

Indianapolis Public Library Glendale Branch

AIA Indiana Awards 2024

Category:

New Construction – (Project cost greater than \$5 million)

Project Type:

Public Library

Project Address:

3660 E 62nd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Date of Substantial

Completion:

March 2024



ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

Located on the site of the former John Strange Elementary School, the new 25,000 square foot Glendale Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library system provides a continuation of community resources in this walkable neighborhood characterized by modest to large, post-war masonry homes on large lots with mature trees.

While the library has been a long-standing resource in the neighborhood, it has not had a permanent home, having occupied various rented spaces over the years. When the nearby school system sought a buyer for their former elementary school, the library jumped at the chance for a stable, permanent home, and additional economic stability. Initial discussions revolved around adaptively reusing a portion of school building, in alignment with the library's goals to be stewards of natural resources, but a restrictive Indiana law prevented the school system from selling the building. A compromise was reached to demolish the existing building down to grade and reuse portions of the building foundation for the new library. This reduced the overall amount of site work required by capitalizing on the existing site grading, drainage patterns, parking lot entrances, and site utilities, in addition to minimizing the amount of embodied carbon that would be required to construct all new concrete footings.

The design team led an extensive community engagement effort to capture input from a wide swath of the library's patrons. Virtual discussions, online surveys, and passive input opportunities at the branch formed the project's driving goal: that the library should act as an extension of the home for the community by offering shared outdoor gathering spaces, connecting to the existing heritage trees, and blending in with the neighborhood.

Envisioned as several residential-scaled masses, array around two central axes of daylight, the building's exterior masonry cladding speaks both to the surrounding brick homes and to the institutional feeling of many Indiana limestone-clad public buildings. The masses are broken through a change in masonry unit scale to form a subtle massing cap that speaks to the dominate roofs of the surrounding homes. The masonry is a blend of limestone and white concrete masonry units to achieve the light appearance but have warmth and greater variation. Along the moderately busy 62nd Street, the masses of the building are taller, creating a strong presence along this neighborhood axis. The building steps down in height to the north to relate to the scale of the nearby homes and to allow clerestory lighting into the southern half of the building. Punched windows in each mass give way to dramatic openings that mark public gathering spaces within the building,

allowing passersby to see the hustle and bustle in the library and welcoming patrons inside. The dramatic structural steel and glass "front porch" picks up on cues from the nearby residences by softening the building's entry sequence and expanding the boundary of the building while providing shade for the ultra-transparent fenestration below. A custom-designed window film brings a hint of color and texture to the exterior and creates an ever-changing light play in the interior spaces.

Connecting the building to the outdoors by providing views of nature and plentiful daylight through large windows was a particularly important goal for the library, especially as their previous location in a commercial strip mall had no windows. Also, the highly accessible one-story building stands in contrast with their previous space, which was on the second floor and a long walk from the parking lot. By focusing on the development of the exterior spaces of the site, the library is able to extend its reach by accommodating patrons even when the building is closed or they aren't able to come inside. The previous school's playground acted as an anchor for children's play in the neighborhood; the library's landscaping was designed to pick up on these cues and welcome active engagement. To the south of the site, a bus line and multi-modal trail provide easy access by foot or bike.

The interior spaces were designed to reflect the warmth and timelessness of a home, with reading nooks and flexible study spaces woven throughout the book stacks. Comfortable, collaborative furnishings invite patrons to linger. Spaces are layered to allow views between varying user groups, while allowing acoustic control. For example, the western courtyard unites the Quiet Reading, Teen, and Children spaces, providing views of the activity in the courtyard as well as each space – adults can work in the Quiet Reading room while keeping an eye on their teen. This means a patron can sit in some of the quietest spaces, feel connected to the more active spaces, yet hear nothing. Patrons can have access to the types of differentiated spaces they need while still promoting a sense of community.

Through conversations with the client group, it was important that vibrant colors be woven throughout the building to add variation and relate to a wide range of user groups and diverse backgrounds. Renewable and low-VOC materials were prioritized for key spaces, including bamboo and tile flooring, and wood millwork trims. Along the Quiet Reading Room, stained glass panels, created by a local artisan, depict the previous locations of the Glendale Branch, illustrating its long history in the community.



Designing for Resources



Designing for Equitable Communities



Designing for Equitable Communities



Designing for Well-being + Resources



Sustainability Statement

Please see the axonometric diagram on the following page for further sustainable design elements



Designing for Energy

Our team worked with the library to ensure priorities in stewardship of natural resources as well as energy and material conservation goals were accomplished in the building design. The project is seeking LEED Gold certification, with a multi-faceted approach to sustainable strategies. The PV array on roof offsets a large portion of the building's operating costs, providing a benefit that would not have been feasible in the library's previous rented spaces. A television display screen located next to the circulation desk provides live information of the energy being produced by the solar array. This connects patrons with the building and promotes knowledge sharing of sustainability. Orienting the building along the east-west axis – while working with the existing school building foundations that were being reused – the largest glazing areas face south, to the main road, and have overhangs (of varying depths) to reduce solar heat gain. East and west glazing is also shaded as much as possible and overall the building holds to a 25% window to wall ratio.



Designing for Water

The project's stormwater is slowed and treated on site before being released into a nearby creek, instead of the city's storm pipe network. The storm water release from this site is now slower than it was prior to this project, helping to mitigate flooding concerns for the creek. On either side of the main entry, rain chains and planters suspended in canopy openings celebrate rainfall and exhibits the stormwater management strategy. The site does not use irrigation water. Plantings are drought resistant after establishment. Furthermore, within the building, low-flow and automatic plumbing fixtures are used throughout the building to reduce overall demand.



Designing for Ecosystems

The project required very minimal tree removal and grading, made possible by the reuse of a portion of the previous school building footprint and utilities. Native plantings and the celebration of existing heritage trees balances the active building with the surrounding neighborhood's tree canopy. A seed library also teaches community about native plantings and their role in the local ecosystem.

Projected EUI of the Glendale Branch: 36.7 (kBtu / FT²)
EnergyStar Benchmark EUI for Libraries: 143.6 (kBtu / FT²)

Summary – Much of the design of this building was completed through the most restrictive phases of the pandemic, and it reflects an optimism that one day, people would be able to gather in public again. This vision has more than come to fruition. The library is back to providing valuable resources to the Glendale community: initiatives for children's literacy and community programming; space for avid readers, families, people who don't have access to internet, or anyone who needs a warm and welcoming place to stay.

HERITAGE TREES

Existing heritage trees, defined by species, age and diameter, and rich in ecological and historical value, were maintained and protected along the perimeter of the site.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCALE

Building height and massing blocks were carefully considered so the library would relate to the residential scale surrounding the site, yet still appear civic.

PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM

The rooftop PV solar system provides on-site renewable energy to offset 71% of the library's annual energy costs.

THERMAL ENVELOPE

Walls were constructed with high-performance insulation, achieving thermal performance that is 50% better than code. The building underwent thermographic scanning inspection and a building pressure test to confirm the quality of construction and reduce any potential air leakage.

MANAGING STORMWATER

Rainwater that falls on the site, is collected and treated for pollutants and particulates then released slowly into nearby Sylvian Branch Creek. This is positive for the balance of the local surrounding environment.

EV CHARGING STATIONS

Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations provide an added resource to the neighborhood, expanding the library's role as cornerstone of the community through sustainable commitments beyond facilities, materials, and programs.

EXTERIOR MATERIALS

Exterior walls use masonry to blend in with the neighborhood, along with a white roof and lighter pavement that lowers the heat island effect of the site.

SHADING SYSTEM

Sun shades on south, west, and east sides reduce solar heat gain and helps control glare, thus improving comfort, regulating temperature, and lowering energy consumption.

INTERIOR MATERIALS

Interior materials were selected to feel warm and homelike. Priority was given to finishes that were made from renewable resources and had low or zero VOC content (volatile organic compounds).

NATURAL DAYLIGHTING

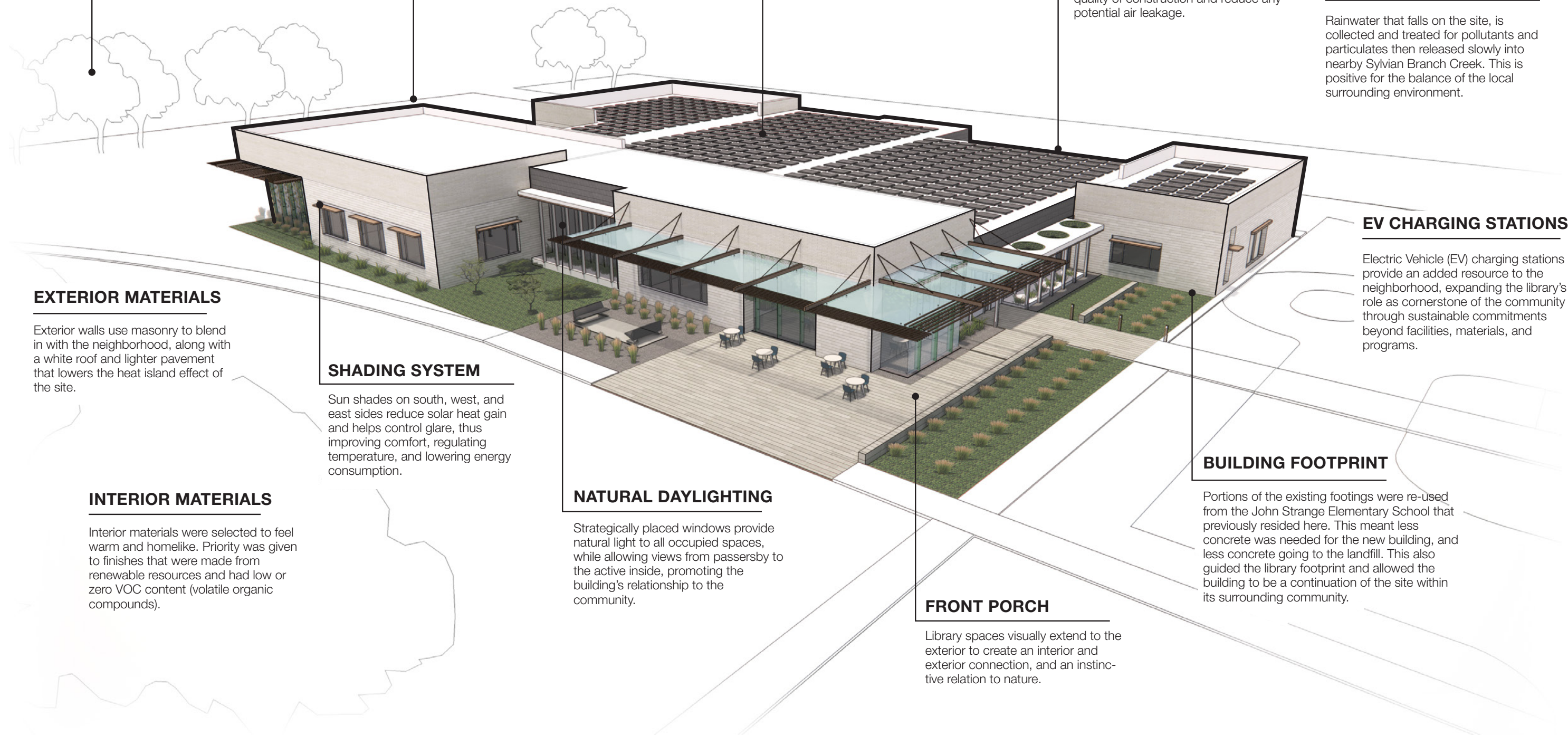
Strategically placed windows provide natural light to all occupied spaces, while allowing views from passersby to the active inside, promoting the building's relationship to the community.

FRONT PORCH

Library spaces visually extend to the exterior to create an interior and exterior connection, and an instinctive relation to nature.

BUILDING FOOTPRINT

Portions of the existing footings were re-used from the John Strange Elementary School that previously resided here. This meant less concrete was needed for the new building, and less concrete going to the landfill. This also guided the library footprint and allowed the building to be a continuation of the site within its surrounding community.













3660

Clendale Branch
The City of Jacksonville Public Library



returns
buzón







Copy, Scan, & Print
Copiar, Escanear, e Imprimir
Computers
Computadores
Quiet Reading Room
Sala de Lectura Silenciosa

Community Room
Sala Comunitaria
Children's Collection
Colección Infantil
Restrooms #15
Baños

information

información

mitri





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DVD NONFICTION
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10

9

holds
retención



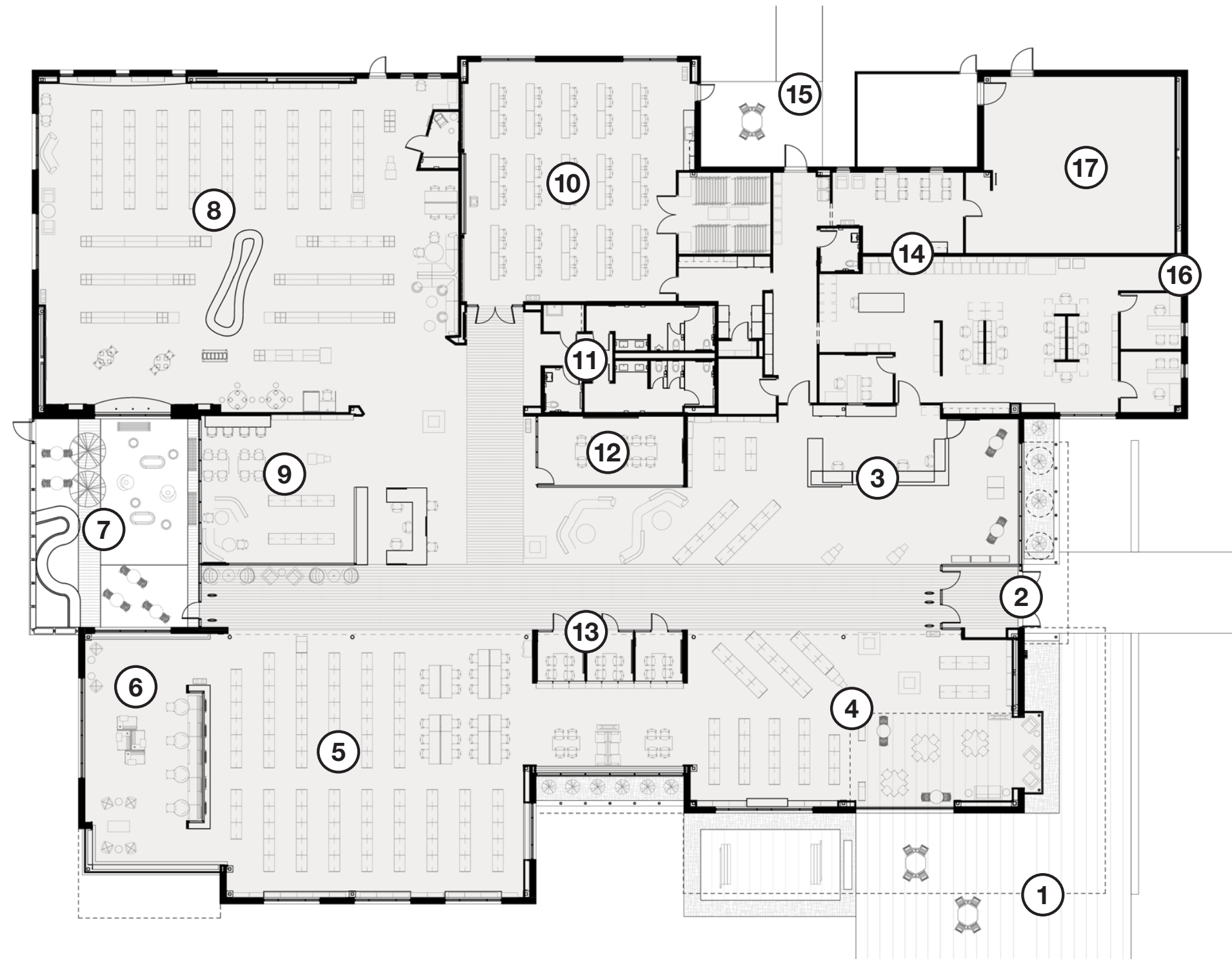




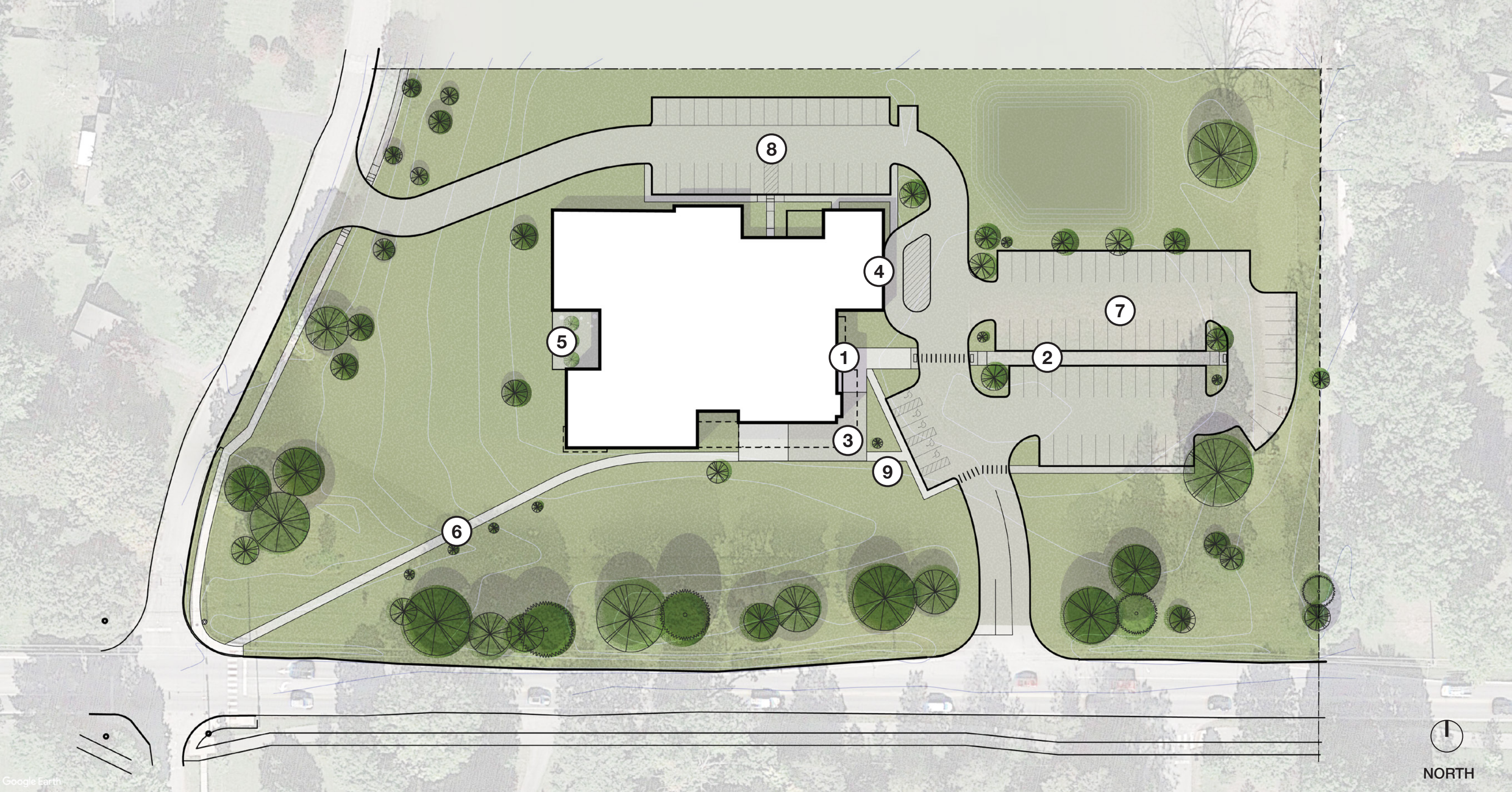
Harrison's Orbit: The Children's area, which is outer-space themed, encourages movement, exploration and literacy through interactive and interpretive elements, including the "climbing moon" and the "space shuttle" reading wall. Part-way through construction, the library was approached by a local family who were avid patrons of the library and who had recently lost their 3-year-old young son. In lieu of cards and flowers, the family had asked friends, family, and the surrounding community, that donations be made to the library in their son's name – this call amounted to a special sum of money. Our team worked with the family to incorporate graphic elements that designate the play area, "Harrison's Orbit," as a memorial to their son.

Floor Plan

- ① Outdoor Seating / Front Porch
- ② Main Entrance
- ③ Main Circulation Desk
- ④ Marketplace
- ⑤ Adult Collection
- ⑥ Quiet Reading Room
- ⑦ Outdoor Courtyard
- ⑧ Children's Area
- ⑨ Teen Area
- ⑩ Large Meeting Room
- ⑪ Restrooms
- ⑫ Meeting Room / Group Study
- ⑬ Small Study Rooms
- ⑭ Staff Area
- ⑮ Outdoor Staff Area
- ⑯ Drive-Up Book Drop
- ⑰ Mechanical Room



NORTH



Site Plan

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ① Main Entrance | ④ Drive-Up Book Drop | ⑦ Main Parking Lot |
| ② Electric Vehicle Charging Stations | ⑤ Outdoor Courtyard | ⑧ Staff Parking Lot |
| ③ Outdoor Seating / Front Porch | ⑥ New Pedestrian Pathway | ⑨ Bike Racks |