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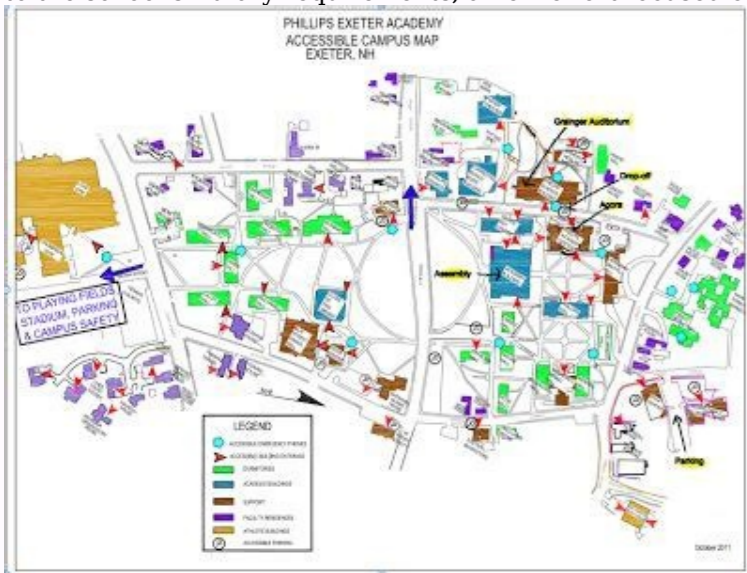
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Phillips exeter academy library pdf

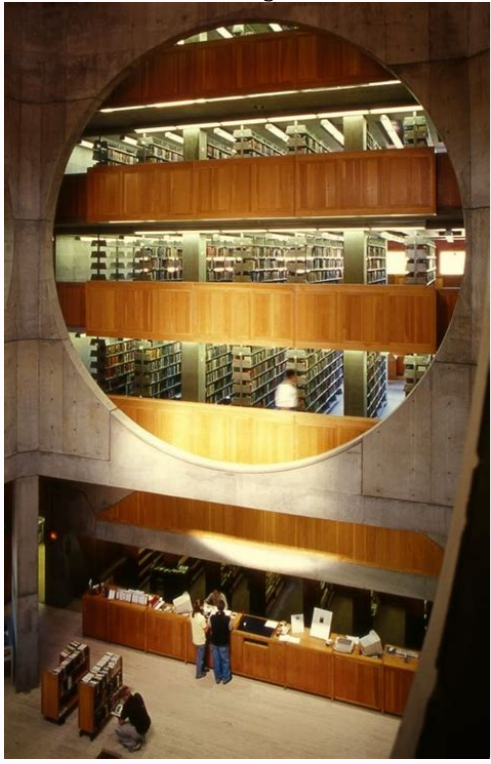
Phillips exeter academy library. Phillips exeter academy library plan. Phillips exeter academy library visit.

Exeter Library Exterior View | © Xavier de Jauréguiberry The Philips Exeter Academy Library, designed by the renowned architect Louis Kahn, was completed in 1972 and is considered one of his greatest achievements. The building is a testament to Kahn's unique approach to architecture, combining materials, light, and form to create a truly exceptional space. The 80-foot high structure spans 111 feet on each side and features a brick facade with elegant teak wood panels. Inside, the library is known for its innovative use of natural light, with large skylights illuminating the central atrium and reading areas. It is widely regarded as one of the most significant libraries in the country and continues to inspire architects and designers around the world. A book is tremendously important. Nobody ever paid the price of a book, they only paid for the printing. [...] How precious a book is in light of the offering, in light of the one who has the privilege of the offering, The library tells you of this offering. - Louis Kahn | Exeter Library Exterior View | © Xavier de Jauréguiberry Exeter Library Stairs | © Xavier de Jauréguiberry Exeter Library Ground Floor | © Xavier de Jauréguiberry Exeter Library Void | © Xavier de Jauréguiberry Exeter Library Void | © Xavier de Jauréguiberry Exeter Library Void | © Xavier de Jauréguiberry Exeter Library Void | © Xavier de Jauréguiberry Corner Detail | © Xavier de Jauréguiberry Reading Desks | © Xavier de Jauréguiberry When it became clear in the 1950s that the library had outgrown its existing building, the school initially hired an architect who proposed a traditional design for the new building. Deciding to construct a library with a contemporary design, the school gave the commission to Louis Kahn in 1965. The Academy was very particular in knowing the kind of building they wanted: a brick exterior to match the school's Georgian buildings and an interior with the ideal environment for study. Kahn structured the library in three concentric square rings. The outer ring built of load-bearing brick includes all four exterior walls and the library carrel desks immediately inside them. The middle ring, which is built of reinforced concrete, holds the heavy book stacks. The inner ring is a dramatic atrium with enormous circular openings in its walls that reveal several floors of book stacks. From the very beginning of the design process, Kahn conceived of the three types of spaces as if they were three buildings constructed of different materials and of different scales - buildings-within-buildings. - Robert McCarter The library is almost cubical: its four sides are 111 feet (33 m) wide and 80 feet (24 m) tall. It is constructed in three concentric areas (which Kahn called "doughnuts"). The outer area houses the reading carrels and is made of brick. The middle area, which contains the heavy book stacks, is made of reinforced concrete. The inner area is an atrium. The nearby dining hall supplies the library's heating and cooling needs, which Kahn built simultaneously with the library but is considered to be of less architectural significance. The building committee's document specified that the new library should be "unpretentious, though in a handsome, inviting contemporary style." Kahn accordingly made the building's exterior relatively undramatic, suitable for a small New England town. Its facade is primarily brick with teak wood panels at most windows marking the location of a pair of wooden carrels. The bricks are load-bearing. Kahn calls this fact to the viewer's attention by making the brick piers noticeably thicker at the bottom, where they have more weight to bear. Phillips Exeter Academy Library Floor Plans | © Louis I. Kahn Sections of the Library | © Louis I.

Kahn Louis Isadore Kahn (1901 - 1974) was a trailblazer in the world of architecture, known for his influential teachings and groundbreaking designs. Based in Philadelphia, Kahn's architectural style was characterized by its monumental and monolithic appearance, showcasing the weight and materials of his structures. Some of his most notable works include the Phillips Exeter Academy Library, the Indian Institute of Management, the Kimbell Art Museum, the Salk Institute, and the Jatiyo Sangshad Bhaban. His impact on 20th-century architecture continues to be felt today, as his buildings remain a testimony to his innovative approach to design and his commitment to creating timeless, awe-inspiring spaces. Full Bio of Louis Kahn | Works of Louis Kahn The evolution of plans for the Class of 1945 Library took almost 15 years, from the first ideas for a "new library" to its final form. At least three different projects were undertaken to plan for the library, with the results of the first two bearing no resemblance to what we now know as the Class of 1945 Library. However rocky its inception, the building is now viewed as an architectural gem. In 1997, the Library was awarded the American Institute of Architects' Twenty-five Year Award. The citation of the award states: "An outstanding collaboration of design and technology, this icon of cleanly articulated structure is a cultural center and modern architectural masterpiece for the original quadrangle of the renowned Academy. The massive block of dark-red brick reveals a surprising delicacy. It is artistically ahead of its time and will continue to enlighten as a spiritual touchstone of great design for generations of architects." Initially, the Academy simply planned to put an addition on the original Davis Library, which had been designed by Ralph Adams Cram. When these plans were rejected by the school's trustees as inadequate solutions to the school's library requirements, a new effort focused on designing a separate building.



The trustees' charge to this effort was "to anticipate the Academy's needs for the next 25 years and to design an exterior that would 'blend in with our beautiful Georgian buildings.'"1 Rodney Armstrong, then Academy Librarian, worked with a faculty committee and an architect appointed by the trustees over the next several years. In 1964, however, newly-appointed principal Richard W. Day, reviewing the results of this effort, which was at the stage of developing final working drawings, was dismayed at what he saw. He fired the architect and started over. Day appointed Rodney Armstrong to chair a small faculty committee, whose members Armstrong could choose, to develop a program statement for the library, develop plans for a separate building, and recommend an architect to the trustees. In Armstrong's words, Principal Day's charge to the committee was "to rewrite the program and to propose 'the outstanding contemporary architect in the world' to design Exeter's new library. We were to receive and consider suggestions from trustees, colleagues, alumni and friends, and to travel anywhere, here and abroad, as we thought best, to look at buildings." 2 Meeting in 1964 and 1965, the committee conferred with numerous architects before recommending Louis I.



Kahn, FAIA, as the architect, whom they admired "for his sympathetic use of brick and his concern for natural light."3 Their recommendation was accepted in November 1965. The final design document, entitled "Proposals for the Library at Phillips Exeter Academy," also had the subtitle of "Program of Requirements for the New Library Recommended by the Library Committee of the Faculty." Published in its final version in June 1966, the document is unusual in its approach, breadth, and conclusions. Working both with Kahn and with Engelhardt, Engelhardt and Leggett, educational consultants from Purdy Station, New York, the committee covered every aspect of the building, from philosophy to practical details, with great emphasis on the atmosphere desired both within and without the building. In addition to outlining functional requirements for the library, the committee specified site and exterior design, design details, staff facilities, spatial relationships, and items such as air conditioning, lighting, electrical and mechanical equipment, and security, fire, and water protection.

Some excerpts best capture the flavor of the document: "The quality of a library, by inspiring a superior faculty and attracting superior students, determines the effectiveness of a school. No longer a mere depository of books and magazines, the modern library becomes a laboratory for research and experimentation, a quiet retreat for study, reading and reflection, the intellectual center of the community... Fulfilling needs of a school expected eventually to number one thousand students, unpretentious, though in a handsome, inviting contemporary style, such a library would affirm the regard at the Academy for the work of the mind and the hands of man."4 One of the most striking notes in the document is that "the emphasis should not be on housing books but on housing readers using books. It is therefore desirable to seek an environment that would encourage and insure the pleasure of reading and study."5 Following this logic, the committee goes on to recommend a variety of choices of seating areas for students and faculty, including both hard and soft chairs, near windows and in interior areas of the building. A requirement for either a garden or a shaded terrace at another level is also specified. At the end of the document, discussing spatial relationships, the committee stresses "that a reader as he enters be able to sense at once the building's plan."6 Kahn admirably accomplished this charge. Entering from the main entrances on the ground floor, and climbing the stairs to the first floor, the visitor can immediately perceive the relationship of reference area, circulation desk, and book stacks. Supervision of student behavior and security of the collections were not given much prominence in the design document, as the Academy's experience with both had been good. This led to a specification that the circulation desk be located on the first floor, rather than on the ground floor directly inside the main entrance, as is traditional in most libraries. Placing the circulation desk closer to the center of library activities ensured that service took priority over supervision. Embracing the committee's specification on the use of traditional Exeter brick, stone, and slate, Kahn also incorporated extensive use of natural wood (primarily teak and white oak), travertine, and concrete, producing a building that is warm, impressive and highly functional. SEE ALSO: Kahn Reference Guide: The Design of the Library Construction and Materials --- 1 Rodney Armstrong, "Lou Who?," The Phillips Exeter Bulletin Spring 2004: 26. 2 Armstrong, 26. 3 Rodney Armstrong, "The New Library," The Phillips Exeter Bulletin Summer 1967: 8. 4 Rodney Armstrong, Elliot G. Fish, and Albert C.



Canley, Proposals for The Library at The Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter, NH: Phillips Exeter Academy, 1966), 1. 5 Armstrong et al., 6. 6 Armstrong et al., 22. Want more? Advanced embedding details, examples, and help!