

Library Dreams/Architectural Realities: North Carolina Library Architecture of the 1990s

by Phillip K. Barton and Plummer Alston Jones, Jr

The architect's philosophy that form follows function is abundantly evident in this photo essay of recent library architecture in North Carolina.



Right: The old adage "necessity is often the mother of invention" is captured in the media center at the Southwest Elementary School in Lexington, where structurally essential columns were transformed into playful giant Tinkertoys.

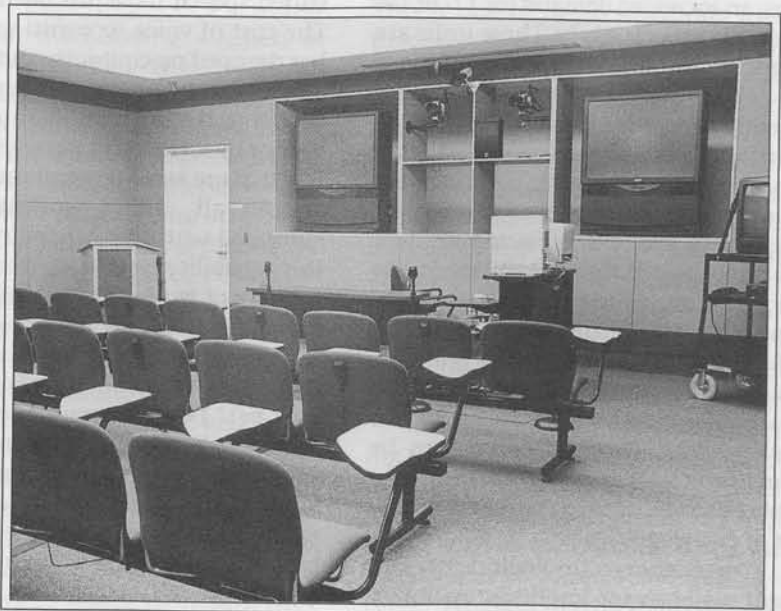
Architect: Ramsay, Burgin, Smith, Architects (Raleigh & Salisbury) Photo: Courtesy of Donna Smith



Above: The media center at the new Pilot Elementary School in the Guilford County School System typifies the modern media center which is designed to accommodate traditional library functions alongside the latest technology.

Architect: Moser, Mayer and Phoenix Associates (Greensboro). Photo: Karen Perry.

Below: A new media center was part of a recent addition to the Lincoln Heights Elementary School in the Wake County School System. The center features a vaulted ceiling with clerestory windows, child-sized furniture and service desk, and "fun" elements like the palm tree. Architect: Ramsay, Burgin, Smith, Architects, Inc. (Raleigh and Salisbury). Photo: John Ramsey.



The recently expanded Joyner Library at East Carolina University in Greenville features a state-of-the-art interactive viewing room which provides links to NCIN and MCNC. Architect: Walters Robbs Callahan & Pierce (Winston-Salem) Photo: Lynette Lundin



Left: The 8,000 sq. ft. Plaza Midwood Branch Library of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County captures the distinctive geometric forms of the art deco style. A curvilinear design is reflected in the circulation desk, shelving, and ceiling beams.

Architect: TBA² Architects. Photo: Courtesy of TBA² Architects (Charlotte)

Below: The D. Hiden Ramsey Library at the University of North Carolina-Asheville was expanded and renovated in the early 1990s. The Cafe Ramsey provides an excuse for people to linger in the library.

Photo: J. Weiland

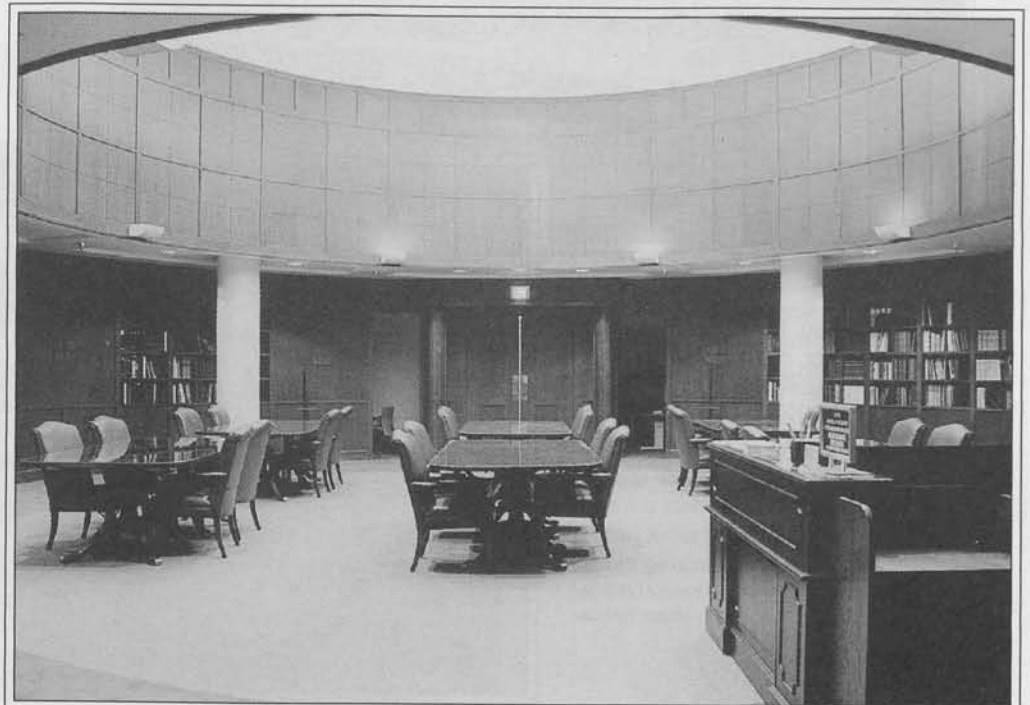


Above: The new focal point of the Gaston College campus in Dallas is the very handsome Morris Library, which features traditional Georgian architecture with a state-of-the-art interior. Reflective lighting fixtures, as seen here in the current periodicals reading area, are used throughout the library. Architect: Little & Associates (Charlotte)

Photo: Courtesy of David L. Hunsucker

Right: A classic domed rotunda houses the Special Collections search room in the new addition to Joyner Library at East Carolina University in Greenville.

Architect: Walters Robbs Callahan & Pierce (Winston-Salem)
Photo: Lynette Lundin



Library Dreams/Arts

North Carolina

Exterior details are reflected throughout the interior of the new Southern Pines Public Library. The entrance into the young children's area reflects the semicircular arch apparent in the exterior arcade, as well as the library's roof line.

Architect: Hayes/Howell, PA (Southern Pines) Photos: McKenzie & Dickerson, Inc.



The Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library of the Fontana Regional Library features a clerestory, which provides additional natural light to the interior, and a veneer of natural rock. Computer workstations are located around columns to facilitate access to electrical and communications wiring.

Architect: Michael Osowski (Cashiers) Photos: Phillip Barton



A striking pergola denotes the main entrance into the Independence Regional Library of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. The 17,300 sq. ft. building blends classic architectural details with modern functionality.

Architect: TBA² Architects (Charlotte) Photos: Ciarlante



The 23,000 sq. ft. Eva Perry Regional Library in Apex, a branch of the Wake County Public Library System, is a striking contemporary design both outside and inside. The children's area is designed with a lot of child appeal, and includes such features as a tree in the middle of a reading area, and a visually exciting mural.

Architect: Cherry Huffman Architects PA (Raleigh) Photos: Terri Luke



The Graham Public Library is the latest library in the Central North Carolina Regional Library. The main entrance features a portico with classic Ionic columns. The interior features custom-designed furniture by Michaels Associates of Alexandria, VA, including the circulation desk, reading tables, and end panels.

Architect: Alley Williams Carmen and King (Burlington) Photos: Courtesy of Margaret Blanchard



Top: The Learning Resources Center at Stanly Community College in Albemarle occupies the first floor of the new Snyder Building. The second floor contains classrooms and faculty offices. The 14,156 sq. ft. LRC includes the library, a television studio, conference and seminar rooms.

Architect: J. Hyatt Hammond, Associates, Inc. (Greensboro)

Photo: Courtesy of Mary Avery



Left: The new Olivia Raney Library in Raleigh, a branch of the Wake County Public Library System, is dedicated to local history and genealogical research. The entrance into the building features the capitals, benches, and lanterns from the original Olivia Raney Library.

Architect: Brown Jurkowski Architectural Collaborative (Raleigh)

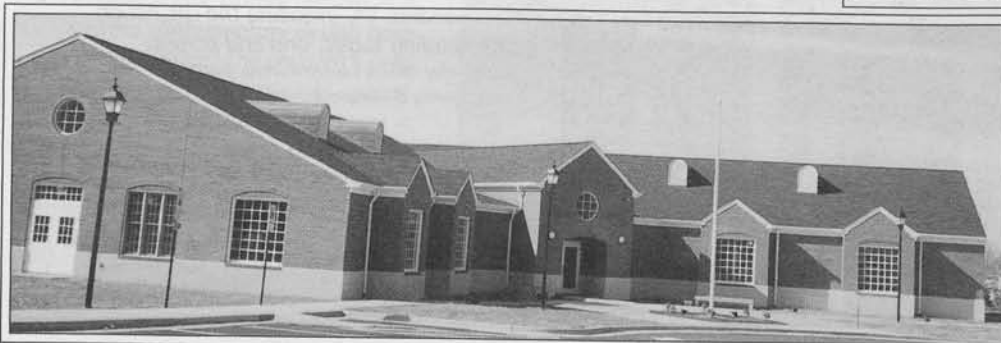
Photo: William G. Morrissey



Above & Left: The King Public Library, a branch of the Northwest Regional Library, reflects some Moravian design features, such as dormers with a semicircular arch roof. Child-size furniture in the children's area features a variety of colors (mint and raspberry sherbet) and shapes (circular and square tables) to create an environment inviting to children.

Architect: Thomas H. Hughes (Winston-Salem)

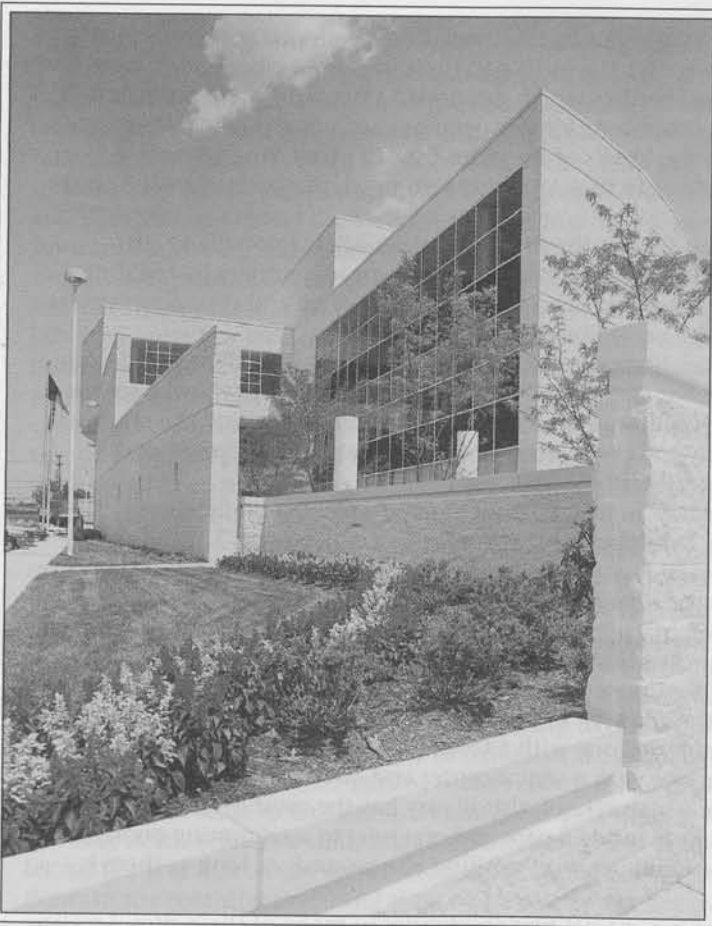
Photos: Joan Sherif





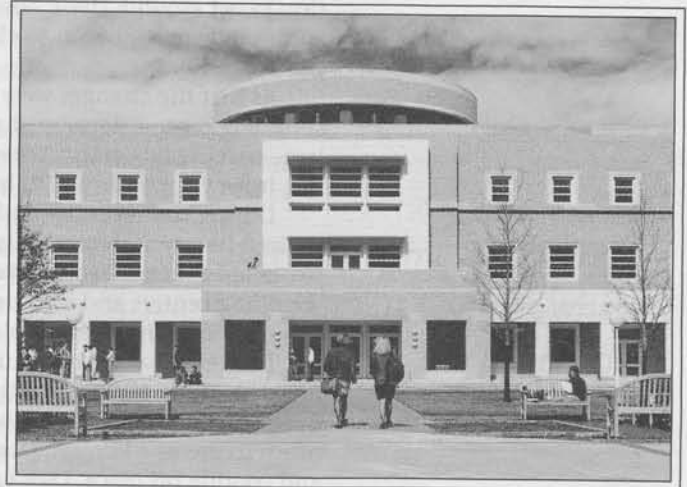
The Edwin G. Wilson wing of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem reflects the classic design elements of the original library. The addition includes a spectacular three-story atrium. (Cover photo.)

*Architect: Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce (Winston-Salem)
Photo: Courtesy of Wake Forest University*



Below: The library of the Worrell Professional Center at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem serves the needs of both the School of Law and the Babcock School of Management.

Architect: Cesar Pelli (New Haven, CT) Photo: Lee Runion



Left: The 67,000 sq. ft. High Point Public Library was named in honor of longtime library director, Neal Austin. The modern design incorporates a juxtaposition of straight and curved surfaces.

*Architect: Smithy & Boynton (Roanoke, VA)
Photo: Courtesy of Kem Ellis*



The attractive one-story Asheboro Public Library (R) of the Randolph County Public Library was significantly expanded with a seamless two-story addition (L). The complementary addition was achieved through the continuation of the roof line, and matching roofing materials (Italian-made roof tiles with a copper cap) and brick veneer.

Architect: Alvis O. George, Architect (Asheboro) Photo: Courtesy of Ross Holt