Double the Space for Children
The new Children’s Room will have a prominent and readily accessible location on the main floor with an abundance of natural light, cozy nooks for reading, and a Wiggle Room where the library's youngest users can learn and play. Stroller parking, a lactation room, and a family restroom will make visiting the library easier for caregivers.

Improved Parking
By adding a retaining wall and angling the upper lot towards Otter Creek, we will be able to maintain the same number of spots in the upper level parking lot. By restriping the lower lot and making minimal site changes, we will be able to add a dozen new parking spaces with no reduction in the size of the current spaces.

New Community Spaces
The new library will have a Conference Room/Flex Space for meetings, classes, and events, and a Library Activities Room for messy and loud activities like crafts, cooking, and children's programs. All three of these spaces will be available to community members and local organizations, including after hours.

The Great Room
The interior of the library's original 1924 building will be restored. This Great Room will feature new books, comfortable seating, a fireplace, a kitchenette, and a reading room—a cozy place to gather. It will be easy to clear the furniture and transform the Great Room into an event space, which can be reserved for public gatherings or rented for private parties.

Sustainability
The new library will make efficient use of limited resources such as energy and water, through excellence in design, construction, and maintenance. Transitioning the library away from fossil fuels will be a major milestone in the town’s resolution to target 2029-2030 for reduction of its operation emissions of CO2 by 80 percent.
Downtown Vitality
The new library facilities will increase space for exhibitions, performances, and other cultural events which are free to all; serve as a welcome center for new residents or tourists; and attract increased foot traffic to the downtown area. We expect visits to the new library to dramatically increase from the current level of 94,000 per year, further enhancing our position as an anchor destination for downtown and contributing to the cultural vibrancy of Middlebury.

Outdoor Programming Space
With southern exposure, views of Otter Creek, and a roof garden, the elevated, Outdoor Programming Space will be the perfect place to rest, read, and enjoy a quiet moment in downtown Middlebury. Library programs such as Tai Chi, Storytimes, and book clubs will be able to meet outside (something we learned is crucial during the pandemic).

The Sense of History
The addition and new Main Street entrance have been thoughtfully designed to enhance appreciation of the original 1924 building. The new addition will wrap around the historic building, washing the original masonry with light from a skylight. The marble panels from the 1977 addition will be re-purposed, on prominent display in new architecture that honors the building’s history.

Welcoming Entrances
Whether approaching from Main Street or the rear parking lot, you will experience wide sidewalks with no steps, leading to easily accessible entrances flooded with natural light and a spacious atrium. Once inside, a librarian at the circulation desk will greet you and direct you to the fully accessible area of the library you wish to visit.

Dedicated Spaces for Tweens and Teens
Many students walk to the library from MUMS and MUHS for the period between when school ends and their parents get out of work, but in the current library there are no separate spaces for tweens and teens. The new library will have spaces specifically designed to accommodate homework, hangouts, and organized activities for these age groups.