Useful Daylight Illuminance Modeling (Illuminance levels between 100-2000 lux during occupied hours, expressed in percentages)

Existing Reading Room Model

New Reading Room Model

Daylighting

The light quality in the Existing Reading Room is one of the most cherished attributes of the original Library. It was important that the New Reading Room light levels were studied in depth to ensure an equally enjoyable space in the Expansion for patrons, staff, and volunteers alike.

HKP worked with the Integrated Design Lab to quantify the light quality in the Existing Reading Room and compare it to different window and skylight iterations in the New Reading Room. The study provided illumination comparisons between different window and skylight iterations which informed the size and location of windows and skylights in the Library Expansion.

The large skylight in the New Reading Room along with the south window wall provides a similar light level to the large skylight in the Existing Reading Room.

Sustainable design principles have always been at the heart of HKP’s design decisions, particularly when it comes to natural ventilation, passive solar strategies, light, views and material expression in the Pacific Northwest. HKP architects actively incorporates sustainable design principles in all of our work and we help clients understand the long-term benefits to our environment and to their operation and maintenance costs.

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Project Overview

The Orcas Island Library Expansion effectively doubles the size of the existing Orcas Island Library, which was designed by HKP and completed in 1992. The Expansion connects at the west corner of the Existing Library and is tucked between the new Library Park Stairs to the south and the contoured berm to the north.

The Expansion was designed to accommodate the noisier spaces of the Library, allowing for the Existing Library to serve as a quiet reading and work area. The new Circulation Desk was relocated to the southeast corner of the Expansion providing a central location with visibility to the existing Reading Room and the new Reading Room. The computer stations were relocated to a larger area adjacent to the new Circulation Desk to allow for staff assistance and more workstations.

The new Reading Room features exposed trusses, acoustical wood ceiling, and a large skylight complementing the existing Reading Room’s warm wood tones and ideal light levels.

A dedicated Young Adult Space off of the new Reading Room provides local Middle School and High School students with their first dedicated space, large enough to accommodate collections, work tables, and soft seating. A larger Children’s Room sits in the southwest corner of the Expansion and is separated into three distinct spaces: a toddler play and reading area, book collections, and a flexible table and chair area to accommodate crafts.

Several group rooms located around the expansion provide three additional meeting rooms to serve the Community. A dedicated Friends of the Library display in the Lobby consolidates their collection of books and merchandise.
HKP and the Library worked together to seek input from the Orcas Island community through several means. A series of Community Meetings were held throughout programming and schematic design to present design concepts and schemes, and gather community input. Online surveys were distributed to Children, Young Adults, and Adults to discover visions for the Library Expansion and learn what is most appreciated about the Existing Library. The Community expressed a desire to maintain an exterior pathway around the building, connecting the Library Park to the New Lobby. In addition, there was interest in improving the Library Park Stairs to provide a uniform stairway with additional landings for seating.

Online survey results highlighted the important part the Library plays in the community, serving as a gathering and meeting space welcome to all. This supported the need for small and large group meeting rooms, in addition to a large open reading room.

An appreciation for the warm wood tones and light quality in the Existing Library reinforced the use of wood acoustical ceilings in the New Reading Room and adjoining spaces.