2017 AIA Indiana Annual Design Awards

MARKLE BRANCH LIBRARY
HUNTINGTON-CITY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
New Construction - Project Cost less than $1 million
Submission Category: New Construction, (Project cost less than $1 million)
Project Type: Public Library
Project Address: 155 West Sparks St., Markle, Indiana 46770
Date of Substantial Completion: June 2016
Photography: Daniel Showalter
e: daniel@danielshowalter.com
Architect’s Statement: see following pages

“The inclusion of natural light was important, not only for daylighting, but also to showcase the transparency of the library to the neighborhood.”

Beka Lemons, Director
The Markle Public Library Project has made a large impact for a small community.

The Huntington City-Township Public Library System expanded their services to better serve the Markle community. Early on during input meetings, the community expressed their strong desire to have a library that represents their town’s identity. Therefore the goal for this new library was to create a space that fosters a sense of identity and design appreciation for the entire community.

The design team addressed this by carefully observing the scale and form of the surrounding buildings and utilizing materials that would mirror and complement existing structures. The introduction of wood related to the local timber industry – an industry that is a strong part of the town’s economic history. Knowing the project was going to be locally bid, the design intentionally aimed to be constructed by local trades – and in fact, a local company won the bid. A carpentry crew fabricated all timber and framing on site. Metal siding, turned and rotated, provided variation in what would otherwise be a modest facade.

By respecting its surrounding context, the design introduced a modern approach to a traditional, craftsman-style building that is open and inviting. The building’s open floor plan and use of daylighting allows the interior spaces to feel more spacious. Flexible furniture and movable, low-height shelving allow daylighting to penetrate deep within the interior. Cool blues and greens colors complement each other throughout and are cohesive in both the interior and exterior applications.

The Library includes a palette of simple materials that appear in different applications throughout the library’s open floor plan. Just as simple exterior details - like the buildings base being recessed rather than protruding - the interior takes every opportunity to bring modern craft into its detailing; a ceiling plan that was as important as the floor plan, a connection detail as important as finishes. Tremendous attention to detail was give to the structural glulam beams, exposed fasteners and hardware, and clean dominant connections.

The inclusion of natural light was important, not only to increase the comfort of the reading environment, but also to showcase the transparency of the library to the neighborhood. The building is nearly 100% day lit, with 75% of its glazing facing north. It also includes R-40 walls and roof, all LED lighting, and high efficient systems.

Echoing the Markle Library’s adjacent neighborhood and its bungalow porches, a sheltered outdoor patio was created to provide additional seating, to welcome visitors, and foster a sense of community.
neighborhood context:

- bungalows
- fire station
- 1920’s Markle saw mill