

Program Summary:

A community library providing devoted areas for children, teens, and adults with community meeting rooms and study rooms all framing a central courtyard.

Program Statement:

A new community library is situated to celebrate the site's existing mature live oak, forming a central courtyard around which the primary spaces are arranged.

Two primary entries serve different approaches to the building, one with a grand civic scale opening to the parking area and commercial corridor, and the other a pedestrian-scaled entry connecting the library to the surrounding via a community walking and bike path, making it easy for children to walk over after school and engage in library programs until pick-up time. The entries are connected by a gallery, designed for rotating display of local art, that allows after-hours access to the community meeting rooms and a single entrance to the library proper.

Upon entering the library from the gallery, the space opens up to the courtyard anchored by the mature live oak tree, with circulation and reading spaces lining the exterior walls facing out to the courtyard. Access points adjacent to service desks allow library patrons to bring materials out into the courtyard or participate in outdoor programming, shaded by the long branches or the wrap-around porch at the courtyard's edge.

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Building Area: (sf)
18,800 SF

Cost per Square Foot:
\$457 / SF

Construction Cost
\$8,591,232

Date of Completion:
March 2025

A45.02

Neighborhood Context

1. Site
2. Stormwater Detention Pond
3. Middle School

The site is located on the edge of a new neighborhood development; the design features materials and orientation to fit in with the architecture of the new neighborhood while making clear it is a civic space for all nearby neighborhoods and the city at large.

A dual entrance provides pedestrian access from the immediate neighborhoods and nearby schools, while a more vehicular-scaled entrance opens to the busy commercial corridor to the north.

Stormwater is connected to a detention basin that serves the entire new neighborhood development.

The Site

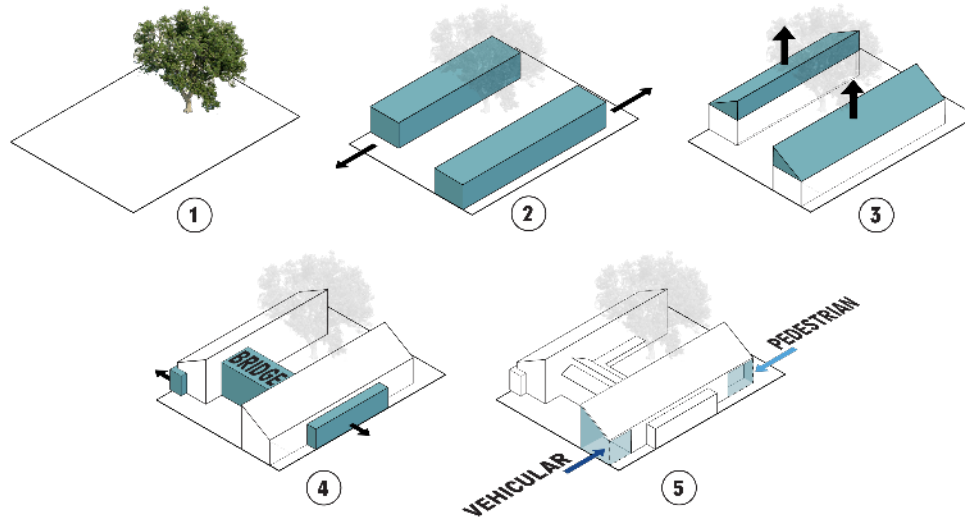
Upon visiting the site selected for the new library, one element was immediately clear as critical to the design: the mature live oak spreading its branches near the center of the south end of the site.

Design explorations focused on how to maintain and celebrate the tree and integrate it as a feature for the library while ensuring all programmatic needs were met.



A45.03

Massing Diagrams



1. Existing site with live oak.

2. Two blocks, clad in light-colored brick, frame the oak tree with space for its canopy.

3. Standing-seam metal roofs raise up to celebrate the tree and direct excess stormwater away to reduce subsurface impact to the roots.

4. Secondary masses clad in metal panel and glass bridge the bars and fill out the program.

5. The western bar is carved to provide two entries; one scaled for pedestrian and one for entrance from the parking area and larger city.

Aerial View

1. Parking Area Entrance

2. Pedestrian Entrance

3. Courtyard

4. Chiller Yard

5. Bike racks, connection to neighborhood bike & walking path.



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Exterior

The live oak tree anchors the site, with two brick-clad volumes framing it to east and west, housing the teen and children's reading rooms. A fence allows for a secure courtyard accessed only from within the library while still providing an open gesture to the neighborhood.

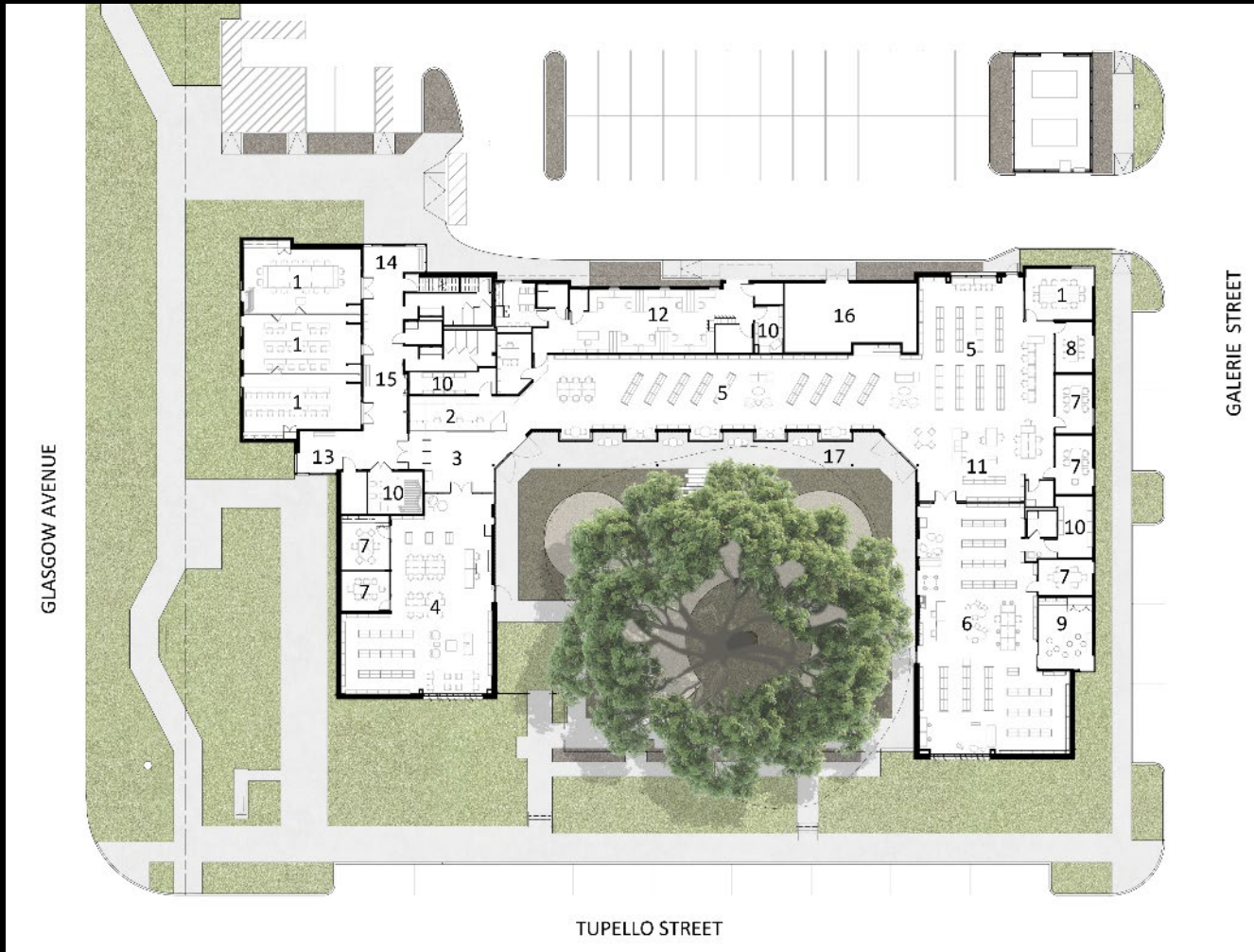
Left: the pedestrian-scaled entry opens onto an entry gallery that connects the two entries, provides after-hours access to the meeting rooms and allows for a single entrance to the library proper.

Right: the live oak's branches provide shade to the central courtyard; views are provided from the reading rooms out into the courtyard.



A45.05

Floor Plan



1. Meeting Rooms
2. Circulation Desk
3. Periodicals & Check-Out
4. Teens
5. Adults
6. Children
7. Group Study
8. Quiet Study
9. Storytelling
10. Storage
11. Information Desk
12. Staff Workroom
13. Pedestrian Entry
14. Parking Area Entry
15. Entry / Gallery
16. Mechanical Room
17. Courtyard



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Design Inspiration

The design looked to the oak tree for expression – the quality of dappled light informed sun-shading devices on exterior glass as well as interior flooring choices, while live oak bark texture provided inspiration for exterior metal panels and interior feature walls.

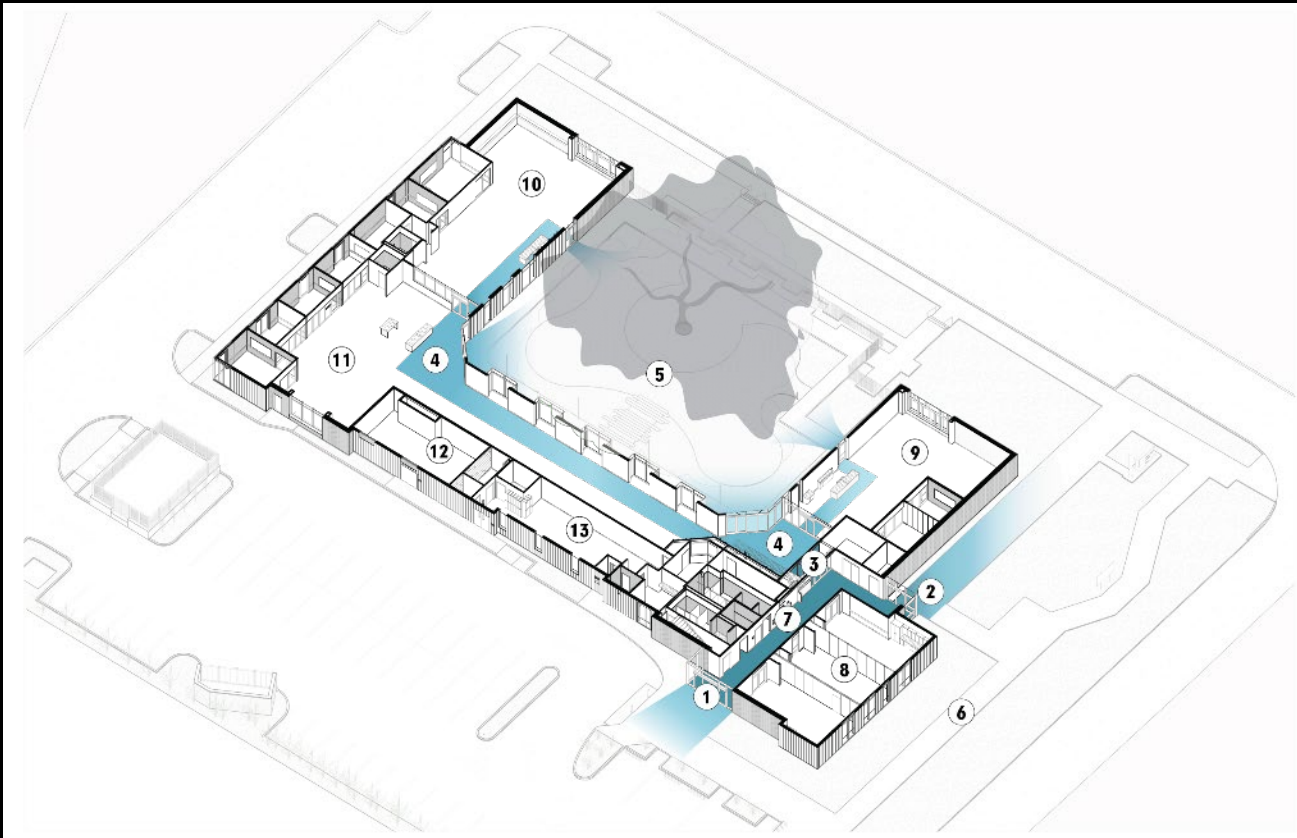
Natural textures such as wood grain and bark, riverine landscapes and leaf-dappled light inform the interior finish and furniture selections.



A45.07

Circulation & Views Diagram

1. Parking Area Entry
2. Pedestrian Entry
3. Library Entry
4. Circulation / Info Desk
5. Courtyard
6. Community Bike & Walking Pathway
7. Entry Gallery
8. Meeting Rooms
9. Teens
10. Children
11. Adults
12. Accessory Space
13. Staff Workroom



The two entries (1) and (2) open onto a gallery (7) that connects the two entries, provides after-hours access to the meeting rooms (8) and allows for a single entrance to the library proper (3). Rotating displays of local art adorn the entry gallery's walls.

Upon entrance to the library proper at the circulation desk (3), a view opens to the courtyard and tree (5). Circulation throughout the library follows the courtyard edge, passing reading nooks with views out.

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Courtyard Edge

The edge of the courtyard along the adult circulation area is articulated with nooks allowing quiet reading spaces with calming views, for both interior and exterior.

A “porch” roof with ceiling fans protects exterior seating from sun and rain and provides a cool space throughout the year, a feature informed by traditional southern architecture.



A45.09

Entries

Left: The entry facing the parking area and the busy commercial corridor to the north is expressed as a grand civic gesture, with a generous overhanging roof sheltering entry and drop-off.



Right: the entry facing the community bike and walking path has more of a human scale, focused on landscape, texture, and the play of light and shadow.





A45.10

Circulation Desk

The oak tree's bark texture provides inspiration for the wood-batten-and-acoustic panel feature walls above the circulation and service desks.

Staff desks in teens and children's areas are built from the same detail but with a playful pop of color in the acoustic material.



Wayfinding signage integrates a natural color scheme with wood elements for a cohesive design integrating, furnishings, signage and architecture.



A45.11

Children's and Teen's Areas

Left: The children's area provides colorful expression of the design's themes.

Right: The teen's area features informal, flexible, and durable seating and a focus on access to technology.

The adult circulation and reading area, with reading nooks and views to the courtyard at right.

The shelving units, with oak-clad end panels, are arranged on casters for maximum flexibility.

Informal seating areas are nestled throughout.

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The Porch

Articulation of the exterior façade facing the tree allows for multiple spaces for seating, reading, and contemplation.



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The Courtyard

The courtyard provides a shaded, quiet space while also providing an additional area for library programs such as community yoga under the oak.

