2009 AIA/ALA Library Building Awards

Co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA)

Buildings and Equipment Section (BES)
Library Building Awards Committee

24th Awards Presentation
Monday, July 13, 2009
The American Library Association Annual Conference
Chicago, Illinois

Jurors Representing AIA:

Douglas E. Ashe, FAIA (Chair)
Ashe Broussard Weinzettle Architects
Alexandria, Louisiana
Sarah R. Graham, AIA
AGPS Architecture
Los Angeles, California
Ann Voda, AIA
Bentz/Thompson/Rietow
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jurors Representing ALA:

Charles Forrest
Robert W. Woodruff Library
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia
Donna Lauffer
Johnson County Library
Overland Park, Kansas
Claudia J. Morner
University of New Hampshire Library
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

LLAMA gratefully acknowledges the support of Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects
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**Project**  Arabian Library, Scottsdale Public Library  Scottsdale, Arizona

**Architect**  Richärd+Bauer Architecture, LLC  www.richard-bauer.com

**Owner**  City of Scottsdale, Scottsdale Public Library

**Notes of Interest**
The desert slot canyons of Arizona capture a powerful and unique experience caught between compressive stone and the sky above. The Arabian Library echoes this natural sequence with its new facility in Scottsdale, Ariz., which is currently undergoing LEED Certification. The interior of the cavernous reading room is clad in an acoustically absorbent, perforated wood treatment that provides noise mitigation, allowing for spaces that enable patrons to enjoy reading, studying, and small group activities without excessive noise spill over from adjacent zones. Additionally, an accessible floor provides recessed mechanical, electrical, and data distribution for long-term flexibility and ease of maintenance.

**Jury Comments**
Traditional Southwestern design enclosing an exterior courtyard—a time-honored element, but executed in a contemporary way. Use of daylight in a Southwest climate is tricky, but the architects were able to bring in a generous amount of daylight while mitigating the harsh desert sun. Stunning in the way it rises out of the desert!

**Additional Credits**
Engineer:  Caruso Turley Scott, Inc. (Structural)

General Contractor:  Redden Construction, Inc.

Landscape Architect:  E Group

Library Director:  Rita Hamilton
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Project  C.V. Starr East Asian Library
         Berkeley, California

Architect  Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects
           www.twbta.com

Associate Architect  Tom Eliot Fisch

Owner  University of California

Notes of Interest
Previously located in three different buildings, the EAL consolidates more than 780,000 volumes of East Asian character language texts—one of North America’s most important collections. While remaining within the campus design guidelines, the building needed to express its Asian Mission. Constructed of rough concrete, the building’s exposed structure feels very solid and continues Berkeley’s legacy of textured concrete. This sense of solidity is transformed upon entering the building. Soft, natural light from a linear skylight fills a long, central void within the building.

Jury Comments
It provides different qualities of light—big and dramatic, subtle and diffused, and quiet and secluded—as well as different qualities of spaces for different study styles.

It is an intelligent interpretation of the design parameters of the university, while remaining respectful of them.

I can think in that space!

Additional Credits

Engineer:  Rutherford & Chekene

General Contractor:  McCarthy Building Companies Inc.

Landscape Architect:  Kevin Conger

Library Director:  Peter Zhou
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**Project**  
Chongqing Library  
Chongqing, China

**Architect**  
Perkins Eastman  
[www.perkinseastman.com](http://www.perkinseastman.com)

**Owner**  
Chongqing Land Property Group

**Notes of Interest**
The program exemplifies the transformation from a repository for books into a cultural center that includes an exhibition hall, computer learning facilities, ancient archives, and reading rooms. Features such as hotel rooms for visiting scholars, a public theater, a conferencing center, and a restaurant also help redefine the library as a cultural destination.

The building’s form is based on both the Chinese architectural tradition of the courtyard and the interior multi-story atrium halls of traditional Western libraries.

**Jury Comments**
The project is able to express its Chinese identity while being modern and forward-looking.

It is worth applauding the use of the reflecting pond as a site device to soften the monumental character to the library as a cultural center.

It is a multi-use building that unites a variety of services and experiences in one place and becomes a centerpiece of civic pride.

**Additional Credits**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Company</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>Axis Design Group International (Structural Engineer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Firm</td>
<td>Third Design and Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Architect</td>
<td>RGR Landscape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Director</td>
<td>Shao Kang Qing</td>
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Project: Biblioteca Central Estatal Wigberto Jiménez Moreno, León, Guanajuato, México


Owner: Fundacion Cultural Guanajuato A.C.

Notes of Interest
The project is located in Leon Guanajuato México and is the first building of the Forum Cultural Guanajuato, a 9.6-hectare cultural center master planned by the submitting architecture firm in 2003. A design challenge was to create a library that would serve as a destination for different activities. The simplicity of the form of the building and its materials provides the city of León with a dignified, elegant and Modern building on a scale appropriate to the urban context of the city.

Jury Comments
Its heritage is grounded in an expression of Spanish Modernism.

What a noble building … the exteriors are extraordinary and there is great integration with the landscape.

Additional Credits
Engineer: Axis Design Group
General Contractor: Government of the State of Guanajuato, Ing. Genaro Carreño Muro
Library Consultant: Grupo Diagonal
Library Director: Luz María Castañón
Photo Credit: Alberto Moreno Guzmán
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Project  NYPL Francis Martin Library
          Bronx, New York

Architect  1100 Architect, P.C.
           www.1100architect.com

Owner  The New York Public Library

Notes of Interest
At the Francis Martin Library, a 1956 Bronx branch of the New York Public Library, the renovation of this second-floor children’s reading room is devised to stimulate its users’ imaginations and encourage them to learn through form, color, and layout. The elevated, gently curving façade of the library provides panoramic views that are fully realized through the new open plan configuration.

A reflective Barrisol stretch ceiling system undulates throughout the room, forming a playful ceiling, which folds away in some areas to increase ceiling height and reveal the existing concrete slab. The increased ceiling height adds lightness and openness to the space.

Jury Comments
There is a lot of really great design work with the integration of the ceiling, where mechanical technique and lighting are well coordinated to achieve a big impact, and the clarity of the concept is well-documented in the drawings and in the diagrams.

It achieves excellent value and remarkable transformation on a limited budget. What a fresh solution to the problem of renovating a small public library!

Additional Credits
Engineer: ESC Consulting Engineers

General Contractor: Gannon/Vitolo Contracting, LLC

Library Director: Joanna Pestka
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Project: Gentry Public Library
Gentry, Arkansas

Architect: Marlon Blackwell Architect
www.marlonblackwell.com

Owner: City of Gentry

Notes of Interest
The existing brick structures, though of little architectural value, were greatly desired by the community to remain visually intact at the exterior. Steel and glass volumes encase existing openings, brick ornament, and selected walls at the ground and second floors. These volumes act as display cases oriented from the interior towards the city, presenting the artifacts to the public. They are intended to extend the gritty expressive character of the library with another layer of time, character, and modernity—a new civic and urban presence for the town of Gentry.

The existing pressed metal ceiling is preserved in the library space, as well as an existing mechanical hand lift for horse carriages.

Jury Comments
One of the more sophisticated reuses of an existing building, respecting its origins with precise insertions of unabashedly Modern components.

The town is to be complimented for its commitment to enhancing its downtown without sacrificing respect for its heritage and small-town character. The library becomes a center of community pride and raises the level of expectations for all small towns—that quality architecture can play a key role in enhancing the feeling of community.

Additional Credits
Engineer: Joseph Looney and Associates
General Contractor: SSI, Inc. of Northwest Arkansas
Landscape Architect: Stuart Fulbright
Library Director: Darla Threet
Project: Minneapolis Central Library
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Design Architect: Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects
www.pcparch.com

Architect of Record: Architectural Alliance

Owner: Hennepin County Library

Notes of Interest
The library occupies a site between two of the city’s most active thoroughfares, Nicollet Mall and Hennepin Avenue. Two simple rectangular volumes, one aligned with each avenue, are separated by an enclosed public space, the Library Commons. The Commons is topped by a metal “wing” that appears to hover above the space, extending beyond the building at both ends. The library’s design includes many sustainable elements.

Jury Comments
The atrium is a terrific urban design contribution connecting two main streets, as well as connecting the entertainment district and the commercial district; it also provides a clear understanding of how the library is organized.

The use of interior elements such as sculpture, color, and materials to provide branding distinguishes individual floors.

Additional Credits
Engineer: Thornton-Tomasetti
General Contractor: Morteson/Thor
Landscape Architect: Coen + Partners
Library Consultant: Michaels Associates Design Consultants
Library Director: Lois Langer Thompson
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Project: Palo Verde Library / Maryvale Community Center
Phoenix, Arizona

Architect: Gould Evans Associates + Wendell Burnette Architects
www.gouldevans.com
www.wendellburnettearchitects.com

Owner: The City of Phoenix

Notes of Interest
Mind/body dialogue resonates between two equally scaled volumes that incorporate the library collection and gymnasium respectively. An 8’ band of externally shaded glass reinforces the visual connection between the buildings and the community. A grid of economical ‘solatube’ skylights balances the abundance of light, reducing energy costs while providing pleasing glare-free day-lit spaces that are serving record numbers of patrons.

Jury Comments
Powerful programming provides a strong visual link between books and basketball, learning and recreation. The upper volume of the one story space provides gracious public space and a solution to the acoustics, while the off-the-shelf light tubes are used in an inventive way to bring in natural light without overwhelming the interiors.

The exterior is very compelling, very sophisticated; materials are unified in a palette that is carefully considered and beautifully composed.

Less is more work!

Additional Credits
Engineer: Rudow + Berry Inc., Structural Engineer (Mark Rudow, Keith Berry)

General Contractor: Smith Construction Management

Landscape Architect: Ten Eyck Landscape Architects (Christy Ten Eyck)

Library Director: Toni Garvey, City Librarian