

WAUNAKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Request for Architectural Services 6.22.2015

OPN Architects

LETTER OF INTEREST

Dear Susan Hedrick and the Waunakee Public Library Selection Committee:

We are excited to work with you and other interested members of your community to design your Next Generation Library for the "The Only Waunakee in the World." Our process is unique to many firms. We directly engage our clients and users in every step of the design process through design charrettes and community open houses. By including the community in important decision-making conversations, we will deliver a library that celebrates the unique identity of Waunakee, while allowing the community's identity to evolve. Public projects comparable to the Waunakee Public Library are all about relationships; the relationship between our firm and your board and, more importantly, the relationship between our collective team and your community. Our firm thrives on cultivating relationships. Our Madison studio is located 25 minutes from your site, and I reside five minutes outside of Waunakee and have a vested interest in the civic facilities my children will utilize.

Libraries today are much more than archival institutions; libraries are civic hubs, with success defined by how it serves a community. Our firm's portfolio features more than 40 libraries across the country, representing a breadth of experience at a variety of scales. Our experience has led us to believe the following attributes are key to a successful Next Generation Library:

- Vital** Libraries should be a beacon in the community, drawing people in to learn, create, and participate in civic life.
- Welcoming** Libraries are a shared destination for all members of a community.
- Inspiring** Libraries have the power to reach users of every age and inspire life-long learning, literacy, and creative endeavors.
- Adaptable** Great libraries are designed to anticipate and accommodate changes to programs, spatial needs, and technological advancements. Technology is evolving at a rapid pace; the iPad was introduced in 2010. What new technologies will exist just five years from now?
- Participatory** Seeing a new library used in ways our designers didn't envision or imagine is an exciting experience. In fact, it's the goal. A properly designed library will serve as the lab, studio, stage, and classroom, inspiring generations of Waunakee residents.

Your project has a unique set of obstacles and nuances we view as inspiring opportunities. After visiting both your current library and the proposed site, we have mapped these considerations on the cover of this document. These factors are both quantitative and qualitative: solar paths, the path and emotion of the Sixmile creek, proximity to schools, a 10-minute walking radius to the new library, and historical observations of the site.

At the end of this proposal, you will find some of our initial interpretations of our investigation of the site. We prepared these graphics to begin to wrap our heads around the project and see how the site reacts to different interventions, but also to start the conversation about what this site can be. We would love the opportunity to discuss these visions and learn more about your vision in the next step of the interview process.

In this proposal you will find a summary of our team, experience, and process. It would be a privilege to work with you to shape the future of library services in Waunakee.

Sincerely,



Wesley T. Reynolds

PROPOSED PROJECT TEAM | OPN ARCHITECTS



As a 100-plus person firm with a 36-year track record of success, OPN is known for delivering inspired design solutions to multiple market types. We've won an array of recognition for our design work and are listed by Architectural Record in the top 100 Design Firms nationally. We believe our success is the result of a deliberate, sustained commitment to an open culture that nurtures excellence and new ideas. Our library experience encompasses award-winning new construction, renovation, and historical restoration works across the country. We design Next Generation Libraries: flexible spaces to accommodate growth and foster public engagement and collaboration. We approach every project with a passion to provide a beautiful design that fits with its context and is responsive to our client's goals and objectives. We are dedicated to the critical role libraries play in our culture and community.



WESLEY REYNOLDS, AIA, LEED AP | ROLE: PRINCIPAL-IN-CHARGE & PROJECT MANAGER

EDUCATION: Iowa State University, Bachelor of Architecture, 2000

As principal of OPN Architects, Wes leads the Madison studio and has been with the company for 15 years. His career has been primarily focused on educational and learning environments. For this project, Wes's knowledge-base will be critical during the programming and design phases. He has a passion for design and a commitment to finding thoughtful solutions that best suit the client's needs.

HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCE

Hedberg Public Library, Janesville, WI
Baraboo Public Library, Baraboo, WI
King Hotel, Madison, WI
Norman Borlaug Elementary School, Iowa City, IA
Kirkwood Elementary School, Marion, IA
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Writers' Workshop Library
Philip D. Adler Journalism & Communications
Boyd Law Student Commons



BRADD BROWN, AIA, LEED AP, BD+C | ROLE: PRINCIPAL & LIBRARY EXPERT

EDUCATION: University of Washington, Bachelor of Architecture, 1997

Bradd has been helping communities realize their vision for library services for more than 20 years, and with 30-plus libraries in his portfolio, he is deeply immersed in best practices for library design. Notable projects include the award-winning Cedar Rapids Public Library, the award-winning restoration of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Dubuque, Iowa, and the design for a new central library in Moline, Illinois. Bradd is an expert in Next Generation Libraries, and recently presented at the ALA Annual Conference.

HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCE

Washington Public Library, Washington, IA
Cedar Rapids Public Library, Cedar Rapids, IA
Cedar Rapids Ladd Library, Cedar Rapids, IA
Williamsburg Public Library, Williamsburg, IA
Moline Public Library, Moline, IL
Des Moines Public Library, East Side Branch,
Des Moines, IA
Baraboo Public Library, Baraboo, WI
Anamosa Public Library, Anamosa, IA



MINDY SORG, AIA | ROLE: INTERIOR DESIGNER & LIBRARY EXPERT

EDUCATION: Iowa State University, Bachelor of Architecture, 1986

Mindy leads the interior design team at OPN and is one of our library experts. Mindy's deep resume of projects include award-winning work for libraries, higher education, and corporate clients. Her expertise in engaging client teams and facilitating dialogue that informs programming is particularly important when working on any project. Her ability to make connections and to design unique, inviting, highly functional and flexible spaces makes her a much sought-after designer.

HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCE

Hedberg Public Library, Janesville, WI
Baraboo Public Library, Baraboo, WI
Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque, IA
Cedar Rapids Public Library, Cedar Rapids, IA
Cedar Rapids Ladd Library Branch, Cedar Rapids, IA
Moline Public Library, Moline, IL
Oskaloosa Public Library, Oskaloosa, IA
West Liberty Free Public Library, West Liberty, IA
Winterset City Hall, Winterset, IA

PROPOSED PROJECT TEAM | KJWW

KJWW Engineering Consultants is an international engineering consulting firm providing innovative engineering solutions for building systems planning and design. Ranked by BD+C among the top 20 engineering firms in the U.S., KJWW specializes in efficient, high-performing building systems across multiple markets. As places to gather, study, and explore, libraries today represent the crossroads of communities, offering opportunities to attend special events, take classes, and connect through lifelong learning. KJWW's library specialists understand how to create dynamic, flexible, and inspiring libraries that are also sustainable, easy to maintain, and cost-efficient. KJWW will be responsible for working with the Focus on Energy Program, located in Madison, to support this project in maximizing the opportunities for rebates and incentives from the local energy corporations. This team continually has the pulse on state and federal programs that can provide financial returns; these programs can range from support providing LED lighting, to increased insulation in walls and roofs.



KRIS COTHARN
Project Executive



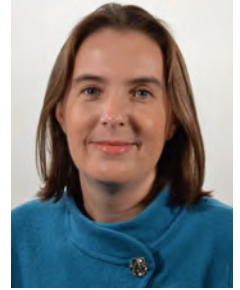
MARTY WITT
Lead Technology Designer



DEREK SCHNABEL
Lead Mechanical Engineer



SCOTT HOLE
Lead Electrical Engineer



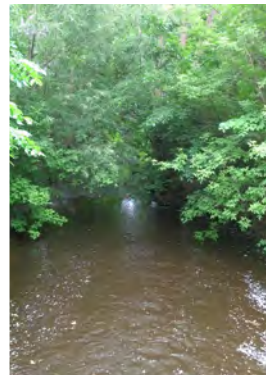
ABBY PERTZBORN
Lead Structural Engineer

PROPOSED PROJECT TEAM | SNYDER & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Snyder & Associates, Inc. was established in 1977 to provide public agencies and private developers with comprehensive engineering and planning support. As this site is currently a brown field adjacent to a navigable water way, the civil engineering efforts will be a critical aspect to which we will want to pay attention immediately. Scott has significant recent experience with similar project types and will work closely with the local city engineers, DNR, and Army Corps of Engineers. Improving the quality of life within the communities served remains the firm's priority today. Our professionals excel at thinking beyond engineering. We begin with a long-term approach, and assist with project funding to facilitate growth through planning. Strong emphasis is placed on incorporating creative, sustainable, and economical solutions into all aspects of design. The firm has grown beyond the company headquarters in Ankeny, Iowa, in response to the technical needs of our clients. Centrally located throughout Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota, our core services include civil engineering, survey, and landscape architecture.



SCOTT ANDERSON
Project Executive



SIMILAR DESIGN PROJECTS



Baraboo Public Library, Baraboo, WI
 Hedberg Public Library, Janesville, WI
 Cedar Rapids Public Library, Cedar Rapids, IA
 Main Downtown Library
 Ladd Branch
 Joplin Public Library, Joplin, MO
 Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque, IA
 Williamsburg Public Library, Williamsburg, IA
 Douglas County Public Library, Douglas County, CO
 Ankeny Public Library, Ankeny, IA
 West Branch Public Library, West Branch, IA

Bloomfield Public Library, Bloomfield, IA
 National Czech & Slovak Library, Cedar Rapids, IA
 Oskaloosa Public Library, Oskaloosa, IA
 Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, Dallas Center, IA
 Frances Banta Waggoner Community Library,
 DeWitt, IA
 University of Northern Iowa Rod Library Renovation,
 Cedar Falls, IA
 Garner Public Library, Garner, IA
 Keokuk Public Library Study, Keokuk, IA
 City of Washington, Washington, IL

DeKalb Public Library, DeKalb, IL
 Fountaindale Public Library, Bolingbrook, IL
 Kirkwood Public Library, Kirkwood, MO
 Mukwonago Community Library, Mukwonago, WI
 Pritzker Military Library, Chicago, IL
 Somonauk Public Library, Somonauk, IL
 Warren-Newport Public Library, Gurnee, IL
 Northeast Iowa Community College, Peosta, IA
 Library
 Elgin Community College, Elgin, IL
 Library & Student Resource Center Expansion

RELEVANT PROJECTS



Year:	2011
Location:	Williamsburg, Iowa
Budget:	\$2,720,000
Square Footage:	17,825
Cost / SF:	\$152
Client:	Loretta Hanson Library Director 319-668-9621

Williamsburg Public Library | Williamsburg, IA

The Williamsburg Public Library is situated on the town's main square, engaging patrons with an entry plaza and utilizing a clock tower to signal the entry and give the library a civic presence. Stone accents on the brick exterior complement the traditional character of buildings on the square; a metal roof and window bays hint at the contemporary nature of the functions within. The upper level features reading areas, children and young adults book collections, a computer area, and three study and meeting rooms. The lower level contains a multi-purpose room, meeting room, and staff lounge. Articulated vaulted ceilings frame the stacks and reading areas along the north and south bays, with a slot for skylights over the central bay. Slated wood motifs in the casework recall the agrarian history, while cherry interior woodwork and a stone fireplace gives a comfortable feel to a contemporary space.

RELEVANT PROJECTS



Year:	2015
Location:	Baraboo, Wisconsin
Budget:	Withheld at Owner's Request
Square Footage:	36,807
Cost / SF:	Withheld at Owner's Request
Client:	Meg Allen Library Director 608-356-6166

Baraboo Public Library | Baraboo, WI

Since 1903, the community of Baraboo, Wisconsin has respectfully preserved its beautiful and historic Carnegie Library. An addition constructed in 1982 extended the functional life of the building and preserved the main public appearance of the Carnegie design. The new design preserves the setback of the original Carnegie Library and provides a new addition of the same proportion, to the east. A new, predominately glass entry zone provides a clear delineation between the original library and the new addition, while also solving a critical accessibility issue with the two-story Carnegie design. Careful attention to the axial design of the Carnegie facility helped to organize the new plan and redefine the functional layout of the library, creating a design that is both respectful of the historic facility and flexible to serve the library's future needs.



Year:	2013
Location:	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Budget:	\$24,128,600
Square Footage:	94,000
Cost / SF:	\$256
Client:	Bob Pasicznyuk Former Library Director 319-398-4977

Cedar Rapids Public Library | Cedar Rapids, IA

This new library is designed to be a vibrant, multipurpose destination for the community. The design was driven by the desire to embrace openness and transparency, and foster public engagement with and within the space. The project team looked for innovative ways to present views throughout the structure while visually connecting the streetscape with the functions occurring within the building. Views into the building frame the rhythmic placement of library stacks juxtaposed with a lively and active children's collection. It was essential the design be flexible to accommodate the future needs of the community. The collection spaces were intentionally designed to be very open; they incorporate few walls and a clear span between the columns to allow for the full utilization of the available square footage.



RELEVANT PROJECTS



Year:	2006
Location:	Des Moines, Iowa
Budget:	\$2,419,412
Square Footage:	13,500
Cost / SF:	\$179
Client:	Carolyn E. Greufe Manager, East Side Library 515-248-6255

Des Moines Public Library - East Side Branch | Des Moines, IA

OPN Architects was selected by the Des Moines Public Library to design an addition and renovation of the East Side Branch Library. The East Side Branch renovation was one component of the Des Moines Public Library's \$48 million capital improvement plan. A new 100-seat community room, entrance gallery, and landscaped entry walks created a modern, exciting aesthetic, updating the tired, drab facility. A reorganization of the interior layout provided improved way-finding and an identifiable sense-of-place for the children's and young adult areas. The design incorporates many sustainable highlights, such as a cool roof membrane to avoid a heat-island effect; light shelves and advanced daylighting techniques to improve energy efficiencies; and a responsible use of sustainable and renewable building materials.

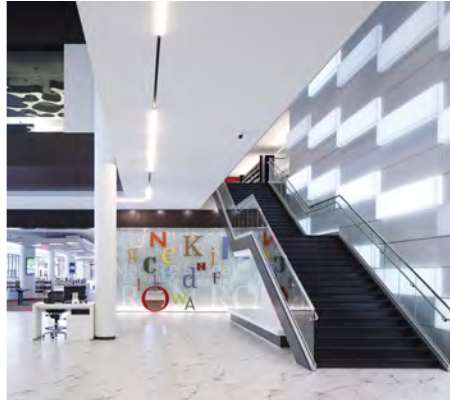


Year:	2009
Location:	Washington, Iowa
Budget:	\$5,069,166
Square Footage:	30,000
Cost / SF:	\$168
Client:	Patrick Finney Library Director 319-653-2726

Washington Free Public Library | Washington, IA

OPN Architect's design for the Washington Free Public Library placed the library in a new building, replacing three vacant storefronts, and serves as a catalyst for future downtown development. The library occupies portions of three levels with approximately 10,000 square feet per floor. Meeting rooms, the reference and adult non-fiction collections, and an adult reading lounge overlooking the town square are located on the upper floor. The main level features the children's collection, circulation services, popular materials, another reading lounge, and the adult fiction collection. The local genealogy collection and future library expansion areas are located on the lower level. An opening in the upper level floor visually connects the floor with the main level. Natural light is brought into the library through glass storefronts and a skylight, located above the opening in the upper floor.

PROJECT APPROACH & METHODS



Libraries have always been the most public of public buildings. Unlike other equally important civic buildings, such as city halls, police stations, public works facilities, etc., a public library is used and accessed by everyone in the community. To the average adult, libraries are indelibly associated with books, but in the age of digital media, this association is rapidly changing. Future generations will associate the library more with community, technology, creativity, and collaboration. Librarians are at the forefront of this change and are well-equipped to lead the discussion about next generation libraries. For designers, it is important we recognize these changes are occurring at an extraordinary speed, and we design to maximize the flexibility of spaces while incorporating best practices for today's libraries. Our design team has intensively researched trends in library design and benchmarked innovative library design nationwide. Libraries are evolving and Next Generation Libraries are embracing the following trends:

TECHNOLOGY & MOBILE SERVICES

Changes in technology and mobile services will be the single largest driver in the evolution of libraries. Interestingly, we're seeing these changes are largely positive, freeing up staff and resources to increase interaction between patrons and staff. In lieu of a traditional centralized circulation desk, library employees are able to locate, scan, and check-out books and media at kiosks located throughout the facility and, in the near future, from belt units. In a significant paradigm shift, there are no desks or physical barriers between library staff and patrons. An automated book handling system sorts books for re-shelving; this RFID-controlled conveyor book-sorting system can be expanded or modified as needs and collection sizes change. As patrons bring in their own mobile devices and E-readers, technology commons with space for patrons to plug in and power up are becoming popular gathering destinations.

COMMUNITY SPACES

Cafés, coffee shops, auditoriums, and flexible meeting spaces are all hallmarks of modern libraries. These popular spots magnetize people to the library and entice them to stay. As the civic hub for a city, libraries strengthen their connections to patrons by providing a valuable "third space" for people to gather, learn, relax, and create. Active engagement with and within the library can be increased through thoughtful use of indoor and outdoor connectivity, green spaces, and enhancing views to and from the library.

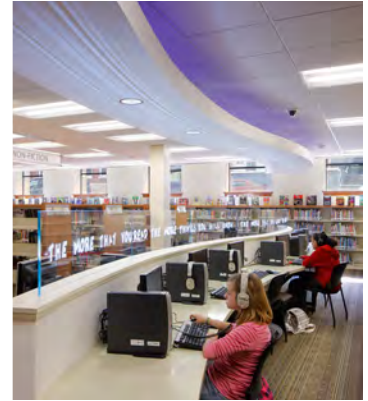
RETAIL MODEL

Some forward-thinking libraries are adapting their programmatic approach to make the library a browser-friendly space with intuitive way-finding. Much like a modern book store, materials are being organized by topic rather than the strict Dewey Decimal System. This arrangement is already familiar to patrons and allows users to easily discover new materials. Lower-height bookshelves provide clear sight-lines, improving way-finding and visibility, and allowing easy access to materials for patrons and staff. Many of our public and academic libraries are implementing Power Walls: long, front-facing shelving that provides space for staff to curate seasonal and topical displays that appeal to various audiences.

YOUNG ADULT ZONES / CONTENT CREATION SPACES

Libraries have long recognized the importance of adult and children's areas, but spaces designed for young adults is an emerging trend that recognizes the important role libraries can play in serving this population. Maker Spaces, Hacker Spaces, and Digital Zones offering access to video creation and graphic design programs are quickly gaining popularity across the country. These unique spaces offer a way to draw teens to the library and allow them to deepen critical digital literacy skills.

PROJECT APPROACH & METHODS



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Libraries are increasingly looking for innovative ways to engage community groups, corporations, and non-profits in programming. By providing spaces designed for experimentation with and nurturing of collaborative partnerships, the library becomes an important cultural hub. Thinking beyond the standard meeting room, un-conference spaces, auditoriums, and outdoor spaces are being designed to host a range of workshops, seminars, dialogue, events, and even business incubators. At the extreme end of this trend, libraries are exploring the potential for co-location with outside partners. We recently worked with Madison Public Libraries in Wisconsin to examine the possibility of co-locating a new branch library with a local grocery co-operative. Our process looked at possible service adjacencies, programmatic opportunities, and coordinated learning support that would help both organizations maximize their budgets and space while enriching services for their core users. Other libraries may be interested in locating near a YMCA, community center, health clinic, or other compatible community resource.

FLEXIBILITY

We strive to future-proof our library designs so the facility is adaptable to the needs of future generations. We can strategically locate the hard- or impossible-to-move elements like mechanical and plumbing chases, elevators, restrooms, etc., in ways that won't impede reorganization. In some cases, we have utilized raised-access floors that allow for rerouting of mechanical, power, and data without needing to demolish walls or ceilings.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

As a public building, accessibility is a paramount concern. Universal design is broader in scope than accessible design and barrier-free design. Universal design includes principles such as equitable use, flexibility in use, simple and intuitive use, perceptible information, tolerance for error, and low physical effort. Good design looks beyond adherence to code to examine how users will interact with the building and looks for ways to improve their experience.

CONSERVATION

New and expanded libraries represent a tremendous investment of resources. It is essential the design be sustainable. We employ a host of strategies to ensure our designs are sustainable and responsible, including envelope design, heating and cooling methods, lighting, and storm water management. We believe strongly in jobsite waste recycling. On the Cedar Rapids Public Library, more than 97% of waste was saved, reused, recycled, or kept out of the landfill. Sustainable design strategies make the most of a community's economic resources today and into the future. Increasingly, libraries are putting their operational efficiency front-and-center for patrons to see and learn from. Interactive flat-screens can display statistics on the building's real-time energy and water usage.

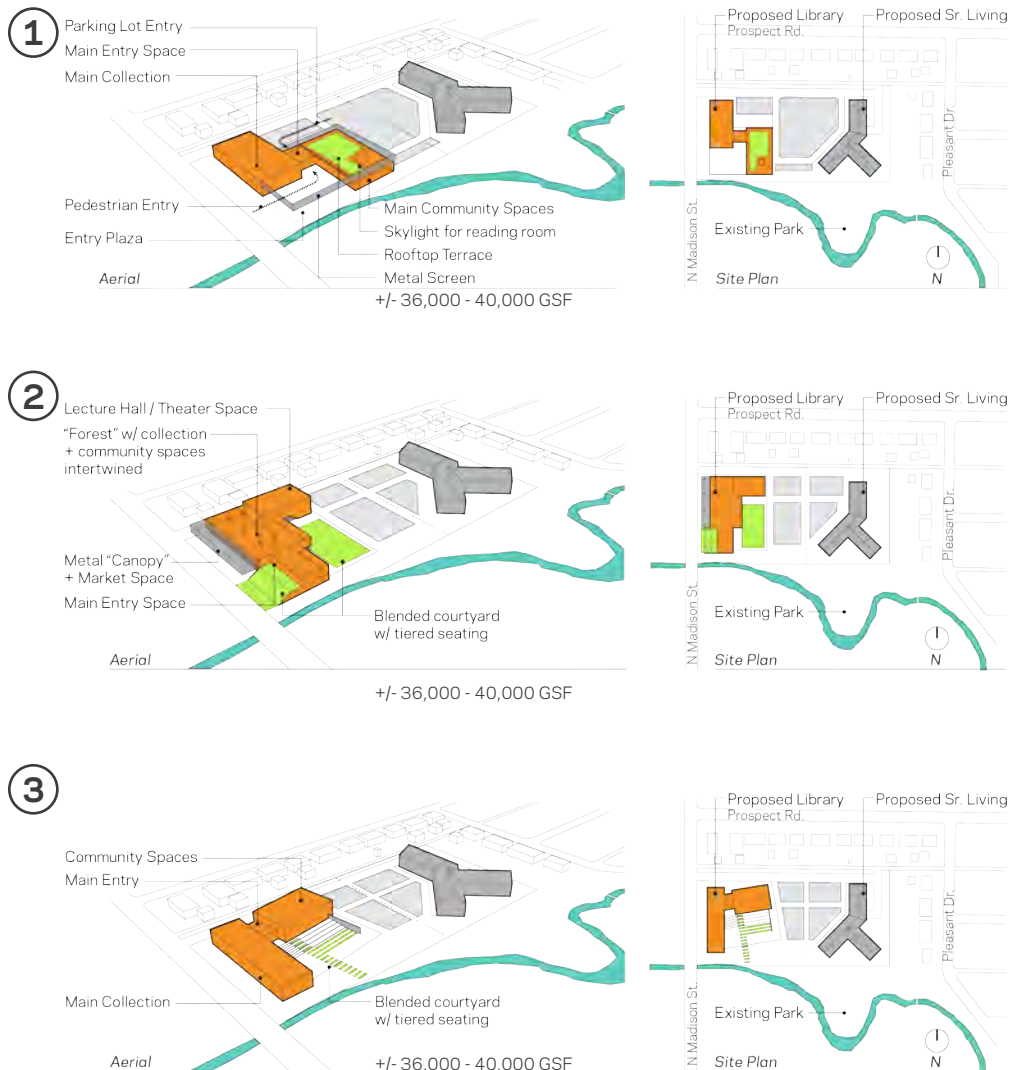
SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is a critical component of our practice. OPN employs 45 professionals accredited by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, and we have completed more than 30 LEED Certified or Registered projects. Sustainable design strategies are transforming the way we design and detail facilities, and are having a dramatic effect on the success of facilities as measured by operational cost and user experience. The site for the new Waunakee Public Library facility is situated on unique grounds. We look forward to the opportunity to preserve and incorporate the natural elements of the site, such as the prairie and Sixmile Creek.

PROJECT APPROACH & METHODS

MESSAGE

Our team has taken the time to study the existing site, as well as the spatial and programming needs of the new facility, to create initial concepts for what the site can be. Our library concept sketches below engage the site as a hub, creating a space that is a distinguished library, community asset, and gathering space.



1 SCREENED

This concept responds to the role a library plays in a community today. It is no longer simply a repository for the collection, rather, it serves as a gathering space for the community. The design utilizes architectural aspects, such as an overhead screen connected to the mass of the building, to define exterior spaces and connect with nature. An entry plaza and rooftop terrace are available for community events and everyday gathering.

2 THE FOREST

The design integrates trees as aesthetic and structural components, connecting the surrounding natural elements with the interior environment of the facility. Ample green space encourages pedestrian circulation and indoor/outdoor community gathering.

3 NATURAL ALLOY

Natural Alloy borrows its name from the history of the site to reimagine how it is perceived. As an alloy combines metals to create a stonger material, this proposed concept blends the surrounding softscape with the hardscape to create an engaging indoor/outdoor whole. The design holds a strong identity on the street; the courtyard is backed by the main building and open to the woods. A proposed senior center, encouraging a relationship between the two.