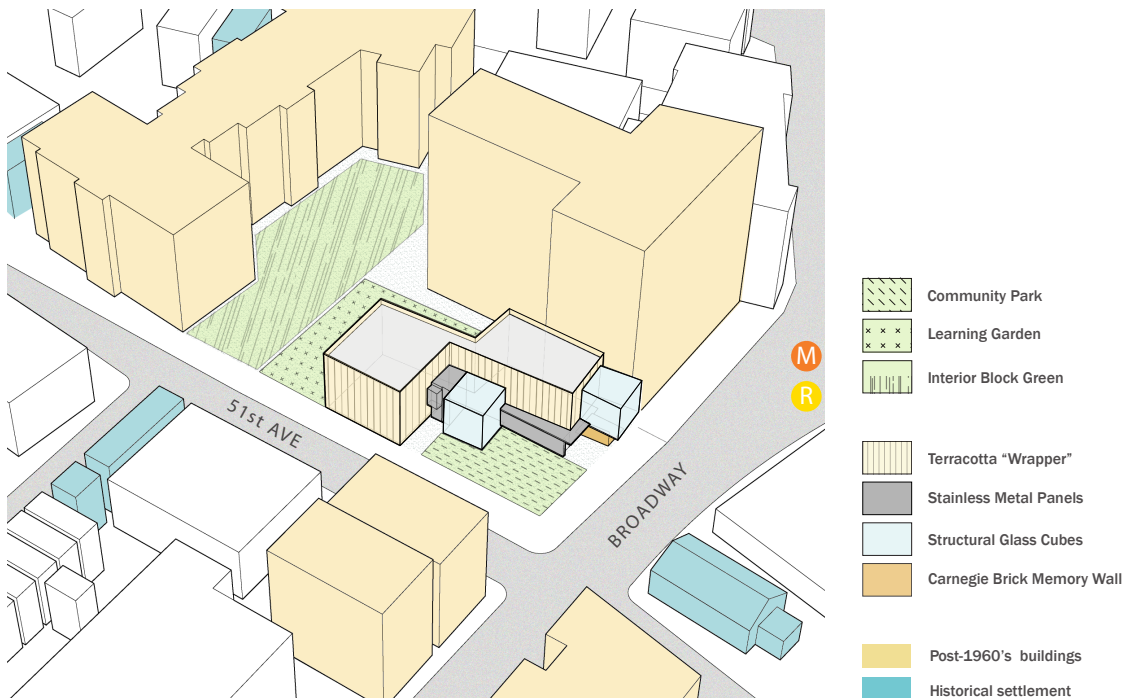


Elmhurst Community Library

Queens



With 80,000+ users, speaking more than 57 languages, Elmhurst is the second busiest circulating library in Queens Library's (QL) network of 64 libraries. This Design Excellence Project is the largest outcome of the NYC DDC's initiative for small firms, replacing the 1904 Carnegie building with a new 30,500sf facility. As a truly public cultural institution, neighborhood anchor, and community hub, it fulfills QL's mission of access, transparency, and technology.

The building's envelope is a terracotta rain-screen, with aluminum inserts marking floor slabs and integrating the rhythm of windows. Stainless steel panels articulate volumes of curtain wall emerging from this wrapper, which also performs as a backdrop

Top: View of Glass Cube from Broadway

Bottom: View of Library with Artist Allan McCollum's SHAPES wall, visible within Broadway Cube (right)

Top (opposite page): Night View of Library from Broadway

Bottom (opposite page): Urban Context Diagram

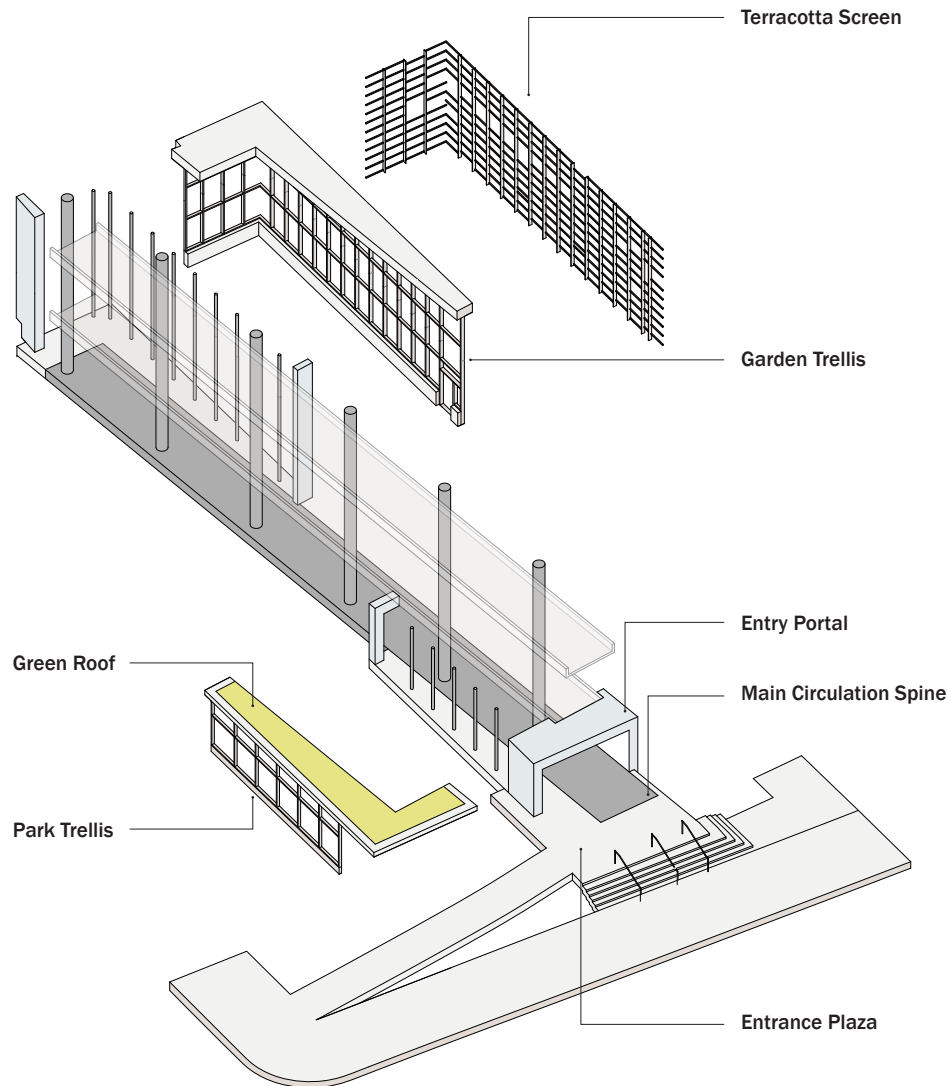


ELMHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY



The library's Z-shaped massing maximizes the impact of the existing Community Park on Broadway, visually opening up a new Learning Garden to a stand of mature oaks at the urban block interior. The building integrates inside and outside by extending the streetscape through a main circulation spine that passes through its transparent center, linking together 13,000sf of landscaped grounds.





Top: Main Circulation Urban Spine Diagram
Bottom: View of Carnegie Room at east end of Urban Spine

Top (opposite page): View looking northeast along the Spine at transparent center of Library; Park Cube with Bookstair (left); Learning Garden (right)
Bottom (opposite page): Site Plan

ELMHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

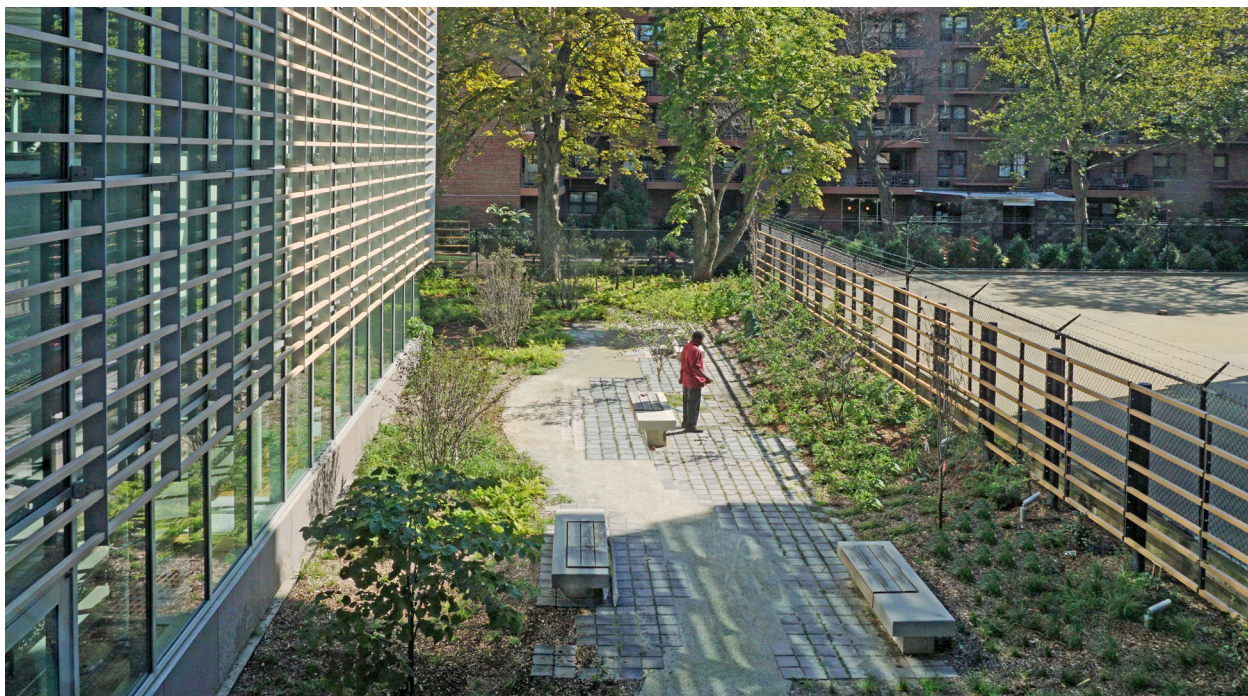
The library's design integrates the performance of architecture and landscape, to maximize natural light and air, preserve existing trees, provide a broad range of outdoor program space, and contribute to the urban neighborhood.

An absorbent low-maintenance landscape with diverse planting minimizes hard surfaces and turfgrass, while providing urban amenities and promoting walking and access.

While doubling the size of the existing library and tripling its program spaces, the project increases the amount of outdoor program spaces to more than 10,000 square feet, and enables a 16,000 SF future addition. The project is expected to achieve a LEED Silver rating

Top: View at Park Cube, looking Community Park
Bottom: View of Learning Garden from Media Center

Top (opposite page): View of Community Park, looking toward Broadway with Park Cube (left)
Bottom (opposite page): View of Meandering Path, leading to Learning Garden





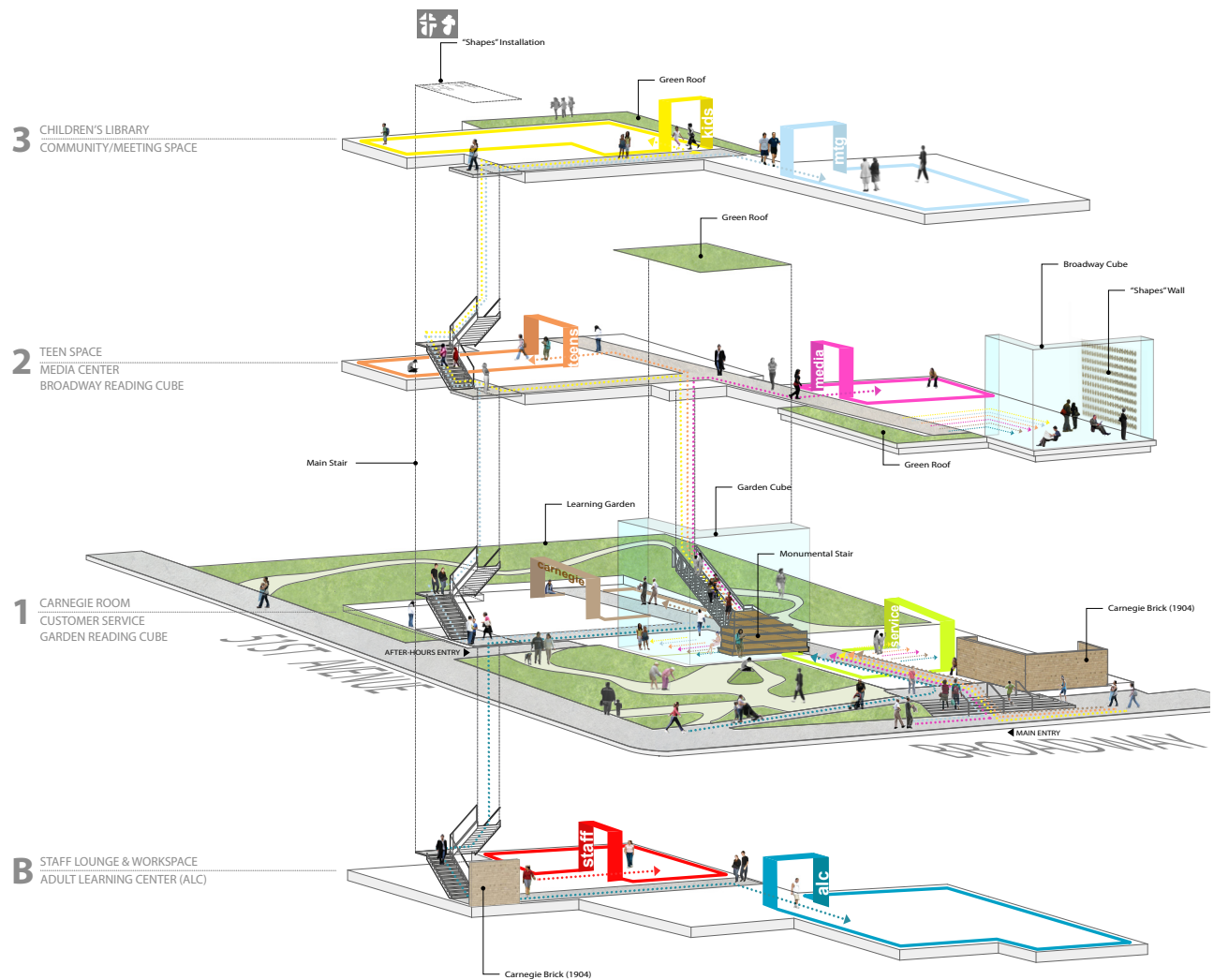


To reinforce the library's significance for the neighborhood, its program spaces cater to diverse groups: from Early Childhood, Children, Teens, and Adult Learning with ESOL Classrooms open after hours, to Community Meeting Space. Interior spaces interact with multiple views of outdoor green spaces. A system of interior "Portals" contribute to identity, support orientation, and stimulate interaction among diverse users, towards new synergies.



Top: View of Computer Area and Portal to Teens Space (left)
Middle: View of Portal to Children's Library
Bottom: View of Portal to Media Center

Top (opposite page): Active Design Diagram
Bottom (opposite page): View of Historical Fireplace at Children's Room



PORTAL LEGEND

0.1	ADULT LEARNING
0.2	PUBLIC RESTROOMS
0.3	STAFF LOUNGE
1.1	CARNEGIE ROOM
2.1	INTERNATIONAL
2.2	MEDIA CENTER
2.3	TEEN CENTER
3.1	COMMUNITY ROOM
3.2	CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

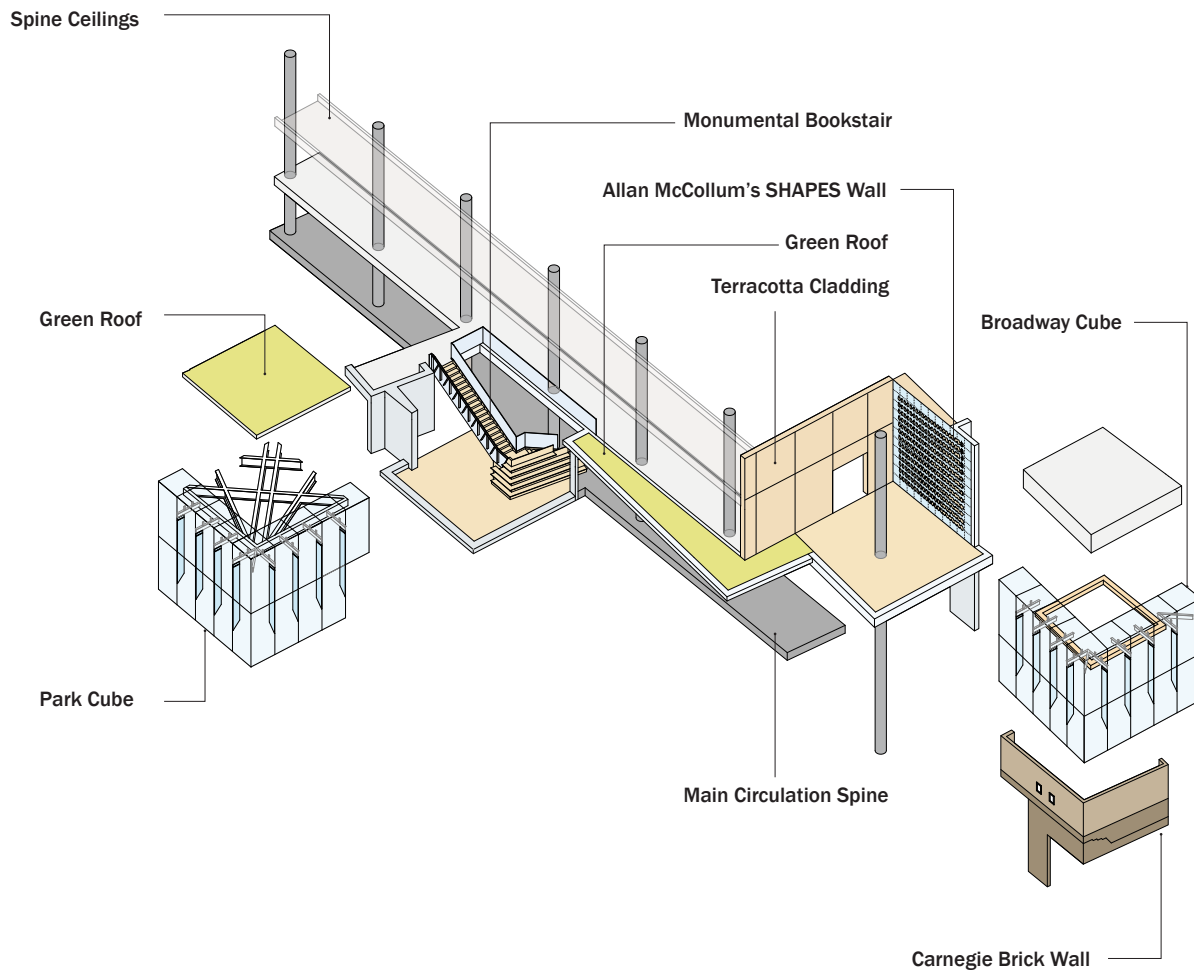
ELMHURST COMMUNITY LIBRARY



The Cubes are suspended structural glass reading rooms that position patrons in the larger environment: one above the urban thoroughfare of Broadway, and one within the Community Park. They glow as luminous beacons after dark, are calibrated to relate to the scale of existing historical fabric, including the 1776 Saint James's Hall.

The Park Cube makes legible the operations of the library's two main floors, with a monumental stair grounded below on a bookshelf, and supported by its railing.





The Broadway Cube, visible from afar, announces the library's presence and puts on prominent display the large installation of "955 Shapes" by artist Allan McCollum; it floats above the Main Entry and book depository, made with bricks salvaged from the original Carnegie building.

Top: Main Reading "Cubes" Diagram
Bottom: View at Broadway Cube

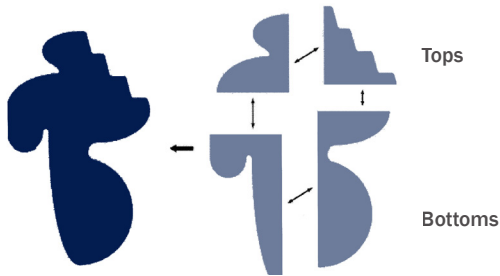
Top (opposite page): View at Park Cube with Monumental Stair
Bottom (opposite page): View at Park Cube, looking Community Park



Artist Allan McCollum's Shapes Project is a collaboration generated through the NYC Percent for Art program.

The systemic approach of McCollum's art work is made evident in the library's main circulation elements: top and bottom parts that originate the Shapes' linguistic system are cut out in stainless steel ceiling panels of the two elevators; the ceiling of the Main Stair's top landing displays their coming together in two pairs of four and six parts.





Allan McCollum "system" for composing shapes

Top: Stainless Steel cut-out Shapes at top of Main Stair
Bottom: Stainless Steel Panels with Shapes Components at Elevator Ceiling

Top (opposite page): Shapes Wall (right) in Broadway Cube
Bottom (opposite page): View of Shapes Wall within Broadway Cube from sidewalk at Broadway



The vocabulary of solid elm wood Shapes is installed on the semi-reflective surfaces of the Broadway Cube's south wall, visible from the street. The resulting 955 Shapes invite people to consider themselves as participants in a larger community, celebrating their similarities and differences as an integral part of the building's conceptual and social agenda.