DESIGN OPTIMIZATION

MKA's search for value-oriented designs often results in innovative structural systems. For example, the unique diamond-shaped exterior steel grid pattern of Seattle's Public Library economically serves triple duty: it resists wind and earthquake loads, serves as the interior architectural finish, and supports the expansive glass curtain wall without the need for a back-up system.

FLEXIBLE SPACES

The libraries designed by MKA are flexible, light filled, column free, and adaptable, to both multiple uses (stack rooms, reading rooms, meeting space, etc.) and the continuing evolution of library services.

This physical building is truly about the inspirational, cost-effective engineering… I enjoyed working closely with MKA and appreciated not only their work, but their attention to detail and absolute responsiveness.

— Deborah L. Jacobs
Formerly City Librarian/CEO
Seattle Public Library

Jay Taylor, P.E., S.E., Hon. AIA Seattle
Civic Specialist, Senior Principal
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LIBRARY DESIGN

MKA’s Civic Specialist Group has designed over 30 libraries, ranging from smaller branch facilities to large, technologically advanced main libraries up to 11 stories and 38,275 m² (412,000 ft²). They are skilled at renovations and expansions, complex upgrades, and new, world-class structures.

SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE

The firm’s Civic Specialist group has a unique understanding of the issues, trends, and advancements in the design of library buildings, providing high-value design ideas without any learning curve. This advanced knowledge includes special loading requirements for books and shelves, including seismic considerations, and advanced book storage systems such as compact shelving and Automated Retrieval and Storage Systems.

FAMILIARITY WITH PUBLIC DESIGN PROCESS

MKA understands the role of public libraries as iconic structures that contribute to a community’s identity and culture. Addressing the complexities of the public design process, MKA’s library designs are:

Architecturally friendly - with a keen awareness of, and sensitivity toward, accomplishing the overall vision
Cost Conscious - utilizing the most efficient structural systems to maximize budget dollars
Sustainable - with reduced material quantities, recycled and/or renewable resources, low carbon footprints, and LEED friendly (including Silver and beyond)

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