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Central Public Library for Albuquerque, New Mexico

Hartley William Alexander

BACHELOR'S THESIS

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

for

Albuquerque, New Mexico

by

HARTLEY WILLIAM ALEXANDER

BACHELOR'S THESIS

Presented to the Faculty of the Department of Architecture, The University of New Mexico, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Architecture.

The University of New Mexico

June 2, 1964

THESIS COMMITTEE:

Walter A. Nathorst

John J. Hemmerle

_____

BACHELOR'S THESIS PROPOSAL

by

HARTLEY WILLIAM ALEXANDER

TITLE:

CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY for Albuquerque, New Mexico

PURPOSE OF STUDY:

The purpose of this study is to determine the requirements of the main branch, Albuquerque Public Library to 1980; and to present a solution to the problems taking into consideration these requirements as well as past solutions to similar library problems.

LOCATION:

The CIVIC CENTER, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

THESIS CONTENT:

This thesis will contain research on the history of libraries, a survey of contemporary or important libraries, and a study of the problems confronting the existing library in Albuquerque. It will also contain a solution for a new central library.

Approved:

_____

Chairman, Faculty Committee
Department of Architecture
The University of New Mexico

contents

introduction

INTRODUCTION

It is my intention that this problem actually serve two integrated purposes. The first of course is to develop an understanding of the problem of the requirements for a new Albuquerque Public library, and develop a solution accordingly. The second, and perhaps more important, is to apply information acquired from various courses which I have taken throughout the past 4½ years of college study to the problem and thereby gain an understanding of the relations between the various other fields with architecture. Such an understanding is necessary for the initial development of a philosophy of architecture, which should be begun at this time with this problem.

In doing this problem, I will first examine the role and function of a library in our culture, then study the necessity for a new main branch in Albuquerque, and state some assumptions which are necessary before the problem may be continued. After this I will briefly discuss the historical background of libraries in general to bring out important aspects in the past which may apply directly or indirectly to the present. I will also do research in the background of the present Albuquerque Public Library as well as study other libraries which are important to architecture and library functions. Next I will

state the space requirements for the new main library, also giving an explanation of each function and showin the relations of the functions, and develop a concept from which to work. Finally to be included in this thesis will be a design based on the concept and the research.

The role of the public library is to provide a means of free use of educational, informative, or entertaining materials to the public. Its functions are to collect printed and audio-visual materials needed to conduct the individual and group life of its constituency; organize and make available these resources so they are convenient and easy to use. It also should provide materials such as books, pamphlets, documents, films, tapes, discs, and other sources of knowledge and opinion to: facilitate informal self-education of all people in the community; enrich and further develop the subjects on which individuals are undertaking formal education; meet the informational needs of all; support the educational, civic and cultural activities of groups and organizations; and encourage wholesome recreation and constructive use of leisure time. In addition, it should provide services of: logical organization of materials for convenient use through shelf arrangement, classification, and cataloging; lending of materials so that they may be used in the location and at the time suited to each individual; provision

of information service designed to locate facts as needed; guidance to individuals in the use of educational and recreational materials; assistance to civic, cultural, and educational organizations, in locating and using materials for program planning, projects, and the education of members; and stimulation of use and interpretation of materials through publicity, display, reading lists, story hours, book talks, book and film discussion, and other appropriate means either in the library or in community organizations.

There are several main factors requiring a new building for the main branch of the Albuquerque Public Library. The present library system contains 210,000 volumes, which is approximately .8 volumes per capita; and of these, 150,000 volumes are contained in the main branch. The library system at present is circulating 80,000 volumes per month. There are 115,000 card holders, which equal approximately 45% of the population. City residents are allowed to the use of the library free of charge; residents of the county, which has very poor library facilities, may use the city libraries for a nominal charge.

Ideally, the library system should contain 1.5 volumes per capita; which at present would be about 400,000 volumes. By 1980, the population of the city

will be between 580,000 and 655,000, according to the Albuquerque population Characteristics; and the library system will then require approximately 980,000 volumes. Each of the 12 projected branch libraries should contain 50,000 to 75,000 volumes, and the main branch should contain the remainder of about 325,000 volumes; the major difference being that the main branch will contain most of the technical and research facilities which will not be diversified in the branches.

An additional need is that for space, including free parking area. The present library occupies most of the site, thus eliminating possibility for future expansion. There also is no room to expand the bookmobile service to include more than the one vehicle presently provided for. Parking space at the present main library is solely on the street and with parking meters.

In order to pursue this problem, there are some assumptions which I must make. First, I shall assume that all finances necessary for the project have been secured. Second, the existing civic center site will be used; however, the master plan for the site will not be adhered to because of the relocation of the government buildings to downtown following the development of the master plan. Third, the land between the civic center and Lomas is assumed to be owned by the city because it was included as part of the Civic Center in the original master plan.

research

HISTORICAL SURVEY[1]

The libraries in ancient times consisted of archive collections preserved in the temples and palaces. In Egypt, libraries existed as early as the fourth dynasty at Khufu and Khafra; but the most famous of the early Egyptian libraries was that of Rameses II (1300 - 1236 BC) in western Thebes. The library at Edfu consisted of a small chamber in the temple.

In Greece, the earliest recorded collection was that of Aristotle. Later, Ptolemy I founded a library at Alexandria, which became the literary center of the Hellenistic culture. The catalogues there were among the earliest experiments in bibliography. The importance of libraries in Greece decreased with the political decline of Alexandria.

The first considerable collections in Rome were brought as spoils of war from Greece. The first library dedicated to the public was in the Atrium Liberatis on Mount Aventine; later, Augustus erected two libraries, the first in 33BC. By the fourth century AD there were 28 public libraries in Rome, the most important of which was the Ulpian library, established by Ulpius Trajanius. When the capital was moved to Constantinople, the emperor established a collection of 6900 volumes which was later increased to 100,000 by the end of the rules of Julian (361- 363 AD) and Theodosius (379- 395 AD).

1. Information obtained from Encyclopedia Britannica, 1961 ed., vol. 14; and Collier Encyclopedia, 1963 ed., vol. 14.

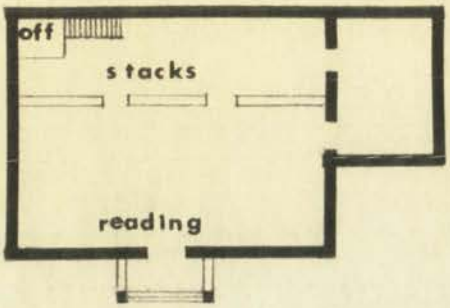
As Christian literature grew, libraries were attached to every church. During the Mediaeval period, the libraries attached to monastaries were the primary sources of all works which had been salvaged from the barbaric invasions that had swept over Europe. The Abbey of Monte Casino was the first established library of religious works; later, larger libraries were established in other monastaries, the largest of which were those at Ste. Genevieve and St. Victor. At this time the forerunners of modern library techniques and methods were begun under the rule of St. Benedict. By the end of the 11th century the libraries had separate reference and lending divisions, and by the end of the 15th century they had larger, separate apartments for the libraries in the larger monastaries.

The Renaissance and the printing press, and the Industrial Revolution had several important effects on libraries. First, the Renaissance brought about a new interest in learning starting in Italy and spreading throughout Europe. The printing press and its spread helped increase the size of many library collections during the 15th century. The Industrial Revolution, by bringing about a reduction in labor hours and increased spare time, helped education and literacy to become more widespread, thus requiring mass production of books to meet the increasing demands of the people.

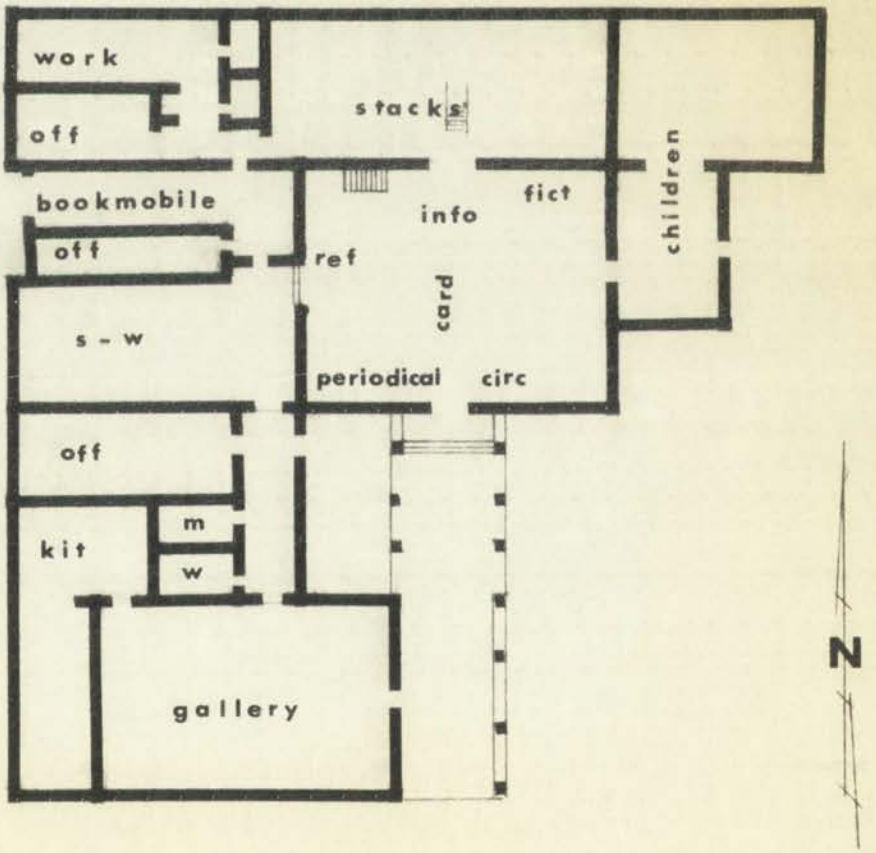
ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Albuquerque Public Library was incorporated in 1891. By the turn of the century it was the largest and best free library in the southwest, having a collection of 2522 volumes. From 1901 to 1925, the library occupied an old school, presented to the city by Mrs. Joshua Raynolds, and known as the Raynolds Free Public Library. The present pueblo style building was erected in 1925, designed by A. Rossiter, architect and Gustave Baumann, artist. The new building had space to keep 30,000 volumes. When the main branch was opened in 1901 at the corner of Edith and Central, it was (with the exception of the university) at the eastern edge of the city. Transportation to the library was mainly by trolleys operated by the Albuquerque Street Railroad Company, the tracks going from town up to Edith on Tijeras, on Edith to Central, and back to town on Central.

The original library building has been added on to, including the last addition in 1951 of the wing containing the administrative and gallery areas, and now occupies the major portion of the site. Parking is available only in a limited number of street parking spaces controlled by meters, making the present site highly undesireable since it cannot be expanded any more for either building additions or free parking areas. There is also no provision for drive-up depositing of books from cars.



1925



1964

existing library


ALBUQUERQUE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Circulation within the library is very poor since "quiet" areas must be used for circulation. The administrative area is directly off the hall which is used for indoor circulation from the main part of the building to the gallery; and because of the additions not all offices are in the same area. The existing work area which services the bookmobile is too small, and has no provision for expansion to accommodate additional bookmobiles. The entire basement of the building is used for storage of such materials as non-current periodicals and donated books.

The following excerpt regarding the Albuquerque Public Library system is taken from the AMA Public Facilities Outlined, prepared by the Albuquerque City Planning Department:

"Apart from the university, the Public Library represents the only publicly supported educational service available to the adult citizen. Nowadays, most urban areas provide libraries for the public's use. Because of its ubiquity, the cultural attainment of a particular community can often be measured by the character and extent of the library service it supports.'

The most significant part of a library system is the main branch or central library. Here the highest standard and the greatest number of library services should be maintained and the largest number of volumes stored. Apart from the central facility, the ordinary

library services of loaning books and providing space to read and browse should be readily available to everyone in the community. To achieve the most use of library facilities and therby the highest return for public investment in terms of 'cost per customer', it is necessary to locate branch libraries throughout the community on sites where their services are easily available. These branches may be supplemented by the use of bookmobiles which bring the library to families living in outlying areas or at some distance from the regular libraries.'

LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS

Central Library: The headquarters building should be in a location convenient for both nearby residents and those living in other parts of the community. This dual standard for location poses many problems in the placing of a central unit. From the standpoint of the immediate area served, the headquarters building should be convenient to the purposeful reader in the vicinity, the businessman or other person seeking information, the student, the casual reader seeking material for diversion, and the child limited in the distance he can travel. A location near the Central Business District at a spot which users of many ages may reach with safety, also with reference to schools and the university is indicated.'

From the standpoint of users from a considerable distance, a location with or near parking facilities and near transit lines is paramount. A desirable physical facility is provision for pick-up and return of material by automobile.'

Branch Library: Branch libraries may be housed in their own building or in rented quarters. Location in public buildings used primarily for other purposes, provided the other building activities do not create noise and safety problems, and access during the evening as well as daytime hours is convenient. Although the library should be fairly near schools for the convenience of pupils and chauffeuring mothers, cities that have libraries located on school grounds are consistently abandoning them. It has been found that the school is often inconveniently located for adults. Furthermore, the school area is usually dark and uninviting at night, which also discourages full use of the library.'

Location of branches in or near shopping centers appears desirable. Parking is available, the site is prominent and has easy access, and both library and the shops benefit from the close association. Far from turning customers away from centers, the library can influence people to come to and thence buy at a particular center.'

SUMMARY OF LOCATION STANDARDS

Central Library: 1. Near CBD but not necessarily in it.

2. Parking facilities are necessary.

3. Drive-in Service saves time and 'permanent' parking space.

4. Space should be provided for bookmobiles and shipment of materials.

5. Bus lines should be near by.

Branch Library: 1. In or near shopping concentrations.

2. Sites should be clearly visible to people as they walk or drive in their normal round of activity.

3. Parking space is essential. If individually provided, it should be equivalent in size to the buildings floor area.

4. Insofar as possible, the library should be accessible to children coming alone on foot.

5. Population served per branch library: 25,000 to 50,000.

6. Site area: 1 acre, more or less, including parking, depending on the degree of service furnished, population served, and site limitations.

LIBRARIES IN ALBUQUERQUE

The City's library system consists of a main library, 3 branch units, and a bookmobile. The main branch is situated on Central at Edith NE. It is, therefore, within convenient distance from the CBD and closely related to transit lines. Parking is, however, totally inadequate. Patrons have to vie with each other for metered curb parking space. No provision is made for depositing books directly from an automobile.

All branches are not ideally located to fit into a library master plan that would provide maximum coverage at minimum cost. The only County Library is in the West Side Community Center on Sunflower Place SW. This unit is relatively new and presently is below ultimate standards. Its location limits its use to the South Valley, and it is not easily found.'

LIBRARY PLAN

The system is currently below desirable standards to provide service to the existing population. Needed immediately are 2 branches in the vicinity of (1) West Central and Coors Road, and (2) San Mateo and Comanche NE. By 1970, the following changes and new branches appear necessary: (1) A branch near San Mateo SE for the Southeast Heights, (2) the existing Ernie Pyle Branch should be phased out and opened as the author's museum, (3) another new branch for the most easterly part of the city, (4) expansion of the present County Library, (5) extension of bookmobile service to outlying County areas.'

Between 1970 and 1980, consideration should be given to (1) relocation of the main library, probably at the Civic Center site; and (2) construction of a branch library in each of these areas: Elena Gallegos Grant, Snow Vista, North Valley, the far southeast part of the city, and Paradise Hills."

LIBRARIES

Existing:

- Main Library
- Branch

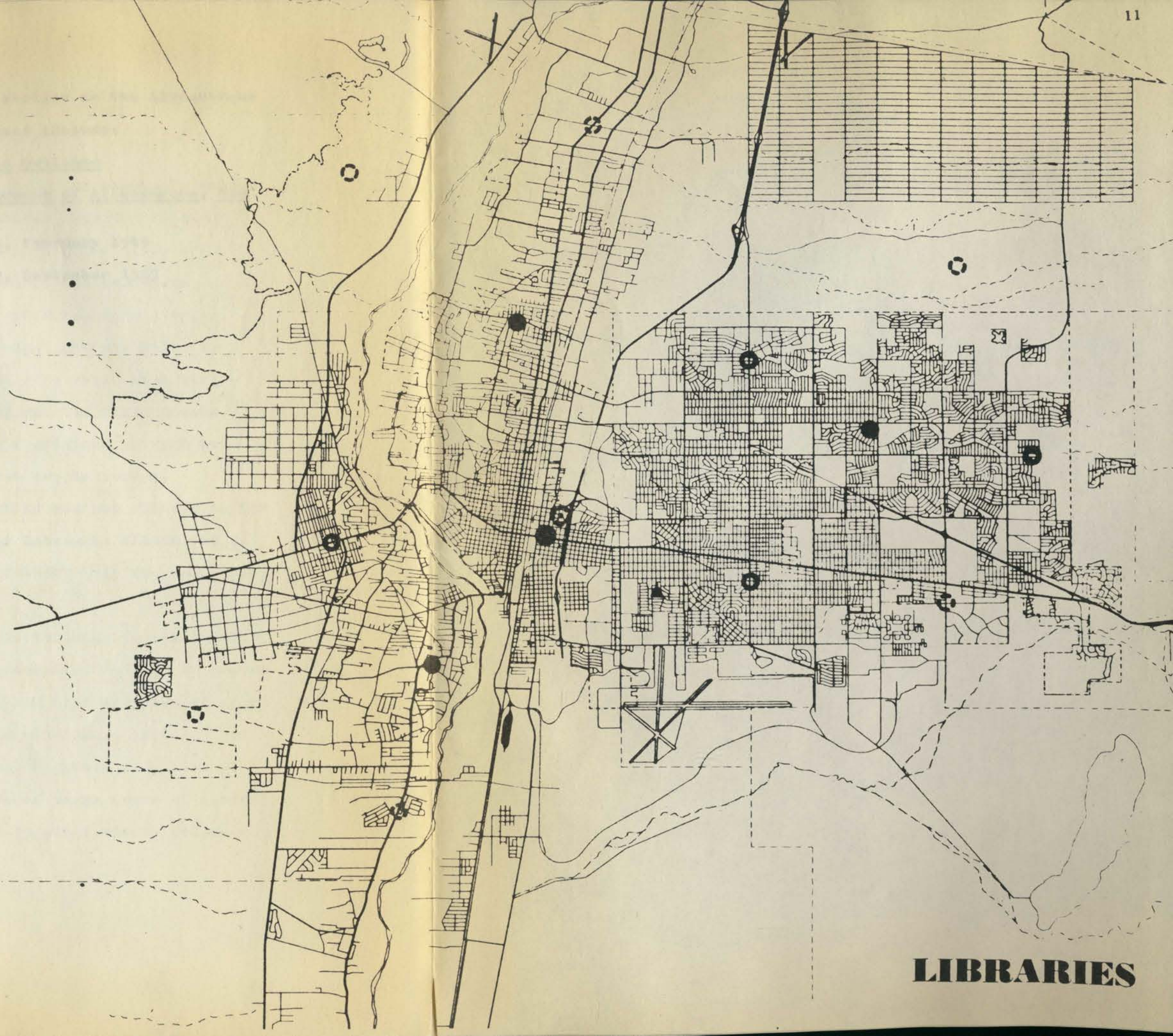
1970 Plan:

- Branch

1980 Plan:

- Main Library
- Branch

- ▲ Existing Branch to be Discontinued



LIBRARIES

References for this section on the Albuquerque Public Library which were used include:

AMA Public Facilities Outlined

The Historical Background of Albuquerque, New Mexico

Albuquerque Progress, February 1949

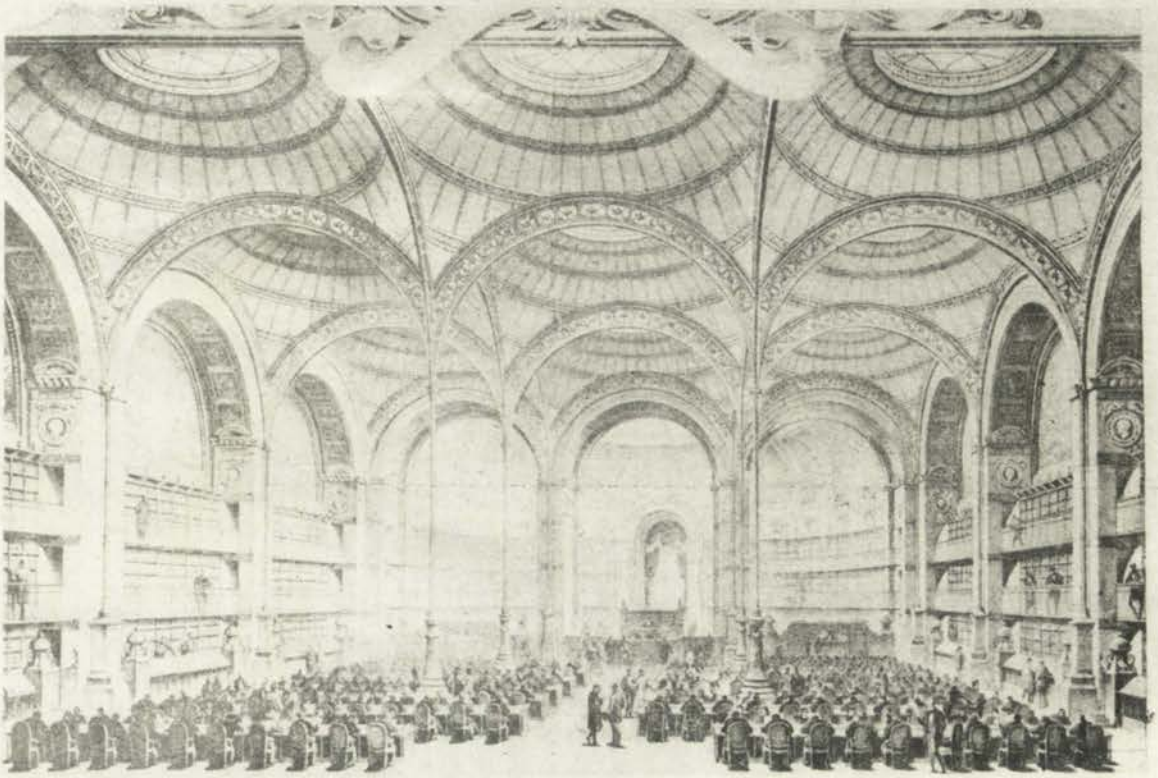
Architectural Record, September 1925

BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE
Paris, France 1858
Henri Labrouste

This was the first library to elegantly solve the problem of separating stacks from the reading room. It set an example of giving the stack area, which is the heart of a library, the important position it deserves. The stack has five stories, four above ground and one below, and was built to accommodate 900,000 volumes. The whole area was covered with a glass ceiling and the floor plates of each stack level were in a gridiron pattern to allow libht to penetrate from top to bottom.

The fact that the public was not allowed in the stack is the main reason why Labrouste eliminated all ornament in the area, thus leaving only the cast iron structure.

The importance of this building (not only as a library, but also architecturally) is that it solved the functional requirements and also was very advanced in terms of use of space and materials, particularly the all iron construction in the stack area (except for the shelves) and the use of large areas of glass, which set a precedent which is still widely followed in contemporary design.



UNIVERSITY PRINTS, BOSTON

INTERIOR OF READING ROOM, BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE, PARIS
ARCHITECT, LABROUSTE, 1861—1869

GM 475

UNIVERSITY PRINTS, BOSTON

INTERIOR OF READING ROOM, BIBLIOTHÈQUE STE. GENEVIÈVE, PARIS
RENAISSANCE REVIVAL, (1839), 1843—1850
ARCHITECT, LABROUSTE

GM 469

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Viipuri, Finland

This library was designed by Alvar Aalto and built between 1927 and 1935. It was planned in two main areas, one for the library functions and one for the auditorium. The library space was divided by levels and areas into a control area overlooking the entire library and regulating book traffic, a large reading room, open stacks, and a childrens reading room. The library functions were in the windowless portion of the building to protect the books from the sun.

The main importance of this library is the careful handling of controlled lighting which is important because of the library function and the long hours of darkness during the winter in the northern climate. There are 51 circular light wells in the ceiling which provide an even, natural, shadowless, illumination. The auditorium of this building is also important because of the curved ceiling which produced a high acoustical quality.

In 1940, the province of Karelia, in which this library was located, was ceded to the Soviet Union and the building was destroyed by the Russians. However, some of its features were used in later buildings designed by Aalto such as the library in the Pension Bank and the library of the University of Jyvaskyla, which is 150 miles north of Helsinki.

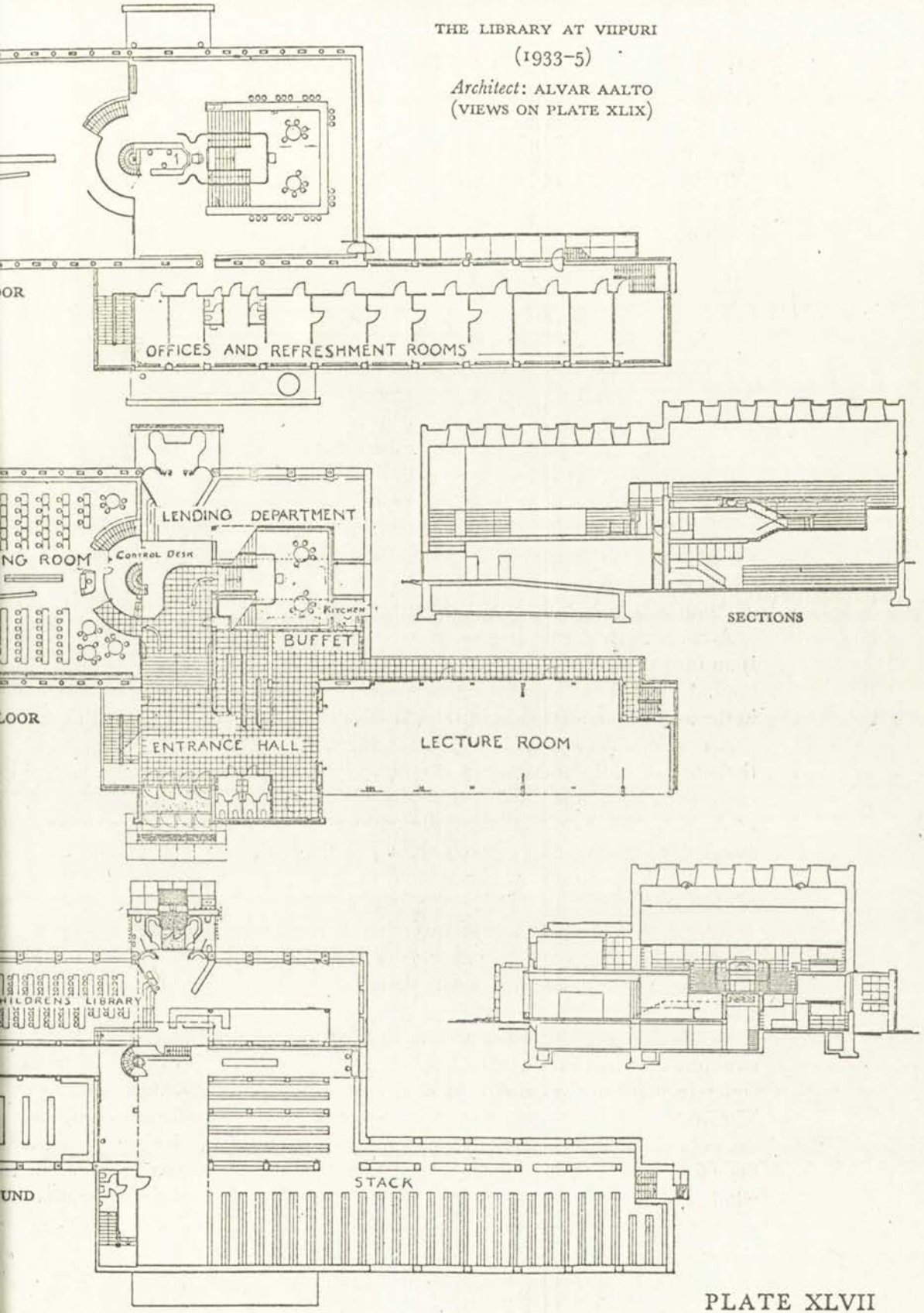
There is one additional feature of major importance in the Viipuri Library. It marks the first break from classical symmetry in plan, which had marked all previous and contemporary buildings to that time. Some of the more important large libraries based on a symmetrical plan in addition to the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris were the Stockholm City Library designed by E. Gunnar Asplund in 1924, The Manchester City Library designed by E. Vincent Harris in 1929, and the Cambridge University Library designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1931.

THE LIBRARY AT VIIPURI

(1933–5)

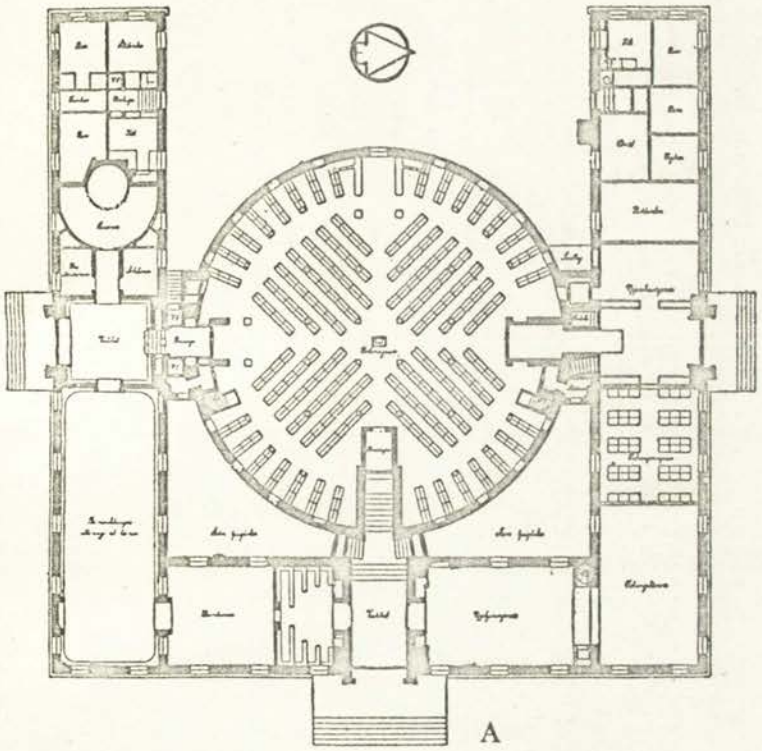
Architect: ALVAR AALTO

(VIEWS ON PLATE XLIX)



SECTIONS

PLATE XLVII



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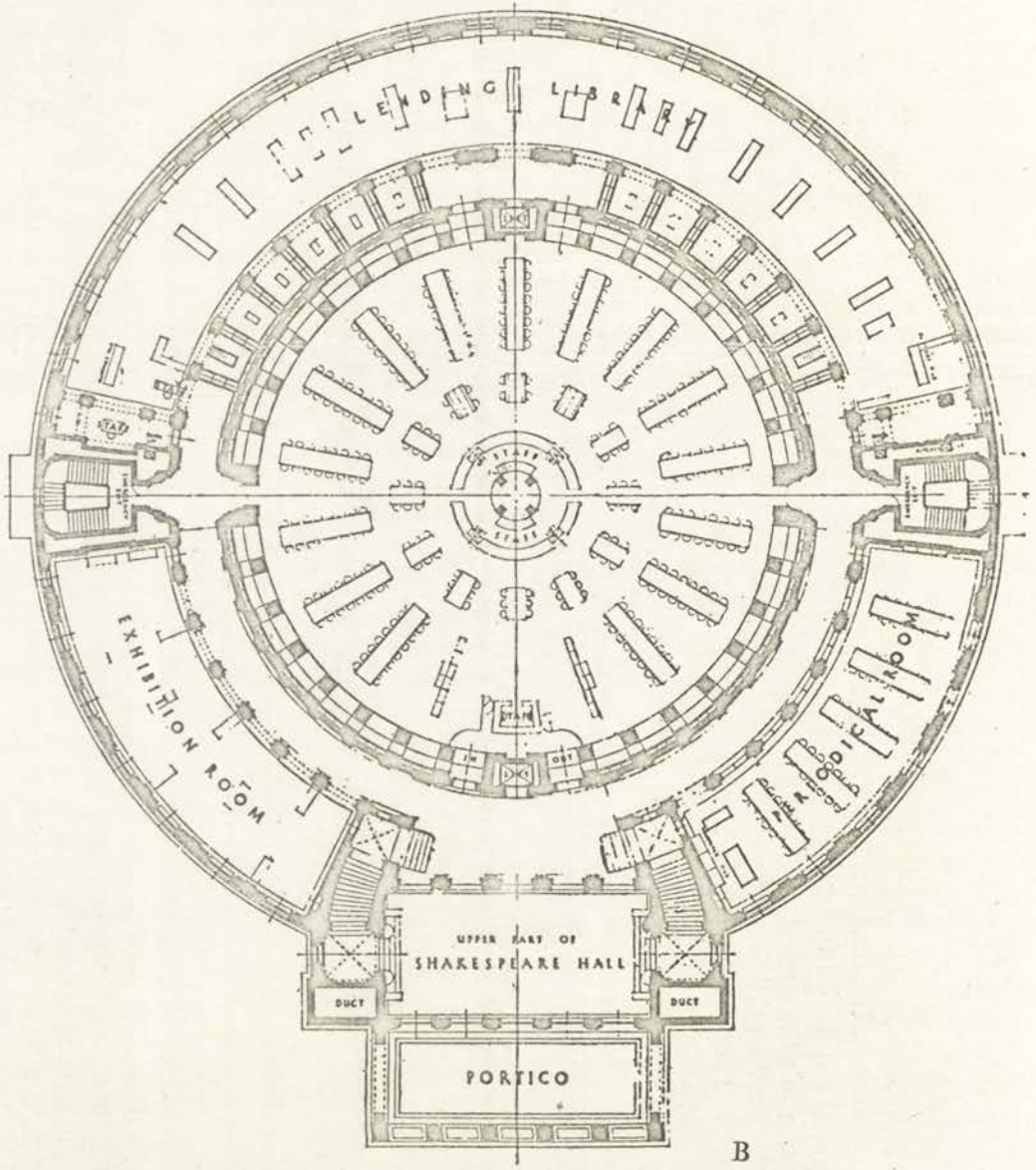


B

A. PLAN OF STOCKHOLM CITY LIBRARY
Architect: E. GUNNAR ASPLUND

B. FIRST FLOOR PLAN OF THE MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY
Architect: E. VINCENT HARRIS

(SEE PLATE VII FOR VIEWS OF THESE TWO LIBRARIES)

PLATE IX

LIBRARY AT BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Indianapolis, Indiana

Yamasaki

Yamasaki's concept for this library was to symbolize the library as the educational center of the university. The design is based on a five foot module, which is also the module of the shelving of the books; and the construction is of reinforced concrete "V" shaped floor and roof beams. The columns are precast and prestressed.

He accomplished his purpose with a symmetrical rectangular plan that has a somewhat monumental entrance. The exterior emphasizes the horizontal lines by expressing each of the three floors as a strong line, which helps bring the scale down to human levels as does also the five foot module.

The main importance of this building is its demonstration of having a large building kept within human scale, and the use of contemporary methods of construction.

DOUGLASS COLLEGE LIBRARY

Warner, Burns, Toan & Lunde

The problem of this library was to make it compatable with the colonial style of the campus, being located next to the chapel which is in that period style. The problem was solved mainly through the use of materials, which were chosen to harmonize with the neighboring chapel.

The library is designed to accommodate 150,000 volumes in three levels which include the main level, mezzanine, and lower ground level. The mezzanine contains the reading area, which is windowless. The stacks are open, and can accommodate 600 students.

The structure is of reinforced concrete for the ground and main levels; steel trusses for the roof, which supports a luminous ceiling; and the building is contained within a 100 ft by 200 ft rectangle which has the circulation very well worked out. The building also has an outdorr reading deck which overlooks a ravine.

This building is interesting primarily in its simplicity of design and the circulation within as well as the use of outdoor reading space which seems to take advantage of the natural features of the site.

TUFTS LIBRARY COMPETITION

Winning solution by Campbell & Aldrich

This winning solution is a somewhat imposing design which seems to follow the trend established by the design of the Boston City Hall, the influence of which has grown over the New England states. It is based on a strong structural system of reinforced concrete used in a somewhat brutalistic way but which creates a very bold space within.

The interesting feature of this design is its placement on the site, which has a considerable slope. The building is placed so that it steps down the hill side, allowing its roof to be used as a terrace accessible from the upper level of the hill.

WASHINGTON STATE LIBRARY

Olympia, Washington

Paul Thiry

The problems for this building were to match the scale of the existing campus, fit the existing composition, conform to the existing materials and details without imitating and to achieve monumentality and governmental character in a modern way.

The monumentality and problem of scale were solved by putting the library, which was smaller than most surrounding buildings, on a higher site located on an axis with the domed capitol; and by having a formal near-symmetrical structure. The plan is worked out completely within the confines of the rectangle.

The major importance of this library is its use of art to enhance several of the important areas within the building.

UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY
University of South Carolina

This library was designed by Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, and Wolff with Edward D. Stone as an associate. Its problem was to complement the classical buildings of the rest of the campus. The problem is met with a 140 ft by 60 ft rectangular building which relates to the other buildings by its simplicity and use of a repeating screen of anodized aluminum on the south, end walls of marble, and glass on the north. It has a patterned brick podium.

The interior of the building is simply furnished and has an interesting change in levels from the ground floor to the mezzanine.

The importance of this library is that its relations to the existing buildings demonstrates the possibility of using contemporary design principles and methods and materials of construction can be made to relate the present and the future with the past.

LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

Reno, Nevada

Robert E. Alexander

This three story, 100000 sq. ft. building is designed to contain 350,000 volumes and serve 1,400 students. The plan is designed to be completely flexible; the stacks may be supported at any point and one wall may be dismantled and moved out.

The ground floor contains the reserve books, work area, conference rooms, micro materials, photo reproduction, newspapers, truck dock, bindery, stacks, study and science areas. The first floor has the reception, circulation, directors, technical, work, stack, listening, typing, group study, conference, and humanities areas. The second floor contains collections, conference, study, curriculum, work, faculty, stack, social science, and map areas.

This library is interesting from the point of view of flexibility, but it is unfortunate that the elevations do not reflect anything about its dynamic interior. Indeed, the walls of the building seem to be purely arbitrarily designed, and must rely on the landscaping to give it any interest and scale.

statement of program

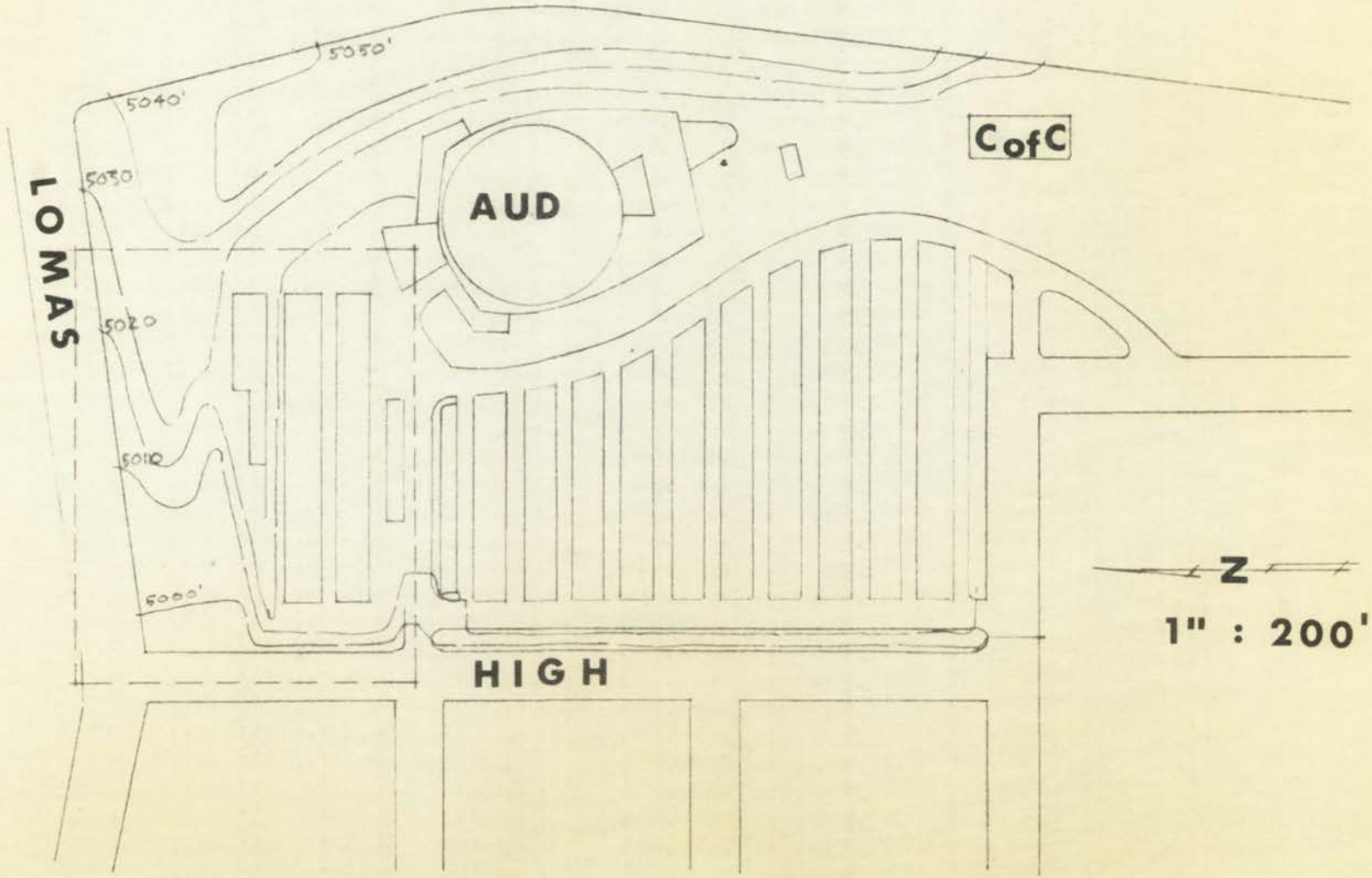
PROGRAM

A. SITE

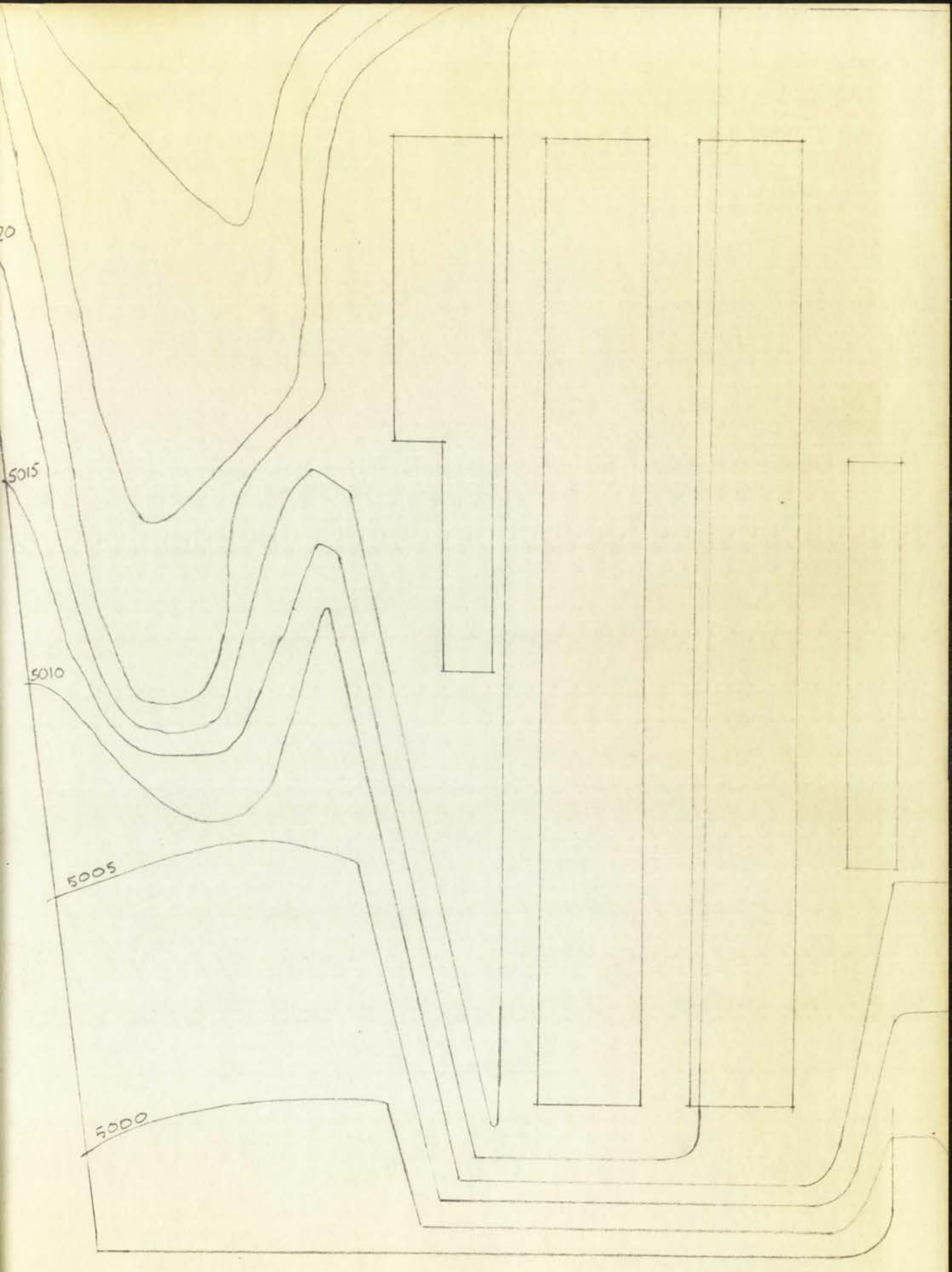
The location requirements for the site as outlined in the library master plan, and which are met by the existing Civic Center site, are: to be near the central business district; to provide adequate parking facilities for free parking to the patrons of the library; if possible to provide for a drive-up book deposit directly from automobiles; provide ample space for three bookmobiles and materials shipment; and to be near transportation facilities such as the bus line. The site should be at least one and one-half acres in area.

B. BUILDING FUNCTIONS AND SPACE REQUIREMENTS

1. Lobby and Reference room- This area will serve as the main entrance to the building for the public, as the control area for checking materials in and out, as the card file area, and as the reference librarian's space. It should be easily available to the stacks, the adult reading room, the young-adult reading room, to the southwest collection room, to the gallery and lecture rooms, to the periodical room, and to rest room facilities. Secondarily, it should be accesible to the rare book room and to the childrens' reading room.



site plan



site plan

This area should also have provision for the receiving of deposited books, directly or indirectly, from bothe a drive-up and a walk-up deposit which would be used during closed hours. 2,000 sq. ft.

2. Adult reading room- This area will be used to contain materials primarily of interest to adults. It should be located directly accesible to the card file and to the stacks since most materials used in this area will be obtained through the filing system. Traffic to and from the adult room should not pass through any other quiet areas. 2,000 sq. ft.

3. Young-adult room- This area is to contain materials of interest to persons in the secondary schools. These materials should be supplementary to subjects which these people will be studying in their schools. These materials should also be primarily located in this room, and there should be only a secondary access to the card file and stacks since some of their work will require use of materials contained in the stacks, mainly for research work. 4,500 sq. ft.

4. Childrens' reading room- This area is to contain books and materials of interest to children through the primary school grades. All books will be contained in this room, thereby requiring no access to the main card file or to the stacks. A separate entrance should be provided to this area. 5,000 sq. ft.

5. Southwest Collection- The southwest room is to contain all materials which pertain to the southwest such as books, maps, and special displays of primarily historical value. It should be located near the lobby but directly accessible to the stacks since the materials will be contained in it. The materials will mainly be used in the room. 1500 sq. ft.

6. Periodical room- This area will contain all magazines, newspapers, and other periodically printed materials. It should be located directly off the main lobby near the entrance since the people using the area will probably not be using the rest of the library, and it will be used more than the other sections of the library. Storage space for periodicals that are not current should also be provided. 2,500 sq. ft.

7. Rare Book room- To contain old, out of print, and rare books which require special attention and care. The room should be located where the books are protected from the sunlight to prevent deterioration. It should also be out of the direct flow of public circulation because it is not used as much as other areas. 1,500 sq. ft.

8. Outdoor reading areas should be provided in shady places off of the various reading rooms, but without losing control over the materials.

9. Stacks- Should provide space for storage of all books and allow for eventual expansion. The

5. Bookstack Collection- The bookstack room is to contain all materials which pertain to the books such as books, maps, and special displays of primarily historical value. It should be located near the lobby but directly accessible to the stacks since the materials will be contained in it. The materials will mainly be used in the room. 1500 sq. ft.

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9. Stacks- Should provide space for storage of all books and allow for eventual expansion. The

stack area should also have carrels for silent individual studying. The stacks should be three or four stories tall to take care of the 328,000 books. Elevator service should be provided for the vertical circulation of materials and people. 22,000 sq. ft.

10. Audio-Visual area- This area will contain records and micro-film inventories as well as booths for listening or viewing and a space for storage. It should be close to the lecture rooms and the gallery 3,500 sq. ft.

11. Gallery- The gallery is to be used for temporary transient displays such as art, crafts, or photographic; and for civic group activities in connection with the library. 1,5000sq. ft.

12. Lecture rooms- The lecture rooms are to be used for small group activities. Two rooms, which may be combined into one large room, are needed; with a small kitchenette serving them. It is also desirable for the kitchenette to be accesible to the gallery area for such times when receptions are held in connection with the gallery showing or performance. The lecture rooms should also be accesible to the audio-visual area. 1,500 sq. ft.

13. Offices- The administration area should contain offices for the librarian, assistant librarian, business manager and secretary. A conference room should be accesible to the area. 800 sq. ft.

14. Work room- The work area will be used for binding and repairing books and materials. It should be located near the bookmobile service area and the loading area where materials are received; and it should be out of the way of public circulation. 1,500 sq ft

15. Storage area- This area will be used for the storage of materials that are not ready for shelving. It should be near the work area and also out of public circulation areas 1500 sq ft

16. Bookmobile service- The bookmobile area should consist of enough area to include a garage for three bookmobile units, an office and rest room, stack space for books, and a storage area.

17. Loading dock- This area will be used for the receiving of material shipments as well as sending. It should be near to the work room and storage areas, and may be combined with the bookmobile area in some way.

18. Employee area- This area should include a lounge, locker room, kitchenette, and rest room facilities. It should be located out of the public circulation areas, and near the administrative area.

19. Janitor closet and public rest rooms- These should be directly accessible from the lobby and reading areas.

20. Drive-up deposit- This should be located at a place convenient to automobile traffic.

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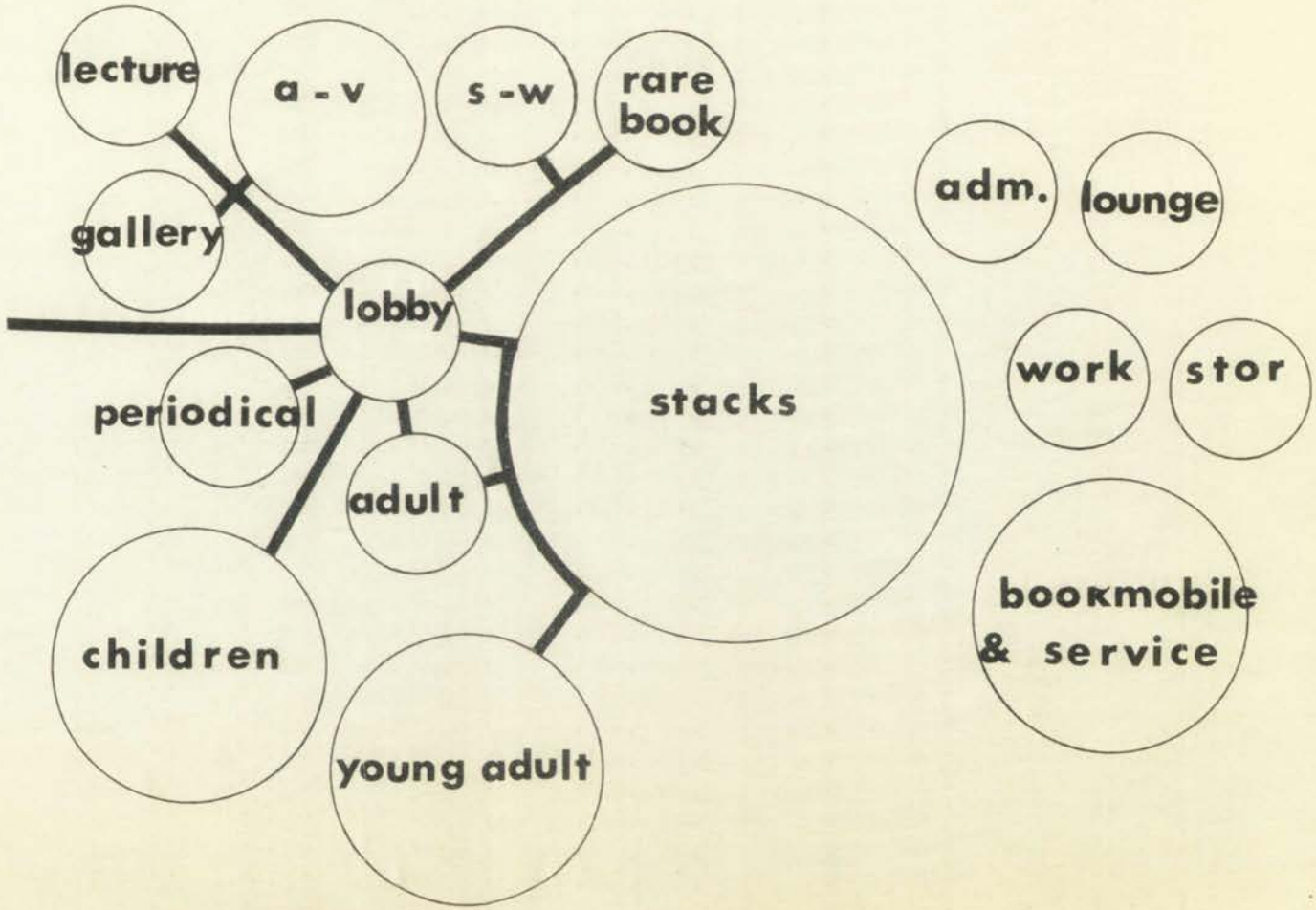
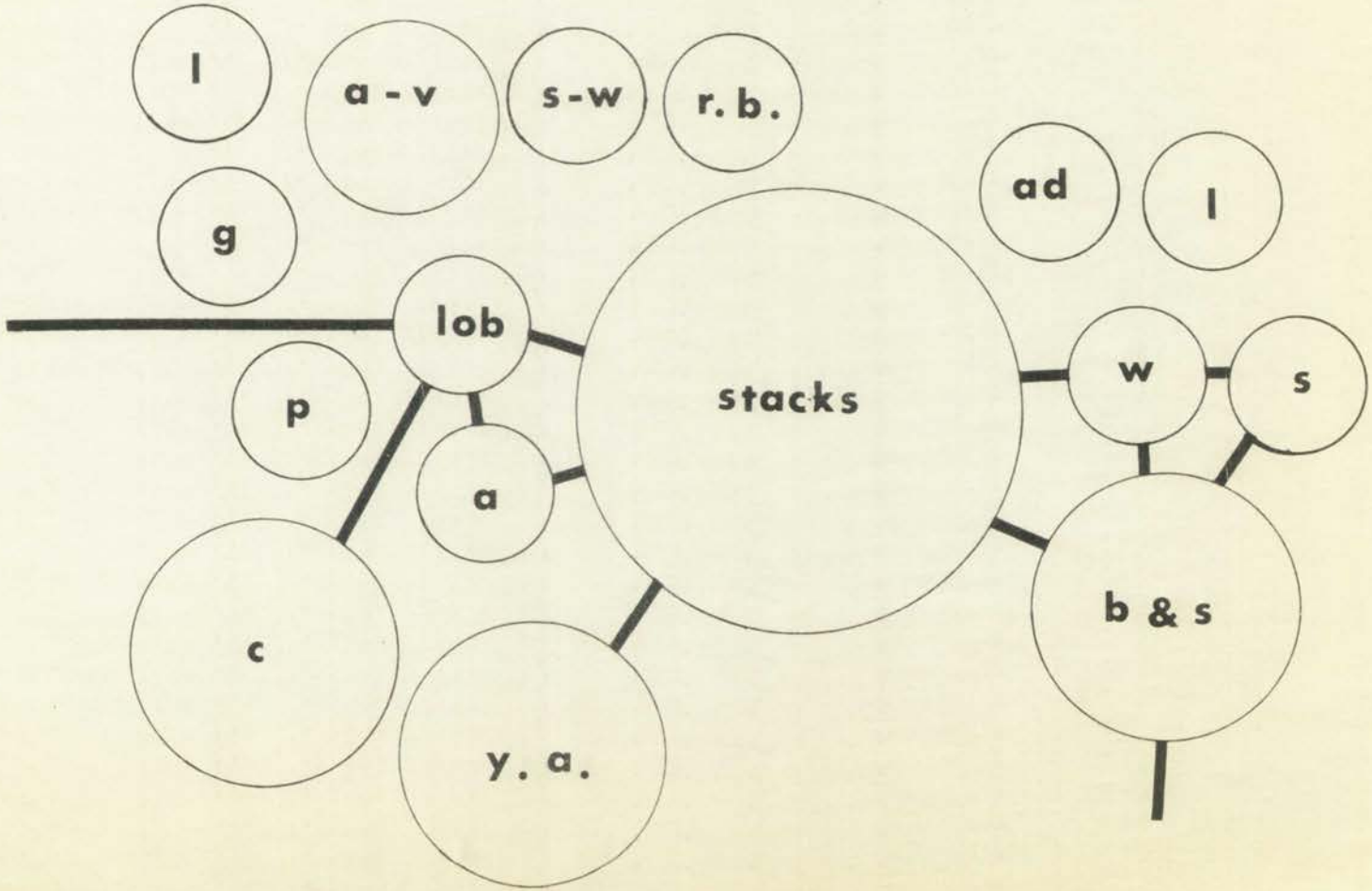
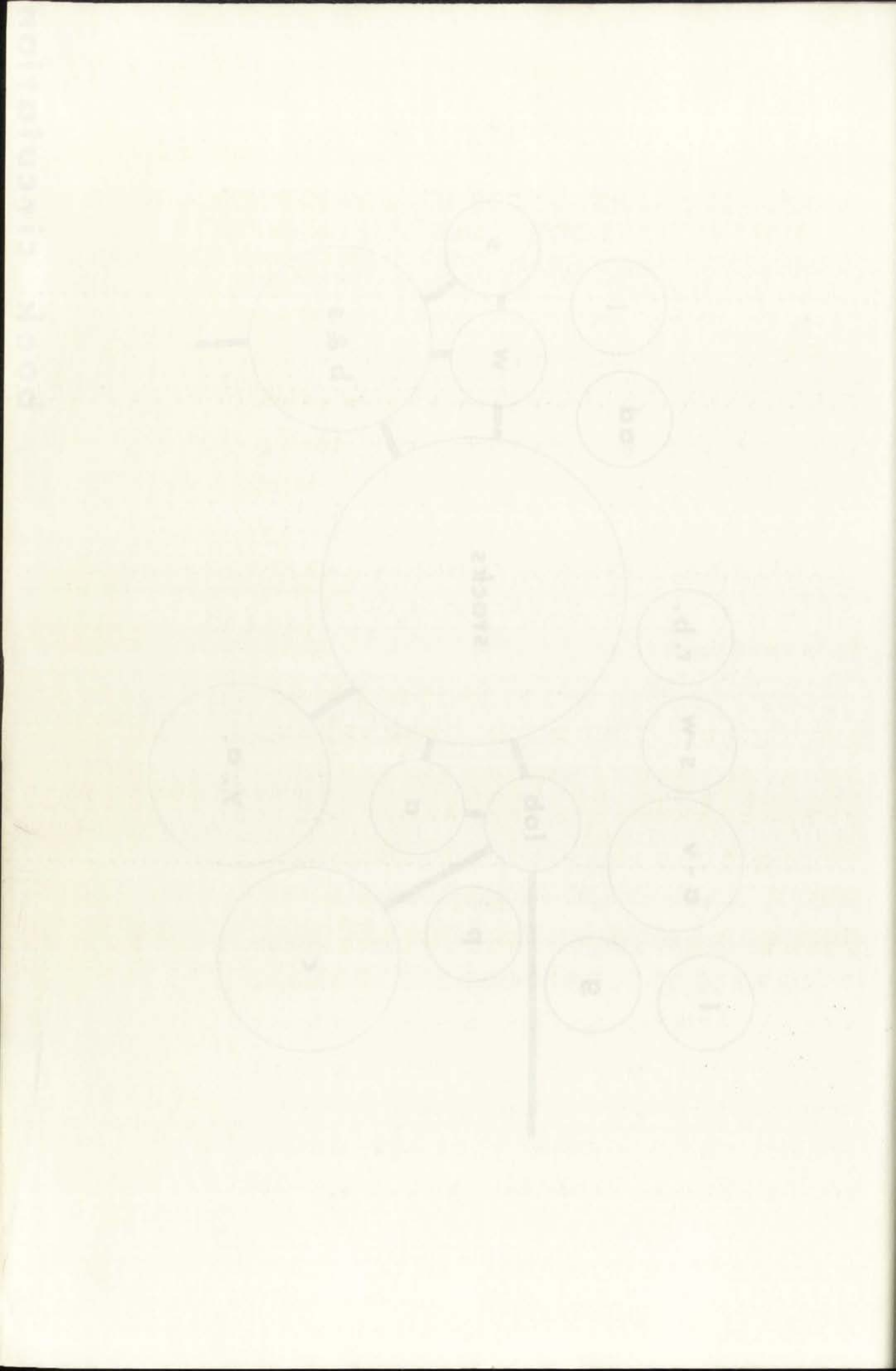


public circulation



book circulation



CONCEPT

Before I can state a concept which is to govern the design of this library, I must first develop an understanding of what the field of architecture is to me, and what it should be. This is a difficult task since such an understanding must be based on both experience and education, the realms of which I have only just barely entered. Therefore, the reader must realize that this is purely a personal interpretation set down as a means of clarification and for future refinement and change as time and experiences pass. It is intended to be only a point of departure.

Architecture, as well as the other fine arts and, similarly, philosophy, is a means of investigating human morals, character, and behavior. The primary differences among these various means are the methods of communication; i.e., architecture, painting, and sculpture use visual means of communicating; drama uses visual and audio means of communicating; and philosophy uses words as a means of communicating. Each of these methods is equally abstrat; and, from a philosophic point of view, a certain means of communicating should be used only when it is easier to put across the statement in that means rather than in any other one.

CONCEPT

However, architecture is unique to the group since it must accept and express additional features which the others need not. For example, any of the others should express only the views of the persons who create the works. A painting or piece of sculpture should express only the thoughts of the artist; whereas a building must express not only the views and interpretations of the architect, but also must express his interpretations of the client's views.

At this point I will interject what Webster's Dictionary defines as "philosophy" and "concept" so that both the reader and myself may keep it in mind as I continue with the discussion. This is included because of the similarity between the fine arts and philosophy. The word "philosophy" originally comes from Greek, meaning love of knowledge or wisdom. It is used comtemporarily as meaning a study of the processes governing thought and conduct; theory or investigation of the principles or laws that regulate the universe and underlie all knowledge and reality; or the general principles or laws of a field of knowledge, activity, etc.; or a particular system of principles for the conduct of life or the treatise governing such a system; or a study of human morals, character, and behavior; or the mental balance believed to result from this. "Concept" is an idea,

especially a generalized idea of a class of objects; a thought; or a general notion.

Throughout history, architecture has been a direct expression of the cultures that built. The great pyramids and temples of the Egyptian civilizations, and the art as well, were characteristic of that cultures preoccupation of living preparing for a eternal life after death. They concerned themselves with monumentality and great offerings to their gods rather than with refinement of proportions as did the Greeks. The Greeks were primarily concerned with refining and improving their civilization on earth, although this is not to say they did not think about death. They accepted death, with the goal of dying honorably, rather than fear death as did the Egyptians. The Greek architecture also depicts the rise and decline of their culture from the simple masculinity of the Doric, to the beautifully feminine Ionic, and finally to the complexity of the Corinthian, which depicts the change from "meaningful ornament" to "ornament for ormaments sake" that came upon their thinking.

The magnificent Gothic cathedrals also express a great deal about Mediaeval people, specifically their great religious dedication which resulted in the very fine craftsmanship in the cathedrals.

In the formative years of our country we became a self-styled Greek democracy, hence it was only logical that we should revive the styles of that great period. The fact that our ancestorial lines were much more complex and much different from the Greeks, or that technology had advanced (some) from the earlier period, or that our country was in a different geographical location, or that the formation of our government was a result of freeing ourselves from the colonization of our direct ancestors, could have and should have been expressed in an architecture fitted to our culture but were not. And when an "American architecture" did evolve, it was only fought by the populace; for example, the works of Sullivan were sharply squelched by the turn to the ecclectic at the Chicago World Fair, and also the general ignorance of Wright's early works by the Americans.

Today also the building field reflects a great deal about our civilization, though most of it is quite unfortunate. It is sad to think what the Archaeologists 2000 years from now will think as they are uncovering our remains and fitting together the puzzle of our civilization. Perhaps the only hope is that most of our buildings are put together so well that they will disintegrate prior to their eventual uncovering.

The most prominent feature of our present buildings in all but a few cases is the presence of the dollar sign swinging to and fro like a pendulum from extreme to extreme and quickly passing by the middle region. Most buildings are designed on a basis of economy, some on a basis of expense, and very few solely on the functional and esthetic requirements of the client.

At present, most architects seem to be purely following the tastes of the public, rather than trying to lead them. This is more of an economic problem rather than any thing else since, unfortunately, the architect is dependant on the public for his bread and butter. The dependance of architects upon others is another way in which there is a difference between artists and musicians, and architects. Persons in the other fine arts fields are not dependant on clients in order to pursue their interests as are the architects.

In addition to this dependance, architects are also faced with coordinating various fields of information into a single channel which will result in the building. Such fields from the most abstract such as philosophy or art to the sciences and to business administration to name only a few. This requirement of knowing some about each of these complex fields automatically eliminates the ability of the architect to specialize and develop his talents in any one area. (I am here using "architect" as

meaning the master of the building project rather than merely being registered as an architect. In other words, he is the one who is in control of the whole project or the persons assuming various responsibilities connected with the project, rather than his being one of the subordinates in the organization.)

The requirement for more general knowledge on the part of the architect I see as one of his major advantages since it requires him to channel these broad areas into specific details on a project, thus giving him the advantage of being able to express our culture more accurately as it should be represented. However, it seems that many registered architects are not so interested in this abstract and philosophic approach to architecture. Instead, many seek security in one of the nevertheless important aspects of the field, for example take the person who will take on the least abstract of tasks such as engineering analysis or presenting the working drawings. I am not trying to say that these are not important or even that they do not involve a good deal of imagination and creative thinking, for they do; only the lines on which these tasks must be approached are much more defined and laid out for the person than they are in something such as the designing of the building.

The designing of the building is in itself one of the most singularly important processes which the architect undertakes. It is here that he determines just what he is going to say about his own beliefs, the beliefs of the client, and about his culture and society. This should let me say make it an ethical requirement that the person who undertakes such a task be as thoroughly understanding of each of these things as possible. If he is to function properly he must state the very best of the features of our culture so that the others may look up and admire the statement rather than look down upon it. And likewise, although it would most likely be practical suicide to do so, he should put a building which in truth is ugly to our society (although superficially it may not seem so) in a statement which clearly states that it is an ugly function and should be shunned. How this could ever happen I haven't the slightest idea.

Since the most knowledgeable person should undertake the most important aspect of the project, namely the design and control, it seems only logical that one should take on responsibilities only as his education allows for. This perhaps is the way it actually works; however, I have not had enough experience in this area to really know.

What the previous discussion boils down to is, in essence, one word-- "truth"; which in itself is such an abstract idea that many philosophers such as Kant and Mill have spent much of their time just in trying to define it. I shall assume, perhaps optimistically so, that even those people who have cultivated the art of keeping the truth about most things, including themselves, neatly hidden from thought still must have some general idea as to what the word means; and therefore I shall not attempt to define it. The truthes which a work of architecture must express should ideally represent the culture in the best ways as well as in the worst.

This brings us back to the problem which is the concern of this thesis; what truthes should be represented in what ways in the Albuquerque Public Library? The concept of this problem will be concerned with the expressing of the truthes involved in both the functional and spiritual aspects of the building. I will attempt to discuss only the most basic of the truthes so that I may begin on more general terms than if I were to go into great detail on every single aspect.

The first truth which I will discuss will be that of expressing locale- more popularly called "Regionalism." A building does not need to be styled after any previous aboriginal culture which is not

a part of our own heritage in order to be regional. However, it should express the region by the use of indiginous materials (manufactured or otherwise) in a way not unnatural to the materials, and it should cope with the local climatic features of the area such as some local 17 story glass slabs do not.

The library should express the history of the culture in some truthful way- not by using Egyptian pylons and calling them "pueblo," neither of which really belong to our ancestry. Our past which involves the forming of a new nation founded on democratic policies which reflect ancient Greece and the freedom from a tyranny which had caused the War of Independence both should somehow be reflected in this building, especially since it is a library where our future generations will go to study about these important features in our making. I intend to accomplish this second purpose through the detailing of the building; and allow the overall form of the library to express the first truth which I have previously stated.

The third main truth which I intend to express is that of structure. The structural system should visually describe the transfer of forces from the roof to the foundation; this too for the purpose of a library needing to express the truth. This will probably affect the economy of the building because the most economical system almost surely would not

express the truthfulness of the transfer of forces. The more economical method could perhaps be justified in some other building, but I do not feel that the disguising of natural tendancies in a building which has the purpose of containing and allowing people to seek out information and facts could be justified on any grounds.

Last, I will talk about the "truth of space" although we cannot deny that space exists which in itself makes it truth from being. However, the existence of space does not mean that people are aware of it; so my purpose shall be to demonstrate some of the excitement which space transitions can create. This I feel is the most difficult task within the program, for a skillful use of space depends upon many things including a great deal of experience.

Finally, let me say that this problem will be designed not on the basis of any one of the major accepted architectural concepts such as "organic" architecture (which I still do not understand) or on a single space concept. Instead, it will be based on a combination of the various concepts as the individual areas require; it will be in part single flexible spaces, in part ecclectic, in part "international" and in part "organic."

PROGRESS SCHEDULE

PHASE I: Sketch studies based on research. February 5 through 12, 1964.

PHASE II: Development of a scheme. February 12 through 26.

PHASE III: First preliminary, to include presentation of site plan and floor plans. February 28

PHASE IV: Refinement of preliminary design. March 2 through 16.

PHASE V: Second critique, to include site plan, floor plans, elevations, and sections. March 18.

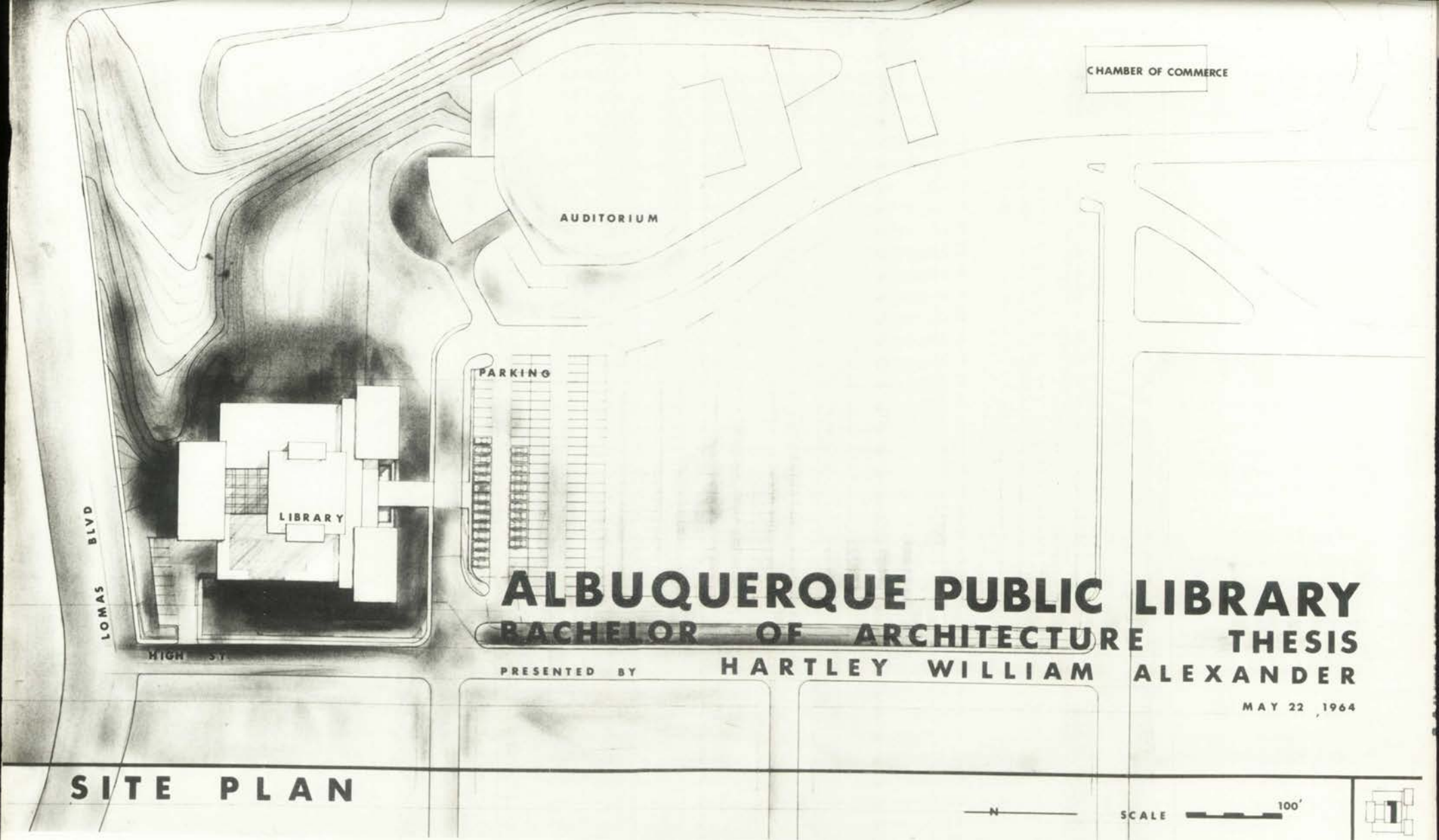
PHASE VI: Continue development and refinement of design. March 20 through April 3.

PHASE VII: Final preliminary critique, to include site plan, floor plans, elevations, sections, and mass model. April 3.

PHASE VIII: Presentation of final solution. April 6 through June 1.

JURY:

design



ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC LIBRARY

BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE THESIS

PRESENTED BY HARTLEY WILLIAM ALEXANDER

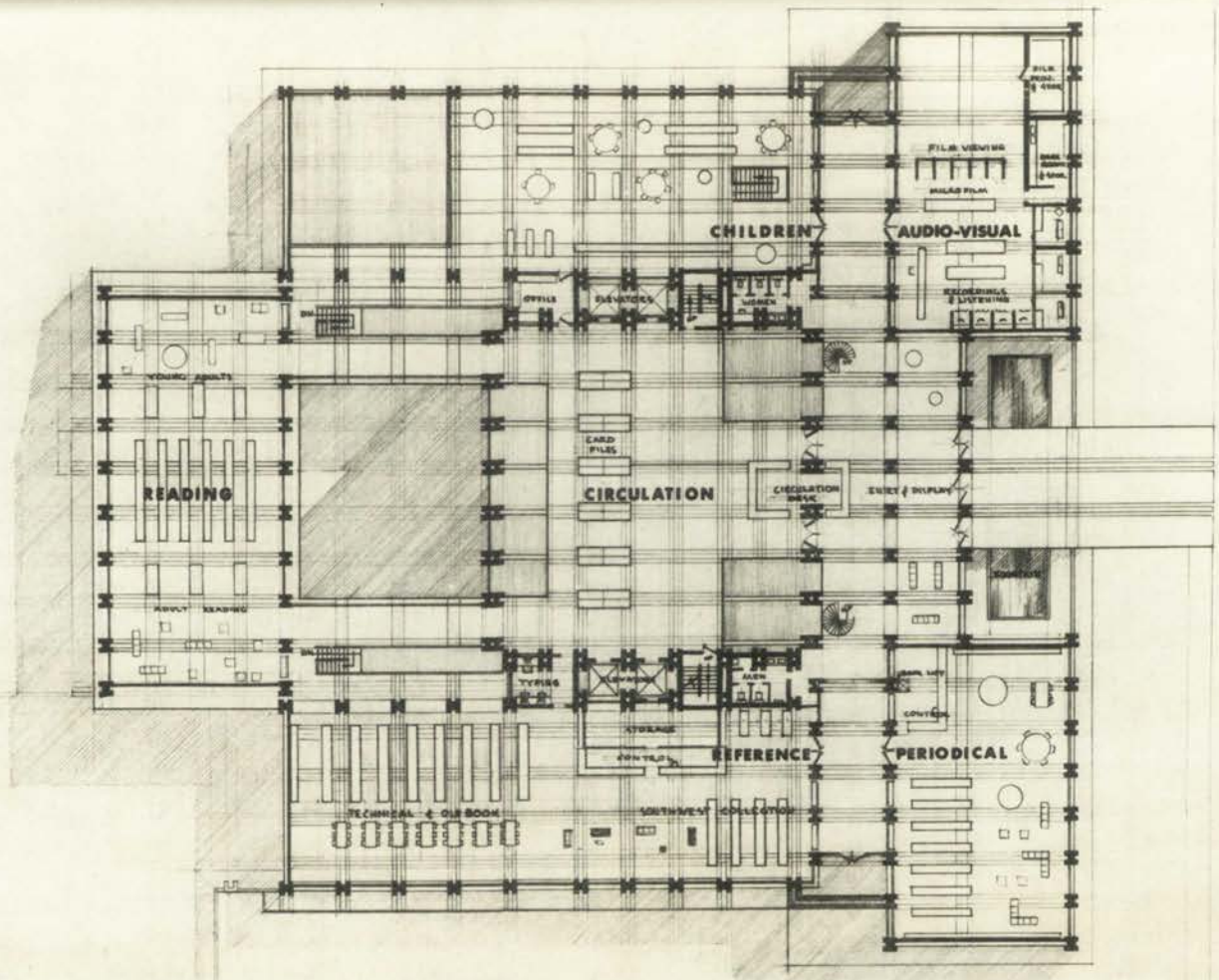
MAY 22, 1964

SITE PLAN

N

SCALE 100'

1

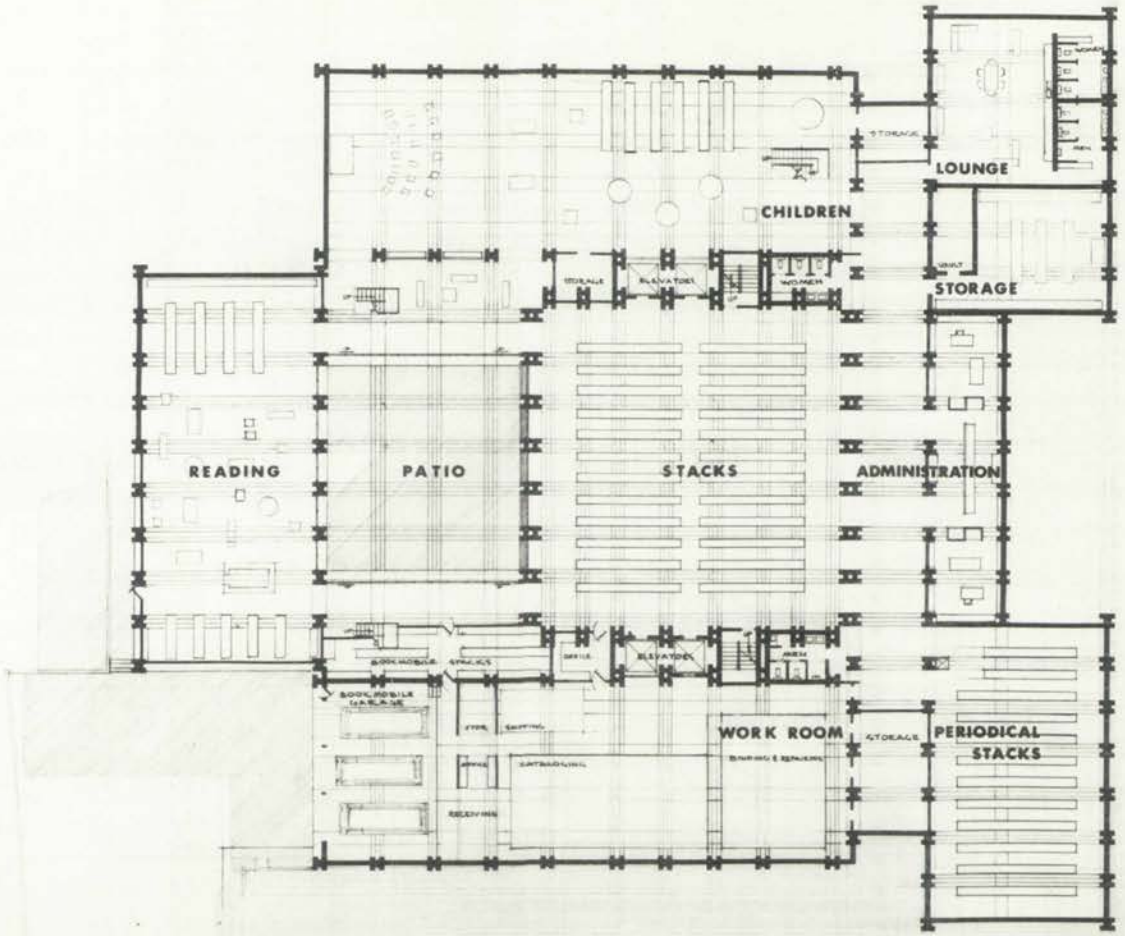


UPPER GROUND FLOOR

N

SCALE 0 15'

2



LOWER GROUND FLOOR

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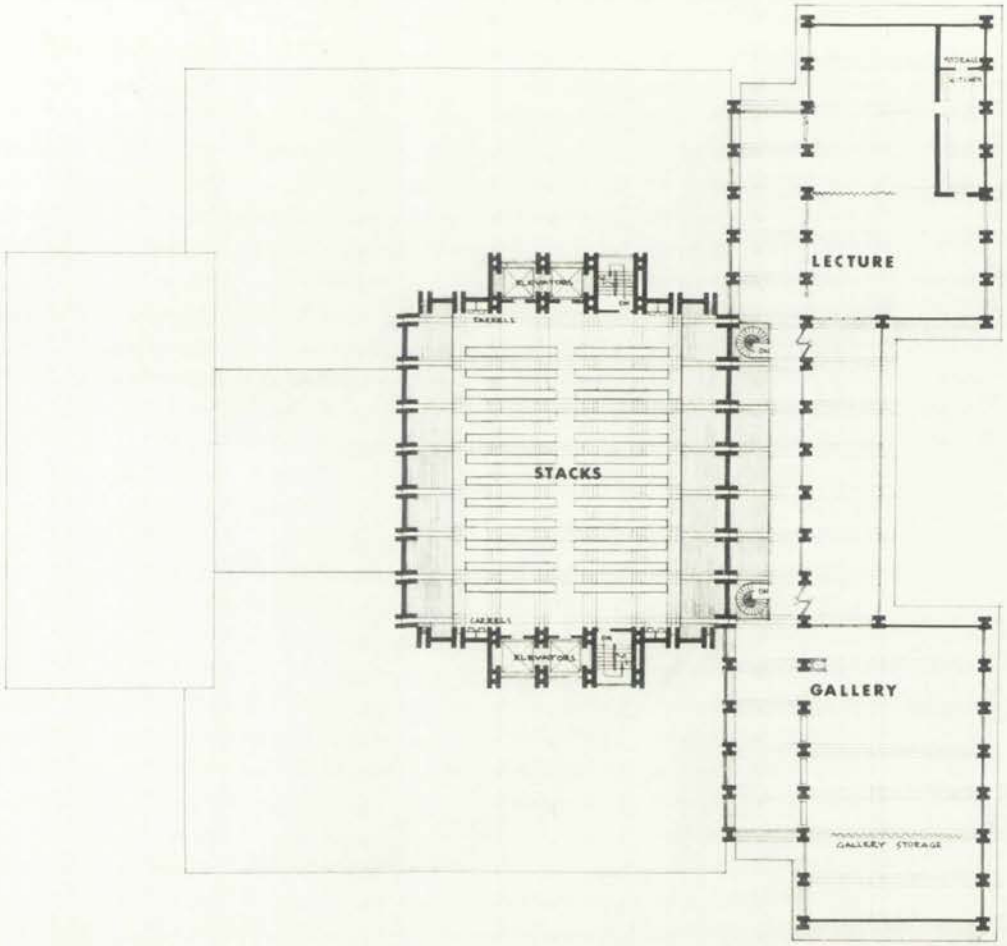
3



2ND FLOOR

N

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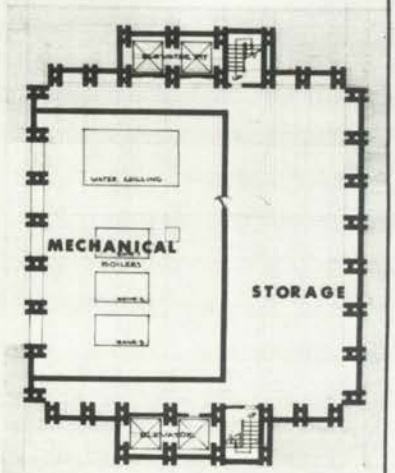
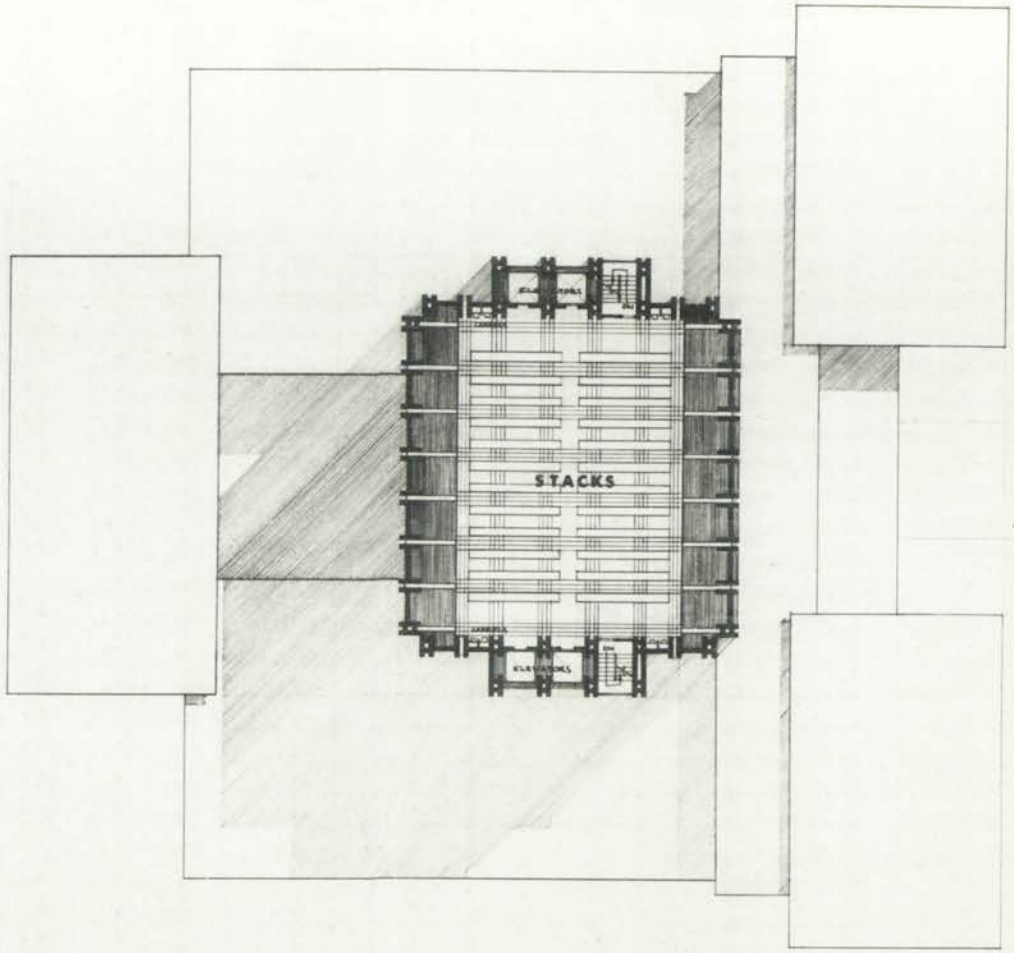
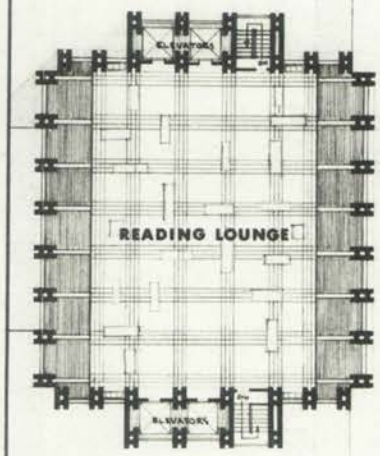




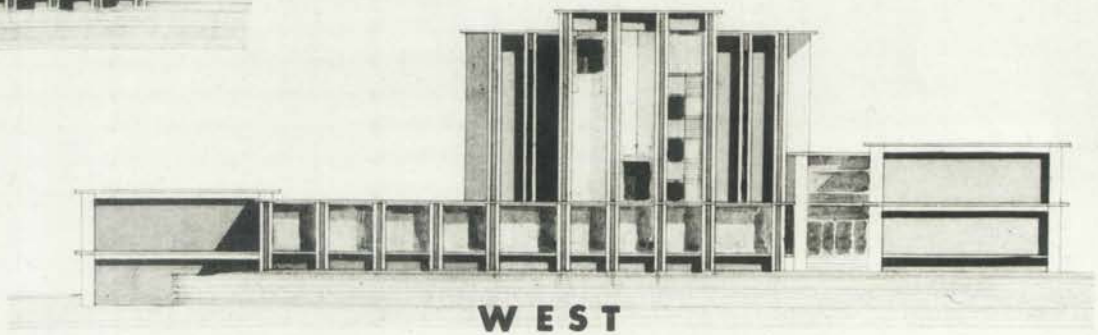


B, 3RD & 4TH, 5TH FLOORS

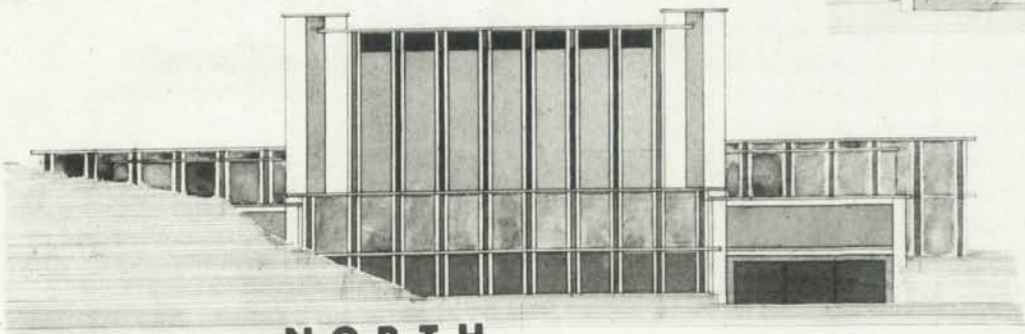
N

SCALE 15'

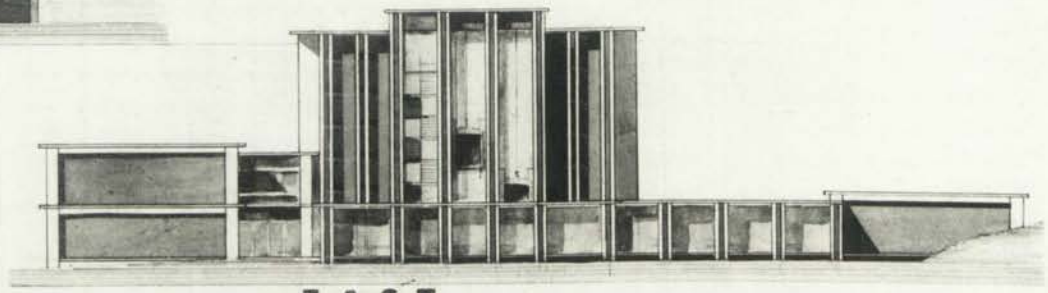
SOUTH



WEST



NORTH



EAST

ELEVATIONS

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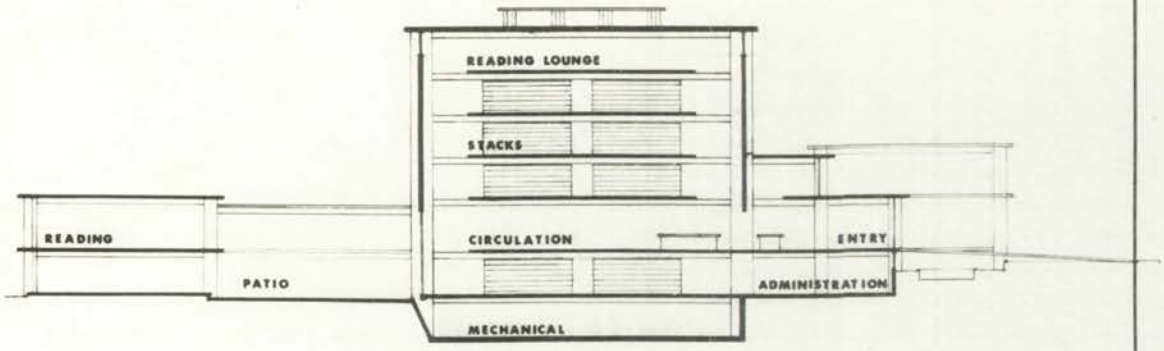
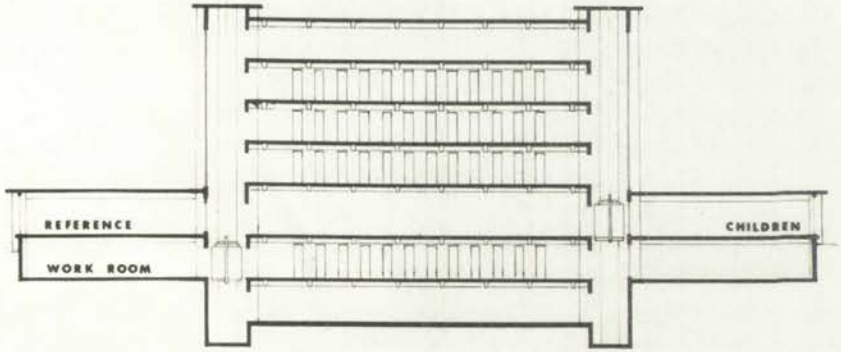
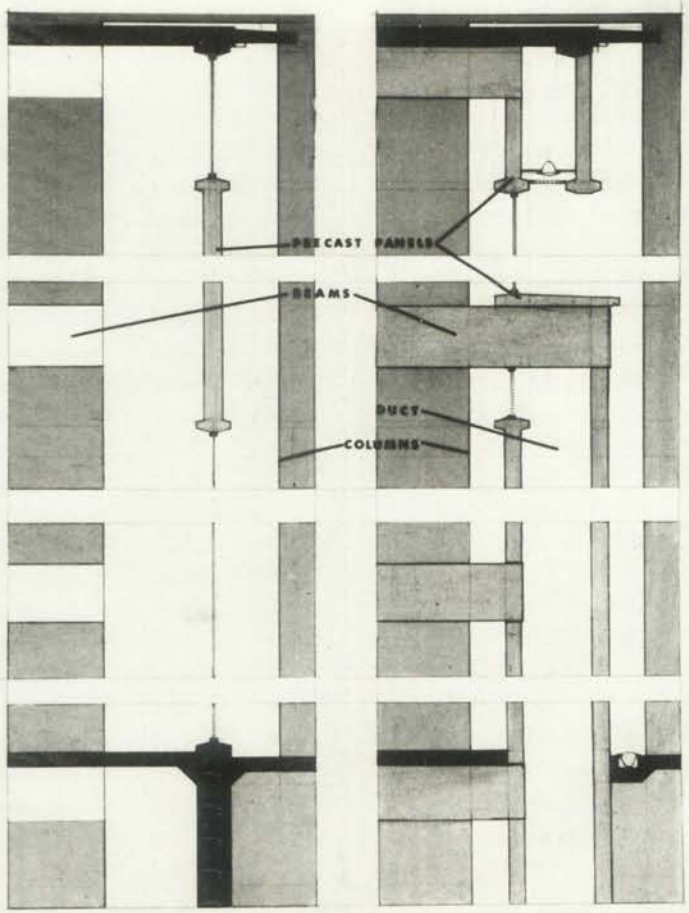


LONGITUDINAL



TRANSVERSE

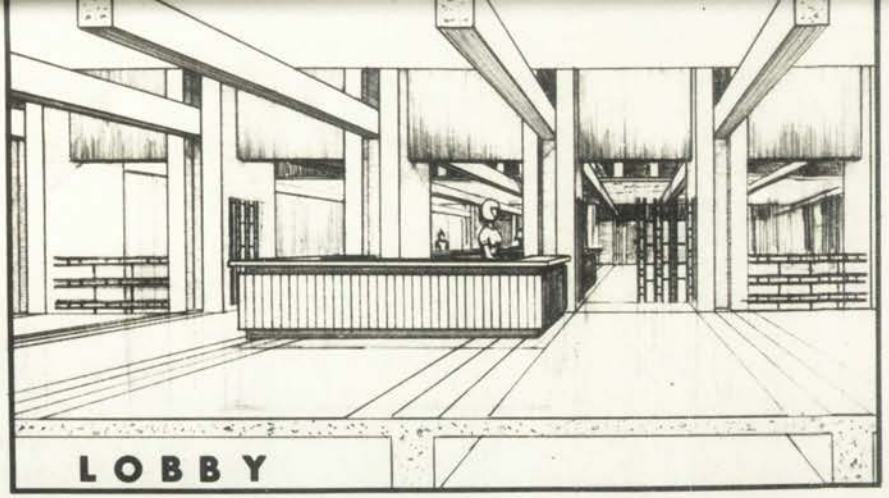


COLUMNS

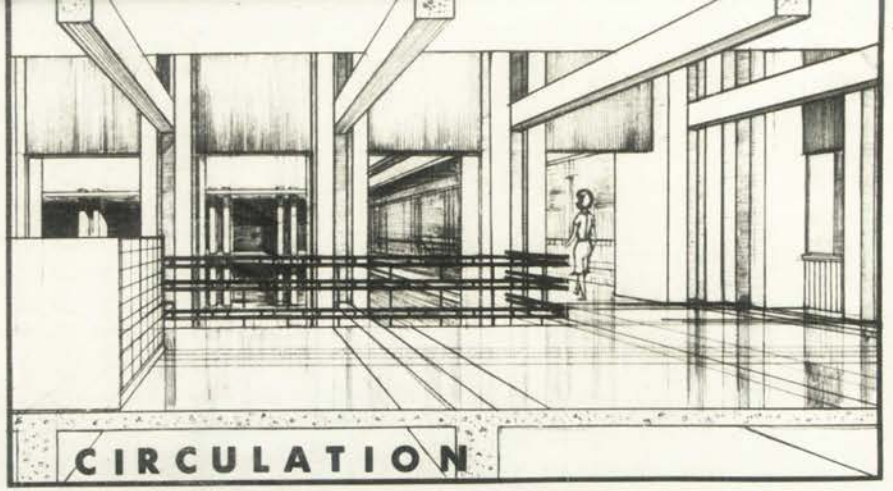
SECTIONS

SCALE 15'

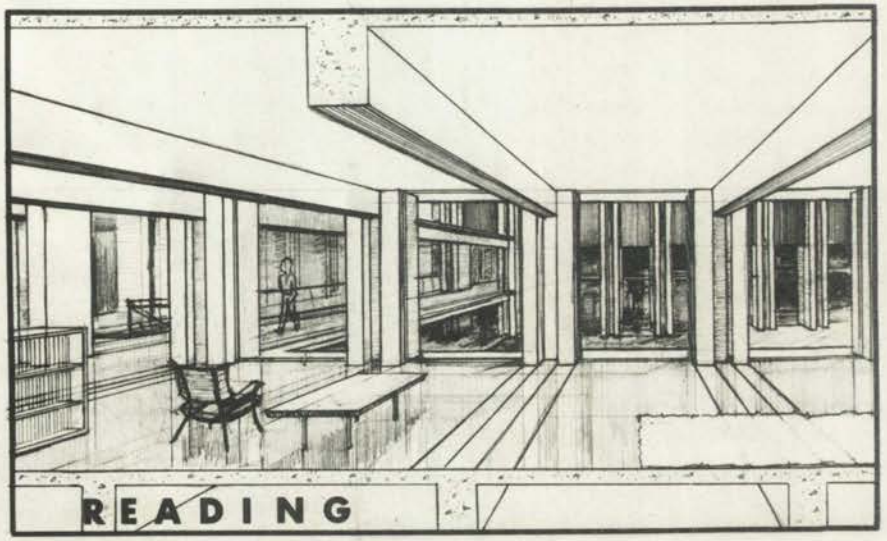
SCALE 1'-0"



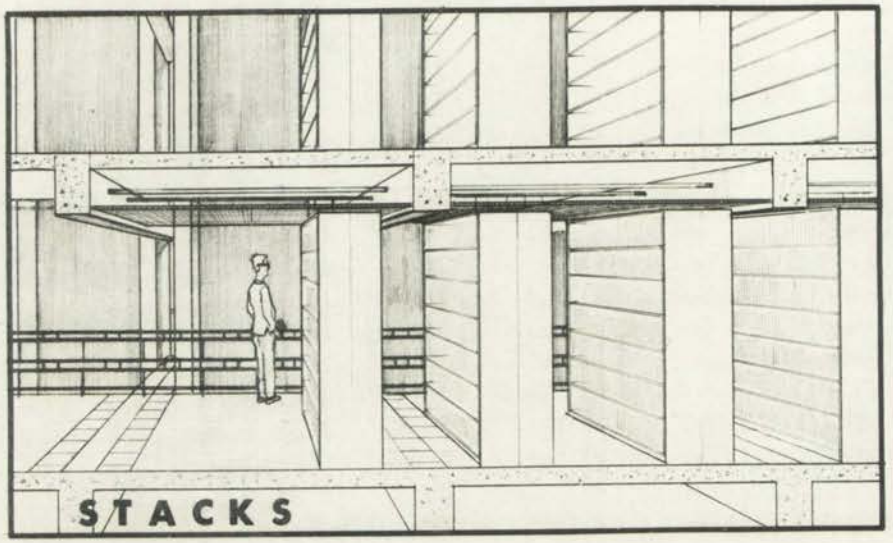
LOBBY



CIRCULATION

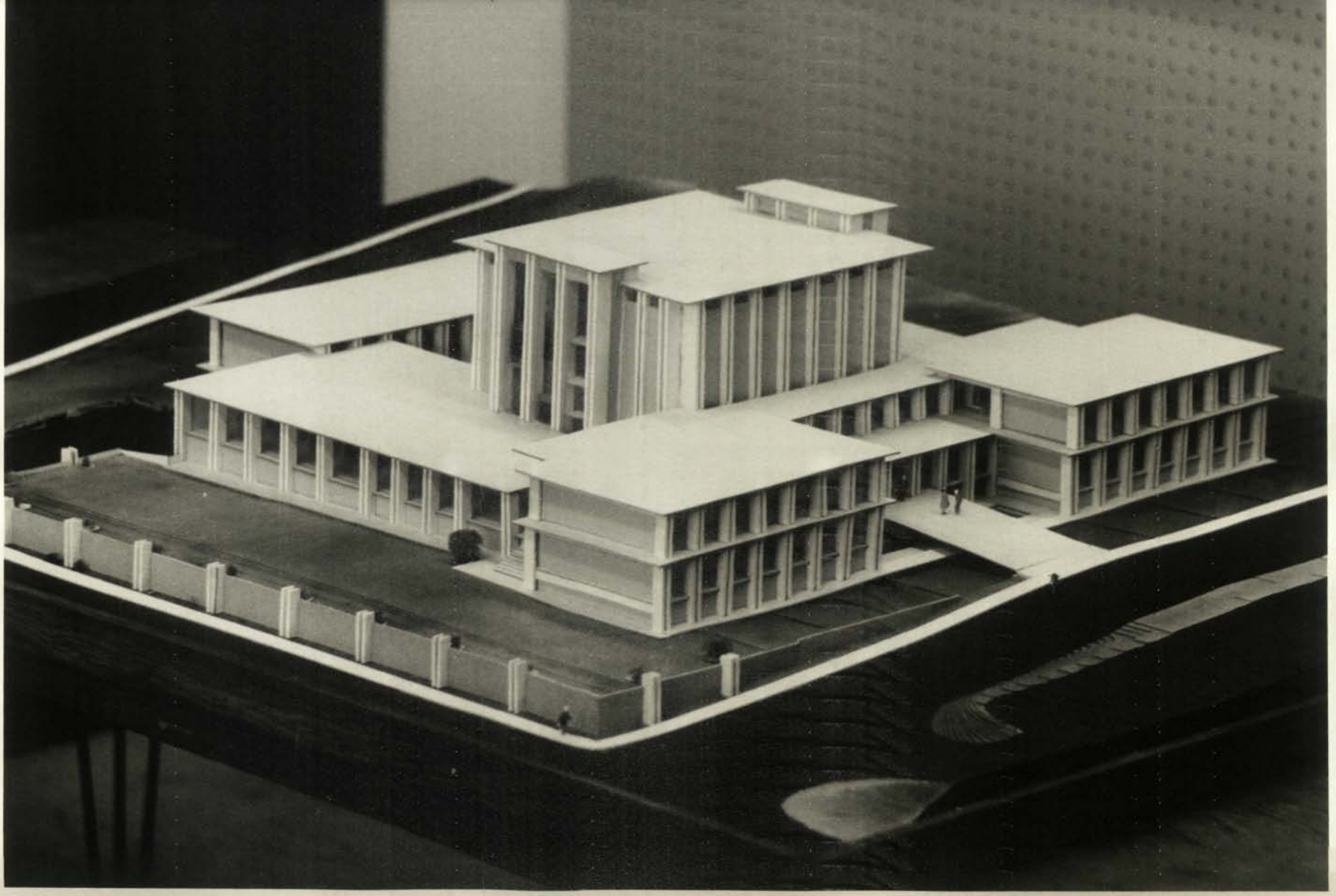


READING



STACKS

INTERIOR PERSPECTIVES



conclusion

SUMMARY

The Civic Center site was used for this problem not only because of the recommendations of the AMA Public Facilities Outlined; but also because of the availability of transportation facilities; nearness to the auditorium and proposed future cultural facilities such as a performing arts theater, a botanical garden, and a museum of Albuquerque history; and the availability of land for parking purposes. The particular portion of the site chosen for the library was done so because of its nearness to Lomas Blvd. and accessibility to the freeway without requiring circulation through the Civic Center site.

The building is designed to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the slope on the site which allows a separation of service traffic from public traffic. The lower ground floor handles the bookmobile and materials handling directly off the level of High street which prevents a conflict of service with the public circulation which is handled on the upper ground floor at the same level as the auditorium site. The work room on the lower ground floor serves as the main material handling center within the building by the elevator which connects it with all stack floors and the card file room.

Public circulation on the upper ground floor is based off a main lobby which serves the main and side entrances, periodical room, children's room, audio-visual room, reference room, and circulation room on the main floor; and the gallery and lecture rooms on the second floor which are reached by two circular stairways in the main lobby. This system of having each main area served from the lobby allows for any one of the rooms, or combination of rooms, to be open to the public without others being open; also leaving the rest rooms available for use in all cases.

Circulation to the stacks and reading areas is controlled from the circulation room which contains the card catalogs and the control desk. The ground floor reading rooms open to an interior open patio which is shaded and allows for outdoor reading as well as light into the middle of the building. The fifth floor reading lounge is a more informal and relaxing area where one may read casually and look out over the city, and allowing for future stack expansion as needed.

The structural system is based on a module derived from the stack spacing with deep, narrow windows in the stack area to allow light in without sunshine. The columns are poured in place with precast beams and shear panels placed as the pouring takes place.

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