The acceleration of information exchange in the 21st century is changing the nature of libraries. As the previous functions of the libraries are increasingly performed in virtual environments, the physical manifestation of them has changed. There needs to be a careful understanding of what community amenities are needed and which ones should be discarded. The following research looks at three precedents, two are libraries and one is a community organization. Through this initial analysis, a better understanding of the needs and innovations that a library should offer can be realized.
ARCHITECT: JAHN HELMUT  
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: WERNER SOBEK  
CITY: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS AT UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CAMPUS  
AREA: 58,700 SF  
YEAR: 2011  


"THIS IS A PLACE WHERE SCIENCE PHYSICS AND LIBERAL ARTS ARE TAUGHT... THEY BELIEVE IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE ESPECIALLY IN SCIENCE AND PHYSICS, YOU NEVER GET TO THE END BECAUSE THERE IS NO END AND I BELIEVE THAT ARCHITECTURE IS THE SAME WAY" - JAHN HELMUT (ARCHITECT)
MANSUETO LIBRARY | TYPOLOGY

This library is an above ground sun lit dome made of glass and steel with large underground storage area where book collection is stored. This large underground space extends 50 ft into the ground and is constructed using a slurry wall foundation system. It is not accessible to the user. The library is innovative for its automatic storage and retrieval system. It is composed of 24,000 bins with 100 books in each bin totaling about 3.5 million volumes. Each book has a scannable code on it. When a book is requested by a user through the online database, 1 of 5 cranes retrieve the bin with the book and then deliver that bin to the circulation desk where the librarian picks out the book.

Location
Chicago, Illinois

Architect
Jahn Helmut

Client
University of Chicago

Typology
Stacks below ground with gathing space above

Year Built
2011 completed

Square Ft
58,700 sf

Engineer
Werner Sobek

Capacity
180 Staff and Students

Programming
Preservation Dept. (6,000 sf)
Digital library/ Conservation Laboratory
Circulation/ book retrieval
Reading room (8,000 sf)
“THE BEST BUILDINGS ARE THE ONES THAT DERIVE THEIR OWN APPEARANCE FROM WHAT THEY HOUSE, I FOUND IT TO BE A VERY GOOD THING THAT YOU ENTER THE BUILDING FROM THE EXISTING BUILDING, A BUILDING LIKE THIS DOES NOT ACTUALLY WANT ANY ENTRANCE”

-JAHN HELMUT
ARCHITECT: ADEPT
CITY: FALUN, SWEDEN
AREA: 3,000 SQUARE METERS
YEAR: 2014
PROGRAM: THE CIRCULATION SPIRALS AROUND THE CENTRAL ATRIUM, CREATING A COMMUNAL SPACE, THAT CAN BE SEEN AND UTILIZED THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING ON DIFFERENT LEVELS. ALONG THE FACADE, ARE A VARIETY OF STUDY SPACES, THAT CONNECT TO THE "HEART" OF THE LIBRARY.
MISSION: TO CREATE A UNIQUE SENSE OF SPACE, THAT COMBINES DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES IN A COMFORTABLE AND NON-ISOLATED WAY. TO BRING THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN A NEW, MODERN WAY, FROM THE INSIDE OUT.
RESOURCES: ARTICLES, BOOKS, E-BOOKS, MAGAZINES (PRINTED AND ELECTRONIC), AND ONLINE DATABASES.
AS220 | OVERVIEW

ARCHITECT:  DBVW-DURKEE BROWN VIVEIROS VERENELS
CITY: PROVIDENCE, RI
AREA: 3 BUILDINGS - 100,000 TOTAL SF RENOVATED
YEAR: FOUNDED 1985 - PRESENT
PROGRAM: FOOD/BAR, LIVE/WORK STUDIOS, STAGE, GALLERIES, PRINTSHOP, DIGITAL LABS, MEDIA ARTS, AS220 YOUTH AND AMERICORPS VISTA
MISSION: “EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES IN THE FORUM WILL BE UNURIED AND UNCENSORED AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.”
VISION: AS220 ENVISONS A JUST WORLD WHERE ALL PEOPLE CAN REALIZE THEIR FULL CREATIVE POTENTIAL
RESOURCES: NETWORKING- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/EQUIPMENT-VENDOR SPACE-ARTIST SHOWS

EMPIRE STREET COMPLEX
Ground floor
Bar at AS220, Foo(D) restaurant
Performance Space
95 Empire - Theater and Performing Arts Space
Main Gallery – Exhibition Space
Open Window – Exhibition Space
Commercial Tenants: Muldowney’s Pub, Roberto’s Barbershop
2nd Floor
Paul Knot Community Darkroom
Youth Studio
Youth Gallery
Youth Resource Center
Delgado Recording Studio
Shared creative work space
4 Individual Work Studios
3rd Floor
12 Artist Live/Work Studios

MERCANTILE BLOCK
Basement Level
3 Rehearsal spaces
Mercantile Foyer
Resident & Community Exhibition Space
Ground Floor
AS220 Industries:
AS220 Community Printshop
AS220 Labs
Printshop Residency
Shared Work Studio
3 Individual Work Studios
2nd Floor
Nonprofit tenants:
Rhode Island Council for the Humanities
College Visions

DREYFUS BUILDING
Ground Floor
Project Space Gallery, 93 Mathewson Street
Commercial Tenant: Local 121 – restaurant
2nd Floor
AS220 Main Office, Suite 204
Development Office, Suite 203
Individual Work Studios
3rd and 4th Floors
14 Artist Live/Work Studios
3rd and 4th Floors
22 Artist Live/Work Studios
Commercial Tenants:
Viva Mexicali Cantina & Grill
The Stable
The Clark the Locksmith
AS220 | OVERVIEW

HISTORY:
- FOUNDED IN 1985 BY ARTISTS STEVEN EMMA, MARTHA DEMPSTER, AND UMBERTO "BERT" CRENCA
- BUDGET OF 800$ IN A ONE ROOM SPACE ABOVE PAPAC
- NAMED "ARTIST SPACE" OR ALTERNATIVE SPACE"
- 1992 OWNER SHIP OF FIRST BUILDING ON EMPIRE ST
- 100% OCCUPANCY OF ALL BUILDING WHEN THEY OPEN
- TRANSFORMED THE BLOCK FROM LIFELESS TO MIXED USE TRIVING CREATIVE COMMUNITY
- 2006 PURCHASED THE DRYFUS HOTEL
- 2008 PURCHASED MERCANTILE BLOCK
- 2012 ACQUIRED PERISHABLE THEATER
- 2012 PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO @MERCANTILE EXPANDS

BUSINESS MODEL:
UNIQUE SUSTAINABILITY MODEL
LEVERS EARED INCOME AS PART OF A DIVERSE FUNDING BASE.
ALL OF THE PRECEDENTS PROJECTS I EXPLORED HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL PARTI. THE FOLLOWING ANALYSIS IS THE RESULT OF TAKING THESE PARTIS AND DISTILLING/CATEGORIZING CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS IN THEM THAT I FEEL WILL MAKE A SUCCESSFUL LIBRARY.
The typical libraries of the past are making room for new ideas about the libraries of the future. After researching the Dalarna Media library in Sweden, we took away that using a public “living room space” in the center, then layering the program from the inside out was a successful approach. This “living room space” is essential to providing a multi-functional space for the community that allows for various interactions and programs to occur. We also look this layering into consideration when thinking about how new concepts could be introduced. For example, integrating community growth institutions such as “We work” rentable office space within the program. By creating multiple entry points that relate back to the human scale, as opposed to the traditional library with one monumental/central entry, this will create a more welcoming approach for a variety of people. Cities are becoming more diverse; therefore, it is the obligation of the cultural institution to integrate with the culture it serves. We also looked at the Granoff Center in Providence, RI and how the various programmatic spaces visually interact with each other and create dynamic spaces as a result. The Bishan Public library in Singapore, utilized “pop out” spaces for private study that was a successful model we would integrate with our proto-thesis.
MULTIPLE ENTRY POINTS

CONCEPTUAL PARTI

PUBLIC EXTERIOR

PRIVATE STUDY

CIRCULATION

"LIVING ROOM"
NEW LIBRARY USER EXPERIENCE
AFTER EXAMINING AND DIAGRAMING SOME OF THE PRECEDENTS FURTHER IT IS NOW TIME TO COME UP WITH THE "PROTO-THESIS" FOR THE LIBRARY PROJECT. THIS EXERCISE INVOLVED TAKING THE ELEMENTS DISTILLED INTO DIAGRAMS AND COMBINING THEM INTO ONE MODEL THAT COULD POTENTIALLY WORK WITH THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY.
The mission of this library is to give the city and the community a space that is safe and engaging with the city. The central concept of the parti is organized around a private sanctuary space at the center. This center space is surrounded by the collections which provide noise insulation. The parti diagram on the left shows how the building should be layered from the outside into this formal private space. Viewing the outermost layer as the very public and active city the first layer of the building is a transitional “in-between” space that sits between a perforated façade and a transparent wall. Behind this wall is a wide open circulation space which is penetrated for access at multiple entry points. This circulation space is a multi-purpose space meant to feel as an extension of the city. This is where commuter stations, a café, some casual collections, group collaboration tables, and even lounging furniture would be. The façade and this space “in-between” is meant to act as a buffer and a threshold between the city and the library. The library would still have stacks in the traditional sense that as said would surround the central private space, yet they would open to be accessible by the open multi-purpose space and also allow transition between them and the central private area. On the second floor the program switches to “learning” where the admin, and early childhood education area is located. The third floor is the “performance floor” where the young adult media lab and conference/performance space is located. Overall the library is meant to be extension of the city, a place of safety, and a hub of resources that encourages interaction between the public and aids in their quality of life.
STUTTGART CITY LIBRARY - GERMANY - Yi ARCHITECTS
NEW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY CAYENNE - rh+ ARCHITECTURE
FIVE | SITE ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND METHOD FOR ANALYSIS
SITE ANALYSIS | ORIENTATION IN CITY

[Map images showing site analysis and orientation in a city.]

- Site Analysis
- Orientation in City

[Map details showing districts and locations such as Downcity District, Jewelry District, East Side, and West End.]