

Manheim Township Public Library

Historically home to Amish farmers, Manheim Township in Lancaster County still maintains this agricultural legacy even as the community has developed and become a thriving “bedroom” suburb just north of the city of Lancaster. For well over a dozen years, a new Library for Manheim Township was a dream waiting to happen. Now that dream is a reality. This 1.5-story, 33,500-square-foot Library has transformed its hilltop setting from a rocky knoll into a pinnacle of knowledge. In September 2010, the Library welcomed an unprecedented number of enthusiastic visitors.

Client:
Manheim Township, Lancaster, PA

Completed:
Summer 2010

Total Project Cost:
\$7.5 Million

The Site

Located on a rocky outcropping amidst 600 acres of active recreational municipal park, the building was designed to work with the slope by siting the entrance on the highest elevation, with the adjacent side sloping down to incorporate a lower level that provides extra space for 10,000 square feet of future expansion. The site work included removing large amounts of rock in the early stages of construction. This rock provided for an even more efficient transfer for the geothermal heating and cooling system for the entire building. Because of neighboring houses along one side of the building, the blasting of rock and installation of major utilities had to be carefully completed. The grounds will soon be landscaped with native plant material and will include outdoor reading areas, terraces and gardens.



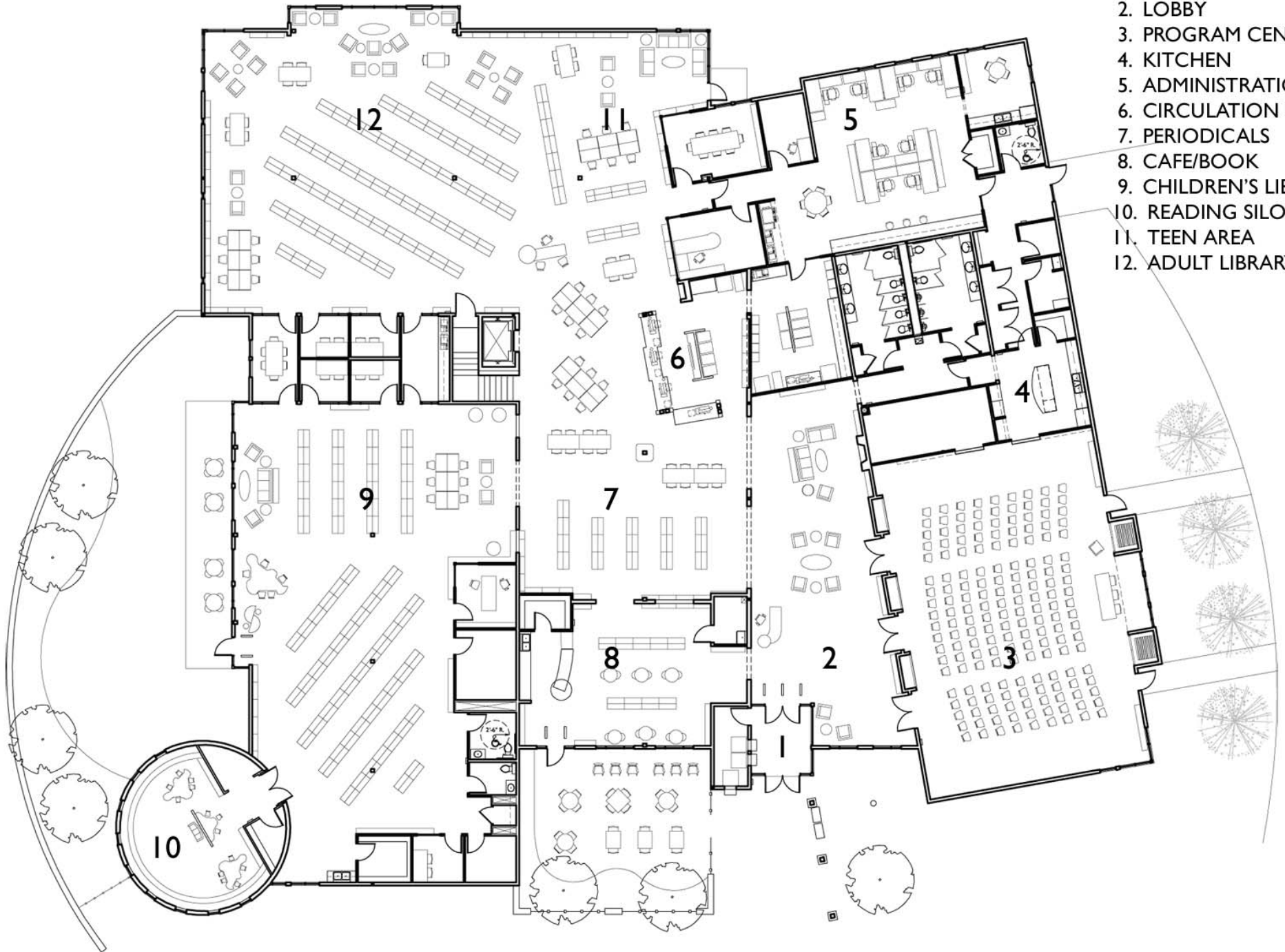
Design:

The design concept for the library is an inviting and inspiring collection of “book barns” that reflects the area’s rich agricultural heritage manifested through an exciting modern interpretation that the architects call “neo-agrarian.” While the building features elements reminiscent of a traditional bank barn and farmstead, the composition, structure and finishes are forward thinking. The exterior design features low maintenance stone, fiber-cement siding, metal roofing accented strategically with wood brackets and beams. Gable-end windows are narrow and elongated, resembling the vertical ventilation slats of tobacco barns.



FLOOR PLAN KEY

1. ENTRY
2. LOBBY
3. PROGRAM CENTER
4. KITCHEN
5. ADMINISTRATION
6. CIRCULATION DESK
7. PERIODICALS
8. CAFE/BOOK
9. CHILDREN'S LIBRARY
10. READING SILO
11. TEEN AREA
12. ADULT LIBRARY





The Children's Story-Time Room is housed in the Library's silo, the image of which was integrated into the Library's new logo.





The neo-agrarian theme continues inside where uniquely designed, exposed timbers blend with modern steel connectors.



Wood-stamped concrete flooring and dramatic colors create interior spaces that are warm and dynamic.



A “corn crib” theme plays out from the exterior to the interior, expressed through wood slats shading the windows facing the entry terrace outside, and fronting the check-in / services desk inside.

Notable features of the Library include wireless Internet access, a flexible-use Program Center for 200 people, a Teen Center, a Bookstore & Cafe, self-check-out stations, outdoor lockers for after-hours material pick-ups, and a separate Children's Library.





The Café and Used Bookstore offers library patrons a place to relax, read a book and have a cup of coffee.

Sustainable Design / Technical Innovations:

Designed to meet LEED Silver standards, the Library was constructed with environmentally friendly building materials and energy-efficient systems. For the building's Geothermal Heat Pump System, forty 450-foot-deep wells were drilled into the solid limestone bedrock. Energy-efficient LED, fluorescent lighting and controls, as well as low-flow, high efficiency plumbing fixtures, conserve energy and water consumption. Solar Shades, Large Overhangs, High Efficiency Glazing and Solar Reflective "Cool" Roofing Material are reducing the building's solar heat gain, which reduces HVAC size and demand and results in reduced energy consumption.

Each "book barn" contains sections of over-sized windows that enhance the connection to the outside world while flooding the reading areas with natural light.

Low VOC materials were used for wood stains, paints, and carpeting. A number of recycled materials were used in the construction, including casework fabricated from a composite material made of wheat stalks. The ceiling tiles and carpeting also included recycled content. The building is framed using Structural Insulated Panels that provide increased insulation and larger spanning capabilities, resulting in reduced structural components and a more efficient thermal envelope.





Children's Library

Community Feedback for Manheim Township Public Library:

The community has been raving about the Library since its opening last fall. The Library's communications director has said, "The new Library is a really cool gathering place for what is becoming a town square for the community."

And the president of the Library Board was effusive in his appreciation: "Just wanted to let you know that our new piece of community architecture is working well. People are talking about it at Curves, in grocery stores and with their friends and neighbors. Mouths drop open when people enter. Smiles come across their faces. Kids get excited. We also had more library card sign-ups on Monday than we get in a typical month, and I know that we have patrons who have been back several times since the opening. Title checkouts are also off the charts. This library is clearly a home run. Thanks for all you do! You've 'done good.'"





Computer workstation area featuring a long, dark grey table with white base, equipped with multiple computer monitors, keyboards, and mice. Several wooden chairs are tucked under the table. The area is situated between rows of bookshelves.

Study table in the foreground with a dark grey top and wooden chairs. Two large, open books are lying on the table, along with a closed green book. The table is positioned in front of a bookshelf.

Bookshelf section with a wooden top and dark grey shelving. It contains various books, including a prominent dark green book titled "THE VALUE LINE INVESTMENT SURVEY". The shelf is part of a larger shelving system with multiple levels.

Bookshelf section on the left side of the image, featuring a wooden top and dark grey shelving. It is filled with books and is part of a long row of shelving units.

Bookshelf section in the background, showing a row of bookshelves filled with books. The area is well-lit by pendant lights.

Small table and chairs area in the background, visible through an opening in the bookshelves. It appears to be a quiet reading or study area.





Reading Lounge and Adult Stack Area



595