



merit award
less than \$10 million

Woodstock Branch Library

Portland, Oregon



juror comments

“A classical steel expression; refined, simple, expressive.”



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The Woodstock Branch Library in Portland is a new light-filled room for the community. Located at the intersection of two streets, one commercial and the other residential, the 7,500-sq.-ft branch library was intended to create a feeling of openness and availability. It includes an airy pavilion where the focus is on books and people. The exposed steel structure of the reading room's large overhanging canopy is cantilevered out of the ground with intricate bundled columns that eliminate the need for supporting walls. This allows an unusual transparency between inside and outside. The library was built for a construction cost of \$1.4 million.

The welcoming corner entry emphasizes access. It leads library patrons into the main reading room, which includes the library collection, reading areas and information desks. The floor of the reading room is level with the sidewalk. A new meeting room, rest rooms and service rooms are located in a service spine, which is articulated as a lower masonry element along the back edge of the building.

The design incorporates a notable use of public art. Over the east alcove of the reading room, a 37' painting by Margot Voorhies depicts a history of

language and writing. Clear anodized aluminum panels and a series of stainless steel panels etched with images clad the building exterior. At the main entry, Kim Stafford's poem "Open This Door of All Doors" alludes to the power and mystery of public libraries.★

ARCHITECT

Thomas Hacker Architects, Inc., Portland, OR

OWNER/DEVELOPER

Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Degenkolb Engineers, Portland, OR

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Mayer-Reed, Portland, OR

CIVIL ENGINEER

Symonds Consulting Engineers, Seattle

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc., Beaverton, OR

