EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURE
2017 AWARDS PROGRAM

Markle Branch Library of Huntington-City Township Public Library
New Building- less than $5 Million Construction Cost
Markle Branch Library
(Huntington-City Township Public Library)

Submission Category: New Construction, less than $5 million construction cost
Project Type: Public Library
Project Address: 155 West Sparks St., Markle, Indiana 46770
Date of Substantial Completion: June 2016
Photos: taken by Daniel Showalter (daniel@danielshowalter.com)
Architect’s Statement: see following pages
The Markle Public Library Project made a large impact in a small community.

The Huntington City-Township Public Library System invested in expanding their library services to the community in Markle, Indiana. The goal for the Markle Branch Library project was to create a library space that inspires a sense of identity and design appreciation in the community. This project was an opportunity to set an example of design while being sensitive to the surrounding neighborhood.

During design input meetings, the community expressed their desire to have a library building that represents their identity. The design team addressed this by paying close attention to the scale and form of the surrounding buildings, using metal siding that would mirror existing structures and introduce wood which related to the timber industry – an industry that is a part of the town’s history. While being a public bid project the design intentionally aimed to be constructed by local trades – 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 plain facade.

The inclusion of natural light was important, not only for daylighting and the reading environment, but also to showcase the transparency of the library to the neighborhood. Respecting the context in these ways opened opportunities to introduce a modern approach to the overall design that was open and inviting.

The open concept carries into the interior of the space, making the overall building feel larger than it actually is. Flexible and movable furniture, with low-height shelving, also contributes to the open concept of the interior design. Cool blues and greens were used in both the interior and exterior design, working with each other throughout the entire project. 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. The library also includes a semi-private patio, with additional outdoor seating and reading area, sheltered by an Ipe trellis.

The project followed the most important aspects of sustainable design. The building is nearly 100% day lit, 75% of glazing faces north, R-40 walls and roof, all LED lighting, and high efficient systems.
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Beka Lemons, Director