

10 THINGS TO LOVE

ABOUT THE NEW LIBRARY

1

Double the Space for Children

The new Children's Room will have a prominent 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 and a family restroom will make visiting the library easy for caregivers.

2

New Community Spaces

The new library will have a Community Meeting Room for events, a Conference Room/Flex Space for meetings and classes, and an Activities Room for messy crafts and children's programs. All three of these spaces will be available after hours.

3

The Great Room

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

4

Sustainability

The new library will make efficient use of resources through excellence in design, construction, and maintenance. Utilizing geothermal heat will be a major milestone in the town's resolution to reduce operation emissions of CO2 by 80% by 2030.

5

Downtown Vitality

The library spaces for exhibitions, performances, and cultural events will attract more foot traffic to the downtown area. Increased visitors will enhance the library's position as a downtown anchor destination and further contributing to the cultural vibrancy of Middlebury.

6

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 (outdoor space proved essential during the pandemic).

7

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, and skylights will illuminate the original masonry.

8

Welcoming Entrances

Whether approaching from Main Street or the parking lot, visitors will experience wide sidewalks leading to accessible, at-grade entrances flooded with natural light. Once inside, a librarian at the circulation desk will be easily visible.

9

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 areas for tweens and teens. The new library will have spaces specifically designed to accommodate homework, hangouts, and organized activities for these age groups.

10

Parking

By adding a retaining wall and angling the upper lot towards Otter Creek, the library will maintain the same number of spots in the upper level parking lot.