

Coolidge Corner Library

A new facade heightens the street presence of a neighborhood library



The busiest library in the state by square foot area, the Coolidge Corner Library required a new facade to reflect its community importance. JLA chose a combination of children's library window bay, canopy glass and colonnade signage to increase the buildings visibility. Sandblasted glass text records a sampling of the book titles and authors awaiting library patrons.

Features

- Multi-level glazing provides passive sun screening
- A miniature height window bay invites children's reading and lounging
- The projected canopy marquee broadcasts the building's presence
- Exterior site furnishings complete the street presence and message of welcome

Recognition

- 2007 Award for Design Excellence – Special Citation, AIA/ Boston Society of Architects



Program

The pre-existing 1960's structure's predominant horizontality and functional aesthetic combine to diminish the civic stature of this urban branch library within its tight-knit neighborhood. In replacing the storefront glass and entry system on the main facade, a new system will be put in place that raises the building's visibility from the major intersection of Coolidge Corner and will introduce a new variety of scale along its street front while addressing energy and environmental problems.

Solution

The existing cantilevered entry canopy will be clad with a marquee-like glazed curtainwall assembly which will carry the names of prominent authors etched onto the glass. A new, low, occupiable bay window across the front of the children's reading area will provide a semi-private reading niche for the children while the higher operable clerestory windows will let light and natural ventilation deep into the reading areas. The staff offices will be buffered from the busy front entrance by a series of ceremonial steel columns and translucent glass privacy screens.

New signage, exterior lighting and seating will further reinforce the public presence of the building.

JLA Role

Lead Design Architect;
Architect of Record

Personnel Jonathan Levi FAIA,
Project Designer/Principal-in-Charge; Matthew LaRue AIA,
Project Manager

Client Town of Brookline

Location Brookline, Massachusetts

Cost of Construction \$410,000

Construction Complete 2007

