

Master Facility Plan
Update

FUNCTIONAL
TEAM
REPORT



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Executive Summary

Purpose

The national award winning District 86 Library Media Department is firmly rooted in instruction and strongly connected to curriculum. For these reasons the library's physical space should be conducive to instruction, inviting, flexible, and remain in close proximity to instructional areas. The current physical space, at both Central and South, does not meet the demands of the respective school communities. The following needs were identified:

- Lack of defined instructional spaces
- Lack of high-end media production computer lab
- Lack of flexibility to meet various learning and programming needs
- Lack of small group collaboration spaces

Priorities

Based on the purpose of the D86 Library Department and the needs identified by the team we identified priorities for improvements. These priorities are:

1. Collaboration-Students and staff need places to work together to plan, design, and create school related and/or personal pursuits.
2. Instruction-Certified librarians play a key role in cross-curricular instruction. Library space needs to support direct instruction of classes, often simultaneously as well as dedicated planning space. The library is focused on social and emotional learning but not socializing, therefore it should reflect an instructional environment not a commons area.
3. Flexibility-In order to meet the needs of all learners, library space and furniture needs to be multi-functional and easily movable. Zoning should play a key role in planning. Areas need to accommodate individual students, small groups, large groups, entire classes, and special presentations.
4. Environment-The physical space, including colors and furniture, need to reflect a warm, inviting, academically stimulating environment. Supervision is essential therefore sightlines need to be unobstructed.
5. Technology-Technology plays a vital role in learning therefore the library needs to provide access to various forms of technology including, collaboration rooms, specialty labs, mobile support, and individual work space.

Using these priorities we determined the following plans would best resolve current needs.

Central-Component 1 Option 1

South-Component 2 Option 3

Contributors

Ms. Stephanie Palmer, HSHS Principal & Steering Committee Representative

Ms. Ellen Lawrence, HSHS Library Department Chair & Functional Team Leader

Ms. Kerrin Riley, HCHS Library Department Chair

Ms. Janine Asmus, HSHS Parent

Ms. Nancy Neuman, HSHS Parent

Ms. Carol Ciolino, HCHS Parent

Mr. Tyler Works, Indian Prairie Public Library Youth Services Librarian

Ms. Sydney McKee, HSHS Student

Mr. Jeff Huck, ARCON & Associates



Library Team Needs and Issues List

1. Small, flexible, collaboration spaces are needed for check-out;
2. Supervision of multiple floors at South HS is difficult;
3. Display areas are lacking;
4. Inspirational areas are lacking;
5. South's space is chopped up with multiple columns;
6. Dedicated reading or quiet areas are lacking;
7. A flexible, classroom sized area with transparent walls that can be opened or closed as needed to support multiple configurations for presentations, small group collaboration needs, and groups from 30 to 100;
8. Presentation space is needed;
9. Technology infrastructure supporting 1:1 and cloud computing throughout all classrooms and support spaces as appropriate is needed (will additional staff and spaces be required?);
10. A variety of furniture settings is needed;
11. A dedicated staff Professional Development/Instructional Technology space (Inspiration Lab.)
12. In order to support the D86 Library Media Department goals of being firmly rooted in instruction and strongly connected to curriculum, both buildings need the following spaces within their Libraries:
 - Media Production Lab - an enclosed upscale production space for filming, video editing, and audio recording and editing;
 - Flexible Presentation space - sub-dividable;
 - Dedicated Instructional space - could be opened to the Presentation space as appropriate;
 - Open space - flexible to support individuals, small groups, drop-ins, large groups, etc. Used before, during and after hours;
 - Digital Video Production Lab;
 - Professional Development/Inspiration Lab.



Library Team Component List

COMPONENT 1 - The Central HS Library receives the following spaces:

- Media Production Lab - an enclosed upscale production space for filming, video editing, and audio recording and editing;
- Flexible Presentation space - divisible;
- Dedicated Instructional space - could be opened to the Presentation space as appropriate;
- Open space - flexible to support individuals, small groups, drop-ins, large groups, etc. Used before, during and after hours;
- Digital Video Production Lab;
- Professional Development/Inspiration Lab.

Addresses Needs items 1, 3, 4, 7 - 11.

OPTION 1

Heavy renovation of roughly 14,000 square feet, including the entire Central HS Library, Library entry, Drop in Computer Lab 502, Digital Video Tech 504, the second floor Cafeteria commons, and Special Ed classroom 258. This option creates a mid-building commons/circulation spine along the west edge of the Library with the Library and commons divided by a series of soft seating areas and small collaboration rooms. This commons would provide a direct route from the Cafeteria to the second floor academics wings and Library areas via an existing Cafeteria stair, and would connect the 2nd floor Special Ed area directly to the Library area and north academic areas. Natural light from the courtyard wall passes through the soft seating areas and into the Library. To replace the Library area lost to the commons, the Library is expanded over the 1st floor Cafeteria, bridging the courtyard below at the north end of the Cafeteria. An opportunity for an atrium exist at this location. The commons/corridor extends south through the two story Cafeteria space, over the first floor staff lounge roof, and through Spec Ed classroom 258. Special Ed can expand north over the kitchen roof gaining much needed space. The total 2nd floor added area is approximately 7,000 square feet. Option 1 addresses Needs items 1, 3, 4, 7-11, and needs identified by the IT, Building Circulation, and Special Ed Teams;

OPTION 2

Re-plans the existing Central HS Library with a 13,500 square foot light renovation, making room for four 10'x12' glass enclosed collaboration rooms. Assumes efficiencies can be found through re-planning to accommodate the loss of +/-800 square feet.. This option addresses Needs items 1, 3, 4, 7 -11 but in a very compressed amount of space - Note: Option 2 does not support the instructional space goals outlined above;

COMPONENT 2 - The South HS Library and supporting spaces remain at 13,725 square feet and are re-planned to support a focus on instruction. South Library receives the following spaces:

1. Media Production Lab/Computer Lab - an enclosed upscale production space for filming, video editing, and audio recording and editing;
2. Flexible Presentation space - within the open area;
3. Dedicated Instructional space - could be opened to the Presentation space as appropriate;
4. Open space - flexible to support individuals, small groups, drop-ins, large groups, etc. Used before, during and after hours;
5. Digital Video Production Lab;
6. Professional Development/Inspiration Lab.

Addresses Needs items 1-11;

OPTION 1

Follows the Jan 2011 MFP in concept with a 15,000 square foot addition including 12,000 square feet for a new Library, 1,000 square feet for relocation of IT, and 2,000 square feet to replace the Fac Dining room where the new Library connects to the main corridors at the 1st floor NW corner of the building. Includes a heavy renovation of 2,000 square feet of to convert the former Fac Dining room into circulation and support space, and a heavy renovation of +/-15,000 square feet of space on the 2nd and 3rd floors converting the

former Library and IT spaces into Guidance and classroom space per the Jan 2011 MFP.

OPTION 2

Creates a second floor over the Science labs wing for a single story (second floor) Library of 12,000 square feet. Includes a heavy renovation of 9,800 square feet of existing 2nd floor space into a small commons, a Guidance/ Counselors suite per the Jan 2011 MFP, and storage for IT. 4,500 square feet of 3rd floor Library becomes available for other uses (classrooms?)

OPTION 3

Keeps the Library in its current location on the second floor just off the main entry to the school and IT. Roughly 9,800 square feet of 2nd floor space (Main Library level) receives a heavy renovation. Existing computer labs are removed, and the entire level is re-planned. 4,500 square feet of 3rd floor Library space receives a heavy renovation to provide flexible a Professional Development/Innovation Lab, a dedicated Digital Video Production Lab, and 2 classroom spaces (in lieu of dedicated computer labs). The internal Library stair between the 2nd and 3rd floors is removed.



Recurring wish list themes:

1. Space—various types of spaces with flexibility to meet needs of different learners and occasions.

Collaboration space was mentioned often.

Provide a variety of work spaces - for individuals, small/large groups, and classes - to work collaboratively, be taught, or just crank on a research project.

Flexible spaces with movable furniture

Have functional zones that are set up for proper supervision and support.

The library needs supervision. Not all highschoolers should be trusted.

Areas for all types of learners (small group, entire classes, individuals, large group meetings/presentations)

Instructional space.-- Every school library should have a few comfortable/technologically advanced places where whole classes can come to receive direct instruction from the school librarian-- book talk(s), database tutorials, research support/guidance, lunch and learns, etc.

Performance space for classes to present projects, author visits, and other special programming

Every school library should have a quiet space where kids who prefer to have some ""quiet time"" can go. Comfortable seating, modular type furniture, etc.

The quiet study area must have more power outlets and places for students to plug in laptops – a nice variation in heights and styles of furniture – library tables, low upholstered – furniture seating areas and perhaps even café/bar height tables

Collaborative rooms for students and faculty

Collaborative Spaces

Every school library should have collaboration stations--places where small groups of students/faculty/staff/admin. can go and connect and collaborate on various projects.

2. Collection—BOOKS, digital materials, display space.

Spaces for books, classes, quiet study and group work.

Libraries still need books – so a light open area where students can find books, librarians can “booktalk” to classes and staff and students can sit and read.

First the library needs a place for books. It is a better resource than the internet.

A well rounded collection of resources (print, digital, technology access & support)

Material Display Space

3. Technology—support current technology and plan for future needs.

Be set up for the technology of the future - not just today. Anticipate how technology will play a role in learning (e.g. 1 to 1), and have the wireless, stations, support mechanisms, databases, outlets/chargers, screens, etc. in place to support that.

Specialty Labs

The library should be technology Friendly Facility. Earlier today i overheard many students saying since the library is closed they cannot do there essays. Many highschoolers do not have the opportunity to use computers at home, so i technology friendly library is a must!

The current situation with the individual lab/classrooms is good because they can close the doors and it minimizes cross contamination of noise and distraction which occurs in an open library space. If the school goes to a one-to one computer system it is still a good idea to provide classroom lab space – perhaps fully wired for digital work which takes a lot of file space and benefits from the speed of a wired connection.

Group work is common in many classes so 3 rooms for group work complete with all electronic connections they would have in the classrooms – if the rooms are in a line they could have sound proof partitions that could be moved to make the spaces larger if necessary.

An item for discussion:

My dream would be to have a small coffee shop/kiosk. The Industrial Technology department would build it/plan it, the Business Education department would market it, the Family Consumer Science Department would fill it (drinks/snacks), and the library would house it. It could be open for a few hours a day, pending the schedule. HSHS could be on the cover of School Library Journal with that one!

2010

Recommendations for the D86 Libraries from the 2010 Master Facilities Plan

South

- Relocate library to Northwest end of the building allowing for all areas used after school and/or by the community to be in a common area and if needed secured separately from the rest of the school
- Access to the library on all 3 levels of the building
- Add 2 computer labs and 1 office for small group meeting room
- Add storage space

Current spaces in the South Library according to the plan

- Reading lab
- 2 Computer labs
- AV room
- AV storage
- Library office
- 3 Offices
- Storage

Actual spaces in the South Library

- 3 enclosed computer labs
- 1 ½ open area computer labs (2nd floor)
- Presentation area (2nd floor)
- AV storage
- AV area which includes computers for students
- Library office (including director's office and librarian's office)
- Small student collaboration room
- 2 conference rooms currently being used as a green screen room for digital video production and audio recording room for the radio sponsor

Central

- Expand by building over the existing cafeteria (doubling current square footage)
- Adding a classroom (plan states there is 1 existing classroom – this is used for DVP NOT library instruction)

Current spaces in the Central Library according to the plan

- Library work room
- Projection room

- Director's office
- Storage-circulation desk
- Conference room
- Classroom
- Multimedia work room
- AV sound room
- Storage-multimedia work room

Actual spaces in the Central Library

- 2 unenclosed computer labs/teaching areas with 8 additional laptops in the North area
- Reading Lounge
- Director's Office
- Library Office
- AV Room with 16 additional desktop computers
- AV storage room
- DVP classroom
- DVP Studio
- Conference Room

Jeffrey T. Huck

From: Lawrence, Ellen <ELawrence@hinsdale86.org>
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2015 1:09 PM
To: Jeffrey T. Huck
Cc: Palmer, Stephanie; Riley, Kerrin
Subject: Library files
Attachments: Central.pdf; South.pdf

Hi Jeff,

I was looking over the documents you sent me and I'm attaching the two pages that describe the existing library spaces and the 2011 master plan. Looking at them in detail I noticed a few mistakes in the existing spaces. For example South's library shows a "Reading lab" listed but this is not something our library houses. Also, it only lists 2 computer labs existing when we have 4. Kerrin, I included you in the email so you could take a closer look at Central's document. Will these errors be addressed in the new plan?

Ellen

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Timesta

NameItem from 2011 plan to change.Suggestion for change.Rationale for change.

Timesta

NameItem from 2011 plan to change.Suggestion for change.Rationale for change.

3/27/2015 10:37:16Carol Ciolino3 level library with access to building on all floors1 level only for public and studentsSchool and student safety:

If the library is to have an open door to the outside for community usage then 1 floor is more secure.

Keeping tabs on 3 levels of students during the day is difficult enough, but after school hours with limited staff it would be impossible to monitor people leaving into the rest of the building. Fully locking the doors on upper levels would be a fire escape nightmare. If doors are only locked from the inside, even if alarmed, once someone goes into the rest of the building it would require extra staff to locate them. If the footprint of the building doesn't allow for a single floor library then only staff spaces such as offices and storage should be on the second floor.

3/24/2015 15:07:14TylerReading SpacesAdding spaces to promote and display library materials and resourcesThe medium is the message. What message is the library sending if the materials are not given a place of prominence? It will give students/staff the library is a material storage space. If materials were given appealing display areas and shelving, it would communicate these are valuable resources and deserving of your attention.

3/24/2015 14:58:07TylerLibrary labs and spacesMake the spaces flexible and support collaborationMany of the points on the Wish List describe having flexible and collaborative spaces. It seems many of the rooms and spaces from the 2011 plan were designed for a specific purpose, such as AV and DVP. By creating flexible spaces, the library will be better to respond to change in the future.

3/17/2015 15:33:36EllenAccess to the library on all 3 levels of the buildingKeep library on only 1 floor.Supervision of multiple floors is challenging. Also multiple floors complicates daily operations of the library.

4/30/2015

Discussion Board - D86libraries

For the purpose of this study, we used a 10-item scale to assess the degree to which respondents perceived that their organization was a social enterprise. The scale was based on the definition of social enterprise provided by the Social Enterprise Research Unit (SERU) at the University of Cambridge (2010). The scale items were: (1) "The primary purpose of this organization is to create social value"; (2) "The primary purpose of this organization is to create economic value"; (3) "The primary purpose of this organization is to create environmental value"; (4) "The primary purpose of this organization is to create cultural value"; (5) "The primary purpose of this organization is to create social value"; (6) "The primary purpose of this organization is to create economic value"; (7) "The primary purpose of this organization is to create environmental value"; (8) "The primary purpose of this organization is to create cultural value"; (9) "The primary purpose of this organization is to create social value"; (10) "The primary purpose of this organization is to create economic value". The scale was a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The Cronbach's alpha for the scale was 0.92.

3/10/2015 10:18:53EllenThe comment section should now be open to everyone. Simply enter your comment in the form above.

3/10/2015 11:01:49Janine Asmus
1. Every school library should have a quiet space where kids who prefer to have some "quiet time" can go. Comfortable seating, modular type furniture, etc.

2. Every school library should have collaboration stations--places where small groups of students/faculty/staff/admin. can go and connect and collaborate on various projects.

3. Every school library should have a few comfortable/technologically advanced places where whole classes can come to receive direct instruction from the school librarian--book talk(s), database tutorials, research support/guid

4. I know you only asked for 3. :) My dream would be to have a small coffee shop/kiosk. The Industrial Technology department would build it/plan it, the Business Education department would market it, the Family Consumer Sc
3/10/2015 23:21:49Tyler I. Collaborative Spaces

2. Specialty Labs

3. Material Display Space

3/11/2015 11:21:34Kerrin Riley I. Instructional space!

2. Collaborative rooms for students and faculty

3. Performance space for classes to present projects, author visits, and other special programming.

3/12/2015 14:57:51Ellen I. Flexible spaces with movable furniture

2. Areas for all types of learners (small group, entire classes, individuals, large group meetings/presentations)
3. A well rounded collection of resources (print, digital, technology access & support)

Ideally all 3 of these things would meet the needs of students, staff, and the community.

3/12/2015 16:33:15Sydney McKee

The new library definitely needs these three things

First the library needs a place for books. It is a better resource than the internet.

Secondly the library need supervision. Not all highschoolers should be trusted.

Thirdly the library should be technology Friendly Facility. Earlier today i overheard many students saying since the library is closed they cannot do there essays. Many highschoolers do not have the opportunity to use computers
3/13/2015 11:34:31Nancy Neuman

1. Provide a variety of work spaces - for individuals, small/large groups, and classes - to work collaboratively, be taught, or just crank on a research project.

2. Be set up for the technology of the future - not just today. Anticipate how technology will play a role in learning (e.g. 1 to 1), and have the wireless, stations, support mechanisms, databases, outlets/chargers, screens, etc. in place

3) Have functional zones that are set up for proper supervision and support.

3/16/2015 14:12:23Carol Ciolino

Spaces for books, classes, quiet study and group work.

Libraries still need books – so a light open area where students can find books, librarians can "booktalk" to classes and staff and students can sit and read.

The current situation with the individual lab/classrooms is good because they can close the doors and it minimizes cross contamination of noise and distraction which occurs in an open library space. If the school goes to a one-to

The quiet study area must have more power outlets and places for students to plug in laptops – a nice variation in heights and styles of furniture – library tables, low upholstered – furniture seating areas and perhaps even café/bar

Group work is common in many classes so 3 rooms for group work complete with all electronic connections they would have in the classrooms – if the rooms are in a line they could have sound proof partitions that could be mov

Jeffrey T. Huck

From: Lawrence, Ellen <ELawrence@hinsdale86.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 7:45 AM
To: Lawrence, Ellen
Cc: Jeffrey T. Huck; Palmer, Stephanie
Subject: Documents now working

Hi all,
I received a few email stating the documents were not visible. Sorry about that, I had them open for D86 email addresses but not anything else. They should be open now.
<https://sites.google.com/a/hinsdale86.org/d86libraries/home/discussion-board>
Please look them over and post your comments by Wednesday.
Thanks.

Ellen Lawrence
Library Director
Hinsdale South High School
630-468-4410
Currently reading *I Am the Weapon* by Allen Zadoff

2012 National School Library District Program of the Year
Twitter: @HSHS_Library

*** Have a book that you would like to recommend for the library collection? [Click here.](#)

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Jeffrey T. Huck

From: Lawrence, Ellen <ELawrence@hinsdale86.org>
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2015 12:47 PM
To: Lawrence, Ellen
Cc: Jeffrey T. Huck; Palmer, Stephanie
Subject: Library Functional Team Website

Hi all,

I created a Google Site for us to share information and continue our discussions. All of you should have rights to edit and comment the site, but if you have any issues please let me

know. <https://sites.google.com/a/hinsdale86.org/d86libraries/>

Please read the article I shared at the meeting (it is also posted on the website) and add your library wish list items to the discussion board on the website.

I have not planned another face-to-face meeting as I'm hoping we can conduct our discussions online. Please post your comments to the first discussion item by Wednesday, March 11. After that time I will post the current plan so we can compare our wish list and begin recommending changes to the current plan.

On the website there is also a page listing the current team members. For most people I only listed first names and last name initials. If you would like to add more details about yourself please do so.

Have a great weekend.

Ellen Lawrence
Library Director
Hinsdale South High School
630-468-4410
Currently reading *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand

2012 National School Library District Program of the Year
Twitter: @HSHS_Library

*** Have a book that you would like to recommend for the library collection? [Click here.](#)

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FACILITIES PLANNING

School Library Media Center Facilities

Steven Baule
Superintendent of Schools, North Boone CUSD #200
Poplar Grove

If you have been asked to participate in a facilities planning effort, you have a big job ahead of you. To divine the future for educational facilities in general, and school library media centers in particular, is an endeavor with nebulous prospects. Schools are built with 50 to 100 year life expectancies, and looking 50 years into the future seems to be, and is, a daunting task. When you look back over the last half century, the changes are vast. School library media centers have changed from quiet rooms with books and study tables to technology-rich centers of student activity. However, when you look forward, there are six key considerations that seem essential to any library media center planning effort.

Flexibility in Student Spaces

Small group instruction, whether in response to elementary guided reading groups or high school problem-based learning teams, will continue. However, whole class instruction will never disappear. What that means for facility space planners is that the student spaces must be designed to be flexible.

The library media center of the future will need to be visually appealing and provide ample area for display of materials and artifacts.

Visual Literacy

Much research supports the need for increased visual literacy. This is especially significant because visually-oriented students are often among those currently labeled as underachievers. The library media center of the future will need to be visually appealing and provide ample area for display of materials and artifacts. It should provide for display of materials in a manner more commonly found in bookstores than in current libraries. You need to showcase materials rather than simply house them. Providing for flexible lighting will also be important. You will want to

design lighting so that one class can be reading in one area of the library media center, while a second group is watching a presentation via an LCD projector in another area. You must ensure that the lighting will be appropriate for each. Small groups of students may be using video projectors or similar devices in the future to facilitate collaboration.

Extended Access

Extended day and evening programs continue to expand. Parents will most likely use the library media center as a meeting room or a classroom for their own learning or in conjunction with their children. This means that the library media center should be accessible directly from the outside, without the need for opening the entire building. If possible, the library media center should have its own entrance and potentially its own washroom facilities. If your school or district is building a new library and the public library has any space issues, you should, at the very least, approach the local public library and offer to build a shared space. Sharing to conserve limited resources is always a positive for both entities.

Technology Friendly Facility

The library media center of the future will be required to embrace mobile technologies, including laptop and handheld computers. Wireless networking will be expected, but there still may be a need for larger desktop computers for student production work, graphic design, or other such projects. Do not forget the older, less sleek technologies such as copy machines and laminators. They will still be necessary as well.

Supervision

Make sure that the library media space can be easily supervised. In a perfect world, one person standing at the circulation desk should be able to supervise the entire library media center. Dead spaces, where students (or adults) can hide, are not acceptable in a center that will be open outside the regular school day. Never allow a library media center with two floors to be built. They can rarely be adequately supervised.

A Place for Books

The library media center will need to hold books. Ensure adequate shelving for the print collection. Eliminating the library media center, or even eliminating books from the library, "as all information is available via the Internet"

Civic Architecture Comes Down to Earth

Exemplary, if modest, design in the public realm is directly engaging communities

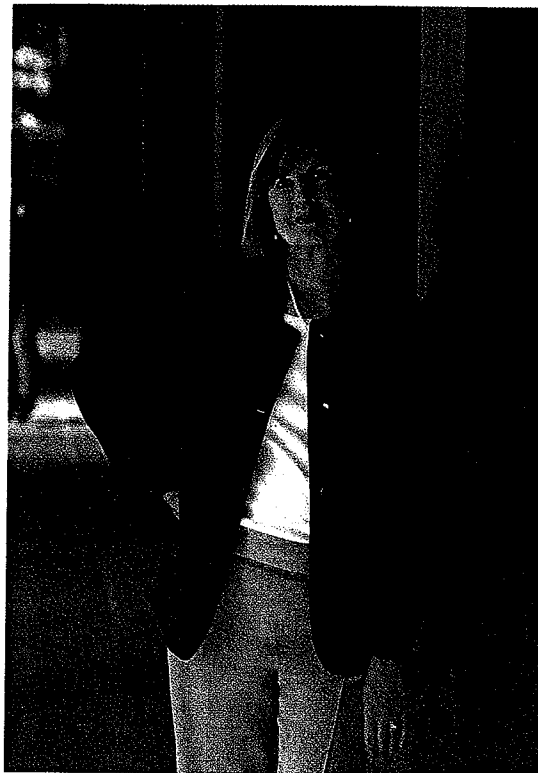
WHAT IS CIVIC architecture today? Some of the best examples are surprisingly modest. The sense of majesty once expressed by public buildings—a grand, domed courthouse overlooking a town square; a temple-front city hall dominating an urban core—is part of the distant past. Public architecture has come down off its podium to engage cities and citizens.

In looking at new civic architecture for this issue, *RECORD*'s editors came across a remarkable number of innovative libraries. Not so long ago, the public library was a passive repository of books headed toward obsolescence—along with the book itself. Yet books are still with us, and libraries have broadened their mission: as everyone knows, they have been retooled as providers of digital access, and, increasingly, they are venues for community programs. Both functions are especially vital in rural and poor urban areas, with limited Internet access, and where fewer households have personal computers. The most visible example of this big shift is the amazingly vibrant Seattle Central Library, designed by Rem Koolhaas of OMA and Joshua Prince-Ramus, now of REX, which opened in 2004 (*RECORD*, July 2004, page 88).

There are 16,415 public libraries and branches in the U.S., and surveys show that attendance for their programs has been growing every year over the past decade. In a report issued by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project in December 2013, an astonishing 95 percent of those surveyed said that public libraries play an important role in their communities. "Libraries are serving as conveners, bringing community members together to articulate their aspirations," said Keith Michael Fiels, executive director of the American Library Association, and they are becoming "active partners and a driving force in community development and community change."

Take, for example, the Pico Branch Library in Santa Monica, California (page 72), designed by Koning Eizenberg. Set in the midst of a park in an underserved area, it is a magnet for the various ethnic populations in the surrounding neighborhoods. With a greenmarket next to the library, families are drawn by a host of activities—visiting the library, playing in the park, shopping for fresh produce. In East Boston, the new branch library by William Rawn Associates (page 102), serves a large community of new immigrants, many of them Spanish speakers. Like the Pico library, the building features lots of glass, making it transparent and inviting. No longer do stern, bespectacled librarians glare and hiss "shush"—libraries today are friendly and active, which means designers must carefully incorporate acoustic controls to keep noise levels down to a pleasant murmur.

Much more ambitious than these branch libraries is the Halifax Central Library in Nova Scotia, by the Danish firm Schmidt Hammer Lassen and local firm Fowler, Bauld & Mitchell (page 84). Halifax wanted a downtown civic landmark, which this building provides, with its dramatically stacked and cantilevered volumes, revealing the bustle of multi-levels of activity through a glass curtain wall. Free public



libraries are an expression of democracy, and, in Halifax, as with many other such projects, the community was deeply engaged in the design process. As another sign of democratic openness, the Halifax library actively seeks out and shelters some of the city's homeless population when winter temperatures drop dangerously low.

But it's not just in North America or Europe that the library is a significant civic building type. We also look elsewhere at two small libraries that have made a big impact, one in a remote Chinese village leveled by an earthquake in 2012, the other in rural Burundi (page 60). Both demonstrate wonderful design ingenuity on miniscule budgets, using local materials and labor.

Fifteen years ago, the scholar Robert Putnam argued in his best-selling book, *Bowling Alone*, that people were increasingly isolated from one another, citing such factors as suburbanization and the growth of the Internet. But the popularity of libraries points to a new kind of social engagement, one in which communities—made of those who are alike and very different—actively seek and share inventive and inviting places in the public realm, created by some of our most thoughtful architects. ■

Cathleen McGuigan

Cathleen McGuigan, Editor in Chief