



Library Guide to Spaces and Green Initiatives



Image Courtesy of Dawn Ferragamo Photography

Welcome to the renovated and expanded Woburn Public Library!

Charles Bowers Winn, upon his death in 1875, bequeathed \$140,000 to the then Town of Woburn to build a magnificent library for the residents of Woburn to enjoy. His will carried forth the dream of his late father, Jonathan Bowers Winn, who matched town funding to establish Woburn's first public library in 1856. With the charge to spare no expense, the committee in charge of executing C. B. Winn's will chose the prominent architect Henry Hobson Richardson, who was the first American architect to have a style of architecture named in his honor: Richardsonian Romanesque. He had recently finished Trinity Church in Copley Square, and the Woburn Public Library became his first library project of many to come. It is believed that Richardson was also the top contender for the job because one of the committee members, George Champney (the Richardson building's first librarian), had a son who worked for Norcross Brothers, the construction company that built many of Richardson's designs. The Woburn Public Library's first permanent home opened to the public on May 1, 1879 on the grounds where the Winn family home, among other properties, once stood, with the agreement that the Town would care for this gift for perpetuity.

The first need for additional space arose in 1900, when the library sought room for a children's area. Throughout the next 114 years, the Boards of Trustees and Library Directors petitioned for an addition. The late 1980s laid the foundation for their eventual success, with a \$1.9 million bequest to the library from John E. Frizzell's estate and the advent of the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP). The fourth application in twenty years to the MPLCP bore fruit.

In August of 2014, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded a provisional grant of \$9.9 million to the City of Woburn for the much-needed restoration and expansion of this National Historic Landmark. The remaining funding had to be secured prior to the City accepting the grant. The Trustees, who worked on writing the MBLC grant submission with the Library Staff, offered another \$6.6 million. The Woburn Public Library Foundation, with the assistance of Library Staff and the Trustees, secured another \$525,000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund for a matching grant administered by MassDevelopment. After a year of finding funding, the City Council approved a bond of \$31.5 million in September of 2015, and

the project became a reality. CBT Architects was retained as the architectural firm; Design Technique, Inc. was retained as the owner's project manager; and Consigli Construction Company was chosen as the general contractor for this Construction Manager at Risk project.

Just as the original library building was made possible by the generosity of the Winn family, specifically Charles Bowers Winn and his father Jonathan Bowers Winn, the restoration of the Richardson and the construction of the CBT addition were made possible by the generosity of many Woburn community members, whose names are listed on the plaque at the main entrance and in spaces throughout both buildings. CBT's addition puts the Richardson building at the forefront and attempts a modern remastering of the National Historic Landmark's materials and massing through the general form and design of the stone and the metal banding. The Richardson becomes the focal point through the glass curtainwall that meets the original building, making some former exterior walls into interior walls.

CBT procured the same cream-colored sandstone used by Richardson from the same quarry in Ohio to clad the addition on three sides. Likewise, they procured the same granite for the base of the addition from the same quarry in Westerly, RI that Richardson used on the base of his building.

The shape of the walkways closely resembles Richardson's original design submission in March of 1877. The new main entrance has a grand black granite stair supported by a molded concrete underlayment. The glass vestibule links to both buildings, making them one.

The Richardson's restoration includes original paint colors and restored woodwork. Evoking the same spirit as found in Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals in France, where Richardson studied, the designs created through paint and carving reflect a New England interpretation of this building's European counterparts.

The restored and expanded library was designed to be lean and green!

In planning for this renovated and restored library, it was essential that the library leave as small an ecological footprint as possible. Because of its convenient downtown location, the Woburn Public Library is a prime site for community connectivity. Close enough to shops, restaurants, and services, people can visit the library and then proceed on foot to other errands.

Water Efficiency

With the additional square footage, came the opportunity to add bathrooms on each of the library's three levels. To mitigate the water use, the architects called for low-flow water fixtures, that save 27% of water yearly, when compared to typical buildings. Look through the windows to the outside, and you'll see drought-tolerant landscape design, which have been optimized to not require permanent irrigation, thus saving water.

Energy & Atmosphere

Numerous energy-conserving and energy efficient strategies have been employed within the library, resulting in an estimated energy use reduction of over 22% when compared to other code compliant buildings (which translates to an estimated energy savings of about \$24,000 per year). All spaces have been outfitted with 100% LED technology fixtures, which drastically reduce energy use and last far longer than traditional fluorescent lighting (bonus: they don't use mercury).

To ensure that the buildings systems are running as efficiently as possible the library has contracted a third-party team to provide commissioning services that ensure that the construction of the building matches the design intent, confirms that equipment and controls operate optimally, and provide access to system manuals for the building maintenance team to understand the operations of these systems.

The City has further renewed its commitment to having a sustainable building by purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates to account for just over 70% of electricity use for 2 years (which also supports commercial-scale renewable energy production projects).

Building Materials and Resources

This building project was designed to be as sustainable as possible, and that includes the reuse of over 88% of structural elements from the original building. By reusing these materials, the project was able to reduce the amount of newly-constructed structural material required to complete the project.

Locally Sourced Materials

Over 20% of the materials installed on the project, by cost, were procured from regional sources (within 500 miles). Additionally, we estimate that over 20% of the installed materials, by cost, are made with recycled materials.

The Air We Breathe

This project was committed to using low emitting materials in order to keep the interior environment as pleasant for staff and visitors as possible (low VOC products include adhesives, sealants, paints, coating, flooring and wood products). Additionally, the library has adopted a Green Housekeeping policy that specifies low-emitting and low-impact cleaners and equipment, focuses on protecting vulnerable building occupants, maintains good cleaning practices, and keeps the health of custodial staff a priority.

FIRST FLOOR

1) The Historic Artifacts Room, formerly the Octagon Room, serves as a conference room and holds historic objects important to Woburn's past. The cases that line the room's perimeter are the original fronts, sides, and glass doors of the cabinets, custom crafted by George Fowle for the display of John Cummings' natural history collection of mounted bird and paleontological specimens in this room in the late nineteenth century. Now these cases contain historical objects and photographs from our collection, each one curated by our Archivist, Thomas Doyle. This new exhibit focuses on key periods in Woburn's history, beginning with settlement and continuing up through the early twentieth century. Notice the detailed bandings of rich and deep paint colors and the figure of a celestial star at the peak of the blue dome with purple, rust red, and gold ribs. Paintings from Woburn painters and from C.B. Winn's collection line the walls.

2) The Gallery, which once housed the circulation desk and originally served as a painting gallery, holds DVDs in new bookcases and features soft seating. The Richardson table which once graced the Ladies' Reading Parlor in the Octagon Room in the 1880s, now sits center. On the uppermost picture rails hang paintings from the library's collection. The concept of painted bands continues with gradations of green separated by maroon and gold.

The former main entrance is now ceremonial. The gate has been removed on the stairwell that ascends to the upper floor, and the woodwork and lighting have been restored.

3) The Richardson Gallery, which served as the original reading room and, in later years, the reference and computer area, returns to its original function. Soft seating and Richardson tables are on both sides. New benches reminiscent of Richardson's benches flank the cleaned fireplace. An original card catalog now serves as a display unit. Periodicals, audiobooks, and newspapers now reside on the shelves. Subtler bands of olive and khaki paint adorn the walls and create a backdrop for the dramatic paintings C.B. Winn acquired during his European travels. The James Jackson Jarves

collection of busts that you see are in the same location today as when they were acquired by the Trustees in the 19th century.

4) The Frizzell Study Hall, named after library benefactor John E. Frizzell, has butternut stacks and a barrel vault ceiling that have been restored to a warm glow. Note the intricate botanical carvings on the restored pilasters, each of which represents a type of flower or plant found in the Arnold Arboretum, which was designed by Richardson's friend Charles Sprague Sargent. The fiction collection fills the lower shelves, while the balcony remains roped off. The stairs feature an ornamental iron scallop detail, which was uncovered when the carpet was removed. The center aisle holds soft seating, Richardson tables, and mobile shelving. The microfilm is at the very end under the center balcony that holds original Richardson chairs and a Richardson bench. Five of the alcoves on the North side have portals into CBT's addition. A portion of the stone that was removed was used to repair other parts of the building in dire condition. The red sandstone, which hailed from Longmeadow, MA, is no longer available, as the quarry shut down several years ago. The remainder of the stone went to other Richardson libraries with Longmeadow red sandstone for repairs of their own.

On the other side of the portals, notice the botanical and medieval motifs carved into the masonry by John Evans, a talented Welsh carver, whom Richardson could not retain for Trinity Church due to a scheduling conflict. Also note the delicate attachment of the addition's walls and roof to the Richardson. Expansion joints at the walls and floor allow for movement of the buildings in concert with each other.

5) The Reference Reading Hall houses small table seating, desktop computers, a business center, the reference collection, and the nonfiction collection. This double-height ceiling affords spectacular views of the Richardson's North side and the addition's mezzanine level.

The purple walls of this space and other spaces throughout the building are meant to be a reflection of the color the red sandstone turns in shadow. A color similar to this was found in the Octagon Room on the ceiling ribs under layers of paint after the purple wall color had already been chosen.

6) The Teen Room houses the teen fiction collection, group and individual seating, desktop computers, and a gaming area.

7) The Maker Space, connected to the Teen Room by a door, serves as a programming space for all ages and offers low-tech and high-tech tools for learning, creating, and collaborating. Some of the features of this room are the two 3-D printers and the laser cutter, which can make prototypes for entrepreneurial endeavors, objects for everyday living, and imaginative designs.

8) The New Book Alcove houses the laptop vending machine, with 24 laptops that can be checked out for two-hour increments with a library card and used anywhere in the library. This space, which offers comfortable seating, also houses self-serve holds that can be checked out at the main circulation desk.

9) The Circulation Desk has two staff stations and two self-serve checkout stations. Just beyond the desk is the material return window that leads to the automated handling unit. The conveyor belt beyond the window “deshingles” stacks of books and leads to a pad that uses RFID and barcode identification technology to check-in and sort materials into a series of bins, depending on the final destination of those materials, making check-in approximately five times faster. Likewise, the RFID pads at the circulation desk allow for checking out more materials in a fraction of the time. This technology allows Staff to provide more in-depth service at the desk while performing circulation tasks.

10) The East Reading Hall, filled with natural light tempered by a wooden slat screen, is the home of the large print collection. The perimeter of the room offers comfortable seating, and the exterior sandstone cladding of the addition extends into the interior in this space.

MEZZANINE

11) The Mezzanine is a modern reflection of the balconies found in the Frizzell Study Hall. Soft seating and tables line the glass half-wall, and display cases with revolving exhibits from the Archives line the wall.

12) The Administration Suite houses the offices of the Director, Assistant Director, and Bookkeeper. In the Director's office is the conserved flag presented to Woburn's Civil War soldiers by the ladies of Woburn.

13) The Glennon Archives Reading Room is open to the public when our full-time Archivist is here. This space houses our Woburn and Local History collections of books and other collections of the Glennon Archives.

14) The Study Rooms, one of which is slightly larger than the other two, are available on a first-come-first-served basis and can be booked for two-hour increments at the Reference Desk.

GROUND FLOOR

15) The Children's Gallery features the former rear entrance of the Richardson. Patrons can utilize this space to work, socialize, or enjoy a quick lunch, dinner, or snack. During events, this space can transform into a pre- or post-function space. At any time of day, patrons can peruse the ongoing Friends of the Library Book Sale in the far right corner and pay for their purchase by depositing funds into the payment kiosk. Restrooms and a water fountain can be found through the opening to the left of the ramp, which leads to staff processing space, formerly known as the Children's Room.

16) The Program Room, meant for meetings, programs, and exhibitions, can hold up to 100 people with lecture-style seating and has an overhead projector, drop-down screen, assisted-listening system, and robust audio. Fabric walls flank the presentation area for easy display of materials, and picture rails run the length of the room for

hanging artwork made by our community members. There is an adjacent kitchen, which can be used by groups who have reserved the space or caterers serving those groups.

17) The Children's Library features light-filled spaces for learning, playing, and exploring. The neutral wall colors are intentional, allowing the vibrant colors of the furniture, puzzle ceiling, and flooring to create an inviting and fun atmosphere. Full of children's materials and resources, this room also features more technology than ever before with twelve computers and a robot self-checkout station.

The puzzle ceiling leads to seating on the orange rug, which also has puzzle seating and sensory rockers. The bench holds games and board books to encourage literacy development, fine and gross motor skill development, and play.

18) The Children's Storytime and Craft Room is the hub of children's programming with a variety of regularly-scheduled programs and special one-time events. The room has both high-tech and low-tech tools for learning, exploring, and creating.