



FRONT VIEW



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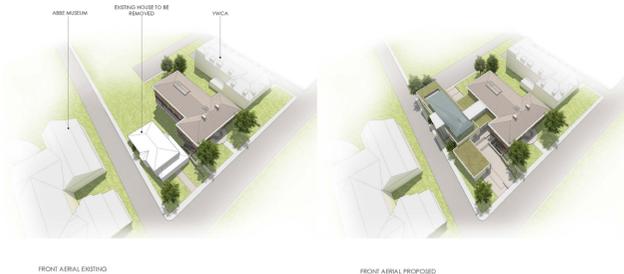
Project Location: 34 Mt Desert Street, Bar Harbor, Maine

Project Narrative: Built in 1911, the Jesup Memorial Library is a beautiful, classically designed building that is on the National Register of Historic Buildings. It has served the community well for over 100 years, but no longer supports the varied programs offered. More space is needed to transform the traditional library into a resource rich community center, with new areas for programs, collections, and social, meeting, and gathering spaces for the community.

The design of an addition to house the expanded programs areas presented a unique challenge: how could we respect the historic building's importance, existing entry and facade while almost doubling the size of the library. We developed a design solution that located the new addition adjacent to the existing library, allowing it to hold the corner of the site and creating a public plaza space between the two structures. The new addition is intentionally designed so it doesn't compete or overshadow the existing library and other neighboring buildings. Using the grade, and setting the third floor back from the front of the building, the three-story addition building is viewed as a single story from the main street. Drawing from the palette of the original building's exterior, the addition will be built with limestone-like panels and copper trim. Referring to the wood paneling of the original interior, the new addition will be built with a mass timber structure, exposed CLT floors, roof, and shear panels, and wood acoustical paneling on the walls of the multi-purpose room.

The addition includes a 150-seat multipurpose meeting room, expansion of the children's and young adult collections, and accessibility for all users. On the main level, patrons will enter from Mt. Desert Street through the plaza, where they can access the new children's and young adult collection and maker space in the rear of the main floor. Quiet study spaces, archives, special collections, and a rooftop garden are located on the upper level, accessed by a new elevator core. On the ground level, book sales and storage, as well as the community room with a stage have been added to accommodate larger programs and events held at the library. The design program also involves extensive renovations to the existing building, including masonry, roofing, and plaster repairs, new electrical and lighting, new flooring, and new mechanical systems.

Category:
Commissioned Project



Jesup Memorial Library

Anchor to the Past Chart to the Future

