



FIVE FORKS BRANCH LIBRARY

The 3.31 acre site for this library presented interesting topographical challenges, with a flat area toward the road frontage and a steeply sloping, wooded area toward the rear. In an effort to preserve the large oak trees, a site solution was chosen which wrapped a “L”-shaped library around the slopes, creating a site amenity with the oak trees to the rear. Parking was positioned at the building frontage, with a customer/book drop-off area at the entry.

The building concept was chosen to compliment the site solution with two wings projecting off the central entrance area. The left wing contains teen, children, and easy areas, as well as the Children’s Story Hour Theater, a colorful cascade of carpeted steps. To the right are adult fiction and non-fiction collections, as well as the quiet reading area. On the central entrance axis of the library is the information desk and sitting area, with a pleasant view of the exterior garden area beyond. Computer terminals are disbursed around the facility for convenient use at each area. The building also contains a 90-seat community meeting room, which can be isolated from the library for use when the library is closed.

The facility contains an Information Reference Center, providing reference and research support to the eight other libraries in the system, as well as to all system patrons from around the County.

The exterior design accentuates the central entrance of the library, with a radial arcade covered by a conical standing seam roof. Off this central roof element, the two wings project with standing-seam metal hipped roofs. Toward the front, flat roof components project from under the eaves of the building, creating visual interest in the play of masses. The exterior facade of the building is veneered with brick, detailed with horizontal bands to emphasize the horizontal character of the building. Windows are detailed in a design reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright’s work.

The interior of the building is finished with a delightful palette of finishes and colors, creating visual interest at every corner. Painted, split-face block walls assure a durable, attractive finish for many years.

The structure of the building is concrete slab-on-grade, with steel frame, bar joist roof, and Loadmaster roof deck.

architecture

L

engineering

P

interiors

B

C

LAWRENCEVILLE, GA

Owner: Gwinnett County Public Library

Acreage: 3.31

Construction Cost: \$1,814,000

GSF: 20,134

Cost/SF: \$90.12

Construction Start: March 1994

Construction Time: 9 Months

Landscape Architecture:

McFarland-Dyer & Associates

Mechanical Engineering:

Hartrampf Engineering Inc.

Interior Design:

RDA International

MUNICIPAL



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LAWRENCEVILLE, GA



Alternate Views



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