

PUBLIC & ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Community-Engaged Design Bringing New Technology, a Sense of Welcome & Renewed Vibrancy to Our Libraries



WILLIAM RAWN ASSOCIATES
Architects, Inc.

40

Years in Business

16

National AIA Honor Awards

18 LEED

Gold & Platinum certified design projects

100%

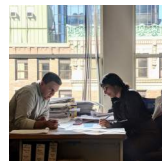
of design staff are LEED Accredited Professionals

1

Office in Boston with a focus on Civic, Higher Education, Libraries, and Performing Arts projects

55

Professional staff



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Community Engagement

Boston Public Library

East Boston Branch Library

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Mattapan Branch Library

LISTENING FIRST

It is our professional responsibility to engage the communities we serve by fostering public dialogue that informs our understanding of a building's context, civic landscape, and social and environmental needs.

We believe first and foremost in getting to know you – understanding what is most important to a client and project. Our interactive sessions facilitate consensus-building and true collaboration in order to ensure that project goals are aligned to design ideas.

True Collaboration from the Start



Visuals Inspire Conversations



You "Share the Pen"



PHYSICAL MODELS

Central to this process is our use of physical models. We use these models as tools rather than something pretty under glass. Collaborators can often understand models better than drawings, thus enabling shared understanding and consensus on key decisions.

Rather than presentation models, our models are ones you can pick up or rearrange, allowing users and clients alike to 'share the pen' with us, so to speak. We believe this makes design more approachable and inclusive.

A Tool for All Community Members



Accessible to All Ages



Enabling a Shared Understanding



BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Transforming a Central Branch into an Outward Facing, Welcoming Hub for Engagement and Learning

2016 | 155,900 GSF | Boston, MA



The Boylston Street Building was transformed from an inward focused “bunker” to an outward facing and welcoming space for engagement and learning, re-energizing the Library’s longstanding mission of “Free To All.”

Before

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY INCLUDES...

- a Children’s Library and “Teen Central”
- Kirstein Business Library & Innovation Center
- the live GBH Public Radio Station and adjacent Newsfeed Cafe which transform into a “pop-up theater” where patrons regularly come to watch radio in person
- public conference & meeting rooms
- Tech Central, offering technology resources as well as classes
- special collections & research services centers



A Vibrant Community Center



The “Big Urban Room”



The Children’s Room



Opening to the Streetscape Beyond

SELECT AWARDS

- 2022 Boston Society of Architects Design Excellence Citation
- 2017 National AIA/ALA Library Building Award
- 2017 Boston Society of Architects Harleston Parker Medal
- 2017 Congress for New Urbanism Charter Award Grand Prize

EAST BOSTON BRANCH LIBRARY

Bringing Diverse Communities Together at a Branch Library

2013 | 14,800 GSF | Boston, MA



“

The [library] has exceeded my admittedly high standard for a branch that is functional, beautiful, and welcoming to people from all over the world and of all ages.

- Amy Ryan, Former President of BPL

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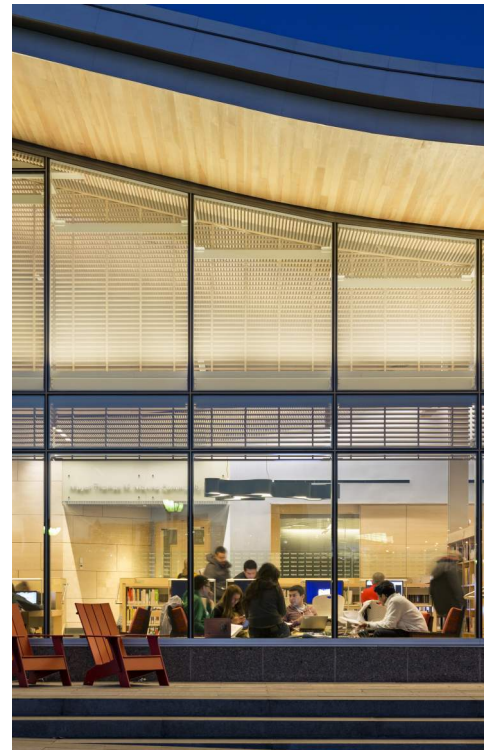
The East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library serves the entire East Boston community, one of Boston's fastest-growing and most diverse neighborhoods. At this branch, families wanted to be able to see each other rather than have children, teens, parents and grandparents in different spaces. Thus, The library transforms the conventional library organization into a single environment with zones - a place of togetherness.

THE EAST BOSTON BRANCH INCLUDES...

- an open-plan community reading room
- dedicated zones for adults, children & teens, but each visible from one another to allow multi-generational visits
- a quiet reading room
- a conference room and community space for multipurpose programs.
- a Reading Porch that runs along the park, providing outdoor space for reading, congregating, and using the wireless internet network.

SELECT AWARDS

- 2018 Boston Society of Architects Interior Architecture Citation
- 2017 National AIA/ALA Library Building Award
- 2017 AIA New England Design Merit Award
- 2016 Chicago Athenaeum American Architecture Award
- 2015 BSA Harleston Parker Medal People's Choice Award



A Community Gathering Hub



A Welcoming Resource



Durable and Comfortable Interior

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Town Common in a Community Where Over 50 Languages Are Spoken

2009 | 140,000 GSF | Cambridge, MA



“

[WRA has] managed to provide spaces, within both the new and old structures, with a variety of distinct characters that appeal to a broad spectrum of users. At the same time, they've found a way to greatly expand a historically significant building without compromising its relevance.

- Joann Gonchar, *Architectural Record*

”

The transformation of the Cambridge Public Library includes a New Building connected to the renovated 1889 Historic Main Library and newly landscaped City Park. The New Building addition has become a “Civic Heart” for Cambridge that is welcoming and accessible to all citizens.

THE CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY INCLUDES...

- dedicated children and teen rooms
- seating for over 200 people
- community meeting spaces
- nearly 100 public computers
- daylight and views in 90% of the occupied spaces in the building, improving experience and reducing electricity usage
- a high-performance facade that allows for total transparency while ensuring protection from excessive heat loss/gain & glare

SELECT AWARDS

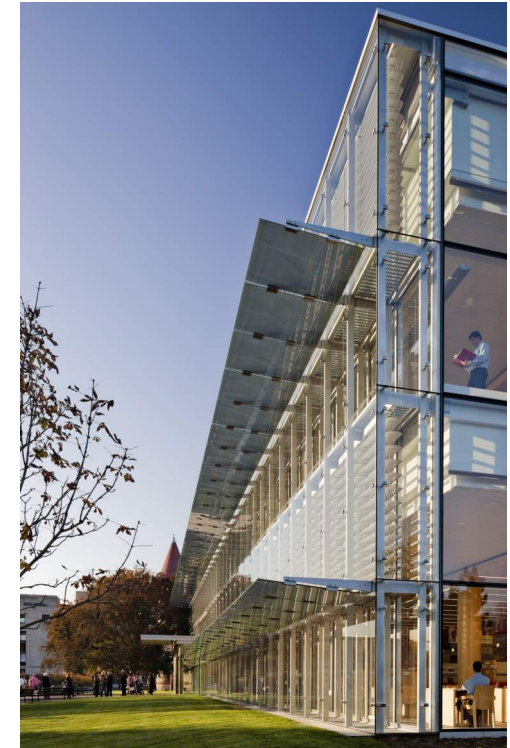
- 2015 National AIA Architecture Honor Award
- 2010 Boston Society of Architects Harleston Parker Medal
- 2012 Congress for New Urbanism Charter Award
- 2012 USGBC Innovation in Green Design Award



A Modernized Historic Structure



Warm Wood and Natural Light



A “Green” Design

VALENTE BRANCH LIBRARY

Showcasing Both the Book and Technology

2019 | 10,000 GSF | Cambridge, MA



At the Valente Branch, floor-to-ceiling windows fill the space with natural light. The library balances a sense of welcome and much needed open and community spaces to an underserved neighborhood while providing the City's youngest citizens a safe and inspiring learning environment.

“

Cantabrigians are proud of the space, size, accessibility and welcoming nature...the new space is a great example of the City's commitment to enhancing the experience of Cambridge residents when visiting our libraries.

- Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries, Cambridge, MA

”

THE VALENTE BRANCH INCLUDES...

- an outdoor reading garden
- a bright community room available for programming
- public meeting and conference rooms
- a quiet reading room
- tech area with public computers and other equipment
- comfortable reading areas suitable for all ages

SELECT AWARDS

- 2023 Urban Libraries Council Top Innovator in Health and Wellness Award
- 2022 National AIA COTE Top Ten Award
- 2022 International Federation of Library Association Green Library Award Winner
- 2021 National AIA/ALA Library Building Excellence Award



Filled with Daylight and Natural Materials



Connected to the Surroundings



A Resource for Adjacent Schools

WALLACE LIBRARY AT THE SHED

Bringing Energy, Welcome, and Light to a 60s Era Library Building

2023 | 200,000 GSF | Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY



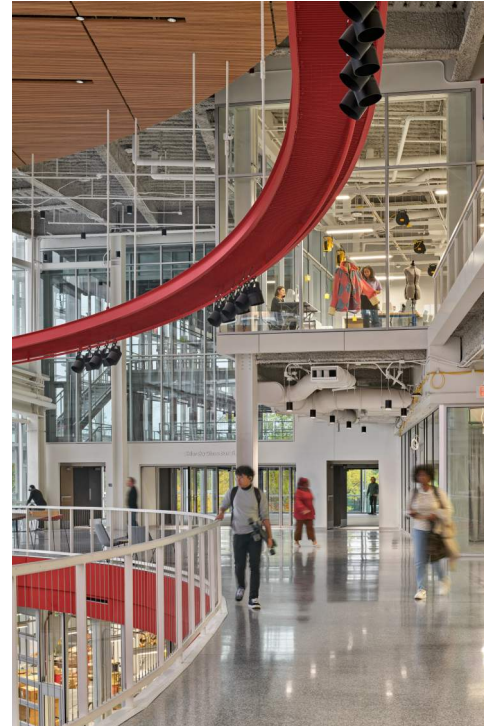
The existing brutalist library structure at RIT was re-energized with technology, light, and study spaces to support the university's academically adventurous student body. Today, the new Student Hall for Exploration and Development (The SHED) together with the renovated Wallace Library creates a unique learning ecosystem – a creative hub with a focus on hands-on learning.

THE WALLACE LIBRARY INCLUDES...

- 22 active and flexible classrooms
- over 111,000 print books
- a student gallery to showcase recent work
- group study space



Wallace Library Before Renovation



Showcases Wide Range of Classrooms, Maker Spaces and Arts Studios



High Ceilings Frame Range of Uses - Student Gallery, Quiet Study, New Archive, and Active Classrooms

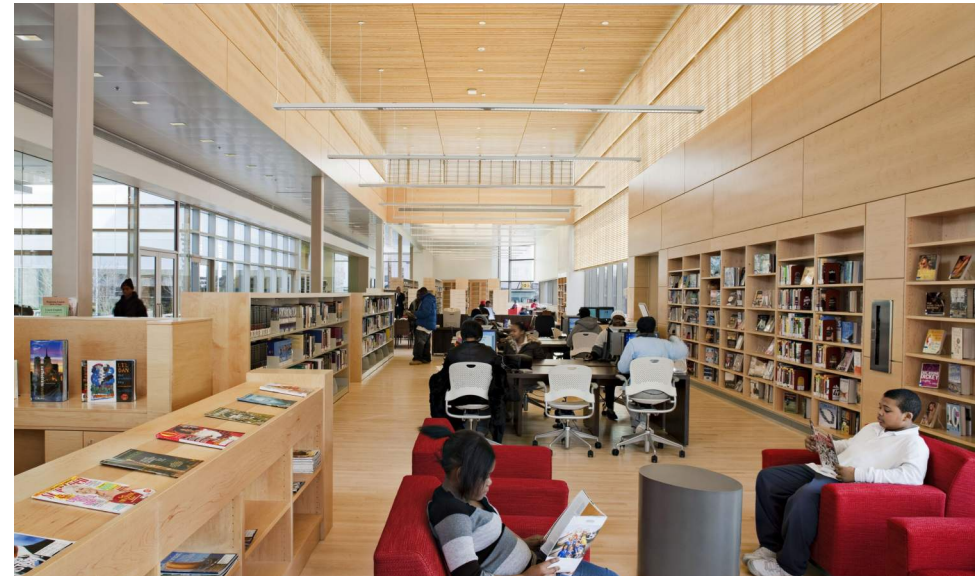


Lounge and Group Study Space

MATTAPAN BRANCH LIBRARY

A Library Where Teens Feel Welcome

2009 | 20,665 GSF | Boston, MA



Featuring significant amounts of glass and warm interior spaces filled with natural light, the Mattapan Branch creates a strong civic presence that is decidedly open and inviting to the community. With an elevated focus on the teen experience, this library seeks to provide an oasis where young people feel safe, where learning takes place, and where the sense of opportunity is abundant and celebrated.

THE MATTAPAN BRANCH INCLUDES...

- event and gathering spaces
- an open reading room
- an outdoor courtyard which merges the indoor and outdoor experiences of the library.



Connected to the Outdoors

SELECT AWARDS

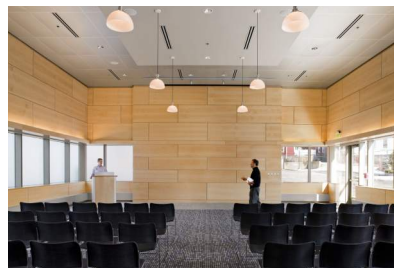
2012 AIA New England Design Excellence Honor Award

2012 Boston Society of Architects Interior Architecture/Interior Design Award

2012 IIDA/ALA Library Interior Design Honorable Mention

2011 National AIA/ALA Library Building Excellence Award

2010 Boston Society of Architects Design Excellence Citation



Space for Events and Gatherings



Resources and Rooms for All Ages

WILLIAM RAWN ASSOCIATES SUSTAINABILITY & WELL-BEING

KEY SUSTAINABILITY AREAS IN LIBRARIES

Energy Efficiency

Decarbonization

Healthy Building Materials

Connection to the Outdoors

Lowering Embodied Carbon





WILLIAM RAWN ASSOCIATES | Architects, Inc.
27 School St., 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02108 www.rawnarch.com
Contact: Sam Lasky, Principal, FAIA LEED AP
slasky@rawnarch.com, 617.872.6408