloomfield Township's stimulating library environment.



Photo: Mike Greer Photography

West Bloomfield's activity center offers educational toys, areas for dramatic play, and plenty of spots for caregivers and children to interact.

ing skills, and encourage motor skill development;

- Areas for dramatic play and creative expression;
- An activity center stocked with educational toys;
- A Learningscape structure for babies and toddlers

that aims to stimulate brain development, encourage playful discovery, and develop gross and fine motor skills.

The cost of the WBTPL addition and remodel was \$190 per square foot in 1999/2000. The Learningscape unit, added in 2002 at a cost of \$15,000, can be disassembled into three sections for easy storage.

## Redefining public service

Phoenix Public Library's plan was based on past success—not in early childhood, but in service to teens. Burton Barr Central Library's Teen Central proved that public space could redefine public service. How could this be applied to space for preschoolers?

When the project was begun in 2002, there were no formal plans or budget for renovation of the children's space. The library received an LSCA grant using matching bond monies from the original Central Library bond and carved out a corner of approximately 1,000 square

feet in the existing 10,000-square-foot children's area. Phoenix staff worked with local architects who, as library users as well as the parents of three children all under age 4, came with firsthand knowledge of our local needs.

PPL conducted focus groups with families and early-childhood experts to capture the customers' vision. Phoenix staff had a unique partnership with staff at the Children's Museum of Phoenix, who created and installed a variety of early-literacy stations in the library's empty 1,000-square-foot corner so staff could observe children for a week in this new environment.

Phoenix's First Five Years/Los Primeros Cinco Años was designed to enhance parent-child early literacy interactions by building on activities parents reported enjoying the most: reading with their children, doing puzzles and working with magnetic letters, coloring, and playing learning games. Parents were also adamant about the need for a specific area

**It's essential to ask caregivers what they enjoy doing the most with their young children and then build on this information.**



Kiosks at Phoenix Public Library invite interaction from both children and parents.

for infants and toddlers separate from more active children. Features of the finished space include:

- A Baby Zone/Zona de Bebe that features a soft TotTurf floor, a low baby-bumper activity center, floor shelving for board books, and a bench that defines the area while providing seating, book display, and a magnetic activity area;
- Slat-shelving marketing areas for display of parent books, flyers, and featured books and activity sheets that promote the six early-literacy skills;
- An interactive kiosk, door-sized felt board, and writing activity table that features a magnetic screen for storytelling or playing with letters or sequencing activities; and
- Special overhead signage and carpet to define the area.

The cost of Phoenix's project in 2002–2004 was \$180 per square foot.

## Finding the space

The amount of space allocated ranged from 1,000 square feet in Phoenix to 6,000 square feet in West Bloomfield. To find this space, Phoenix weeded its children's collection by one-third, which allowed staff to lower shelving for enhanced natural lighting and improved supervision. West

Bloomfield weeded its collection and raised shelving along the walls of the library to provide more space in their much larger footprint.

## Hold nothing sacred in the early brainstorming phase.

Downsizing collections and adjusting shelves are not the only solutions to finding space. Libraries should consider the amount of seating and table space needed, size and placement of services desks, number and configuration of computers, and use of storage and meeting room spaces. Hold nothing sacred in the early brainstorming phase. West Bloomfield was able to convert their children's meeting rooms into activity spaces by installing glass walls that accommodated supervision from the service point in the room.

## Refining service goals

Both West Bloomfield and Phoenix wanted to create a destination for families and caregivers that encourages adults to spend time with their young children. This model is the opposite of a play area where parents sit on the perimeter watching their children.





Photo: Bill Timmerman

Windows, walls, and floors at Phoenix Public Library define the children's space while offering additional opportunities for display and learning.



Photo: Mike Greer Photography

At West Bloomfield, puzzles and toys encourage play while developing a child's motor skills.



Photo: Mike Greer Photography

Entrances to the youth sections at West Bloomfield's Westacres branch (left) and the main library separate the space from the rest of the library. The branch



Photo: Mike Greer Photography

portal showcases changing displays of books and interactive learning tools.

A second shared service goal was providing a place for informal learning based on play and exploration using a variety of interactive materials such as board and picture books, puzzles, flannel or magnetic shapes and letters, matching and sorting games, mirrors, and writing and drawing materials. Both libraries included tactile surfaces that children can use to explore and develop cognitive and motor skills. PPL's windows include peek holes, while West Bloomfield has a portal entrance with interac-

## The goal of informal learning is rooted in the belief that the parent or caregiver is the child's first and most important teacher.

tive displays, lighted floor tiles, and nursery-rhyme tiles hidden around the room.

The goal of informal learning is rooted in the belief that the parent or caregiver is the child's first and most important teacher. Parents are engaged through face-out

displays containing bookmarks, flyers, books, and other media. Signs suggest how to use different features in the room, and take-home activity sheets extend learning.

## Lessons learned

West Bloomfield and Phoenix have enjoyed immediate success with their new spaces. Attendance at preschool programs and room use is up in both libraries. Caregivers are staying longer with young children and report feeling more comfortable in the library. Both libraries have made modifications to their original designs and continue to learn from talking to customers and observing the use of the space. The lessons learned provide excellent direction for any library planning a similar area.

- Talk to your community as part of your planning process. Include parents and childcare workers and experts, and observe what young children are already doing. It's essential to ask caregivers what they enjoy doing the most with their young children and then build on this information.

- Become familiar with the six skills for early literacy in "Every Child Ready to Read @ your library" ([www.ala.org/everychild](http://www.ala.org/everychild)) and other principles of child development. Use these as criteria for evaluating space design, activities, and materials in the area.

- Design to keep adult and child together and avoid





West Bloomfield keeps interactivity in mind by offering seats for adult and child at its computers.

creating long corridors that become raceways for older children or blind areas that could lead to inappropriate physical play.

- Access your existing spaces and find the maximum square footage that you can realistically supervise and maintain.

- Establish your budget and, if funding allows, engage the help of an architect to realize the full potential of public place.

- Budget for wear and tear.

- Remember the devil is in the details. Provide coat racks, doors and aisles to accommodate double strollers, places for food, and storage areas for interactive displays and materials. Use ceiling spaces, floors, walls, and windows as opportunities for displays and learning. Include comfortable seating for parents and caregivers.

- Don't think that it's necessary for interactives to be customized or to have a huge impact on the budget. West Bloomfield and Phoenix rely on simple interactives that can be changed regularly and purchased off the shelf at chain or educational learning stores.

Any library can transform space into a zone for early literacy and learning that attracts parents and children. Understanding stages of development for children from infancy to 5 years is one of the first steps to creating an appropriate environment. While interactive, museum-

quality environments have their appeal, a young child will have just as much fun and learn equally well with a book, a puzzle, or a space to draw. The advantage of low-tech and low-cost solutions is that parents can replicate these activities at home and intuitively understand how to interact with their child in the library, creating what Phoenix architect Tom Durkin calls "an outline for learning."

Children can learn from any environment. You can influence the amount of learning by building into your youth room opportunities for motor, cognitive, and social experiences. Design your space to align with the most enduring roles of a public library—promoting early literacy and raising lifelong readers. ■



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**CLARA N. BOHRER** has served as director of the West Bloomfield Township (Mich.) Public Library since 1991. She earned an MSLS from Wayne State University in Detroit and received both an MA and BA in education from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She is the 2009 winner of the American Library Association's Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children.





by Steven C. Fortriede

# Mistake-Free MOVES

Make your library move a smooth one by avoiding these common mistakes

This article is excerpted from Fortriede's forthcoming book *Moving Your Library*, to be published by ALA Editions in July 2009. Visit the ALA Store at [www.alastore.ala.org](http://www.alastore.ala.org) for ordering information.



I often tell prospective clients there are 53 mistakes that can be made during a library move, and one of the reasons they should hire me is that I have already made 47 of them (and understand how to avoid making them again). If you are planning to move your library, here are 10 favorites from my list of musts to avoid:

## #1 Ask your staff or patrons to save boxes.

Most shipping and grocery-store boxes are too insubstantial. If they are different sizes they will not stack securely, and odd-sized boxes encourage people to pack the books however they will fit best, which guarantees they will get out of order. Take time, or spend money, to get boxes all the same size.

## #2 Treat your staff like, well, staff.

Moving Day is not just another day at work. Form new work teams. Encourage friendly competition. Fix lunch or snacks. Make it a work party.

## #3 Waste time and money on “labor-saving” devices.

You may consider conveyors, rollers, mechanical lifts, or the like, but these can be expensive to buy or rent, may require trained operators, and might necessitate building modifications to install. It is usually less expensive, faster, safer, and more accurate to form a human chain and hand the books up or down.

## #4 Don't involve your community.

Your move is a community event. The media will write flattering stories about how hard it must be to move all those books and how cleverly you have organized the transfer. Businesses will want to be associated with your move. Ask them for donations—boxes, pallets, carts, food, a truck. Someone would love to have their truck with their logo sitting in front of your library, loading and unloading books.

## #5 Leave too many empty shelves.

People will expect and appreciate a spacious new building, but there is a point where spacious becomes “empty.” Then you'll hear, “You spent all that money on this new building and now you don't have any books.” Install one fewer shelf per section and temporarily store the rest. Leave the top or bottom shelf empty and place most of the books at eye level. Use lots of face-out display.

## #6 Move microfiche without making absolutely sure they can't shift or slide.

It takes two hours and 43 minutes to refile a shelf of fiche if you spill it from a sufficiently tall cart. Personal experience. Very embarrassing.

## #7 Rely on published studies of average book width.

If you have a collection of 100,000 volumes and each one is only four pages longer than those in the study, you'll end up 28 shelves short. Take time to measure your own collection.

## #8 Figure your time and staff needs based on a single trial run.

The first box, cart, pallet, or whatever loads and moves easily; it's how quickly and safely you can move the 500th or 5,000th that determines the success of your move plan.

## #9 Forget to check the shelf spacing before Moving Day.

Shelf spacing is usually keyed from the first section built. If one shelf is off, you'll have to rehang all of them. For most collections you need at least 11 inches of clearance between the shelves. Go make friends with the installers. Work with them to get everything placed where and how you want it. Bring cookies.

## #10 Let the furniture and equipment movers wander around until they find the right room. Or just let any available staff member direct them.

More information is always better, right? Designate one person in each area. Identify this person with one of those reflective vests the police use when directing traffic. Inform everyone that only the person vested (sorry about that) with this authority is to give instructions to the movers.

## #11 Let someone else do the planning.

I've seen some amazing results: Reference desk on the first floor, reference books on the second floor with periodicals because the architect thought all the wide shelves looked better together. Shelves for just half of the nonfiction collection and the suggestion that the librarians only put out the “best” books. Blind corners in a children's room “so the kids can have a place to read where nobody will bother them.” Get in on the planning early and make yourself heard.

Hmm. I thought I could only fit in 10. Oh well, my mistake. Count, measure, and count again. ■



Steven C. Fortriede has moved more than 10 million books in nearly 30 libraries. He has a BS in Education from Ball State University and an MLS from Western Michigan University. He recently retired as associate director after 40 years with the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He reads history, science, and the occasional fiction and has authored a book on the life and death of Johnny Appleseed. He consults on the side, helping libraries plan their book moves, the latter to help feed a pernicious fishing habit picked up in his youth.

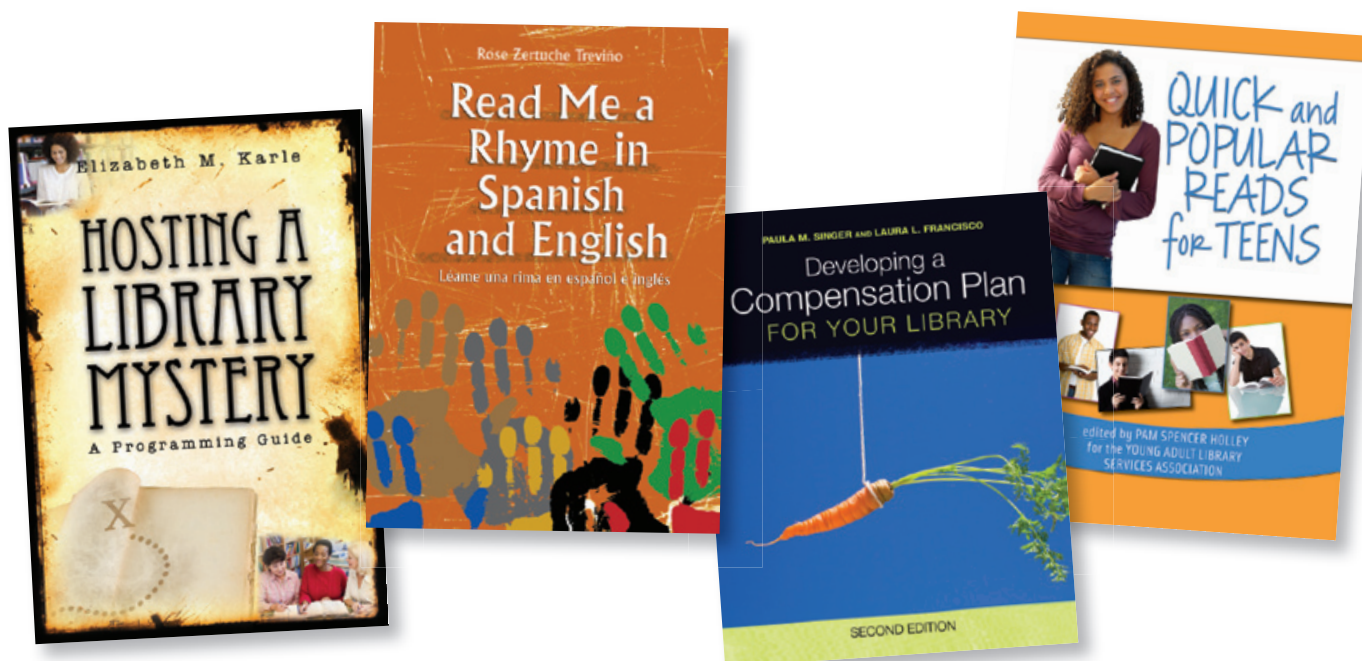


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