

# JOURNAL

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Serial No. 258

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1947

Vol. 24, No. 2

PRESIDENT . . . . . CHARLES DAVID (F)

## C O N T E N T S

EDITORIAL . . . . .	34
FOREWORD, Freda F. Waldon . . . . .	35
SOME PRINCIPLES OF LIBRARY DESIGN, R. D. Hilton Smith . . . . .	36
THE SMALLER PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING, Arthur H. Eadie . . . . .	39
THE BUILDING PROGRAMME OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN RELATION TO ITS FUNCTIONS, Anne Hume . . . . .	42
PROPOSED DUNBAR PUBLIC LIBRARY, VANCOUVER, B.C., McCarter and Nairne, Architects . . . . .	46
PROPOSED SOUTH HILL BRANCH LIBRARY, VANCOUVER, B.C., Sharp and Thomp- son, Berwick, Pratt, Architects . . . . .	47
PROPOSED BRANCH LIBRARY, VANCOUVER, B.C., Townley and Matheson, Architects . . . . .	48
PROPOSED BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, Husband, Rober'son and Wallace, Architects . . . . .	49
PROPOSED LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY, LEASIDE, ONTARIO, Gordon S. Adamson, Architect . . . . .	50
PROPOSED GEORGE H. LOCKE MEMORIAL BRANCH, TORONTO, ONTARIO, Beck and Eadie, Architects . . . . .	52
DETAILS OF DESKS AND BOOKCASES, TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARIES, GEORGE H. LOCKE MEMORIAL BRANCH, Beck and Eadie, Architects . . . . .	54
BURLINGTON BRANCH OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, Mario Bianculli, Architect . . . . .	55
THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY, Lillian H. Smith . . . . .	56
LIBRARIES FOR TODAY, E. S. Robinson . . . . .	59
THE INSTITUTE PAGE . . . . .	61

THE INSTITUTE DOES NOT HOLD ITSELF RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS

### EDITORIAL BOARD

F. BRUCE BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ERIC R. ARTHUR (F), EDITOR

R. A. D. BERWICK, Vancouver; MURRAY BROWN (F), Toronto; C. S. BURGESS (F), Edmonton; A. H. EADIE, Toronto; GLADSTONE EVANS, Toronto; LESLIE R. FAIRN (F), Wolfville; GORDON FOWLER, Toronto; E. J. GILBERT (F), Saskatoon; LAWRENCE J. GREEN, Winnipeg; EARLE C. MORGAN, Toronto; H. CLAIRE MOTT (F), Saint John; JAS. A. MURRAY, Toronto; H. E. MURTON, Hamilton; FORSEY PAGE (F), Toronto; JOHN B. PARKIN, Toronto; W. A. SALTER, St. Catharines; J. ROXBURGH SMITH (F), Montreal; ROBT. M. WILKINSON, Toronto.

J. F. SULLIVAN, PUBLISHER

Editorial and Advertising Offices . . . . . 57 Queen Street West, Toronto 1

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Canada and Newfoundland—Three Dollars per year. Great Britain, British Possessions, United States and Mexico—Five Dollars per year. All Other Countries—Six Dollars per year. Single Copies—Canada 50 Cents; Other Countries 75 Cents.

# R. A. I. C. JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 1947

THE Editorial Board has plans for several special issues for 1947. In each case an architect is responsible to the Board for the collecting of material in a field in which he is particularly interested. The February Issue is devoted to libraries and we are extremely grateful to Mr. Arthur Eadie as "collector", and to the various librarians whose articles appear on the following pages.

WE feel that this is a critical time in which to draw to the attention of architects the latest ideas in library planning. The past presents little of constructive value, but much in how libraries should not be planned. For a long time branch libraries were influenced by books and pamphlets, well meaning in their intention, published by library associations in the infant years of the 20th century. Those plans, for the most part, are the antithesis of what we require today. Looking at our older small libraries, they seem to have much in common with our older schools. They are pretentious, monumental, grimly classical and forbidding. Anyone entering them would seem to do so with a mission in the pursuit of which neither pressed bricks nor artificial stone would thwart him. He knows the book he wants, and he is a very serious fellow. The modern library is designed to attract not only the student but the whole reading public including those for whom reading is a new adventure.

HERE modern architecture has everything to offer, and the architect free scope for his ingenuity. It is often discouraging to the young architect in a conservative community to see how slowly modern architecture is accepted by the public. The campaign for a general acceptance of the contemporary manner is directed at the building public by the architects, and, particularly in the industrial and commercial fields, is obviously successful. In library design, the campaign has been in the opposite direction with the librarian pleading for modern buildings. For most of them, a Georgian library is as much an anachronism as a Georgian motor car. We were greatly impressed by the fact that one of the most successful libraries in Toronto was a converted pair of shops with a complete glass front to the sidewalk of a busy street. Everything within is exposed, the faces of enthusiastic browsing readers are clearly visible to the passer-by, and many are lured in and will return again. This library has no charm as a building, but in a crude way has all the elements necessary for a good small library. It has an open front, a flexible plan, and is well lighted by ample daylight.

IN the evolution of the library plan, this old shop may well represent the dawn of a new era and will be noted by architectural historians of the future as a significant landmark on which much excellent new building was founded.

WE must rid our minds forever of the idea that a branch library contains nothing but precious first editions to be protected against daylight and the general public, and accessible only to the connoisseur. In the opinion of librarians that is exactly what we have done.

THE next Special Issue of the Journal is being organized by Mr. Raymond Card and will deal with theatres. If any member has any interesting material, either in photographs or drawings that he thinks should be included, he should send it to Your Obedient Servant.

Editor

# FOREWORD

By FRED A. WALDON

*President*

*Canadian Library Association*

THE Canadian Library Association is very grateful to the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada for the assistance in library planning offered by this number of its *Journal*.

Such assistance to local architects and library authorities has never been so needed as at the present time. One of the most hopeful of many encouraging developments in the library world in Canada to-day is the number of libraries which are planning to build as soon as conditions permit, but as there has been very little library building for a generation, experience and good examples are lacking in many parts of the country. Many, perhaps most, of the libraries built thirty to forty years ago are now obsolete, or at least outgrown, not only because the importance of considering function in planning public buildings was given less emphasis then than now, but also because libraries have in the interim greatly enlarged their collections and developed new services.

To obtain the best results now there must be co-operation between architects and library authorities. The latter must define the purpose and function of their libraries, estimate future expansion and set out their requirements in detail. The architect will then be able to build four walls around the collections and services of the library with the assurance that a more satisfactory building will result than is the case when a library is required to fit itself into a building conceived primarily as a handsome piece of architecture.

The best examples of the past should, of course, be studied, but we should also take warning from the failures. We must have no more ill-lighted, ill-heated and ill-ventilated libraries with insufficient work and stack space, no more square boxes on stilts, no more sham Greek temples, no more imitations of H. H. Richardson's adaptations of French chateaux. We still want a pleasing exterior, especially an inviting entrance at ground level, but even more we want light, air, space, comfort for the reader, good working conditions for the staff.

We hope that this number of the *Journal* will be useful to both library authorities and architects and that it will be the beginning of fruitful co-operation between the Royal Architectural Institute and the Canadian Library Association.

For the assistance of both architects and library boards, the Association is building up a file of library plans. Will librarians please see that copies of all plans are sent to the National Office, 74 Stanley Ave., Ottawa, as soon as they are approved? Our members are also reminded that the Chairman of our Committee on Library Architecture is Miss Margaret Clay, Public Library, Victoria, B.C. It will be of great assistance if members will keep her informed of their plans, even in the tentative stages.

# SOME PRINCIPLES OF LIBRARY DESIGN

By R. D. HILTON SMITH

Deputy Chief Librarian, Toronto Public Libraries

## GENERAL

**A**T the risk of being contradicted by an indignant poultry-farmer, I venture to state that it may be possible to plan the perfect chicken house. Beyond that it would be unwise to dogmatize about architecture. Once we want to plan anything much more ambitious, the difficulties begin. Architectural design is nearly always a compromise between the structural or scientific ideal and the conditions peculiar to the site and building under consideration. Rarely is there a ready-made solution to a given problem. Therefore, it is difficult and rather rash to discuss library planning in detail without intimate knowledge of the particular conditions governing a particular project—the community to be served, the kind of work to be done there, peculiarities of the site, and the many other factors which make every new building project in essence unique.

Nevertheless, the collective experience of library planners, the success of some buildings and the failure of others, have helped to demonstrate for the guidance of architects and librarians a number of principles which have gained general acceptance. The following is a discussion from a librarian's viewpoint of the most important of these principles. As other articles in this number deal with the planning and functions of libraries, it is couched in general terms and is mainly concerned with the tendencies of library design to-day.

Everybody concerned with a library planning project would be well advised first to study and then to keep at hand for constant reference the eminently practical books by Wheeler and Githens and by Russell J. Schunk listed at the end of this article. Each gives such excellent advice—the first expansively and the latter in pemmican form—that brief references to these indispensable books will be made throughout this article.

## PRELIMINARIES

(See Wheeler and Githens, Chapters 2-5; Schunk, Chapters 1, 3-4)

The most successful library buildings are almost invariably the result of close and sympathetic co-operation; primarily between librarian and architect, but maintained at all levels between all who are concerned with the project, from the Library Board which initiates the scheme to the cleaner whose broom whisks out of the back door as the local dignitary slips the key into the front door on opening day.

Co-operation between librarian and architect is a fundamental of good planning. What does it involve? It might be put very briefly and broadly thus: the librarian's job is to state the problem, the architect's job is to

solve it. The librarian may well suggest some of the means of solving the problem, but his main object is to state as fully and clearly as possible what it is. In preparing his statement for the architect he will normally be guided by:

- (a) His specialized knowledge of library functions; the actual or potential library needs and finances of the locality; probable developments in library service.
- (b) His own experience in library planning. (It is assumed that if this is lacking or limited, or if the architect is inexperienced in library planning, an experienced librarian or architect will be retained as consultant throughout.)
- (c) Close consultation with his colleagues. (Perhaps even more than those who use the library, those who operate it will benefit from good ideas and suffer from bad ones. Get everybody's views and try to incorporate every idea that seems a good one and to avoid what have been demonstrated as drawbacks. But beware of "gadgets".)
- (d) The plans, ideas and experience of others. (When studying another library, its mistakes are as important as its triumphs. And think well before copying the triumphs blindly. Because they are right there, are they equally suitable here? They may be, but ill-considered copying has produced many bad buildings.)

## THE SITE

(See Wheeler and Githens, Chapter 6; Schunk, Chapter 2)

The keynote of the public library is hospitality. It invites people to use it and it is easy to reach and use. Consequently it must be readily accessible to all who want its services and it must say "Come in" to those who might have passed it by. Long experience with successful libraries and bitter experience with the unsuccessful ones has shown over and over again that the best sites are located in an attractive shopping centre, at or very near a traffic intersection, or where there is some other reason for the consistent maximum flow of pedestrian traffic.

Preferably the site should be in the heart of this district, not just around the corner from it. With possibilities of controlling noise through the use of acoustical material (but even without it) there is no justification for the old idea that peace and quiet are essential. The library is a busy centre for public service, not a monastery. To place it away from the bustle is to place it away from most of the people. In short, the way to choose the best site for a library is to imagine that you are an ambitious

business man, determined to retire young with a fortune, choosing the site for a busy store.

From this it follows that:

- (a) If compromise is necessary, compromise on the building rather than on the site.
- (b) If the land has been acquired long before construction begins it may have lost essential site qualifications in the interim. If so, try to exchange it or to sell it and buy another site. Undertake any struggle to avoid being saddled with an inferior location. Even if the best site seems expensive, in the long run "you pay more to spend less".
- (c) Resist the well-intentioned but unsound and sentimental arguments of those who advocate placing libraries within public parks or gardens, or with a group of civic buildings, away from the shopping centre.
- (d) Access to the library should be from ground level, not up a flight of steps. Every extra step is an extra obstacle to full use.
- (e) Distance of the library from the sidewalk will be determined to some extent by the design and drawing power of the particular building. The further back the building is set the less hospitable is it likely to be.
- (f) If the site is at a traffic intersection, keep in mind the proximity of bus and street-car stops when planning entrances. The library will suffer if doorways and vestibules are available as refuges in bad weather.
- (g) If it is proposed to establish a library as part of a community centre project, the site may or may not be suitable. If the proposed site does not meet library requirements, consider locating either the community centre or the library elsewhere. The library may outlast the community centre and in any event is likely to be used by many more people. Except in small projects, the library is best placed on its own site adjoining other activities. If it forms a part of the main building, a separate entrance is desirable. No practical advantage of site should be sacrificed for the theoretical advantage of being allied with other community buildings which are badly located from the library viewpoint or which have not been thoroughly tested over a long period.

### THE BUILDING

What has been said in the previous section about the site and placing of the building suggests the ideal to be aimed at in its planning and design; namely, functional planning based on the library's main function of attracting users and facilitating use. Efficient operation and facility of use demand that interior planning and the relationship and arrangement of the principal rooms shall be determined before the exterior is considered. Invitation to use demands that the exterior shall assert itself sufficiently to attract people to it, not merely because it is new but because its attractiveness is an

inherent quality which will last long after the novelty has worn off.

Therefore, it is obvious that an air of academic consequence ill becomes the modern library. No building can be aloof and hospitable at the same time. It is obvious that a library should look like a library, not like a collection of books that has arrived by mistake in a Greek temple or a Renaissance palace or a church or a gymnasium. If they can first clear their minds of vague preconceptions about civic dignity, "architectural features" and the like, library planners are on the way to achieving their ends. Otherwise they will find themselves moulding a service to fit the building instead of designing a building to fit the service. A memorable summary of the whole situation was made by E. J. Carter when he wrote: "Libraries should seem to say, not 'Look what I've got on' but rather 'Look what I am'."

This warning is very necessary. From big libraries to little ones we are cluttered up with sham archaeology. At Yale one of the great libraries of the world is housed inside a Gothic cliché: what redeems it to some extent is the superb stack-tower which, be it noted, belongs to no particular age or style but is the solution to a functional problem of book storage. At Seattle the University of the State of Washington has enclosed its books within a Netherlands cathedral. It may be beautiful, but it is not a library. It is grand and impressive and dim — so dim. In 1933 even the designers of the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore, in most respects representative of the best in modern library building, showed a strange hankering for antiquarianism by copying "a somewhat ornate ceiling" from the Vatican.

On the other hand, there are plenty of buildings to demonstrate the beauty and appeal which spring from the thoughtful alliance of function and form. They show that it is not beyond the ingenuity of architects and librarians to produce characteristic library buildings combining maximum efficiency as administrative and service units with maximum attractiveness as communal amenities. They are alive, coherent, and modern without being merely fashionable. Here are some examples: the Swiss National Library at Berne — certainly the most significant library building in Europe and perhaps in the world — has something to say to every other library designer, whatever his scale of work; Alvar Aalto's masterpiece, the public library of Viipuri, Finland; several small public libraries in Scandinavia; many of the large and small buildings described and illustrated in Wheeler and Githens' book; the library of the Royal Institute of British Architects in London, England; the public library of London, Ontario; the projected George H. Locke branch at Toronto.

If several of the foregoing examples have been drawn from continental Europe, it is because their architects seem to have shaken off more easily the tyranny of tradition which still afflicts British and American library design overmuch. And larger libraries are cited because

it is from them that leadership is expected. Their failure may lead many others astray; their success can exercise an influence which is as beneficent as the other is harmful.

It may be asked, "What has all this to do with the average small library in Canada? What possible connection is there between the National Library of Switzerland and a one-room library in the Maritimes? How do Alvar Aalto's ideas in Finland affect my plans for a new branch in Saskatchewan?" Unless we are going to be satisfied with a "builder's job" it has everything to do with it. Unless we are content to get our ideas from the next town or the next province, and to look no further, we simply cannot afford to ignore these highly significant developments in other parts of the world. Unless planning small means thinking small, we have to know what other people are doing about the same problems that beset us.

Even if it were never possible to see these buildings, just to look at a few pictures of them brings a refreshing sense of release from the dusty, circumscribed conventionalism which still has to be reckoned with. And to study their plans, elevations and equipment more closely is to receive new inspiration and a crop of practical ideas. Size does not matter a lot. What does matter is that successful library buildings, wherever they may be, show that the best solution to our planning problems is generally to be found in a freer, more modern conception of building, self-reliant, aware of and ready to use modern forms and modern materials.

This is not to say that all modern buildings are good and all old ones bad or that there is nothing to be learned from traditional practice. If a traditional method is proved better, by all means let us use it; but first we must probe, challenge and compare. The uncritical acceptance of mere novelty is as unproductive as burying one's head in the sands of time. It is very easy to confuse what is truly alive with what is only fashionable. There is no place in library planning for anything resembling the flashy, vulgar, temporary appeal, conceived in a cocktail bar and born in Hollywood, which offends the sight and senses in a great many commercial buildings to-day. Certainly the exterior of the library should attract, but it must not shout. Within the building, assertive architecture is as out of place as a huckster's barrow.

From this point I had intended to discuss in fuller detail and in their application to specific departments of the library some of the principles embodied in the previous paragraphs. However, Mr. Eadie has sent me a copy of his article on small libraries which appears on another page. This covers the ground so admirably that no further ammunition is needed. I follow Mr. Eadie all the way except, perhaps, in his advocacy of the auditorium as a useful addition to the library if funds permit. However, this is no place to discuss at length a question of library policy which is also a matter of hot debate amongst librarians.

## Conclusion

"A dreary young man in rusty black was drawing in a little black book propped against a stone dove on a shelf, bits of cornices, stone lilies, and saints with their noses worn off. Why must these people go on, and on, copying, copying fragments of old relics from extinct churches, and old tombs as though those were the best that could ever be, and it would be sacrilege to beat them? Why didn't they want to out-do the best instead of copying, always copying what had been done?"

From *Growing Pains: the autobiography of Emily Carr*. 1946.

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ashburner, E. H. *Modern public libraries: their planning and design*. London, Grafton, 1946.
- Scissors and paste and platitudes; but useful descriptions, illustrations and plans of several recent buildings.
- Carter, Edward J. "Library Building". In *The Year's Work in Librarianship*. London, Library Association, annually from 1928-38. (New York, H. W. Wilson Co.)
- Indispensable. Witty, searching and informative analyses of current library design. Author is both architect and librarian. International in scope. Fully documented, with many plans and illustrations.
- Hadley, Chalmers. *Library buildings*. Chicago. American Library Association, 1924.
- In some respects outdated, but sets forth sound basic ideas.
- Hirshberg, Herbert S. *Elements of the library plan. (Manual of library economy, X)*. Chicago, A.L.A., 1930.
- 16-page pamphlet, useful as a brief summary of essentials.
- Lowe, John A. *Small public library buildings*. Chicago, A.L.A., 1939.
- Valuable summary based on experience of a special A.L.A. committee. Section I covers principles and guides for planning; Section 2, selected library plans.
- Plaister, Cornelia D. *Floors and floor coverings*. Chicago, A.L.A., 1939.
- Discusses 12 types of floor coverings in concise but adequate detail.
- Power, Effie L. *Work with children in public libraries*. Chicago, A.L.A., 1943.
- Good chapter on planning and equipment of children's libraries. Pp. 130-152, discussing many points frequently overlooked.
- Schunk, Russell J. *Pointers for public library building planners*. Chicago, A.L.A., 1945.
- Indispensable. By far the best short book on planning. Up-to-date reference data for librarians and architects on Pp. 58-62.
- Smith, R. D. H. *Public library lighting*. 2 Vols. Gravesend, England, A. J. Philip, 1937-38. (New York, H. W. Wilson Co.)
- Vol. 1, Natural lighting; Vol. 2, Part 1, Artificial lighting; general principles; Part 2 not yet published. Non-technical discussion of lighting problems and practice. Said to be useful.
- Ulveling, R. A. *Staff workrooms and working space: their location and arrangement*. (Library Journal, Vol. 59, Pp. 594-7, 1934).
- Invaluable contribution to a much neglected aspect of planning and equipment.
- Wheeler, Joseph and Githens, Alfred M. *The American public library building*. New York, Scribner, 1941.
- Standard book. Large, expensive and indispensable. Written jointly by a fine librarian and a fine architect, with the aid of specialists in several fields. Contains everything, except some recognition that architecture should be of all arts the most international.

# THE SMALLER PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING

By ARTHUR H. EADIE

IT would be difficult to find a more satisfying concept of what a modern library building should be, than that given in a recent issue of the *Architectural Forum* by Miss Mary U. Rothrock. "A library building may be thought of merely as a place in which to keep books; or it may be designed with such understanding and imagination that its mere physical form and presence stimulate and promote the kind of library programme needed by the people."

A well-designed building is, of course, essential to the success of a library. If the staff is to accomplish its best work, it must function in a building which has convenience, attractiveness and atmosphere. The public, too, is entitled to practical and pleasant surroundings and all the requirements which tend towards relaxation and enjoyment. One of the important functions of a public library is to encourage people of all ages and occupations to use its facilities.

With this aim in view, the choice of a prominent site, strategically located, is a vital requirement. The design should adequately express the function of the building and by its attractiveness and openness present an inviting appeal to the people. The cultural progress of a community might well be judged by its public library. The building, therefore, should make its contribution to the maintenance of a high and proficient standard of library service.

Very few library buildings have been built in Canada during the past ten years and in this space of time, librarians and architects have had an opportunity to reflect upon the shortcomings of the past, and to consider the possibilities of the future. With many new library buildings about to appear upon the horizon this issue of the *Journal* is rather timely.

The planning of the smaller library buildings in the past followed a very definite pattern. There seemed to be a reluctance to depart from the conventional plan. The Carnegie era, with its monumental facade, majestically approached by multitudinous steps, was the forerunner of many quite interesting buildings meticulously designed in the historic, stylized manner. It is all too true, however, that many of the plans were tightly bound to the traditional exterior design which tended to force the library requirements to conform to the building rather than have the building conform to the library requirements. In the modern scheme of things, it is important that the emphasis be placed upon the logical development of the plan and elevation to suit the needs of the building, the structural requirements and the modern use of materials, to all of which the skill of the

designer is applied to produce a pleasing building.

The successful library is, of course, the result of carefully co-ordinated study on the part of the library board, the librarian and the architect. In matters pertaining to library practice, the architect must, it is obvious, be guided by the competent and experienced judgment of the librarian. The selection of the site, the type of library service to be rendered, the requirements of the building, the number of books to be shelved, the possibilities of future expansion, all in relation to the area and its population, are essentials which receive the utmost consideration of the librarian and his board.

In these days when the progress of ideas and methods is moving on at an ever increasing tempo, speculation as to the future needs of specialized buildings requires some earnest consideration. Many librarians are strongly of the opinion that the public library is, and should remain, essentially a library for books and publications. In some of the larger city buildings, however, the programme has been broadened out to include such kindred fields as art pictures, music and films. It is undoubtedly beyond the limitations of the architect to make predictions pertaining to library work, but if this new field is further pursued, it is obvious that it will have an influence on the future planning of library buildings. In the United States, revolutionary changes are taking place in the planning of university libraries. (*Architectural Record*, November, 1946). The use of microfilm, audio and visual devices and the unpredictable future of reference library methods have resulted in the use of the flexible unit or modular planning, to combat the threat of early obsolescence. University libraries no doubt are subject to this danger more so than public libraries, but whether or not this new form of planning will influence the trend in public libraries, might best be answered by the librarian. These points are mentioned merely with the thought in mind that due consideration should be given to the flexibility of design and the future possibilities of library requirements.

In this issue we are mainly concerned with the branch or town library, rather than the main administrative, city building. The planning of this type of building usually resolves itself into an all purpose department for adults and young people, a department for boys and girls and a staff administrative area. If the monetary appropriation will permit, the auditorium or lecture room can become a useful addition.

There is general agreement that wherever possible the boys and girls department should be a self-contained unit with its own special entrance. Apart from the fact

that the noise and commotion of exuberant youth is often disturbing to the adult, this separate unit enables the staff to carry on more effectively a highly specialized branch of the work.

Many librarians are very partial to the large adult room or departmental unit. They feel that it provides the best desk control, that it affords the most advantageous display and arrangement of books, some flexibility of planning and an impressive interior. However, the possibility of breaking this unit up into smaller units, a browsing and desk area, a reading room, a stack room and perhaps a reference or technical library, has some support. The Tennessee T.V.A. Development has adopted this scheme, after much research and study, for a very extensive programme of suburban and rural libraries (Architectural Forum, January, 1946). The chief advantage lies in the fact that it affords some building economy. The smaller rooms provide a longer perimeter of wall or bookcase space in relation to the area of the building, shorter structural spans and the use of lower walls and ceilings.

While the corner site undoubtedly offers the best advantage from the standpoint of light and planning, many successful buildings have been erected on internal lots. Centrally located properties in areas near shopping facilities, transportation transfer points and within easy reach of nearby parking, are eagerly sought by library boards.

The relation of the building to the street line is always a matter which receives serious consideration. While a generous plot of green sward in a busy business area affords an excellent breathing spot and a fine setting for the building, yet it tends to defeat the purpose of bringing the passerby on the sidewalk into intimate relationship with the building. A generous inviting entrance preferably one step above the sidewalk, and well located openings which give the outsider a glimpse of the interior is a most essential requisite. In the new George H. Locke Memorial Library in Toronto the entrance is twenty feet wide by fourteen feet high, facing a well lighted display case, with flanking entrances to the adult room and the boys and girls room fourteen feet wide by fourteen feet high, which affords a diagonal vista into each of the main rooms. In addition, large and low bay windows some eleven feet wide are used on both Yonge Street and Lawrence Avenue.

The area of the site and the size of the budget usually determines whether or not the building will become a one- or two-storey proposition.

The ideal scheme is to accommodate all the publicly used facilities on the ground floor. Where this is impossible, the boys and girls department is usually placed on the upper floor. Generally speaking, basement departments are not to be recommended unless the site happens to be on the side of a steep hill where good lighting is available. In the United States, basement departments have been tried using generous, well-

designed light areaways which does not seem desirable unless the economy demands it. The basement might well become a suitable location for a lecture hall.

In the planning of the building, some thought should be given to the location of the main rooms with relation to the compass, and to noisy thoroughfares. Facing the long side of the adult room to the north is, of course, ideal from the standpoint of light, but to the west, it is disastrous for the reason that the low summer sun is disturbing at a time of the day when the library is most used. Where rooms face to the south, some consideration should be given to exterior projecting eaves or cornices and the maximum depth of window reveals to provide as much protection as possible from the summer sun and glare.

On corner sites where all the public facilities are on the main floor, an effort should be made to place the boys' and girls' room at the intersection of the streets, so that the adult room can be located in the quietest area.

The plan of the main rooms usually takes on a modular aspect, with the module or unit of measurement a three foot length of bookcase section. Wall space is one of the chief assets in a library. Except at punctuated spots it is a cardinal sin to break up long continuous walls with windows or radiators. Many otherwise well-designed buildings have been rightly criticized for this serious misdemeanour. Windows and bookcases are friendly rivals in the library room. Quite often in the past, bookcases were considered as furniture, and kept outside the jurisdiction of the architect. Library boards are now well aware that they should become an integral part of the design. It is well to remember that shelving under low windows has very much less value than that in the normal height of bookcases.

The library, of course, should be the best lighted of all public buildings. Rectangular shaped rooms are much easier to light adequately than square shaped rooms. Where bookcases occur on the same wall as windows, the sills of the windows should be kept well above the eye-level, to eliminate unpleasant glare in the eyes when reading titles on the shelves, and disturbance to readers by persons passing between them and the light. The ideally lighted room is one in which the windows are evenly distributed, laterally on opposite walls, one side to the north, and placed tight to a light coloured ceiling, the height from floor to ceiling being approximately one-half the width of the room. Clerestory windows in a raised section of the large room have often been used to good advantage in bringing light to the centre of the room.

Generous vestibules or entrance lobbies have been somewhat overlooked in the smaller public library. This area offers an excellent location for display cases which, if faced towards the doors, can be illuminated at night to attract the attention of the passerby, providing the doorway is in close proximity to the sidewalk. If the building is situated on a corner property, the main adult



entrance should, of course, be strategically placed on the more important street front. If a separate boys and girls entrance is provided, it should be located on the lesser travelled thoroughfare and within a reasonable distance of traffic lights. In the boys' and girls' entrance such objects of transportation as roller skates and scooters oft times find a parking place. Certainly some outside accommodation near the entrance should be provided for bicycles. A janitor's cupboard off the vestibule is always a useful acquisition.

The administrative area should, if possible, be centrally located and self-contained. The work room should be adjacent to the desk or, if separate desks are used for the adults and the boys and girls, it should be conveniently placed between them. A receiving entrance for books and supplies should be located at the rear of the building within easy access to the work room and the stairway to the boiler room and janitor space. Some consideration should be given to the installation of a book hoist if the library facilities are contained on two floors. In many of the branch libraries, the work room becomes a combined office and workshop, but in town or city libraries there is every possibility that office space for the librarian may be a necessity. Staff quarters which usually include a lounge and kitchenette, toilets and coat rooms should also be contained within this area.

On reaching the adolescent age, the public library graduates its boy and girl readers to a department all their own, under direct control of the adult department. To meet the needs of this younger group, it is important that the room take on a clubby character which can be further augmented by a cheerful fireplace.

The boys and girls department is being fully discussed in an accompanying article. Suffice to say that the storytelling room plays an important role in this work. This room should, of course, be attractive, well lighted and in a quiet and sunny area. Children usually group themselves on the floor to listen to their narrator and for this reason their backs should be to the windows to protect them from glare and eyestrain. In the United States a projection booth is sometimes provided, and an effort is often made to place the room adjacent to the entrance hall so that it might also be used by adults for meetings and other purposes.

Public toilet facilities, where they have been installed in the smaller public library buildings, have proven to possess somewhat of a nuisance value. They are usually considered by library boards but in the final analysis are omitted.

The number of books to be shelved and the number of books in circulation, making the total bookstock, is of course estimated by the librarian. The standard length of bookcase section is 3' - 0". In adult rooms, six shelves high is considered standard practice. Librarians point out that the books on the lowest shelves are much less used than those on the uppermost shelves. For that reason the bottom shelf should not be too close to the floor.

Fiction books and those of a similar size usually are estimated to run ten to the foot when the shelf is filled. In the boys' and girls' room 5' - 6" is considered the maximum height of bookcase units. All shelving should be adjustable, with an average depth of 9" in the adult and 8" in the boys and girls. Certain cases in both departments will, of course, require a greater depth. Books for very small children are often very pliable and frequent vertical partitions are required for the shelving of these books.

In very large libraries where the bookstock runs into quite high figures, it is generally necessary to turn to stack shelving. The majority of librarians favour the open wall type. They feel that it permits all parts of the room to come under the direct supervision of the desk; that books are accessible and within easy range of the reader; that classified sections are much easier found. In libraries where the smaller room unit is used, stacks are often resorted to on the ground that searchers for books often disturb the readers. Some storage space for out of season books should be provided in the basement or some other convenient space. Considerable shelving for out of circulation books should also be available in the work room.

The work room becomes the place where all workshop work is undertaken. A generous table, a sink, plenty of drawers for posters and cupboards for supplies is a necessity. Doors to this room should be of sufficient width to permit the passage of book trucks.

Display space is always in great demand, although a limited amount well done is often more effective than a large amount carried out in a mediocre way. Occasional wall panel boards between bookcase sections are very efficient. Although posters and displays circulated about the room do not tend to improve the appearance of the room, they do serve a very useful purpose in the library. They should, of course, be planned in an orderly way.

Supervision of the entire area from the desk is, of course, ideal, providing the plan and other essentials are not sacrificed to obtain that end. The desk in the adult room should be adjacent to the entrance with sufficient distance between to avoid congestion in busy times. Boys and girls usually arrive from school in droves and for that reason, space for queueing up is necessary, more so than in the adult room. In some of the American libraries, boys and girls are routed in and out through narrow passages, which might be necessary, but to the writer it has the stamp of regimentation. If possible, desks should be situated to the right on entering, so that people will follow the natural traffic flow. Some communicating entrance between the adult room and the boys' and girls' section should be provided, as parents often select their own reading and then look after their children's books.

Illuminating the library is a matter of much discussion

*(Continued on Page 64)*

# THE BUILDING PROGRAMME OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN RELATION TO ITS FUNCTIONS

By ANNE HUME

Chief Librarian, Public Library, Windsor, Ontario

THE problem of public library building in Canada is complicated because there are only a few cities of even second rate size and only 78 all told with a population of over 10,000, according to the 1941 census figures. There are but eight cities with a population of over 100,000 ranging from 900,000 down to 105,000, and strung from Quebec to Vancouver, a distance of 3,000 miles. There are seven with populations of 50,000 to 100,000, 12 between 30,000 and 50,000, 51 from 10,000 to 30,000 and 204 towns from 2,500 to 10,000 (with only 70 over 5,000).

This means that in the larger city class there has been practically no chance for comparative experimentation which could provide a body of Canadian opinion to which those faced with building programmes could turn. Nor has there been until 1946 a Canadian Library Association which could gather information and statistics and interpret these in authoritative studies. Many of the library buildings in the smaller cities and towns came into being through the energy of a few local citizens or the donations of Mr. Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Corporation. Once built, it soon became evident that local taxing bodies could not supply sufficient income to provide trained personnel and live collections of books, and thus they too fail to furnish us with useful building data based on successful experience.

## Co-operative Service

They have, however, proved that a small town or village library cannot give good service through its own resources. In 1917 the Carnegie Corporation therefore ended this stage of its library programme, and began experimenting with plans for regional library service based on a larger administrative unit.

Canada has had its full share in this Carnegie programme, with demonstrations in the Fraser Valley and later Prince Edward Island proving that by pooling resources excellent library service can be provided for even the smallest villages and rural districts at costs within the ability of local taxing areas. This should have a bearing on library building at the present time, since it will not be considered good policy to erect buildings in smaller municipalities unless the library shares in a carefully worked out county or regional library scheme, based on a population of around 25,000 within the boundaries served, thus ensuring the services of trained personnel from the administrative headquarters and a

continuous flow of new books. Architects would do well to discourage those small villages, wishing to honour their service sons and daughters, from erecting libraries in their honour unless they are part of such a larger unit with a chance to survive and mean something in community life.

## The Library in the Community Centre

This brings us to a consideration of the library as a unit of a community centre. Several community centres were erected as memorials after the last war, some including libraries, but again funds available were insufficient for their support. With the new impetus given to the community centre idea by the now well-known "cultural" brief presented to the House of Commons Committee on Reconstruction and Re-establishment and carried forward by the recently established Canadian Arts Council, and by the Community Councils which have sprung up all over the country with and without the aid of Provincial Adult Education authorities, there seems some hope that new centres will meet with greater success than those built in the twenties. If the establishment is on firm financial ground the inclusion of a library would seem a logical thing provided it has its own budget of sufficient size. But again, if in a small municipality it should be linked with some form of regional or co-operative service.

If such a library is projected for a community centre it should be carefully placed, away from the "noisy" part of the building such as basket-ball courts, bowling alleys, craft workshops or Little Theatre activities. It should have its own separate entrance if in a combined building, but should have connection with other parts of the building to make it readily accessible. The planning should be done as carefully as for a separate library building where one would expect professional advice to be sought from librarians and the Canadian Library Association. And its function will be the same as for any other library.

## The Building Programme

In any building programme the first consideration is what is the function of this building? To what use is it to be put? That seems self-evident in the case of libraries. But actually it is a very important part of the building programme, since it is the foundation on which all the planning rests. To answer it, it would seem best to strike an average and reply in terms of a main library in a

city of around 75,000. From there the ideas can be scaled up or down to suit the size of the area served and the needs of the citizens. Obviously these will vary—those of a highly industrialized city will be different from those of a university dominated one, and a branch library may have a whole set of requirements of its own.

Since this special Library Building Number is devoted to building programmes in smaller cities and with Branch Libraries, it will be necessary to keep two points of view in mind. The Library in the smaller city will have the same functions as the central library in even the largest city, planned to meet the needs of a possibly less-varied clientele, and to fit a smaller pocket-book. If it is situated in a city or town of say under 10,000 population, stated in general terms it should be a unit in a larger regional system. In this case it can be considered somewhat in the same category as a branch library which does not have all the functions of a Central Library.

### Function of the Public Library

The Public Library is a peculiar institution; its role is educational and recreational, yet it lacks exact definition. Nor do librarians wish to be too precise about its function. Definitions like written constitutions can prove to be boomerangs. In the public library's flexibility lies its strength. Sudden changes in world events, as in the outbreak of war, or the coming of peace; in community events as in strikes and disasters; in provincial events as, for instance, in the introduction of new courses of studies in schools; in national events as in new legislation, such as the new Citizenship Act, are all challenges to the public library to provide instantly the information needed by its citizens.

In general terms the library's function is to provide information and recreation through reading for all ages, to contribute to education, especially of adults, to provide means for research, and through all these to enrich the lives of our citizens. This is done through books, primarily, and at one time solely, but also over the years as other media have become important educational and cultural aids and as the public have needed them, through magazines, newspapers, maps, picture collections; travel, trade and gardening literature; recordings of music and speech; films; art and handicraft exhibitions; lectures, discussion groups, forums, etc. The public library is peculiarly necessary in a democracy; if we are literally to govern ourselves, an enlightened citizenry is necessary and this can be achieved only by continuous reading, thought and discussion resulting in intelligent action.

When school days are over the public library becomes the agent for self-education which can keep our citizens informed on all of the questions of the day, national and international, on the progress of the arts and sciences, can give the historical perspective necessary to a full understanding of our present age through the reading of history and the classics, and can thus help to build a

nation ready and prepared to do its full share of the world's work in this new atomic age.

Now in a few of the eight largest cities mentioned earlier, it may be possible for the library to concern itself with book and other written services only, to bring about this enlightened citizenry. Universities with their low-cost extension courses, art galleries and museums, great auditoriums for orchestral, choral and concert music, low-cost rental libraries of films, records and pictures, important exhibitions and fairs of various kinds, formal and informal study groups including hobbies and handicrafts, all give an outlet to the creative urges and to the often unexpressed desires for "the good life". But these things are possible for only the few. For the vast "hinterlands" in all our provinces these services are practically denied unless the library takes the lead and a long-range point of view and provides them. And used as librarians know how to use them with books, reading lists, etc., these means to an end sooner or later will send the participants to books which are the foundations of all educational endeavours. We might as well face the fact that there are two schools of thought in this respect: one says "book service only", the other believes where other agencies are not providing and apparently can not provide cultural services for the community the library should do so.

Mr. Joseph Wheeler, co-author of "The American Public Library Building", seems to belong to the first class, and Dr. Wilhelm Munthe, in his "American Librarianship from a European Angle" has this to say, "European librarians look upon it [the provision of these other-than-book services] as a relic of pioneer times when a library attempts to combine all these educational and functional activities". However, Canada does not need to take its cultural patterns from Europe where conditions are so different though she certainly welcomes all the information and advice she can get. Public libraries are a comparatively new institution and if we have "pioneer" work to do let us do it. One has only to look at the London Public Library opened in 1940 to see what can be accomplished by the modern public library in a middle-sized city that believes in both book and "other-than-book" services. And in any case, no librarian or library trustee should begin planning without studying this new library. Architects, too, should be thoroughly familiar with it.

If some of the newer services are being considered a most careful investigation should be made of the costs entailed and of the income available in the future to meet them. If funds will not be available then one must "cut the coat according to the cloth", but a small auditorium would seem to be a necessity in any case.

### Departments of Library Service

The function of the Public Library is then to provide at least and primarily book service for the citizens. This service functions through several different age departments: the Children's, roughly ending with graduation

from Elementary school; the Intermediate (or whatever name is used), corresponding to High School age; and the Adult Department. This latter is broken into Circulation and Reference according to whether the books are borrowed for home reading or are used for information, study or research purposes within the library. A Reading Guidance or Advisory Service should be provided in connection with the Circulation Department. Then there is a Processing or Catalogue Department which includes ordering the books, preparing them for use, classifying and making the necessary cards for the public catalogue. All these departments have their own special planning problems and specifications. There will be a further break into subject divisions such as Technology, Music and Fine Arts, Literature, Business, Sociology, Local History, etc., depending largely on community needs and specialities. According to size also there may be such further departments as Adult Education, Publicity and Extension, Branches, Schools, Parents and Teachers, these latter two usually with the Children's Department, and a Special Activities Department acting as a unit or divided into Film, Lectures, Exhibitions, etc. All these departments need specialists to head them, but it must be understood that the work of any one dovetails so intimately with the service of some or all others that means must be provided through physical set-up to make the transitions easy for the public and the staff.

In planning for this new library building the Library Board (or other Library authority, though experience seems to prove the Board or Commission preferable) and Librarian must carefully survey the city and its needs, discuss the nature of the services that can be considered, estimate the amount of forthcoming support, gather information from other municipalities, and in the light of all this data determine the limits of the service to be given. It is better to plan for efficient service within certain defined limits, leaving to the good sense of the citizens to provide other cultural services in the future than to spread the butter too thin over a large slice of bread. It might, however, be borne in mind that the library should be planned to give service for about twenty-five years before extensions are required, this being a figure carefully arrived at by city planners, architects and librarians. In the meantime it might be possible to use certain floor space on the second and basement floors for exhibition, special services and small auditorium purposes while an active Art Association or Citizen's Committee vigorously agitates for a municipal auditorium and an art gallery which would relieve the congestion which the years will bring to the library building.

#### **The Building Itself**

The Library should be the most accessible building in town near the place where the largest number of lines of traffic converge down town, since these are planned for the convenience of the citizens for business, shopping and amusement purposes. To these the library

adds recreational, educational, reference and cultural needs which can thus become a part of the daily (or weekly) routine and not a thing apart. It should be situated very near the street and entered practically at grade level. This in itself, and also large full-length windows showing the attractive interior and the work that goes on there, have excellent publicity value. Show windows with well-planned displays changed frequently could also advertise the services within and integrate them with community, national and international events. In general the shape should be rectangular with the long side on the street from which it is entered. If possible there should be lawns, gardens and reading terraces at the side or rear. And in any case there should be sufficient ground available to allow for expansion in the future.

#### **Interior**

The most suitable modern plan of interior so far evolved for public libraries seems to be the so-called Open Plan with the most used books and public services on the street-level floor and the stacks for the lesser used ones in one or more tiers below, easily accessible from various departments. Modern methods of heating, ventilating, air conditioning, lighting and damp-proofing generally make this safe practice. Lesser used services, public washrooms and toilets, shipping facilities, an auditorium, etc., can also be provided at the basement level. If the site provides a sloping grade this level is often the best situation for the Children's Library with a side entrance towards the rear, provided the windows are at the child's eye level and can flood the room with sunlight. The second floor will house the administrative offices, the processing department, probably the staff lounge and kitchen (for "shift" hours make this a necessity) washrooms and toilets, the services less used by the public, an exhibition room or art gallery, auditorium (if not in the basement floor) and committee rooms. This floor may also prove the most suitable for the Children's Library, though the unusually long stairs make it a not wholly suitable arrangement. In any case children should be segregated from adults who dislike the noise and confusion caused by the exuberant spirits of the very young.

#### **Street Level Floor**

The general plan should allow great flexibility of arrangement. With the modular method of construction where the weight of succeeding floors is not carried by interior walls and where lighting, ventilating, heating and other ducts can be accommodated in the supporting pillars this can easily be achieved. A large central lobby or interior court directly connected with the main entrance hall will house the registration and charging desks and the public catalogue allowing ample room for table and even case displays and for the easy and uninterrupted flow of traffic to the Reading Rooms on either side and to the Reference Room usually in the

rear connecting readily with the "wings" on either side. The Reading Rooms may be divided by cross arrangements of book stacks, giving greater intimacy to subject divisions and more shelving space, while allowing for easy flow of traffic. In general, wall-stacking is preferable, but with the space taken up by practically full-length windows which add to the patron's comfort and enjoyment this will not provide for enough books; alcove stacks on both sides of the cross stacks can be used.

Some of the services which should be provided on this floor are loaning facilities of the Popular Library (of fiction and certain popular non-fiction, or of fiction alone, as is decided), Business and Technology, Sociology including Education, Music and Fine Arts, Religion and Philosophy, Literature including foreign languages where necessary, Travel, Biography and History, and Films and Records. A complete Reference service in all these should be provided by the Reference Room or by the subject divisions. Magazines can be provided in each subject division. Newspapers are a problem, since a newspaper room often deteriorates into a hangout for undesirables. Some libraries for this reason put them in the basement; others put them on the second floor and require membership cards for entrance in an attempt to keep out objectionable people. Space should be provided for the Intermediate age which has a whole set of problems of its own. Such specialties as Local History, a division of increasing importance, Community Archives, etc., could be housed on the second floor.

Generous, well-equipped staff workrooms with excellent natural and artificial lighting should be provided at various strategic places to increase efficiency. Library builders up until very recently had not recognized the importance of work space and thus many services have been severely handicapped and staff members subjected to much unnecessary and time-consuming work. Elevator service is an essential for getting books and supplies up and down and for the staff, if not for the public.

A "browsing" room should be provided somewhere for quiet reading in comfortable quarters, and if possible smoking should be allowed. Veterans of the last war were accustomed to such quarters connected with the Auxiliary Services' set-up and we might well learn from them.

These principles and services as sketched being decided on and the approximate requirements in floor space and shelving worked out, the architect can proceed to arrange the interior to the greatest satisfaction of all concerned, and, lastly, put walls around and a roof over the completed plan.

#### **Small Cities and Towns — Main Libraries**

Since this issue is emphasizing library buildings in smaller cities and towns and branch libraries consider-

able scaling down may be necessary from the plans outlined above. But the same principles will guide the Board and Librarian in their planning. In smaller buildings the Reading Room or Rooms should not be divided by bookshelves to any great extent as outlined above. A large room flooded with well controlled natural and excellent artificial light with sufficient tables and chairs with broad aisles between, the walls lined with books, with probably book alcoves at one end to give sufficient shelving, can be a most attractive place. The Intermediate age, however, should have its own semi-segregated quarters. It may be necessary in some libraries to provide quarters from which Branch, County, Regional or Bookmobile service will be given with the added shipping and shelving space required.

In small towns and villages, which should be linked up with a larger unit of library service, there may be only one librarian with part-time employees engaged for the peak load hours. In that case, there will be but one desk from which the entrance lobby and whole building can be supervised, and complete segregation of children will be impossible, but even so it should be given so far as is possible.

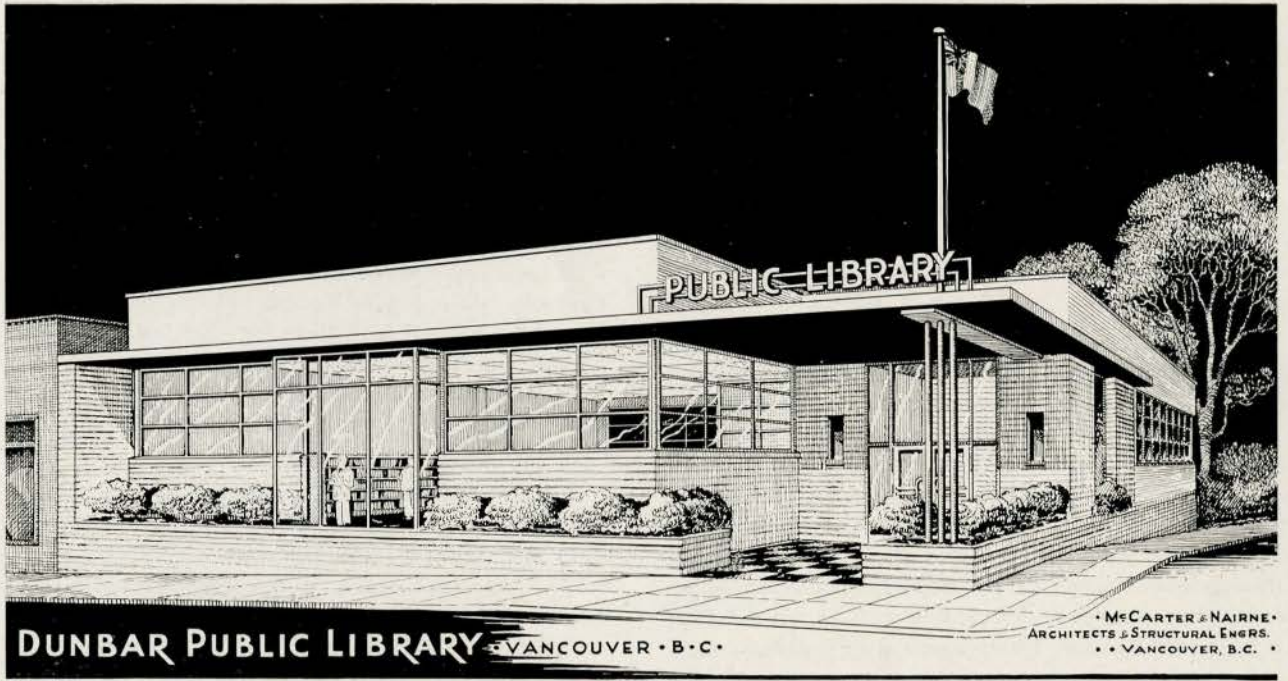
In a somewhat larger building with more staff, segregation can take place in the vestibule from which the children enter their own library. In all libraries, of whatever size, arrangements must be made to allow for the lineups that unavoidably occur at the Children's desk after school hours. It must be remembered that children enjoy this separation quite as much as the adults, since it brings them freedom from the "don'ts" of the latter. Wherever it is at all possible the children should have their own librarian specially trained in children's literature, child psychology and methods.

For planning details of all kinds for all sizes of libraries the reader is referred to that excellent book on library building and services, "The American Public Library Building: Its planning and design with special reference to its administration and service: by Joseph L. Wheeler, Librarian, and Alfred Morton Githens, Architect", without which no librarian, library authority or architect should begin to plan a building. John Adams Lowe's "Small Public Library Buildings" is also a must for planning authorities.

#### **Branch Libraries**

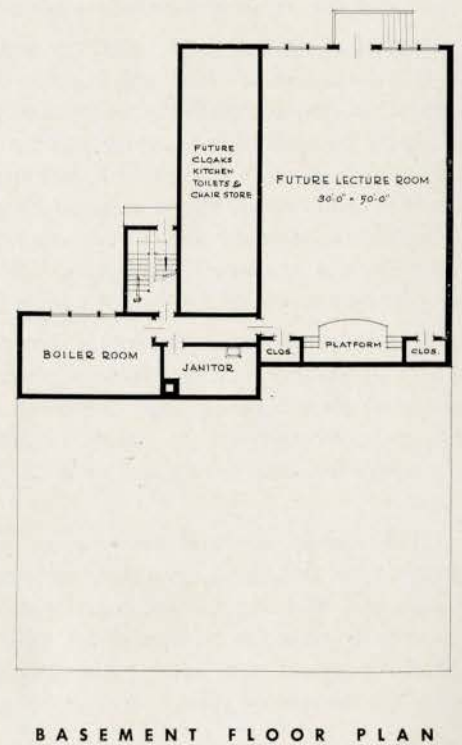
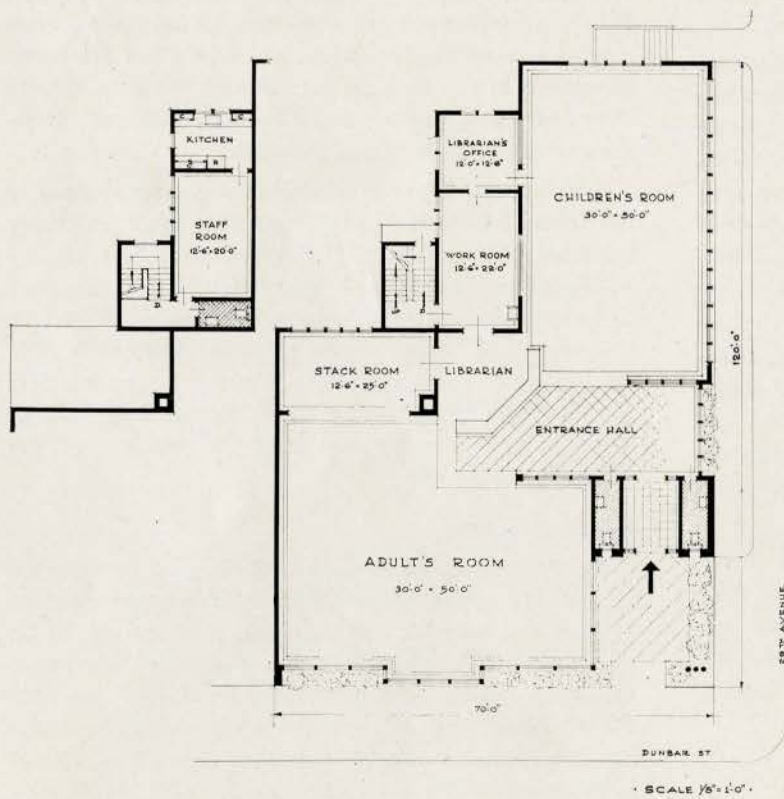
Since the administration and cataloguing services are centred at the Main Library, little space need be devoted to them at a branch. The collection of books will naturally be smaller especially in the Reference and specialized divisions such as Technology, Music and Fine Arts. On the other hand, if the branch is in a foreign language district, the main foreign language collection might be in the branch. The same might be true of French books, or of English books in a French-speaking city. The type

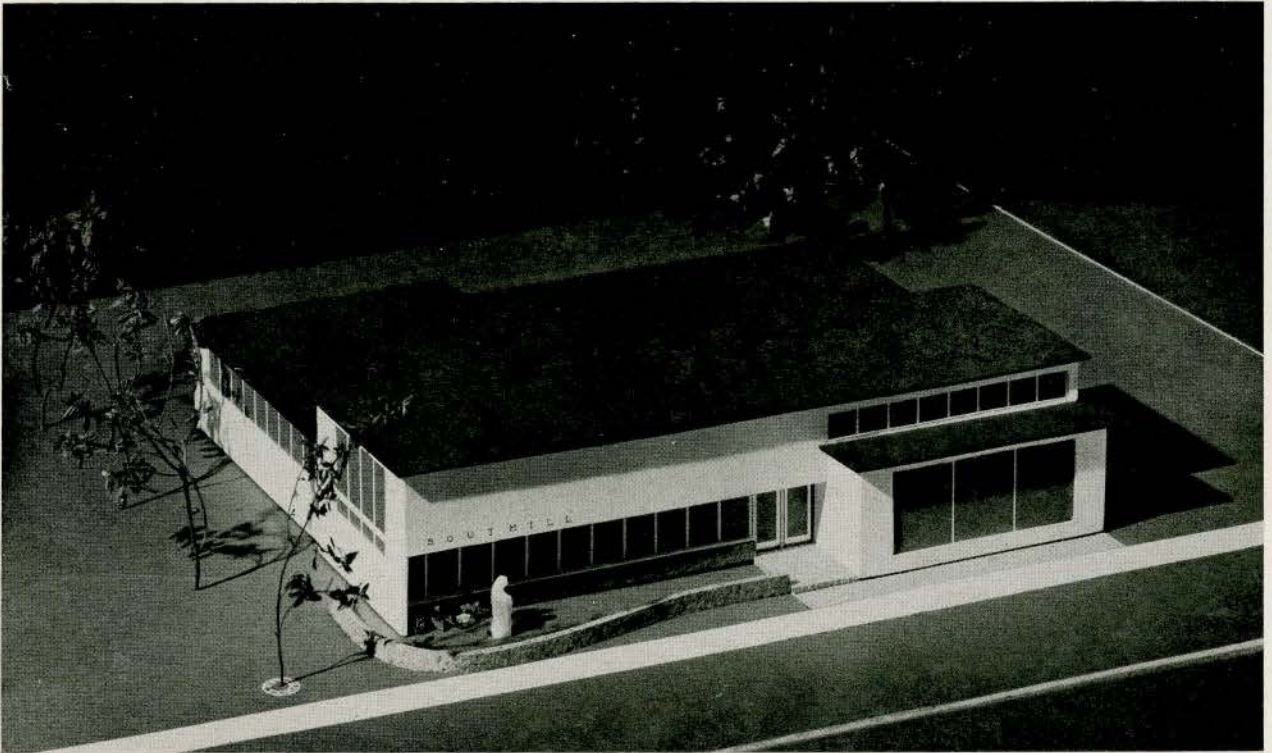
*(Continued on page 60)*



PERSPECTIVE OF DUNBAR PUBLIC LIBRARY, VANCOUVER, B. C.

Mc CARTER AND NAIRNE, ARCHITECTS

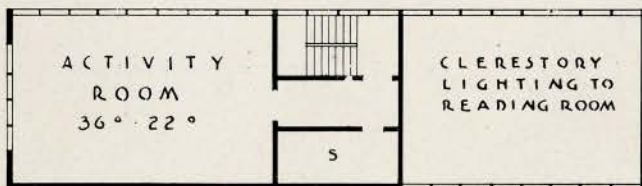




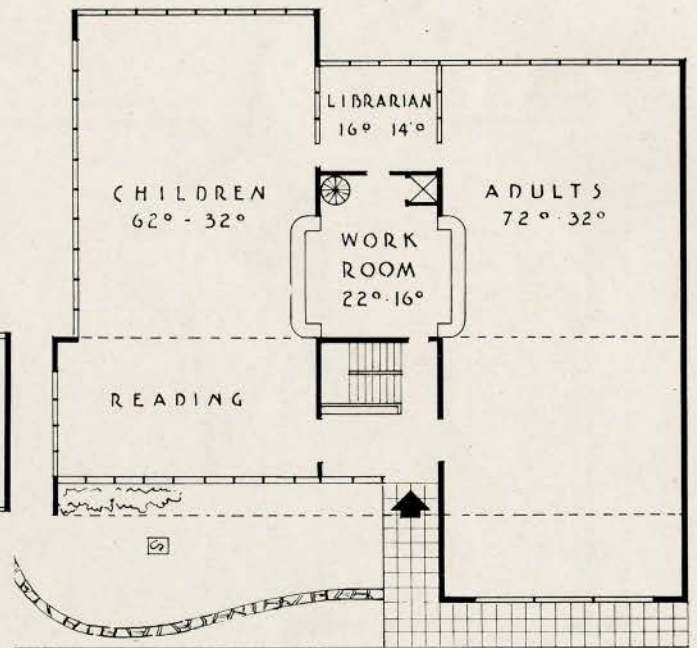
Photography by Tony Archer

MODEL OF SOUTH HILL BRANCH LIBRARY, VANCOUVER, B. C.

SHARP AND THOMPSON, BERWICK, PRATT, ARCHITECTS



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

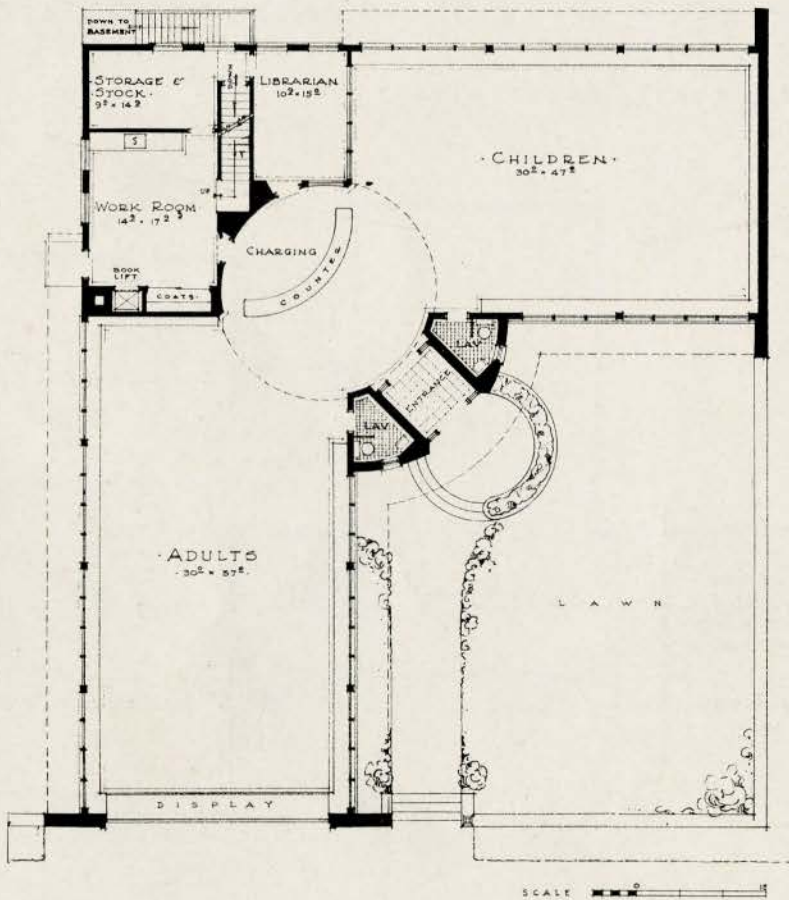


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

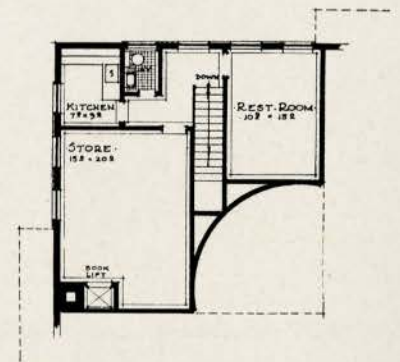


PROPOSED BRANCH LIBRARY, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

TOWNLEY AND MATHESON, ARCHITECTS

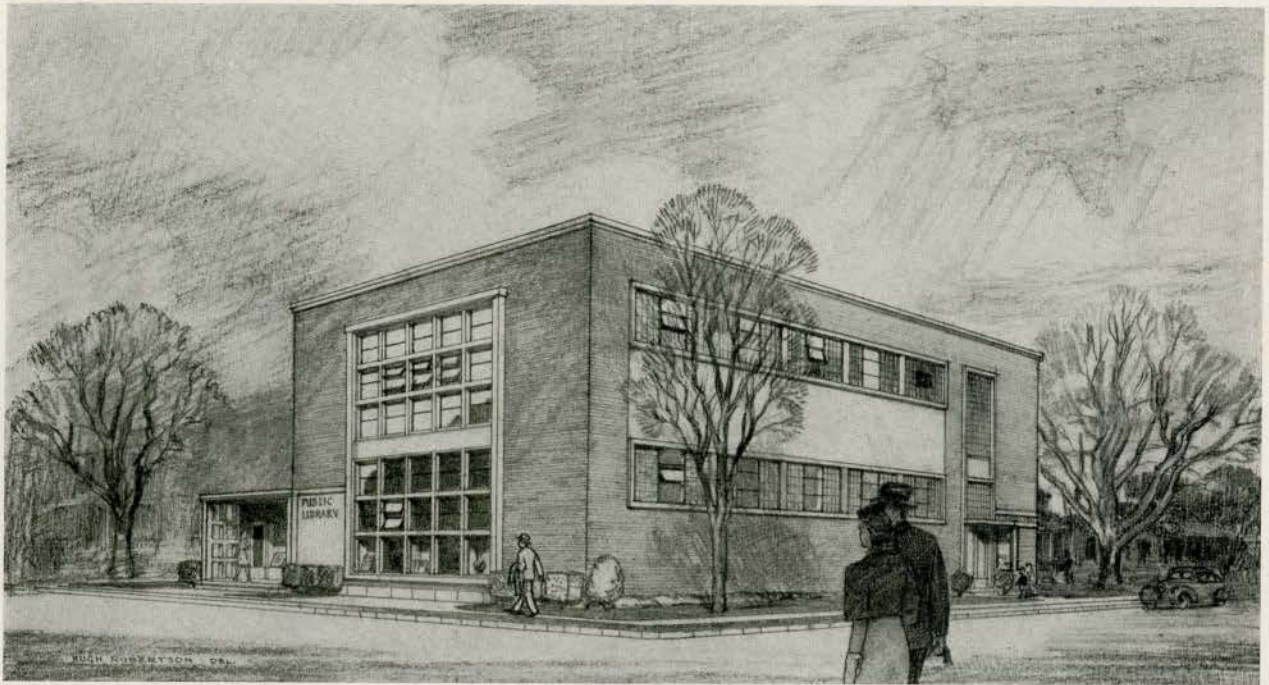


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

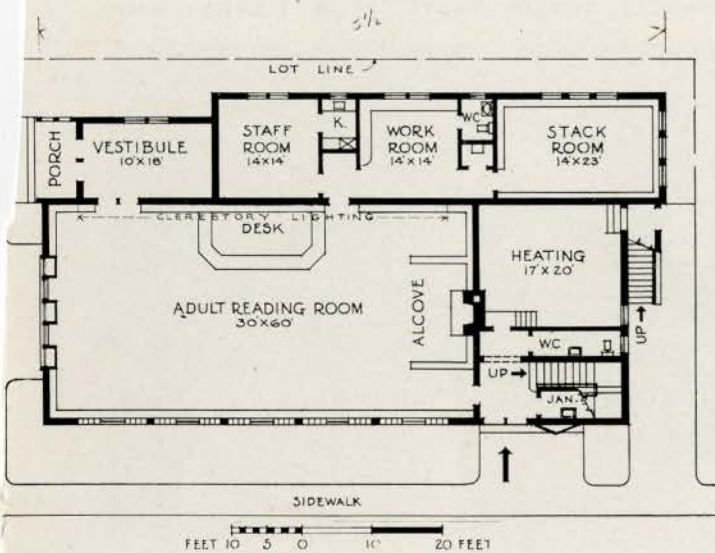


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

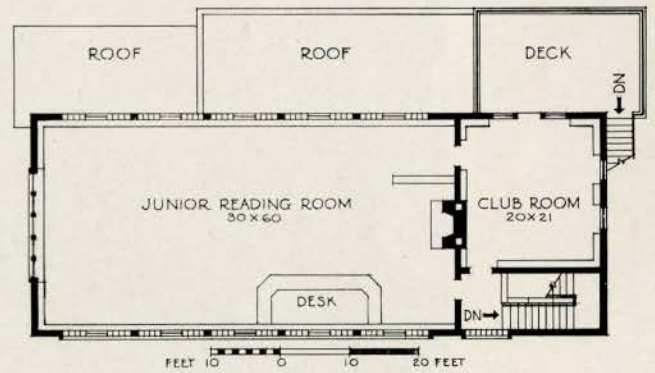




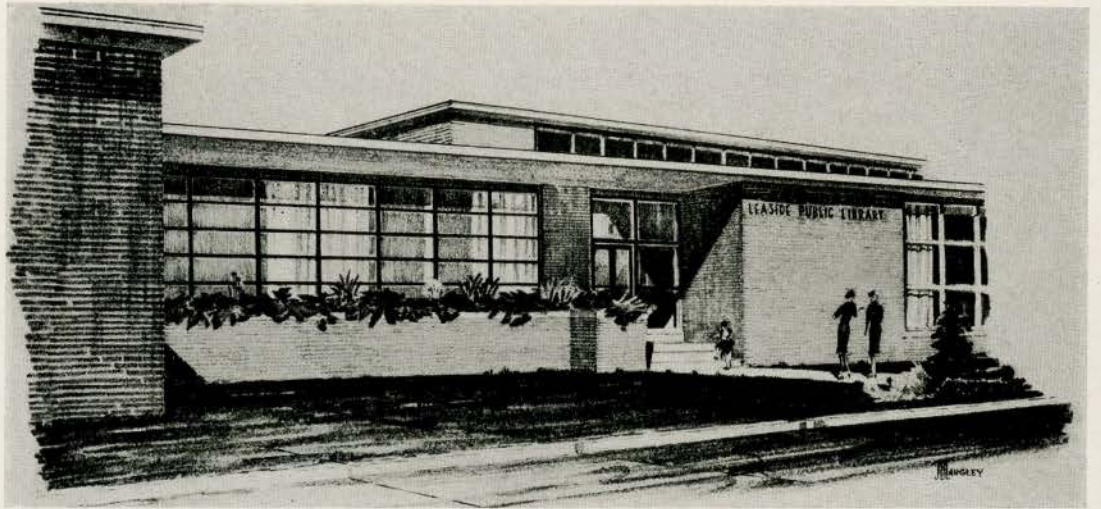
PROPOSED BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY, HAMILTON, ONTARIO  
 HUSBAND, ROBERTSON AND WALLACE, ARCHITECTS



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



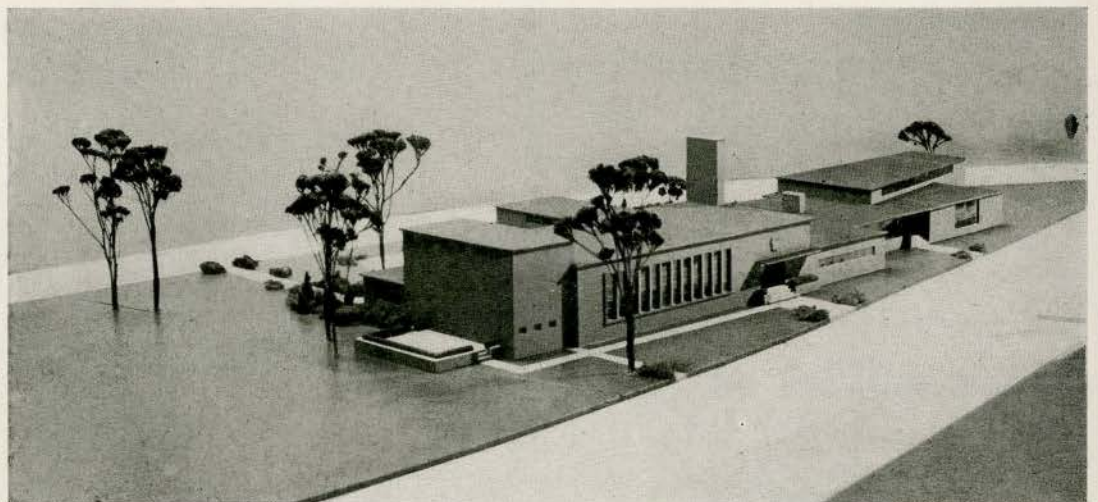
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY, LEASIDE, ONTARIO  
GORDON S. ADAMSON, ARCHITECT

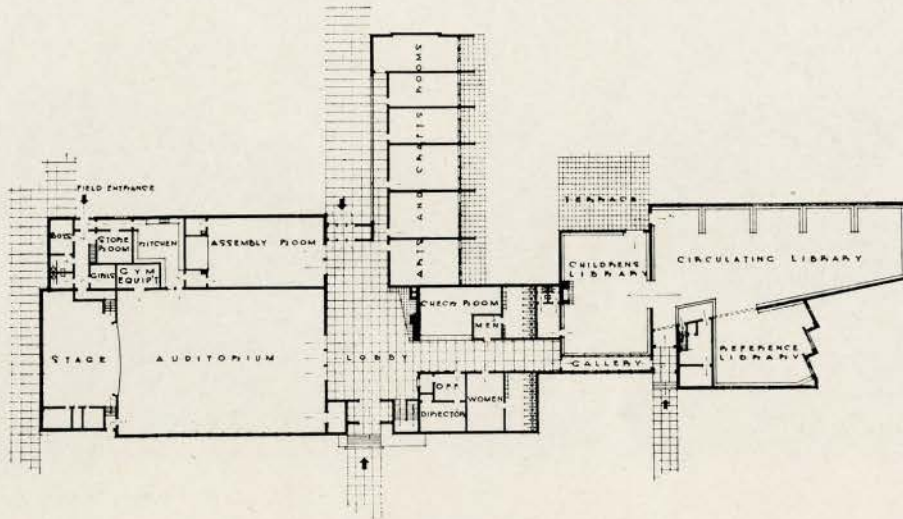


RUMSEY ROAD ELEVATION OF COMMUNITY CENTRE TAKEN FROM LIBRARY END

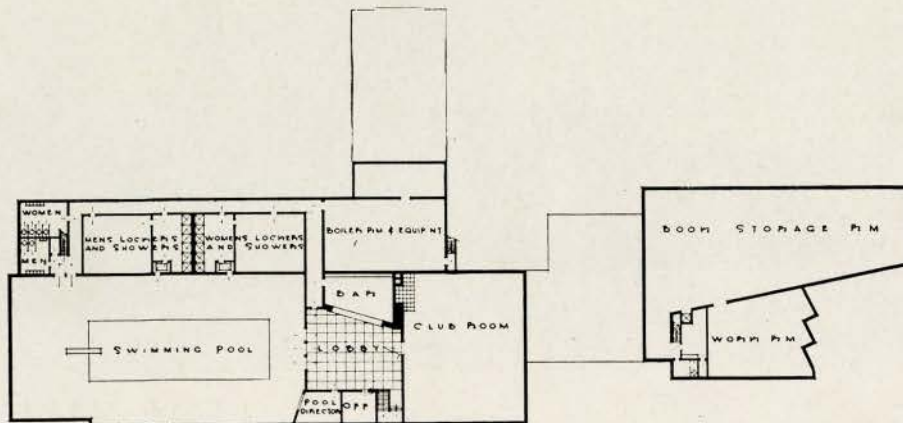


VIEW OF COMMUNITY CENTRE FROM McCRAE DRIVE  
ORIGINAL SKETCHES BY GORDON S. ADAMSON AND EARLE C. MORGAN, ARCHITECTS

## LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



BASEMENT PLAN

The accompanying plans show a children's library, circulating library and reference library controlled from one desk. Revised plan provides independent children's department with separate entrance, access to main vestibule and separate control.

For the time being, during the summer months, the terrace garden will be used for the story-telling hour, but it is the intention to add a separate story-telling room at such time as funds shall become available. In addition to books this room will provide eventually for movies and will accommodate albums of recorded music. It is hoped to use the room for art exhibitions.

For the time being open shelves will run continuously around both the circulating library and the reference room, and the reference room will be used as a reading room in conjunction with the circulating library. Should it be necessary in future to provide greater accommodation, extra stacks will be built out in the circulating library as shown, or the room will be enlarged. Should this take place, the reading room would probably be used for reference only.

Accession, Cataloguing, Card Indexing, and the minor repairs will be done in the ground floor work room, but major repairs and stories of bound magazines, out of circulation, books, etc., will be taken care of in the basement work room.

Office, Rest Room, Washroom and Kitchenette are provided for the librarians.

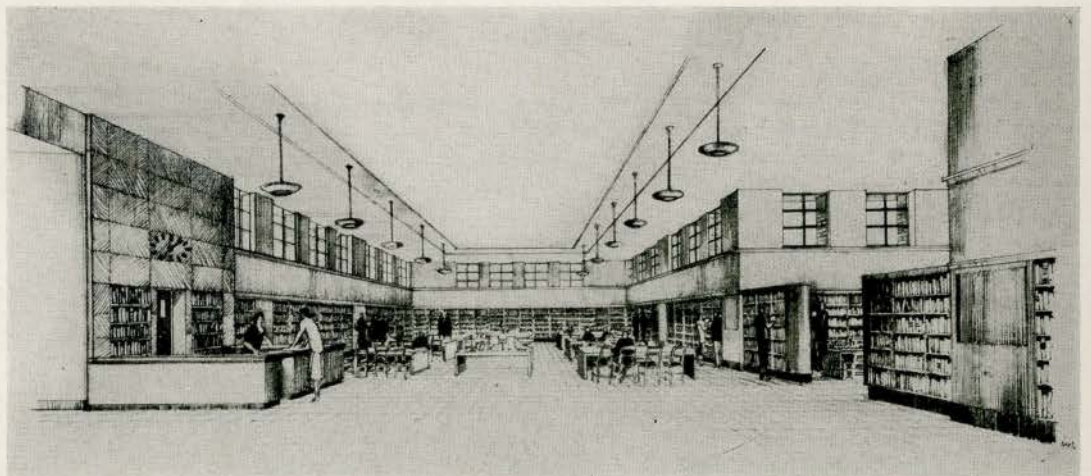
Latest developments in lighting, acoustical treatments and material finishes will be incorporated. Natural bilateral lighting is provided in the circulating library.



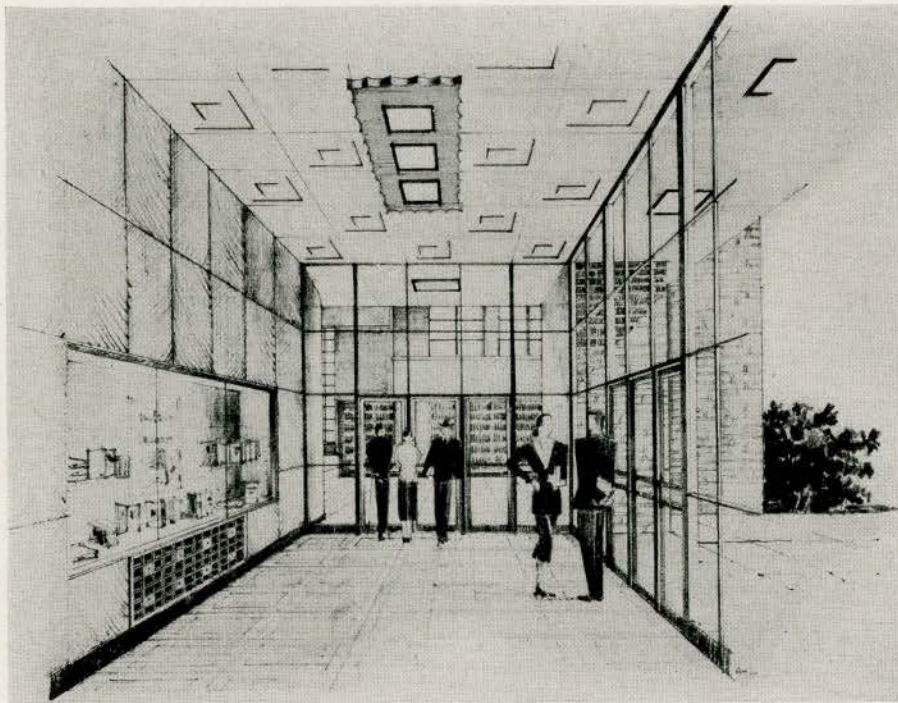
VIEW FROM NORTH



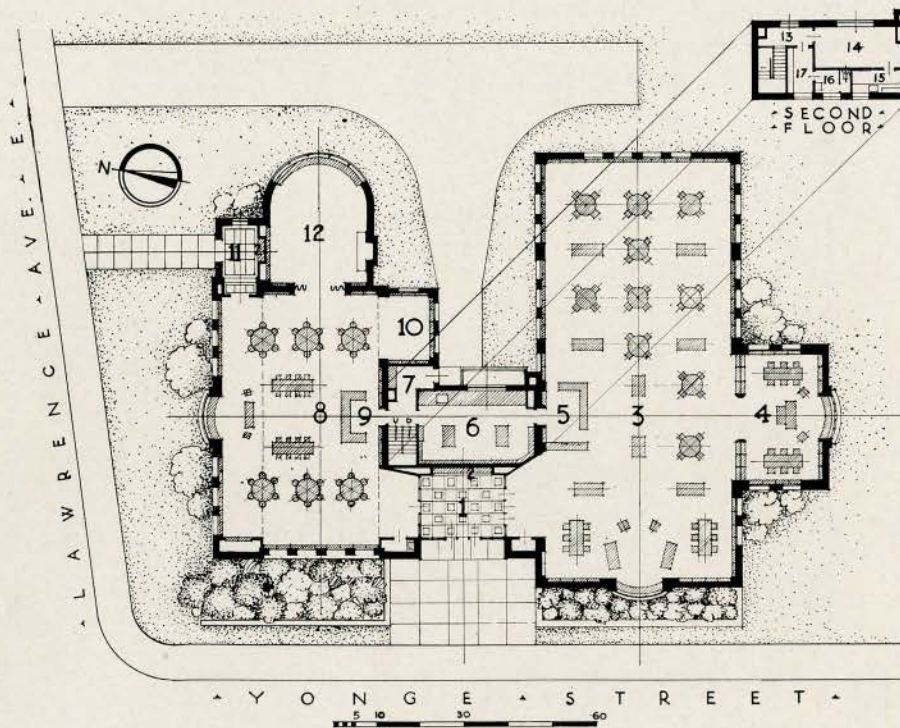
VIEW FROM SOUTH



INTERIOR OF ADULT ROOM  
TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARIES, GEORGE H. LOCKE  
MEMORIAL BRANCH, TORONTO, ONTARIO  
BECK AND EADIE, ARCHITECTS



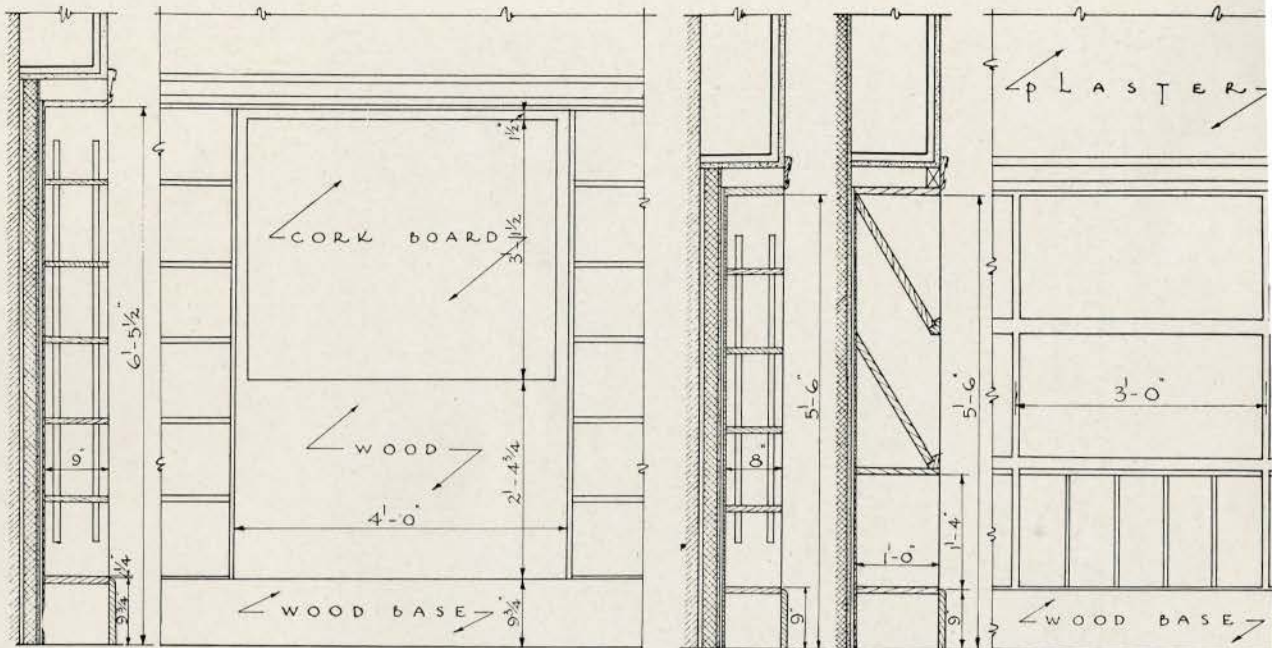
MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY LOOKING SOUTH



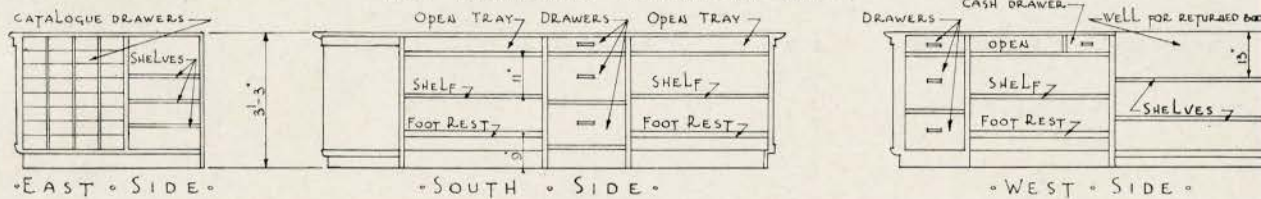
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

KEY TO PLAN

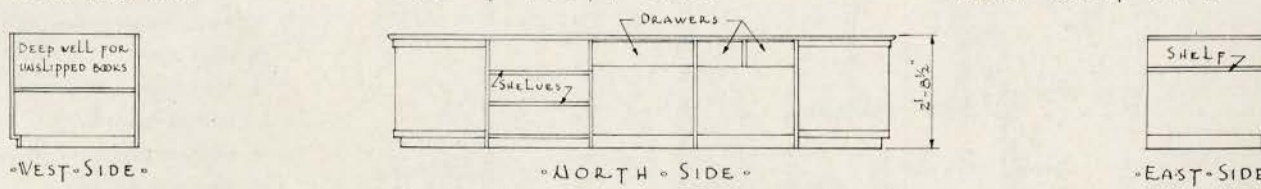
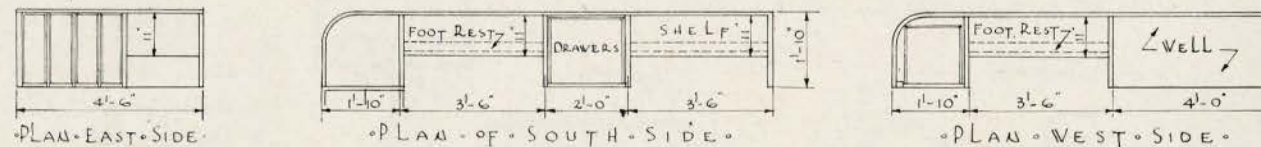
1. Lobby — 14' x 20'
2. Display Case
3. Adult Room — 96' x 43'
4. Young People's Room — 31' x 20'
5. Adult Desk
6. Work Room — 17' x 26'6"
7. Delivery Entrance
8. Boys and Girls Room — 57' x 45'
9. Boys and Girls Desk
10. Book Section for Very Small Children — 15' x 11'6"
11. Boys and Girls Entrance — 8'6" x 16'3"
12. Story Telling Room — 22' x 29'
13. Stair Hall
14. Staff Lounge — 10' x 21'
15. Kitchenette — 5' x 12'
16. Staff Toilet — 5' x 8'
17. Staff Coat Room — 5'3" x 12'



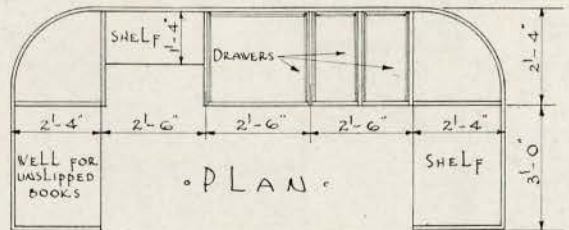
•SHELVING • ADULT •  
 •DISPLAY • BOARDS • BETWEEN •  
 •SHELVING •  
 •BOOKCASES •  
 •BOYS • & • GIRLS •  
 •ROOM •  
 •BOOKCASE • DEPARTMENT •  
 •FOR • SMALL • CHILDREN •  
 • ALL • BOOKSHELVING • SECTIONS • 3'-0" • WIDE •



•DETAIL • OF • DESK • IN • ADULT • DEPARTMENT •



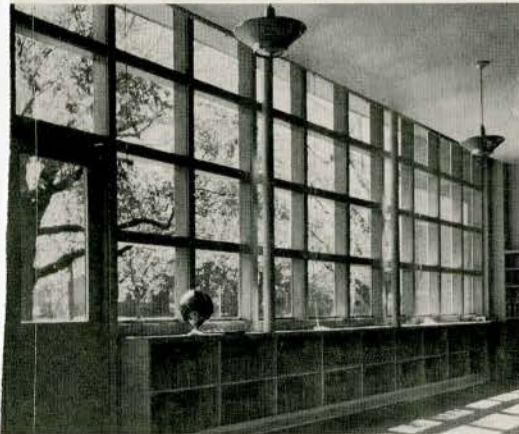
•DETAIL • OF • DESK • IN • BOY'S • & • GIRLS • ROOM •



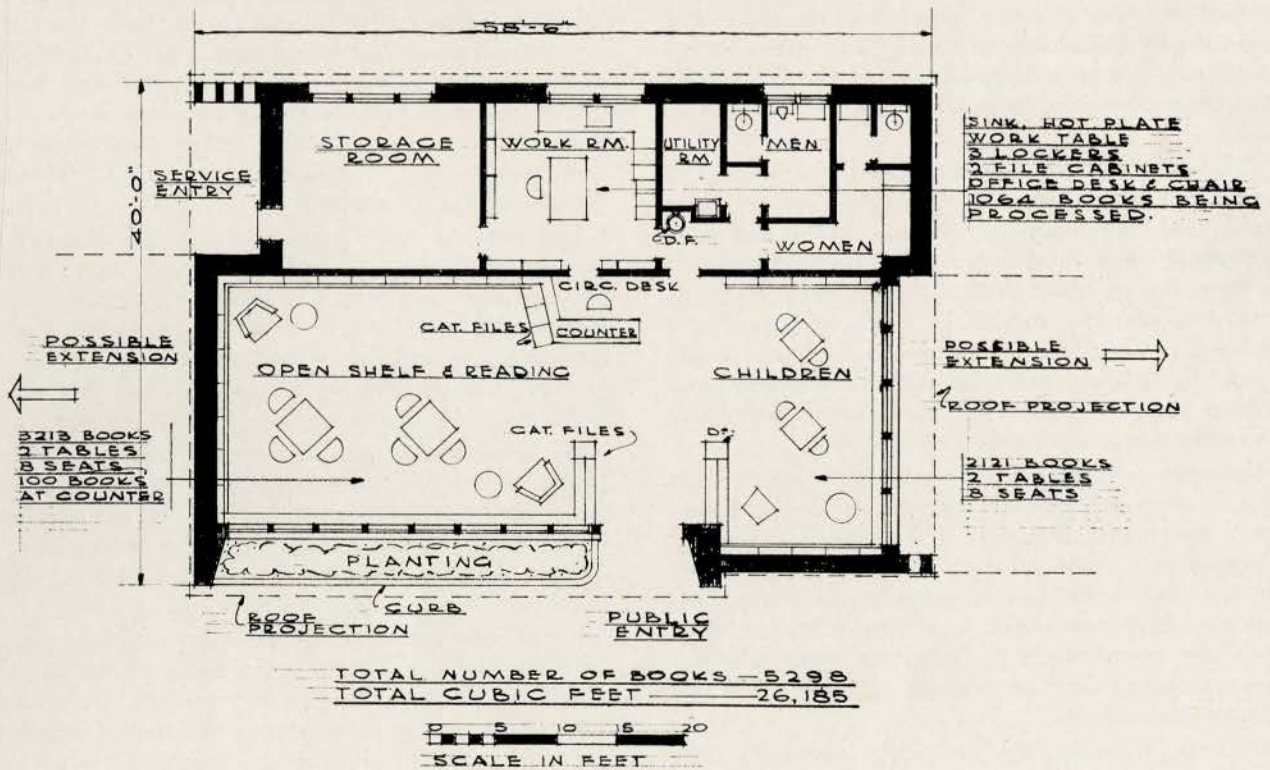
•DETAILS • OF • DESKS • AND • BOOKCASES •

•TORONTO • PUBLIC • LIBRARIES • GEORGE • H • LOCKE • MEMORIAL • BRANCH  
 •BECK • & • EADIE • ARCHITECTS •

The material used in the construction of the building is crab orchard stone, a warm brown, and brick of a harmonizing colour. The interior walls are painted jonquil yellow and jade green, and the woodwork is pine in a natural finish, washed down with white paint and shellaced. The floor covering is asphalt tile and the building is heated by radiant heating, with hot water circulating in the floor.



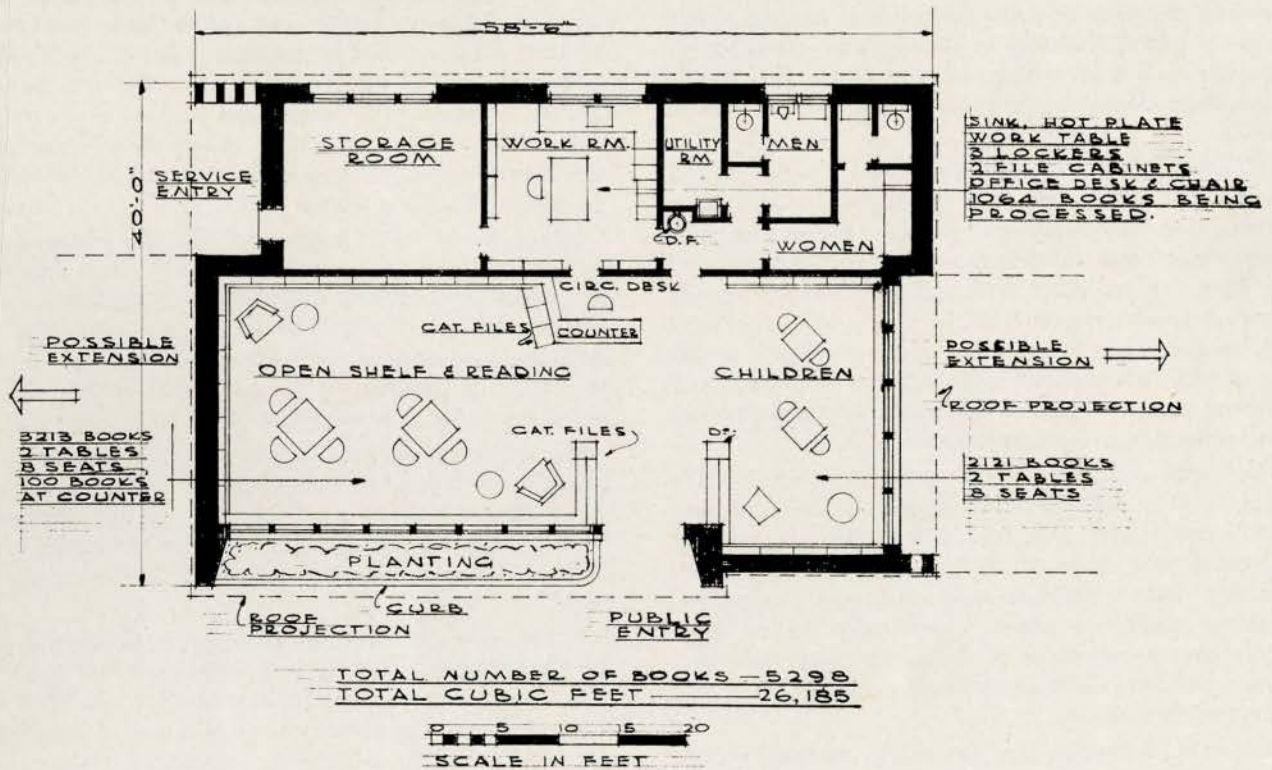
BURLINGTON BRANCH OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM,  
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE • TVA DEPARTMENT OF  
REGIONAL STUDIES, MARIO BIANCULLI, ARCHITECT.  
TVA TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL RELATIONS STAFF,  
MARY U. ROTHROCK, CONSULTANT • TENNESSEE  
VALLEY LIBRARY COUNCIL, HELEN M. HARRIS, CHAIRMAN



The material used in the construction of the building is crab orchard stone, a warm brown, and brick of a harmonizing colour. The interior walls are painted jonquil yellow and jade green, and the woodwork is pine in a natural finish, washed down with white paint and shellaced. The floor covering is asphalt tile and the building is heated by radiant heating, with hot water circulating in the floor.



BURLINGTON BRANCH OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM,  
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE • TVA DEPARTMENT OF  
REGIONAL STUDIES, MARIO BIANCULLI, ARCHITECT.  
TVA TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL RELATIONS STAFF,  
MARY U. ROTHROCK, CONSULTANT • TENNESSEE  
VALLEY LIBRARY COUNCIL, HELEN M. HARRIS, CHAIRMAN





# THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

By LILLIAN H. SMITH

Head of Boys' and Girls' Division, Toronto Public Library

ONE Saturday morning, as soon as the library doors were open, in rushed Joe, waving his library card. "I'm the guy," he announced, "that paid fifteen cents fine on my card, and, by Jiminy, I'm going to use it!"

Joe is typical of the small "customers" that throng our children's libraries. He says what he thinks, honestly and freely, and he knows what he wants and expects to find it. A children's library may be planned as completely as skillful architects and library experts working together can foresee, yet in the last analysis it is Joe's opinion which is the measure of our success or failure. This being so, it seems only sensible, in planning a library children's room, to consider first the interests and tastes, the convenience and comfort of the children who will use it.

Joe would probably tell you, if asked, that he came to the library to find "a good book to read". In essence this is the heart of all that happens in the children's room. Every activity has, or should have, its motivation in the desire to find Joe his "good book" and all the expert training of the children's librarian is directed to that end. A "good book" to any boy or girl is one that gives him a unique experience of pleasure. Perhaps it may be a free passage to a time or place more full of stirring events than his own life affords, or he may find wings for his imagination in a book of model aeroplanes. Adventures of all kinds are waiting for a child within the covers of his books.

Children come freshly to the world of books, unlike grown-ups, whose years of reading experience have crystallized their tastes and interests. In the children's room many boys and girls meet their first experience of reading, and so, when the small, shy first-grader lays down his moist five cents and in almost a whisper says he wants to "join" the library, our first concern is that the children's room shall seem to him a welcoming and friendly place to which he will gladly return because of the satisfaction and pleasure he found there.

For those accustomed to the services of the modern public library with its well equipped and beautiful children's department, it is difficult to realize that no such provision was made for children until the twentieth century. Before, children hovered in the background seeking admittance which was usually denied them while library custodians of those days said, "We lose time in making infants understand, we prefer to transact business with adults."

Children, however, are not easily prevented from reading, and eventually they were tolerated in the public

library and even given a corner of their own in which was placed the books in which they might be interested.

The 'children's corner' proved the opening wedge for a great influx of children drawn to the library by the lure of books and also by changes in educational programmes that increasingly called for the use of books to supplement the teaching of the schools. The evolution of the 'corner' into the modern children's room or department of to-day is simply a recognition that children are an integral part of the community the library serves, and that as they are different from adults, with different needs and a different literature of their own, they are best served in a room that conforms to their requirements rather than in the general library used by adults.

The potential number of children who will use the library is an important factor in its planning, and fortunately this is readily ascertained. All children go to school, and a census of the schools that are within reasonable walking distance of the library will give the number of children in attendance. Of these, the children's librarian knows, she can expect that ninety per cent. of those whose homes are within a half-mile radius of the library, and less than fifty per cent. of those in the second half mile radius, will "join" the children's library. This information is her guide in estimating the size of the book collection that will be required, which in turn decides the amount of shelving that will house the collection. It also determines the floor space needed, the size of the service desk and what the seating facilities should be.

Libraries are not "institutions" in the sense that schools are. There is no compulsion, other than interest and free will, to enter its doors. Just as a publisher tries to make the look of a book as persuasive as possible to the potential purchaser, so the builder of a library tries to make it a friendly, welcoming building that looks as if it wanted to offer every man what he is looking for.

We want the children to feel that their library is a special place provided especially for them, a place to which they will like to come, to linger and to participate in all the activities that take place in a modern children's library. We want their first impressions to be the right ones.

It has been found that the physical surroundings of the library influence children's attendance and behaviour. They are responsive to surroundings attractive to them. A cheerful, spacious room that is neither cluttered nor condescending, with plenty of natural lighting, as well as artificial, since a children's library is open mostly

during daylight hours, gives boys and girls the most favourable opportunity to enjoy the books provided for them. Plenty of cross ventilation is needed because the peaks of attendance after school crowd the rooms and the effect of bad air is soon seen in behaviour problems and discomfort.



WAITING FOR THE STORY HOUR

The service desk is the first objective of the children who are returning the books they had taken home on their last visit, while other boys and girls who have found the books they wish to take home, are having them charged before leaving the library. The service desk is the scene of greatest business activity and is placed in the most workable position the room affords.

There are two obvious choices for placing the service desk, both of which have points in their favour. One of these is next to the children's entrance, which gives supervision of the coming and going of the children. Its disadvantage is that, since the children come in large numbers directly school is out, the entrance to the children's room is blocked by lines of boys and girls waiting their turn to exchange their books.

The other position is one that gives direct access from behind the desk to the library staff's workroom, as is planned in the new George H. Locke Memorial Library. The advantage of easy access to the workroom is obvious, but the position in the centre of the children's room could take away from the friendly informal look the room should have, unless careful consideration was given to keeping it at once functional and unobtrusive.

What is mainly required of the service desk in a children's room is one not too high for short arms to reach, and a large enough area over which children can spread out their books to be charged and discharged. An equally important requirement is room to put the books as they are being returned by the hundreds within perhaps the short space of two hours. This can be achieved by having a deep trough or well in which the books can be piled as they are turned in. Additional space for books can be found by using sliding shelves behind the desk for the overflow. Very little drawer space is needed

other than a drawer for cash and one for printed forms. Any unnecessary drawers and partitions only interfere with the main function of the service desk which is to receive the incoming books and to get them back to the children for circulation with the least possible delay.

A small desk or table, behind the service desk, on which the slipping trays can be placed keeps both the book slips and the books being slipped out of reach of the children. A truck beside the slipping tray holds the books when slipped, and is easily wheeled into the room when it is filled, and the books are made quickly available for circulation.

The registration of the new borrower is an important event in his life and the busy service desk is not the place to impress on him the importance of the step he is taking, nor to help him to decide what his very first book shall be. The registration desk needs to be away from the crowded part of the room and should invite confidence.

When the application has been laboriously filled out, usually with the aid of a sympathetic roving tongue and the helpful suggestions of a few friends, the new borrower turns to the shelves of books that line the walls. These shelves are lower than the standard height used in adult libraries because even the biggest children have not attained full growth and the books must be within reach and sight.

In the library children's room it is not only with the development of reading taste that we are concerned but with creating first of all an appetite for books. A versatile and flexible arrangement of the shelving can transform a children's room from a monotonous row of sections of shelving into a whole series of displays of what the library has to offer for boys' and girls' reading, under attractive headings or posters which call attention to subjects in which they might be interested.

The little children should have their own place in the



THE STORY HOUR

children's library with shelving that fits the requirements of their special books. Sloping shelves, the front edge finished with a ledge, hold the large flat picture books so that their front covers are easily visible. They also add a gay colourful and decorative note to the room. The lower shelves below the sloping ones, can be divided into sections a few inches apart by means of vertical partitions. These keep the tall thin books, as well as the tiny thin books, upright on the shelves. Little children's books ordinarily contain very little reading matter and while they are of all sizes, they have almost no thickness, with the result that on ordinary shelves these books subside into a mere heap after one child has been searching through them for *The Story of Babar* or *Peter Rabbit*.

If one part of the room lends itself to being used by little children and they are made to feel at home there, both they and the older children are happier and can use the room to better advantage. To older boys and girls the ceaseless coming and going of the five- and six-year-olds who are really concentrating hard on the business of finding *Johnny Crow* or *Choo Choo*, seems only restlessness, and is distracting.

The shelving in the more general part of the room is open, of course, with a cornice deep enough to hold a label that can be read some distance away. The adjustable shelves give an opportunity to plan displays or posters from time to time by removing a shelf and using the space to call attention to books of a special kind on the shelves below. Variety as well as decorative effectiveness is especially desirable in a children's room. Children like change and when some new and arresting display is put up, there is often a cheer and a rush to see it when they come into the room. They are immediately aware of anything new or different and often comment on whether the change is for better or worse. When a new tile floor was laid in one library, the children stopped at the threshold to ask, "Shall we take off our overshoes before we come in?"

This sense of something they appreciate and want to take care of, is an important factor in creating a library atmosphere that is felt by its youngest patrons.

When a boy or girl has looked over the shelves, the usual procedure is to carry the books that interest him over to a table and try to decide which of them he will most wish he had chosen when he has taken his books home to read. Tables and seats of some kind are needed for this purpose as well as for those who have come to read or to use the reference books for study purposes. Ideally, the size of the tables and chairs or benches should fit the size of the users, but the children are every size from toddlers to overgrown boys and girls.

The thing to keep in mind is that little children looking at picture books, and their slightly older brothers and sisters too, like to look at the same pictures and share the adventures of "Alice" and "Pinocchio" together. They can do this more happily sitting side by side on

a bench than if they sat on separate chairs. Needless to say, the bench should be low enough for them to sit down on it without having first to climb up to it. The table, too, should be low enough to see the picture book of one's choice without having to kneel on the bench.

The older children are apt to read their own books, lost to the world, and oblivious even of the boy or girl reading beside them. These children, too, are doing reference work for next day's school assignment and nothing is heard from them except the steady drive of lead pencil and the turning over of pages of "The World Book". For these boys and girls I would like to choose a round table that would hold six or eight chairs, both table and chairs of a practical size, slightly lower than standard adult furniture.

Low, wide window seats, and settles if there is a fireplace, add to the seating capacity of the children's room and add, too, a great deal to its invitation to read.

In the new George H. Locke Memorial Library, opening directly from the children's room is another room, that is known in libraries as The Story Hour Room. To the children it leads to the same wonderland as Alice found in shooting down the rabbit hole. A fireplace accents the entire room and is the focal point about which the children will gather to hear stories of the knights of old, or some new adventure of the Bean Farm animals, or, best of all, the old favourite fairy tales because they never tire of them.

The Story Hour Room has many uses. Picture books are shown and read here to pre-school children; puppets are made and puppet plays produced before enthusiastic audiences; book talks given to visiting school classes sometimes use a lantern to illustrate the events and characters of the story or a victrola to demonstrate the musical background. The uses of a Story Hour Room are as various as the interests of the boys and girls who are to be found there.

This, then, is the Children's Library, at least as much of it as space permits. The casual adult, looking on, sees perhaps a heterogeneous crowd of children, piles of none-too-clean books, and more noise than is found among the more sedate adults who patronize the library. But these first impressions gradually resolve into an awareness of individuals with fresh and varied interests, whose books, while dog-eared, have received much affectionate handling. The noise is not mere confusion, but is due to the active nature of boys and girls, their overflowing enthusiasm for their books, and their desire to pass it on to their friends.

At the end of a busy day in the children's room the children's librarian was straightening the books on the shelves when a little girl asked her, "Please, is Beauty Sleeping here?" To plan a children's library where day by day taste is built up in an atmosphere of pleasure and beauty, is to build a room that will live long in the memory of Joe or any child who has known it, and for him, in the last analysis, was it built.

# LIBRARIES FOR TODAY

By E. S. ROBINSON

City Librarian, Vancouver Public Library

**M**OST of the public, many architects and some librarians expect a library building to be monumental, massive and perhaps classic in design. If not set off by itself with the familiar columns and a flight of entrance steps, it is often so isolated that it defeats its primary purpose of easy access and efficiency.

The modern public library is not a storehouse of books but an up-to-date service institution which aims to serve the most people at their convenience at the least cost. It should be located where the greatest number of potential users go on other business. It should be on the street level and flush with the sidewalk, inviting in style and as easy to enter as the neighbourhood grocery or theatre.

Simplicity in design both in exterior and interior make for efficiency in operation and maintenance. Gone are the cubicles, circular stairways, fancy cornices, columns, steps and other impedimenta which deter many a timid soul from entering, as well as piling up maintenance and supervision costs. The ideal library would be one room, with one entrance, one control desk and one assistant. As the services increase, inter-departmental routine ensues, involving additional employees, additional floors, additional equipment and other overhead costs.

## Efficiency

Efficiency in operation is one of the three primary factors entering into the operation of any library. From 50 per cent. to 70 per cent. of operating costs of a public library go into salaries or services, the balance going into books and building maintenance. This being so, the layout of the rooms, their relation one to the other and their convenience to the public is of first importance. The public is naturally averse to being shunted from one room to another to complete their business. This has led to departmentation in large libraries which strive to keep on one floor, if possible, all the services an adult might require. Children might well be served from an upper story as they do not mind a stairway, while such special services as fine arts, music, audiovisual aids, exhibitions, processing and administration might well be relegated to upper floors.

For a branch library, one story is desirable if sufficient land can be obtained to serve the public without using stairs. Over the workrooms and librarian's office, which can have a ceiling lower than the public rooms, a mezzanine floor can be built to provide staff accommodation, storage and other administrative services. If a branch can be so constructed that both adults and children will be served from one point, so much the better.

This arrangement usually permits of one entrance and exit which gives still further control. If two stories are required, a sloping piece of land might permit a children's room on ground level at the side or rear without making adults ascend too many steps. Otherwise, the children are usually relegated to the top story with a separate entrance or stairway.

## Accessibility

Whatever the size, elevation and shape of the land, there should be no question of easy access to the building. In fact, it should be inviting and cheerful where the public will feel welcome and at home. It has been said that this reduces the library to the level of a "five and ten" or movie theatre. If such a change will make a library as accessible as these business houses, by all means use such facilities. Getting a book should be made as easy as buying a loaf of bread or going to a movie. Thus will the library breed the habit of use which is so important to a voluntary service.

## Location

Since the library depends entirely for its clientele upon its ability to attract a large number of persons, perforce it must be located near the point where people naturally congregate. For a branch this is usually in a suburban business district, near the main shopping centre and alongside the bank, grocery, theatre or market. If so located and designed with large open windows facing the main business street, it will attract thousands where hundreds would otherwise use it. A branch library appeal is not sufficiently strong to force any large number of people to scour new channels of traffic. No great quantity of people will seek out the library, but well located, it has been known to attract as high as fifty per cent. of the population within a radius of one mile.

Therefore, the library must be placed where people are or where they gather to take street car or bus to and from the city. No piece of land, even if donated, is cheap if it does not conform to the qualifications mentioned above. The herd instinct is strong in all humans. To see others using a library easily and frequently is a strong incentive for many to do likewise. Retail merchants have studied the mass movement of people in relation to selling, and central and convenient location is even more important to a library than to a retail store.

## Interior Treatment

As to the interior, there is much to be said for light, bright colours, airiness and spaciousness. There need

be no superfluous architectural ornament, in fact, straight lines wear better and cause less upkeep than frescoes, columns, and mouldings. Elimination of columns is particularly important, as these obstruct vision, restrict the placement of furniture and traffic and are generally undesirable. Where good natural light can be used and inside wall space can be sacrificed, windows should be placed. Usually these can be kept above the bookcase level. In dull climates artificial light must be depended upon almost entirely as 30 to 40 foot candles on a reading table are not realizable from natural sources.

Quiet floors and acoustical treatment of upper walls and ceiling are highly desirable, not only from the viewpoint of reducing noise but to prolong the working years of the employees as well. Dirt and track-resisting materials for floors are especially desirable, as their maintenance is a major problem in most public buildings. Light tints on the walls and ceiling, light furniture and good light from natural sources, if obtainable, are all highly desirable both for public and staff.

Heating, lighting and artificial ventilation can do much toward making a library inviting and comfortable. Radiant heating with automatic controls and oil or gas burners are efficient and easily controlled. With such equipment much saving can be made on salaries and the janitorial duties confined largely to cleaning. Lighting has made great strides in recent years. Some forms of indirect lighting are ideal, although usually combined with the necessity of keeping walls and ceiling clean and light. Fluorescent lighting has much to commend it but to date its usefulness has been only partially proved in libraries. It needs further study and some improvement to be entirely satisfactory.

#### **Desirable Services**

No mention has been made of story-hour rooms, community rooms or auditoriums, public toilets and other services it is desirable to supply if building funds permit. Certainly they are useful and helpful in attracting people to a library who would not otherwise come. Staff work space is important and should not be stinted, as well as staff lounge, kitchen, frigidaire and lockers. Around a library there is always need for space for storage and repair of books, exhibit materials, supplies and other paraphernalia. In large branches some stack space should be included to store books not in use due to seasonal changes in demand. If possible all stacks should be in fireproof construction. A concrete basement covered by a concrete slab makes a reasonably fireproof stack space in a branch library. A booklift is desirable if the branch has more than one floor. It should serve from basement to top floor running through work-room on main floor and near rear entrance if possible.

No effort has been made to discuss cost of building. This varies so much in place and time that any estimate would be useless and misleading. Type of construction, too, varies with local by-law requirements and depends as well on the money available.

## **THE BUILDING PROGRAMME OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN RELATION TO ITS FUNCTIONS**

*(Continued from page 45)*

of residents of the district will condition the book collection to a much larger degree than in a central library. And Children's circulation is likely to be proportionately much larger in a branch.

Since a branch library has greater significance in its district, it can become a very useful cultural community centre. For this reason an auditorium might be provided where, for instance, the garden enthusiasts could gather for lectures on horticulture to supplement book information, and the local music celebrity could give a recital. A record and film library (probably loans from the Main Library) will attract the men especially and the films can lead to fine discussions of the problems of the day. Small exhibits of paintings, prints, handicrafts and hobbies will greatly stimulate the use of books and perhaps lead to a programme of adult education in a local school. The contributions the branch library can make to the enrichment of its community are limited only by the imagination and leadership qualities of its Librarian provided funds are available for a staff of sufficient size.

#### **Summing Up**

The time has come to prove to our citizens that the public library is not a remote institution holding no attraction for the workingman nor the business man. It should be a place of warmth and friendliness with an informed staff that puts people first and routine second, that gives as much attention and understanding to the person who cannot adequately ask for what he wants as to the person who in clipped incisive phrases requests exactly what he needs. Each citizen must realize that the library is there to help him with his informational, recreational and educational requirements.

All this the architect must express in the building he designs to house the library and its services. Gone are the days of the monumental building with its flights of marble stairs, its gaudy entrance, its turrets and towers, general air of aloofness and badly planned interior. In its place we want a building, friendly, inviting and functional in which suitability of site and placement, simple though distinguished lines, play of light and shade and use of materials all play their parts in creating a work of great beauty reflecting the spirit within. The challenge is before our librarians, trustees and architects. There has been much talk of new buildings; some are assured, and others are in the preliminary planning stage waiting for funds to bring the architects on the job. At any rate there is a healthy ferment in library circles across the country, hopes are high and much depends on the architects of Canada.

# ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	CHARLES DAVID (F)		
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	J. ROXBURGH SMITH (F)	SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT	LAWRENCE J. GREEN
HONORARY SECRETARY	MURRAY BROWN (F)	HONORARY TREASURER	A. J. HAZELGROVE (F)
PAST-PRESIDENT	FORSEY PAGE (F)		
SECRETARY	MISS ANNE CORY		

74 King Street East, Toronto

## COUNCIL

M. C. DEWAR, PETER L. RULE (Alberta Association of Architects)	WILLIAM FREDK. GARDINER, JOHN S. PORTER, JOS. F. WATSON (Architectural Institute of British Columbia)
LAWRENCE J. GREEN, E. FITZ MUNN, MILTON S. OSBORNE (F) (Manitoba Association of Architects)	J. K. GILLIES, H. CLAIRE MOTT (F) (Architects' Association of New Brunswick)
C. A. FOWLER, A. E. PRIEST (Nova Scotia Association of Architects)	
W. J. ABRA (F), MURRAY BROWN (F), JAS. H. CRAIG (F), A. J. HAZELGROVE (F), A. S. MATHERS (F), R. S. MORRIS (F), FORSEY PAGE (F) P.P., W. BRUCE RIDDELL (F) (Ontario Association of Architects)	P. C. AMOS, OSCAR BEAULE, CHARLES DAVID (F), HAROLD LAWSON (F), MAURICE PAYETTE (F), GORDON McL. PITTS (F), P.P., J. ROXBURGH SMITH (F) (Province of Quebec Association of Architects)
E. J. GILBERT (F), FRANK J. MARTIN (Saskatchewan Association of Architects)	

## EDITORIAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Alberta—C. S. BURGESS (F), Chairman; M. C. DEWAR, PETER L. RULE
British Columbia—R. A. D. BERWICK, Chairman; WILLIAM FREDK. GARDINER, H. C. PERRAM, JOS. F. WATSON
Manitoba—LAWRENCE J. GREEN, Chairman; ROBT. E. MOORE, MILTON S. OSBORNE (F), J. A. RUSSELL
New Brunswick—H. CLAIRE MOTT (F), Chairman; W. W. ALWARD, J. K. GILLIES
Nova Scotia—LESLIE R. FAIRN (F), Chairman; A. E. PRIEST, J. H. WHITFORD
Ontario—JAS. A. MURRAY, Chairman; WATSON BALHARRIE, L. Y. McINTOSH, ALVIN R. PRACK, KENNETH SINCLAIR, HARRY P. SMITH, J. B. SUTTON, A. B. SCOTT
Quebec—J. ROXBURGH SMITH (F), Chairman; O. BEAULE, JOHN BLAND, P. H. LAPOINTE, HAROLD LAWSON (F), J. CAMPBELL MERRETT, LUCIEN PARENT (F), EMILE VENNE
Saskatchewan—E. J. GILBERT (F), Chairman; H. K. BLACK, F. H. PORTNALL (F)



## ALBERTA

Last November a competition was promoted by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for a house to cost \$6,000.00. Prizes of considerable value were offered. To take part in such a competition is an excellent discipline for an architect. It calls upon him to crystallize his ideas free from the idiosyncracies of individual clients. It is to be hoped that the results have proved as beneficial to the promoters as to the competitors. There is some danger that the most imaginative designs may prove the least satisfactory to any particular client since one man's most cherished ideas may be another man's special aversion or may at least make no appeal to him.

The special purpose in holding the competition was, no doubt, to obtain some practical suggestions towards helping Mr. Canada to house himself and his family. Some such help may, no doubt, be obtained in this way, but satisfactory housing depends on many elements besides the architectural design of the individual houses. There is an axiom that the environment is half the home. This is an understatement. A lodge in the wilderness cannot be a home however well designed. A home must be well related to other homes and to other centres

of interest. It must be one of a community with streets, water and other services in common. The material services might be supplied in the wilderness but the home also requires connection with a set of human services which can only be supplied by human contacts. The lone hermit cannot possess any personality unless he has brought it with him from a previous social life. Without that he can only be a Caliban. The making of a home as distinguished from merely building a house depends on the contacts available to the occupants of the house with their fellow creatures. One of the great needs of our time is the development of neighbourly living. The little old-fashioned village attained this; indeed it almost compelled it. Life there was full of personal contacts with the result that each individual developed marked personality. If these personalities were not of the highest type, this was due to the limited range of resource due to its relative isolation. In our modern cities this range is immensely widened. But for the great majority too little of it is available owing to the exclusive manner in which we keep ourselves to ourselves.

In considering the housing of the future it will be well to do whatever we can to recapture some of the

neighbourliness of the old fashioned village along with whatever spiritual and material elements can be added to it and with freedom from its serious drawbacks. The unregenerate old village was haphazard in its arrangement. Streets wandered along irregularly. It was often doubtful what was street and what was private property. There were often obstacles to straightforward progression. There was much picturesque untidiness, to the delight of artists. The people in these places were no saints. They loved and hated one another very frankly, but they knew and understood one another thoroughly. They had an active emotional life and were very human. In our cities now we straighten up our fronts and also our backs. Our houses stand offishly twenty feet from the sidewalk. We avoid contact with our neighbours on either side. We may or may not know their names. We rather wonder what they do for a living. We aim at the isolation of the wilderness. Our common residential layouts almost compel this attitude.

It is widely but not keenly felt that this attitude lacks many of the legitimate satisfactions of life. Hence such cures as community centres are proposed. There can be no community centre if there is no community. A hall with certain facilities for entertainment and with a surrounding playground will attract a number of people from the vicinity and this is all to the good, but it falls far short of creating a community of persons acquainted with and interested in one another and carrying on important social aims in common. Now there was something in the very lay-out of the old village that drew its people into a real community. It is not beyond human ingenuity to devise another and better arrangement which will accomplish this excellent end. This cannot be done overnight. It will be worked out step by step. As in many planning problems changes will hinge largely upon the conditions that favour the physical and mental and moral development of children as the substance of the race. Incidental to and inseparable from this, the various problems of the housewife must be dealt with, not simply as she is the operator of the house but as she is also the natural guardian of race and of intimate social manners. Material community services do, indeed, require further improvement. District heating is an obvious need. Much more backward are such community services as involve the mutual exercise of the personality. New habits and customs are needed. Much thought has been expended on this subject. It cannot be worked out merely by blue-prints. Until it becomes clearer what changes in our customs and habits are to be adopted, progress will be experimental and slow. Experiments are apt to be expensive. Planners imperil their reputation on expensive experiments. Nevertheless the subject demands and must get the best thought and the most careful observation that can be brought to bear upon it. For upon this depends the future of civilization. We cannot lay down a plan for people's lives and say, "Thus you must live if you wish to be happy". But by clear vision and clear thinking

we may discern something of the direction in which we must turn in order the better to fulfil the ends of life.

Cecil S. Burgess

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

After the last Annual Meeting of the A.I.B.C. in December, the new Council got down to work at their January Meeting finding themselves confronted with many complex problems, principal of which is the influx of those designating themselves as Architects and having no registration, also Architectural Designers, being draftsmen taking advantage of the present situation in business and evidently doing a Box Office trade. Disciplinary action in Court or otherwise is contemplated as the necessary action for the Council in this regard.

Returning war veterans, influx of new population to this Province and demand for new buildings here had a tremendous effect in the request for a School of Architecture at the University of British Columbia. The A.I.B.C. Council has thrown its weight behind this demand and it is with considerable satisfaction to all concerned that this School is now in operation. All interested in the Profession here feel a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. Norman MacKenzie, President of the U.B.C., for his enthusiastic support in the establishment of this department and the attendance of about 40 students shows the enthusiasm with which this course is being received.

The Architects' offices in Vancouver and Victoria are employing all the apprentices they are able to accommodate, mostly war veterans, and the activities of the Student Associations, who are junior members of the Institute, are most enthusiastic at semi-monthly meetings held in the rooms of the Institute to which practising Architects are invited as Speakers on various subjects pertaining to the Profession.

On January 18th a Dance was promoted and held at the Jericho Tennis Club, under the joint auspices of the Student members of the A.I.B.C. and the Students of the U.B.C., to which Professor Lasserre, of the School of Architecture, and the writer were invited as honoured guests. This function was very well attended and the joy unbounded, which augurs well for the future generation of Architects.

In connexion with the formation of this School of Architecture, the faculty of the University have deemed it advisable to appoint an Advisory Council to Prof. Lasserre in connexion with courses to be given at the U.B.C., the curriculum and other matters pertaining to the education of the Students and with a view to keeping the subjects of the course in line with the practical application to the Profession of Architecture.

The Advisory Council is composed of the following:—

John S. Porter, President A.I.B.C.; J. F. Watson, C. J. Thompson, J. Y. McCarter, Peter Thornton, Architects;

B. C. Binning, Canadian Federation of Artists; R. C. Pybus, Vancouver General Contractors Assn.; Fred Lasserre, Head of School of Architecture, Chairman.

This Committee has held its first meeting this week and many of the problems discussed in full, which will be submitted to the faculty of the University for ratification.

One of the difficulties to be ironed out in the near future will be the question of intermediate and final examinations for the qualification of Architectural Students from the Offices of Architects in British Columbia as compared with the qualifications and final examinations as laid down by the School of Architecture at the U.B.C., a question which the writer considers may be properly dealt with in discussion with other members of the R.A.I.C. at its forthcoming Annual Meeting in Montreal.

*John S. Porter*

## ONTARIO

*London is an eloquent word —  
A word for the mouth of a king.*

*Wilson MacDonald*

This year our editor, Professor E. R. Arthur, enters on his twenty-fifth year in Canada. I, speaking in the singularly uneditorial person, frequently recall his introduction to the students of the School of Architecture while we were on a sketching trip conducted by C. W. Jefferys to Scarboro Bluffs. He had just arrived from England, accompanied by his charming bride, and was introduced to us, to the geological interests of the Bluffs, and to hot dogs. Probably, of the three, his recollection of the Bluffs is the most lasting, if not the most pleasant. His advent was referred to by us as a new E.R.A. in architecture, a jest which, in many respects, has come true.

It is said by those who know him best, that the eminent jurist, Mr. Justice Keiller McKay, is "More Scotch than the Scotch"—and while Professor Arthur was never more English than the English, still he succeeded in enthusing us with a genuine appreciation of Britain, of its methods of architectural instruction, of its architectural competitions and of the fine things of London. St. Paul's, the Parks and Squares of London, even the Boodle's Club became living realities by reason of his appreciative reference to them.

Examples of early Ontario architecture, in his regime at the School, ceased being curiosities devoid of plumbing and electricity and became Historic Buildings which we measured and drew with an interest created by his infectious zeal. Even early tombstones were photographed and rubbed to form a choice source of data for future historians. A distinguished teacher and practitioner of the "Mother of the Arts", his interests include and his influence has touched many other arts and

sciences, including such things as Town Planning and Canadian Handicrafts. I am sure that the happy blending of Culture and Calculus of the Toronto School is being maintained and furthered by the Professor of Architecture.

These twenty-five years and a flood of post-war students have not reduced his keen interest and enthusiasm, even though his neckwear and sideburns have become more North American in their dimensions.

*W. A. Watson*

## QUEBEC

The big event of January was the Annual Meeting of the P.Q.A.A., at Quebec. It was held at the Chateau Frontenac and the two days allotted for sessions gave ample time for discussion, besides fulfilling statutory requirements such as election of new council, and other business. An excellent report of this meeting appeared in the Daily Commercial News of January 28th, and our Honorary Secretary, Maurice Payette, is, I believe, preparing an official report for the Association records, if not for publication. With such adequate coverage elsewhere, it seems unnecessary to do more than note a few impressions of one who attended.

Montreal delegates, particularly those of the English section, find more piquancy to meetings held in the Ancient Capital than in their own city. More architects from the smaller centres of the province attend annual meetings when held in Quebec than in Montreal. Though general attendance is always larger in Montreal there is more intimacy in Quebec, more mingling between and after formal sessions; and, it need hardly be added, this is most advantageous in forming new friendships, cementing old ones, and establishing a broader basis of mutual understanding.

We believe the architects in the Quebec area are always glad when the Annual Meeting takes place in their city, so that at least once in two years more of their number may have a direct contact with the association management and an opportunity for exchange of ideas and experiences. While Quebec is always represented on Council by two members, it may be well worth the expense and trouble for the Council to hold one meeting a year in that city, which would be open to all local architects who would care to attend and listen to proceedings. The oftener we meet the nearer will we approach that ideal of thinking as ONE MIND and of attaining that solidarity which should make our Association stronger and more useful.

The local committees arrangements were perfect and all functions, especially the concluding luncheon with guests and speakers came off smoothly. We were glad to have free time Friday evening and Saturday afternoon for unplanned social intercourse in our rooms. There



were many little hotel room clubs that magically sprang into a brief existence. There was refreshment, yes, in them all, but the chief stimulation came from pleasure in each others' company, the magnetic attraction of like minds and interests, and free and spontaneous conversation, which, by the way, was mostly "shop". The groups and pairs that formed were not static, but fluid, with minimum separation of French and English which made everything perfect.

Taking every thing into consideration, smartly run business sessions by Past President Oscar Beaulé and newly elected President A. J. C. Paine, satisfactory reports on the management and affairs of the Association, and the tonic effects of social intercourse with kindred souls, the Fifty-sixth Annual Meeting was one of the best we ever had and will be long recommended by all who attended.

*Harold Lawson.*

## SASKATCHEWAN

Soon after the end of World War II, Regina, like many other cities and towns in Canada, considered what type of memorial would most suitably commemorate those who fell in the service of their country. Fortunately, the trend of feeling after World War II was towards memorials of a more practical nature than the "Cenotaph" type that had been erected across Canada after World War I. Some communities chose Memorial Community Centre Buildings or Memorial Halls; others skating rinks, and still others working with the local branch of the Canadian Legion selected Legion Halls as their Memorial. Regina, always being unique, came up with a Memorial Swimming Pool. Credit must be given, for the original work on this project, to the Kinsman Club of Regina, who fostered the idea.

The proposal was to convert Wascana Park, in the City of Regina, into a Memorial playground, and the swimming pool was to be considered the big feature of this Park. The Young Men's section of the Regina Board of Trade co-operated with the Kinsmen in undertaking the planning of the park with recreational facilities.

The idea of a Memorial pool went over enthusiastically, so that before very long, all the service clubs in the City of Regina, including Rotary, Lions, Elks, and Gyro, pooled their efforts with the Kinsmen Club, and enlarged the project. Now, three pools are proposed for the City of Regina, as a post-war effort. Monies for the construction of these pools were obtained by public subscription for the major part, and by funds raised through club functions by the service clubs and their Ladies Auxiliaries. It was decided to construct three pools, one 75' x 140', and two smaller pools 50' x 75'. Each pool to be complete with buildings housing dressing rooms, showers, toilet facilities, check room facilities, and refreshment booths. To-day the raising of the necessary

funds is almost complete, with the City of Regina donating \$50,000.00 toward the cost of the pools.

The building and pools were designed to embody all the very latest pool equipment, water filtration and sterilization, and the absolute acme of hygiene standards to dressing rooms and showers. The water to these pools will be heated, and filtered three times daily. The main pool in Wascana Park will contain a roof deck for the public and bathers, with refreshment facilities, in the form of a tea garden on the roof deck.

*Dan H. Stock*

## THE SMALLER PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING

*(Continued from Page 41)*

these days. It really becomes a matter of preference, initial cost, or design, as to whether fluorescent, incandescent or flush ceiling prismatic is used, the main objective of any one of them is to provide a high enough intensity of light at any place in the room, when the lamps have reached a minimum of efficiency, to enable a person to read his book or to read the titles of books on the shelves easily, without casting objectionable shadows or creating eye strain. At the moment the choice of the writer is direct indirect, incandescent luminaires of some pleasing design. Fluorescent lighting, unfortunately, requires many more fixtures to do the same work, which does not improve the appearance of the room architecturally. To many people, bright spots on a dark ceiling are disturbing to the eye and flush lights on a high ceiling create a relamping problem. In narrow rooms with sufficient height, some indirect system of illumination might be developed from the top of bookcases. In rooms used entirely for reading, the writer still feels that a gloomy atmosphere with continuous table lighting, well designed to avoid glare, provides an excellent setting for study and relaxation.

The logical answer to the heating and ventilating problem in the library building is undoubtedly conditioned air. Due to the fact that almost the entire wall area is reserved for bookshelving, direct radiation becomes very difficult. The air system provides needed humidity for the preservation of books and supplies air to the rooms, thus enabling windows to be kept tightly closed, to lessen the passage of street noises. In the new Toronto building, a hot water heated air system will be installed, with supply ducts carried over the ceiling space and down the walls. The return air is carried in under floor concrete ducts. In the story-telling room, where the boys and girls usually sit on the floor, underfloor heating is provided.

Library boards place strong emphasis on the importance of low maintenance costs for their new buildings. With this in view, every consideration should be given to the choice of materials and construction. It must be kept in mind that the cheapest initial cost often

becomes expensive over the years. On the exterior, the minimum use of woodwork and painted surfaces and the proper flashing, with copper, of cornices, copings and parapet walls, contributes to low upkeep. In the interior, wall surfaces within reach should be practically treated. Floors have always been a source of considerable upkeep. Entrance lobbies should be in terrazzo, marble, quarry tile or some other material which will stand the wet weather. Linoleum has, of course, been widely used for library rooms. Flooring laid in the form of tiles has the advantage that worn sections can be renewed readily. Asphalt tile laid on a mastic bed is colourful. Cork tile is ideal from a noise point of view, but is dull and absorbent. Possibly if the budget will allow, some consideration might be given to rubber or plastic tile. Some form of acoustic material should, of course, be considered for the ceilings.

In the library building, while utility is the prime essential, its architecture should maintain that standard, which is consistent with the dignified purpose of the building. Functional design should not be carried to extreme severity, and many of the affectations so prevalent in modern architecture should be avoided. In conclusion, might it be stated that the library building, not unlike the books which it contains must, to be good, possess lasting quality.

#### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

**Anne Hume**, B.A. (Queen's), became Chief Librarian of Windsor, Ontario in 1936, following seventeen years as Librarian of the former Town of Walkerville, now part of the larger city of Windsor. She has been President of the Ontario Library Association, a Councillor of the American Library Association and has worked on many committees of both these organizations. Recently Miss Hume has been engaged in studies for a new Central Library in Windsor, a city of 120,000.

**Edgar S. Robinson** has been librarian in Vancouver since 1924. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto and University of Washington Library School, and started library work in Calgary Public Library in 1912. Mr. Robinson is past president of the B.C. Library Association and Pacific Northwest Library Association, and is a member of the Canadian Library Council. He has served on A.L.A. Council and many committees. In 1942 Mr. Robinson made an extended tour of inspection for the Carnegie Corporation of libraries in Alaska and Yukon, especially in United States military posts and naval bases. As a result of his findings, the Carnegie Corporation made a grant to ten libraries in that area for reference and technical books.

**R. D. Hilton Smith**, Deputy Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Libraries, author of numerous articles and books, has specialised in library planning and lighting. He was formerly Borough Librarian of Deptford, London; a member of Council of the British Library Association; and Editor of its official journal. In 1936 he surveyed library provision in Holland and Scandinavia on behalf of the Rockefeller Trust.

**Lillian H. Smith**, Graduate of the University of Toronto, and of the Library School of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh; Head, Boys and Girls Division, Toronto Public Libraries; Chairman, Ontario Library Association, 1929; Member of Executive Board, American Library Association, 1932-1936; Chairman, Children's Librarians' Section, American Library Association, 1927, and 1943.

**Freda F. Waldon**, Chief librarian of the Hamilton Public Library and first President of the Canadian Library Association, was born in Winnipeg, but brought up in Hamilton. After graduating from the University of Toronto, she took her Master's degree at Columbia University and her library training at the University of London. She is past president of the Ontario Library Association and member of the Council of the American Library Association.

#### PROFESSIONAL ITEM

It is announced that Neil C. McKernan has opened his own office at No. 3, Credit Foncier Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

#### COST OF CONTRACT FORMS

Since the cost of printing and production has increased, it has proved necessary for the R.A.I.C. to raise the price of the Documents sold through the Institute Office.

Effective January 1st, 1947, the price of all Documents sold by the Institute will be twenty-five cents each, or three dollars a dozen. Provincial Associations submitting quantity orders will pay two dollars and forty cents per dozen.

The Documents included in this new price schedule will be:

R.A.I.C. Document No. 6—Agreement between Client and Architect. R.A.I.C. Document No. 10—Construction Tender. R.A.I.C. Document No. 12—Construction Contract—Stipulated Sum. R.A.I.C. Document No. 13—Construction Contract—Cost Plus or Fixed Fee.



# HEAT COMFORT DAY and NIGHT



Dunham differential Heating maintains comfort-level temperature.

In buildings where different heat comfort-levels must be maintained day and night, Dunham Differential Heating demonstrates one of its most outstanding benefits.

Dunham Differential Heating utilizes "Flexible Steam" to meet this exacting heating requirement. It is the only medium which continuously supplies heat comfort. The overheating or underheating which arise from "on and off", cycling or pulsating heat supply are eliminated.

Only Dunham Differential Heating has the flexibility to provide comfort heating at all times, in all parts of the building regardless of outside temperatures.

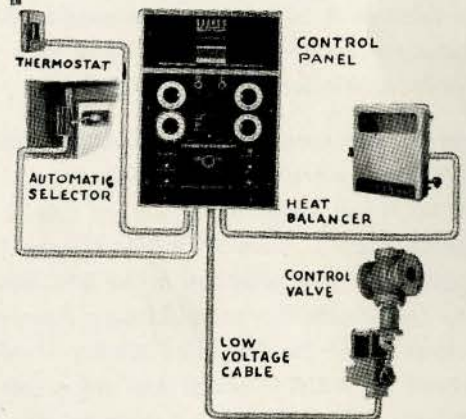
If you are responsible for the installation of a new heating system or changeover of an existing one, you'll be interested in the full Dunham Differential Heating history. Contact your nearest office. C. A. Dunham Co. Ltd., 1523 Davenport Rd., Toronto 4, Ontario. Offices from coast to coast.

## UNDIVIDED RESPONSIBILITY

The owner of a Dunham System is protected against the annoyance and expense caused by the divided responsibility in an "assembled" system of devices built by different manufacturers.

## TRUE HEATING COMFORT

Heat-comfort requires a constant balance of the steam supply against the requirements for warmth. The requirements are variable, but not intermittent. Only Dunham Differential Heating has the necessary flexibility to fully meet this variable requirement because no other system provides a continuous steam flow, with automatic control of both steam temperatures and steam volume at sub-atmospheric pressures.



# The DUNHAM HEATING SERVICE