

# Existing River Center Branch Library Building Documentation

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The River Center Branch Library, (formerly known as the Centroplex Branch Library), was built in the 1970s. It consists of largely independent floor plates that are isolated from one another.

Size is 26,500 gross square feet (g.s.f.) with 19,875 net square feet (n.s.f.).

First Floor – Adult Resource, Periodicals, Computer Stations, Help and Check-Out Counter

Second Floor – Children’s Resources

Third Floor – Resources/Stacks

Fourth Floor – Overflow Book storage, Conference Room, Career Center, Baton Rouge Room

## ***Key points for existing building:***

- Need to replace all building systems (MEP), exterior glazing and roof.
- Monumental Stair only connects first and second floor.
- No on-site parking for public.
- On-site parking for employees only.
- No storage capacity.
- Fire stairs are not code compliant but may be eligible for a code variant.
- Elevator is original and slow.
- Floor-to-ceiling heights are low.
- Single occupancy restrooms on floors 1-3 are not code compliant.

## ***Design Concept***

TRAHAN ARCHITECTS identified three design tactics to apply to the (3) identified design possibilities:

- to activate the perimeter of the building by programming it with Reading spaces and circulation
- to establish a relationship with the public square and engage North Boulevard, the city's primary green axis
- to create a vertical foyer connecting all floors

## **Renovation of Existing Building (23,936 n.s.f. / 31,915 g.s.f.)**

- A renovation would optimize the existing library by improving vertical circulation, in-filling the atrium to increase floor area and modifying the south elevation.
- The renovation preserves the character of the existing library and increases its architectural value by enhancing the building within the original geometric configuration.
- A second elevator is integrated on the east façade by extending the pre-cast concrete box to match the west façade.
- The existing south façade glazing is replaced with new pre-cast concrete panels which will house support program and a new monumental stair that connects all (4) floors.
- This infill will meet the 4th floor forming an L-shape that reinforces North Boulevard as the primary elevation.
- Would not achieve on-site parking for public.
- Would not achieve complete programmatic requirements\*\*.
- Would require infill of existing atrium and reinforcement of some existing structure.
- Proposes replacement of existing elevator and integration of new elevator on east elevation.
- Proposes removing glazing on south elevation and infilling below roof line.

## **Renovation + Expansion of Existing Building (45,000 n.s.f. / 56,250 g.s.f.)**

- A renovation and expansion proposes the addition of a new supporting structure to increase the functionality of the existing library while meeting its need for increased floor area.
- Building off of the previous option, all modifications to the existing library are the same, but the monumental stair will be housed in the new addition.
- To maximize floor area, the new addition will project past the north-East Baton Rouge Parish Public Library and south-west corners to gain visibility down St. Louis St. and 3rd St.
- The strategy is to retain and reinforce the character of the original library while establishing a dialogue between the "modern" and the "contemporary" through contrast.
- Would not achieve on-site parking for public.
- Would achieve complete programmatic requirements\*\*.
- Would require infill of existing atrium and reinforcement of some existing structure.
- Proposes replacement of existing elevator and integration of new elevator on east elevation.
- Proposes removing glazing on south elevation and infilling below roof line.
- Proposes expanding to south edge of site.

## **New Facility Built on Existing Site (45,000 n.s.f. / 56,250 g.s.f.)**

- This new facility seeks greater engagement with the urban context by activating the ground plane with exterior spaces of varying scales, such as reading areas and an urban patio.
- These supplemental spaces will support cultural and community events.
- Integration with the neighboring buildings is achieved by both scale and varying transparency.
- The mass of the building rolls up from the ground on opposite corners to reveal views of the Mississippi River and Galvez Plaza which contains the library.
- Reminiscent of a heavily worn book, the rippled translucent skin exposes the circulation and reading spaces within that wrap the perimeter of the building.
- This spiraling foyer allows internal connections from floor to floor while reinforcing the building's urban edge.
- Would achieve on-site parking for public (approximately 100 spaces).
- Would achieve complete programmatic requirements\*\*.
- Would allow for greater programmatic efficiency and ease of use.
- Would serve as a platform for technological up-grade over the life expectancy of the facility.
- Open spaces and circulation would serve as visual deterrent.
- Open plan would allow for roaming staff to better serve the public.
- Public restrooms are integrated into base of the building, with regulated exterior access, to supplement community activities.
- Could be compartmentalized to service after-hour events.

### **\*\*Programmatic requirements**

*Programmatic requirements called for inclusion of spaces and functionality available at other recently designed or completed East Baton Rouge Parish Library facilities:*

- Meeting Room
- Small Conference Rooms for meetings, collaborative study, or quiet study
- Storytelling Room
- Reference Desk for adult services
- Dedicated areas complete with service desks and programming space for Children, Teens
- Browsing areas and storage for periodicals and AV collection
- Computer commons area for public PCs
- Branch Manager's office
- Circulation Workroom
- Workrooms, offices, and storage for Children's, Teen and Reference staff
- Receiving area for daily delivery
- Public restrooms on each floor
- Family Restroom