

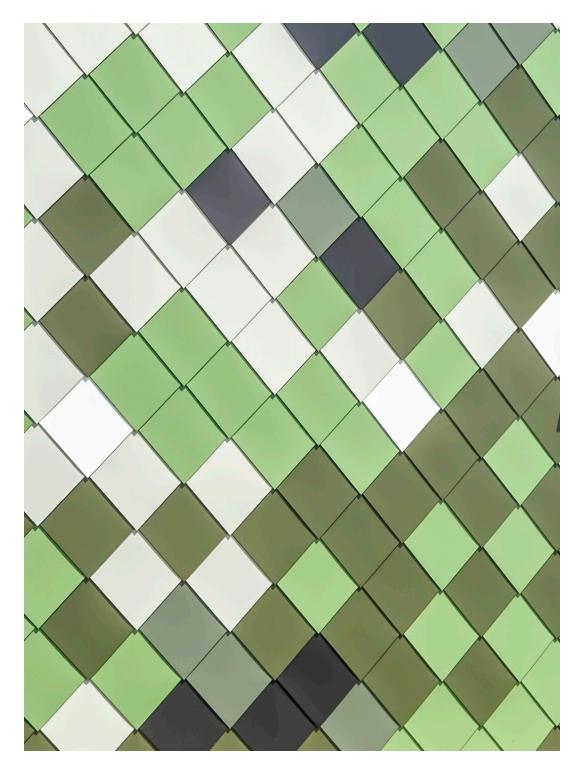
## **PROJECT NARRATIVE**

The new Brightwood Library, situated at 25th and Emerson represents more than a building. Located in the heart of the Martindale Brightwood neighborhood, the rich history of this community was always at the core of this project. Before the first sketch was produced, and any concepts discussed, the design team convened focus Groups, Town Hall meetings, and attended regular meetings for neighborhood organizations. These efforts uncovered a mandate from the community for the Library to reflect African America Culture, provide a sense of history, and be inspirational. Along with this mandate the objectives of the community was for the Library to provide a welcoming and safe place, provide a place for Community gatherings, provide a place for seniors to socialize, and for the building to be a supportive place for children and teens. The ultimate goal was for it to become the new neighborhood hub.

Through listening and observing the design team was able to gain an understanding of how this community had to overcome the historic and literal division of the neighborhood by train tracks. The coming together of the once divided Martindale AND Brightwood neighborhoods over the decades has produced dramatic change. Reflected in the architecture the building mass is organized in progressively sized "Bands" representative of the "Seasons of Change" the neighborhood has embarked on throughout the years bridging the divide.

The materials used on the exterior of the building weave together wood, brick, and a mosaic representative of the seasons of change. The mosaic pattern on the exterior of the building tells the story of a pixelated Oak Tree going through the seasons as it shades in the summer, drops its leaves in the fall, stands through winter, and is rejuvenated in the spring. The inspiration for using a mosaic to tell a story came from the design team in conjunction with the community performing a study of how African art uses patterns and textures to amplify stories, with each pattern used having important meaning. Internally each band contains different collections for children, teens, adults, and seniors in keeping with the seasons of change in the lives of the community. Large spans of glass not only serve to flood the interior with natural light, but also provide a connection with the surrounding community with framed "Portals" in each of the bands providing views out where one can sit inside, reflect, and visually watch the change of the surrounding area over time, and views in for passers by to see activity and be inspired by the library's collections of knowledge, and presence of a place where innovation and discovery can be sparked.

The Brightwood Library is meant to be an iconic structure reflective of the community of Martindale Brightwood served by the Branch. Staying true to the core values of Indianapolis Public Library, the building hopes to become a catalyst for rejuvenation and change in a neighborhood that feels they have been historically overlooked. This is the Residents of Martindale Brightwood!





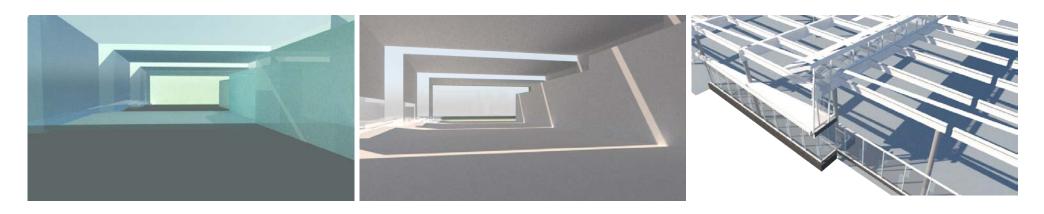
SITE PLAN

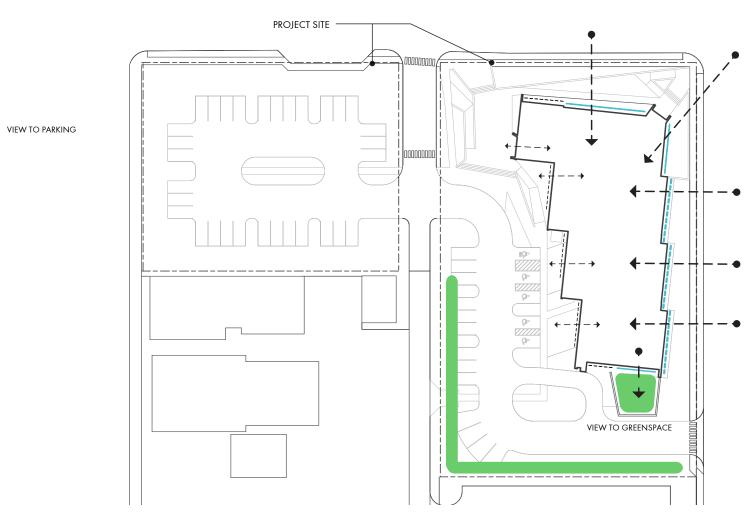












## **SEASONS OF CHANGE**

Progressively sized bands along the building mass were used to symbolize the "Seasons of Change" all neighborhoods experience. Internally, each band contains different collections: furniture and spaces for children, teens, adults, and seniors in keeping with the changing seasons in the lives of the community.























