SEYMOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY,
PUBLIC MEETING ROOM,
AND ART GALLERY

Department of Architecture
College of Architecture and Planning
Ball State University

David F. Harlow

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The Thesis Course

The three quarters of architectural thesis give the student a chance to apply his previous education to a large design problem similar to one he might encounter as an architect. The course serves as a useful tool in bridging the gap from student to practicing professional. The comprehensive course makes use of all previous architectural courses, training and experience, applying that knowledge to an individual project. The project chosen for the course is an abstraction of a real project, to allow the project to be finished in the three quarters.

The various stages of problem solving for the project are as follows:
1st Quarter—
Program
Building Type Analysis
Schematic Design
Design Development

2nd Quarter—
Design Development
Detail Design Development

3rd Quarter—
Presentation
- Ink Drawings
- Model
- Book
The Critics

In addition to my own self-evaluation throughout the design process, it is necessary to work with critics at juries and studio crits. Besides evaluation the student's progress, they also input their knowledge and ideas on the subject and guide the student in other directions to achieve the best possible design solution. The critics for this project, their position for the project, and their area of influence are as follows:

Tony Costello—Architecture Critic
—Design Development

Omar Faruque—Landscape Architecture Critic—Design Development

Robert Fisher—Architecture Critic
—Design Development
Stan Geda—Landscape Architecture
Critic—Schematics, Site Planning,
Design Development

Dave Hermanson—Architecture Critic
—Historic Preservation,
Programming, Schematics, Design
Development, Detail Design
Development

Robert Koester—Studio Professor
—Mechanical, Detail Design
Development, Book Presentation

June Kulow—Client—Library Consultant

Paul Laseau—Studio Professor
—Programming, Schematics,
Structural, Design Development

Jack Wyman—Architecture Critic
—Schematics, Design Development,
Detail Design Development
The Designer

RESUME

DAVID F. HARLOW
818 S. Chestnut Street
Seymour, Indiana 47274

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Architecture 1979
(upon completion of Arch 406)
Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

B.S. in Environmental Design 1979
Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

EXPERIENCE

MILLER, WIHRY, & LEE, Landscape
Architects and Engineers, Louisville, Kentucky
Intern 1976-77
-Designed architectural details
  (fountains, decks, planters)
-Subdivision layouts
-Working drawings for planting beds
JACKSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU CO-OP, Home 
Building Department, Seymour, Indiana 
Summer employee 1975 and 1974 
- Designed and drew houseplans  
- Worked on construction of homes 
and farm buildings

PERSONAL DATA

Born: October 12, 1953, Seymour, 
Indiana  
Marital Status: Single  
Hobby: Landscape Gardening
Choosing The Project

ARCHITECTURAL THESIS PROPOSAL

Autumn 1977

Students Name: PAUL LASEN
Additional Critics: STAN LASEN, PAUL ROEMAN

Name of Project: SEYMOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Building Type: LIBRARY
Location: SEYMOUR, INDIANA
Building Size: 15,000 sq. ft. Site Size: 90,000 sq. ft.

A. Description of Project -- THE PRESENT LIBRARY IN SEYMOUR IS A 'CARNAGIE' LIBRARY. THE CITY OF SEYMOUR IS PURCHASING THE BLOCK OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE LIBRARY FOR AN ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY AND PARKING.

B. Reason for Choosing Project --
   - IT IS A REAL PROJECT WITH REAL PROBLEMS + LIMITATIONS.
   - THE CHALLENGE OF MAKING A LIBRARY MORE THAN A STOREHOUSE FOR BOOKS.
   - TO 'INTRODUCE' MYSELF TO THE COMMUNITY WHERE I MAY SOMEONE PRACTICE.

C. Client/User Description --

D. Context Description --

On Site -- EXISTING LIBRARY, 1/2 BLOCK PAVED PARKING, SEVERAL DEMOLISHED RESIDENCES, AND TWO YET UNPURCHASED RESIDENCES.

Adjacent Environment -- EAST -- CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT; SOUTH -- RAILROAD TRACKS, THEN PARKING AND RESIDENTIAL; WEST AND NORTH -- MIXED RESIDENTIAL, OFFICES AND BUSINESS
E. Design Goals

1. Design a library which will serve the library staff and the user as an efficient and functional building.

2. Design the library so that it is a center for the community, someplace to meet for activities other than just getting a book.

3. Design the library and site so that it relates to environmental factors.

Student Signature: [Signature]  Date: 12/16/77

Copy of original proposal stating reasons for choosing the project and design intent.

The client, Seymour Public Library, also has goals for the project which are to be included. They are, to give better services to the community and to provide more suitable surroundings for library users.
Another goal not mentioned in the proposal is to preserve and re-use the original Carnegie building and addition. The idea is feasible since the site is located in an active area adjacent to the central business district and the properties on the site are available for sale.
The Existing Building

The existing building, located on the west axis of Seymour's central business district, consists of a cruciform building constructed with funds from Andrew Carnegie in 1904 and a 1928 addition of an art gallery, stacks, and children's room.

The present Seymour Public Library has a service population (city and county) of 29,000, a staff of 11 persons, 77,000 volumes of books, a seating capacity of 26, and 6,900 sq. ft. of floor space. A twenty year estimate of population indicates an increase in the Seymour Public Library service population to 33,822. A building for
the year 2000 is estimated to have a staff of 24 persons, 101,000 volumes of books, a seating capacity of 102, and 20,300 sq. ft. of floor space.

Main entrance.

First floor plan.
Main entrance, looking west from central business district.

Main entrance and west side, looking east from the American Legion.
Insurance office, north of main entrance.

Lawyers' offices, next to insurance offices.
Parking lot, railroad, homes, and hospital, south of library.
Program

The program is a collection of data which is integrated through the design processes to form a design solution. The information contained is fixed or variable and changes as new items are added.

The site analysis serves as a guide for recording existing conditions on and near the site. It includes all natural, man-made, and environmental conditions, pointing out desirable as well as undesirable ones. These conditions are taken into account during the schematic and design phases. For example, since noise and vibration from the railroad on the south side of the site is a problem, the building is
located on the north side of the site with heavy masonry walls and few windows exposed to the railroad.
The building types analysis (Appendix, p. 75) takes a look at other projects similar to this one, and finds the basis of their design. These ideas are then applied to the Seymour Public Library to see if they can be developed into a feasible design solution.

The activity relationships diagram illustrates the arrangement of spaces in relation to each other. It shows in gradation of importance, those spaces that need to be adjacent to each other and those which can be distantly located.

The client's requirements (appendix, p. 89) is a list of items and ideas the client feels are needed in the new library to improve upon what was in
the old one. It includes design ideas, space sizes, and fixtures.

The **space requirements** (Appendix, p. 94) lists the needs of each space, including layout, size, fixtures, and quality.

The **square footages** (Appendix, p. 119), derived from space requirements, are used to determine mechanical needs and to see if minimum-maximum square footages for a library of this size have been exceeded.
Schematics

Schematic design is the first step in finding a solution for a project. The designer takes the information collected from site analysis, building types, and program and derives sketchy, large scale diagrams. The purpose of schematic design is to explore as many different solutions as possible. The one chosen should form a concept which will be followed through the development of the design. Of the three schematics, #1 was chosen by having the best concept and positive points.

Critics' Comments—
—Schematics should be done more abstract on a larger scale. Too much detail is shown for this stage.
#2. Two separate buildings connected by plaza.

#1. Three functions connected by entrance hall.
#3. Library and public meeting space under plaza.
Design Development

After the goals of the schematic design have been set, a design is evolved which meets these standards. Alternative designs are constantly considered, to strengthen the solution. A loop is formed, whereby, the design is initiated, tested through critiques, and then reconsidered.

First Quarter

The first design concentrates on carrying out the arrangement of spaces and the building form set by the activity relationships diagram and the schematic design. The relationship of floor lines and scale between the old building and the new are beginning to be explored.
Critics' Comments——

— Two separate entrance halls wasteful, cumbersome.

— Separate elevator shafts for staff and users expensive, unnecessary for library of this size.

— Staff area pieced together. Should form large area that can be changed as needed.

— Sawtooth form in reading areas bothersome. It is not found in any other area of the design.

— Entrance to meeting room located off to one side in a narrow hallway. It should be more prominent.

— Developments forming enclaves on both
sides of street create a good node, however, a pedestrian crossing in the middle of the block is not feasible on a short block with moderately heavy traffic.
Mid - Second Quarter

My time was spent mainly on resolving the plan, trying to fit spaces together under a common structural span. The idea to have a diagonal wall separate the old building from the new with a glass link was conceived.

Critics' Comments—
—The plaza is walled off forcibly. The screen shouldn't be so severe.
—The south entrance feels like a back door. Since it is a major entrance, it should have more prominence and a feeling of 'welcome', as does the north entrance.
—Small meeting room seems 'stuck' in reference-reading area
This half of the quarter was spent mainly on refinement and details. Library spaces were made large, open, and flexible with all smaller rooms located along a core. Much attention
was paid to the scale of the details in the addition and comparing them to those of the old. Sections got into more detail on the type of construction and mechanical systems.
Critics' Comments——
—Change in level in entrance hall narrow, interrupting space.
—Connection of new construction to old needs more study.
Director should be closer to desk for supervision, access to work area.

Restrooms should be relocated. They are too prominent at the entrance to the library.

The retaining wall in the northeast corner is too costly for the benefit it would provide.
Final Drawings

The first part of the third quarter was spent revising and finalizing the design from the last critique. The massive diagonal wall has been extended beyond the building to form an entrance arch to the plaza. On the other end, the public meeting room terminates the wall by directing the flow of people through and behind the wall. The wall creates a sharp division that can be seen through the whole site.

The original schematic approach of having three separate functions within the building connected by a common entrance has been strengthened and reinterpreted to read: The Carnegie building (art gallery) is like a piece of sculpture, a focal point,
with the new library and public meeting space set behind a diagonal wall with a very sheer connection to the Carnegie building. The new building is subservient to the existing, having its floor lines lower than the old building, and having smooth, unadorned surfaces contrasting the Roman Classicism details of the existing building.

The rest of my time was spent on presentation. It was concentrated on the ink drawings, trying different techniques to accentuate and explain the project.
Site Plan
First Floor Plan

Stippling indicates staff areas.
Second Floor Plan

Stippling indicates staff areas. Dark shaded area open to first floor below.
Interior Persective

A view of the entrance hall and north entrance as seen from the members' lounge on the second floor of the art gallery. The entrance hall and plaza become an exciting hub for the three functions within the building.
North Elevation

Contrast can be seen between the classic Carnegie building and the smooth-surfaced, low-profile of the new library, with the recessive linkage between them.
Most of the south side and also west and east sides are solid masonry walls with little or no window openings. This was designed in response to environmental factors—noise from passing trains, heat gain from direct sun, winter winds, poor views, and tornado protection.
East Elevation