



**Hartger and Harris**  
**Architects**  
**Hobbs, New Mexico**

*From the small building in the photograph below grew the expanded and handsome library structure pictured above.*

We are particularly proud of the new Hobbs Public Library. The design of this building is the result of very close cooperation between the Library Board of Trustees, the library staff, and Hartger and Harris, Architects.

As the first step, the program of library needs was written, and this was then interpreted in schematic line form, which was in turn reviewed by the Board of Trustees and the State Library Commission. A number of preliminary studies were weighed to find how each satisfied the program needs, and best incorporated parts of the then-existing library building. The final preliminary design resulted from this, and after the passage of the city bond issue, final working drawings were prepared.

The exterior form and appearance, as well as



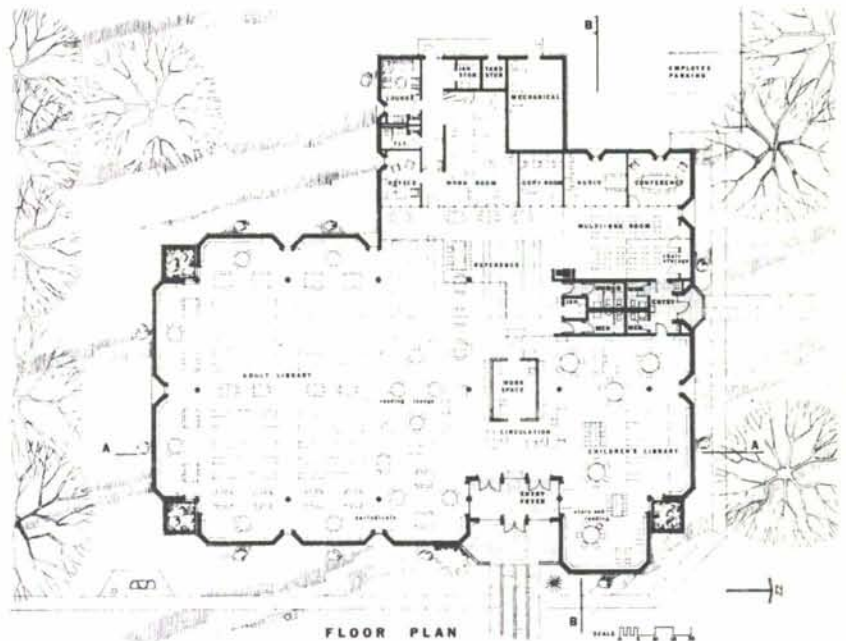
# New Library for Hobbs, New Mexico



SECTION A A

the interior spaces, are a result of the program needs — such as the several individual alcoves for special use—Petroleum Section; Southwest Collection; Children's Reading and story areas, etc. The windows are needed, we believe, to allow patrons to relate with the lovely park outside; they are quite narrow and glazed with bronze solar-type glass to control the amount of sun and heat which enters the building.

The interior public space is divided into an adult area and a children's area, with the circulation desk and front work area between. There is a sense of separation immediately apparent, but we believe the transition from the children's area to the adult area will be a natural and easy one for our



FLOOR PLAN



SECTION B B

SCALE 0 5 10 15 20

children to make as they grow. The total separation of "big people" and "little people" has been carefully and conscientiously avoided . . . we want them to see the adults, and of course we believe the adults should see the children.

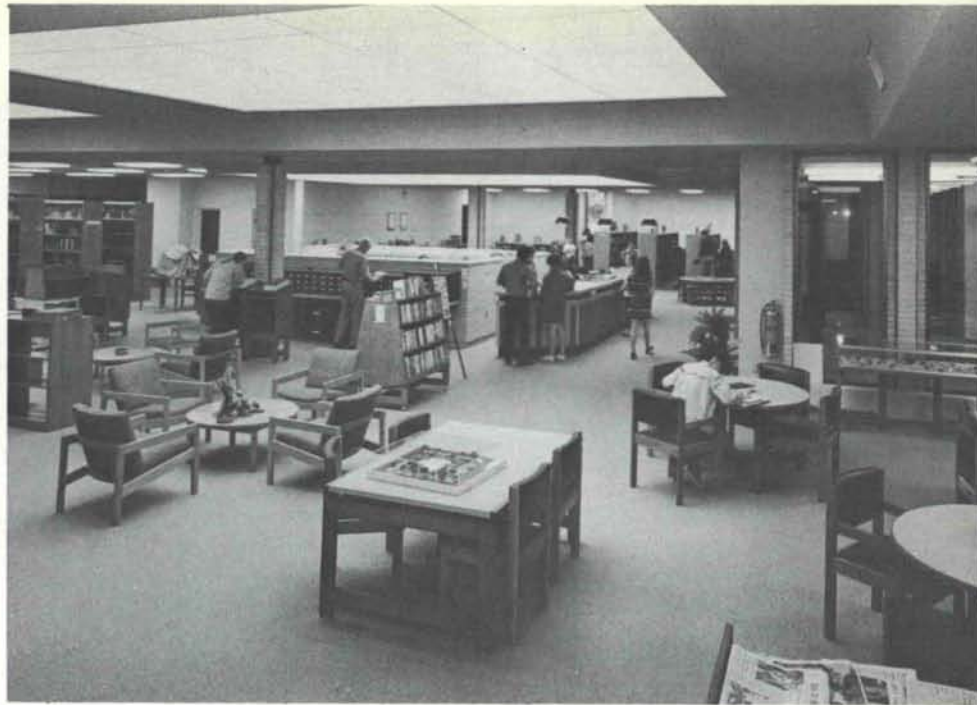
The height and character of the ceiling was designed to designate areas, and to relate to the particular needs of the areas; for an example, the ceiling height at the perimeter of the building is ten feet, and over the tall stacks is twelve feet. We desired more than a large well-lighted "supermarket" appearance — and we believe that the design solution is successful. Picture moulding is an integral part of the walls, to allow the easy hanging of appropriate paintings.

The style of architecture is contemporary, with no conscious borrowing of ideas from any architectural period. We have endeavored to design a library which will serve the needs of this community functionally and aesthetically for many generations.

W. A. Jourdan, Inc., and their many sub-contractors, have also worked very hard and well in the construction of the building which, hopefully, all of the citizens of Hobbs and the surrounding area, will use and enjoy to the fullest.

—Will Harris, AIA  
for Hartger and Harris,  
Architects

Library Consultant:  
R. E. Dooley  
General Contractor:  
W. A. Jourdan, Inc.  
Mechanical Contractor:  
Cathey Company  
Electrical Contractor:  
Southwestern Electrical Co.



ONE OF THE ADULT READING SECTIONS (Main entrance directly in front of charging desk—to right in picture)

CHILDREN'S SECTION (served by lowered section of charging desk)



**THOSE DAMN  
BILLBOARDS ARE  
STILL STANDING!**

Mr. Alfred Schwartzman,  
Chairman  
State Highway Commission  
Post Office Box 2227  
Albuquerque, N. M. 87103

Dear Mr. Schwartzman:

According to a story which appeared in the ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL dated May 19 concerning a meeting of the State Highway Commission, the agreement with the federal billboard control was discussed. It was apparent that opinions were received only from people who are in the billboard business or use billboards to advertise their businesses.

As President of the Albuquerque Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, I would like to point out to you that both this Chapter and the New Mexico Society of Architects, through its magazine NEW MEXICO ARCHITECTURE, have always taken a strong stand against desecration of the natural beauty of our state by the enormous, poorly - designed billboards which clutter our main highways. Several years ago, an article in NEW MEXICO ARCHITECTURE pointed out not only

the way that billboards on I-25 prevent the passing motorists from viewing the surrounding scenery, but also the fact that so many of the billboards have been partly destroyed by the elements and are just left in the state of disrepair for long periods of time.

We do not believe that the use of billboards as presently conceived is absolutely necessary for the edification of the passing motorist and the consequent business of roadside establishments. Fewer, smaller signs carefully designed can certainly achieve the same purposes.

New Mexico itself would gain far more publicity were it to regulate the billboards as the State of Vermont has done than to be known throughout the West as the state of the big billboards. I have heard people from out of state mention the one fact that remained in their memory about New Mexico was the huge, unsightly billboards along Highway 66.

We strongly urge you to adopt the necessary measures which would conform to the provisions of the Highway Beautification Act.

Yours sincerely,  
John Peter Varsa, AIA, President  
Albuquerque Chapter  
American Institute of Architects

**MORE FUNDS NEEDED  
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
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The Enironmental Quality Education Act of 1970 seeks to increase the public's awareness of the value of environmental quality and offers support for specific educational programs, curriculum development and community environmental awareness activities. The bill authorized \$5 million for programs in fiscal 1971 and \$15 million for 1972. Since the legislation did not become law until midway through the current fiscal year, only \$2.5 million was available for 1971 operations.

During consideration of the 1972 Education Appropriations Act, the House of Representatives granted the program only \$2 million for the coming year, less than is available in the current fiscal year. The Senate increased the figure to \$5 million. This difference, along with others in the Education Appropriations Act, will be ironed out in the very near future during a conference between the members of the Education Subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee.

Action needed: Contact your Congressman or Senator *now* and urge him to support the Senate figure of \$5 million for environmental education. —JPC

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