

## **Design Concepts – New Lynnfield Public Library**

We envision the new Lynnfield Library structure being an updated extension of the Town's character, values and architecture. While the architectural design of the building can be updated, maintaining consistency among the town's public buildings is a requirement. Reflecting Lynnfield as a residential town, we want the building to fit that look. The front, facing Summer Street should embrace the architecture and the construction materials used throughout the town - wood and glass with stone and accents.

The sides, rear and interior of the building should be a fully integrated and continuous extension of the surrounding area and natural setting, taking advantage of and incorporating the vistas, flora and abundant light which changes during the day and varies depending upon the season. The blending should be so subtle that one should not even feel as if they were in a building at all.

We want the atmosphere created to be experienced freshly with a new feeling upon each visit. Each viewing of the building and from the building as well as the layout needs to stimulate all age groups and interests. The new Library is part of our future and the future is experienced anew all the time.

It is okay to make a statement as long as the message resonates: this is Lynnfield. Lynnfield is open and airy and the site especially so. This needs to be seen, experienced, felt and internalized.

The community and passersby should be pleased by how the rooflines and structure blend in with the surrounding homes in a seamless manner -- just on a larger scale. The view of a typical structure in town from the street contains a home, breezeway and barn presence which would be ideal to capture the spirit of - but updated and while colonial in spirit can itself be different. A signature of the Town is the Palladian window in the present Library and we would like that concept repeated in the new Library.

One notion discussed has been an extended Town Center with the present common and Library on one end and the new Library and Reedy Meadow on the other. In this sense, the Palladian windows define the boundary lines or serve as bookends and this will be incorporated during the detailed design of the building.

The interior layout and furnishings should be inviting, comfortable and part of a complete internal package with sightlines, graceful elegance conveying naturally openness and define areas within. The only places enclosed are those that must be for the privacy and safety of patrons.

## **Architectural Narrative –Realization**

The Lynnfield Public Library Schematic Design is the product of multiple conversations among the Lynnfield community, library staff, trustees and architects, including Community Forum facilitated by the Architects. The building embodies this community's vision of a library for the future, reflecting the unique character of the Town. Central to this vision, the new building is a welcoming, comfortable place - a civic heart of the Town - that takes advantage of the dramatic views of the surrounding landscape.

Key elements of this approach include:

**Establishing Civic Presence at a Small-Town Scale:** Located a short distance away from the Lynnfield Town Green, the transparent building strongly fronts Summer Street across a new public green space. Parking is frontal and convenient, but located to the side so it does not disrupt the relationship between the building and the street.

**Library in the Park:** Inspired by the tradition of great libraries with strong connections to green space, the building takes this idea further inviting the landscape seamlessly into the library, with floor to ceiling glass facades looking in two directions. Activity inside the library is visible and inviting and interior spaces are infused with views of the front green and the sweeping views of the golf course and surrounding marshes.

**Civic Scaled Reading Room:** The principal space, envisioned as a tall "Canopy on the Green", is a large public reading room right at the front door, with a high wood ceiling and containing the most active portions of the collection. The Children's Room, Young Adults Room, Genealogy and the Danforth Bancroft Reading Room are organized with strong "storefront" connections to this central space.

**Clear Efficient Organization:** The plan is organized to provide open flexible space, with easy staff supervision. Staff desks are located where they can easily greet patrons (saying hello is an important element of the Lynnfield Library ethos). Staff desks all have direct sight lines to each other. Each has clear sight lines to the collection and visibility to nearby workspaces.

**Special Places for Children and Young Adults:** Children of all age groups asked for a fun place of their own. Children and Young Adult Rooms are located prominently and with connections to the views in two directions. These spaces have flexible furniture layouts designed to engage young readers in a fun inspiring environment.

**Creating Outdoor Reading Rooms:** Two outdoor spaces are defined by the shape of building; a sunny outdoor terrace overlooking the golf course and a protected courtyard for children and young adults. The spaces created provide outdoor reading rooms with a virtually expanded Library in nice weather which was an idea expressed by the community to be incorporated.

**Fitting in While Standing Out:** The new library should convey their vision about a library of the future and should be a "Lynnfield building" striking the balance between memory and invention. The building's varied roofline breaks the building into multiple volumes, each in scale with surrounding residential buildings. Materials including white clapboard siding and the sloped roofs make reference to buildings around Lynnfield's historic Town Green.

The transparent and contemporary building opens the building to the community, reflecting the role of the library, which as community members noted, "is the most truly public building in our town".