





[Civic/Cultural](#) ([/projects/civic/cultural#project-tile-container](#)) | Austin Central Library

AUSTIN CENTRAL LIBRARY

Austin, TX

Overlooking Shoal Creek and Lady Bird Lake, the LEED Platinum Austin Central Library is a building shaped by light and designed to respond to the context of its place. Aspires to be the most durable public library in the nation, the heart of the building is the six-story atrium, which provides daylight for more than 80% of regularly occupied spaces. The unique rooftop butterfly garden and reading porches, inspired by Texans' love for the outdoors, draw visitors to connect with nature. Serving as the western portal to downtown, the library is a technologically-rich, innovative community hub which establishes a culturally-sensitive, major civic presence and community-gathering space in the heart of downtown.

The final design is a 198,000-sq-ft library that serves as a model for sustainable resource use and library efficiency while promoting visceral connections to collections, history, culture, and place. The facility is based on flexible, blended spaces including indoor collections and reading rooms, outdoor reading porches, maker spaces, technology center, café, bookstore, 350-seat event center, art gallery, outdoor dining, demonstration kitchen and rooftop garden. The learning rooms for children and teenagers create designated spaces for different age groups to enjoy a part of the library tailored for them. Integrated art works enhance this technology-focused environment by showcasing local and national artists. The Austin Central Library is a framework for lifelong learning that creates stronger, more resilient communities.



VIDEO: Austin Central Library: A Building Shaped by Light (<https://www.lakeflato.com/video/austin-central-library-building-shaped-light/>)



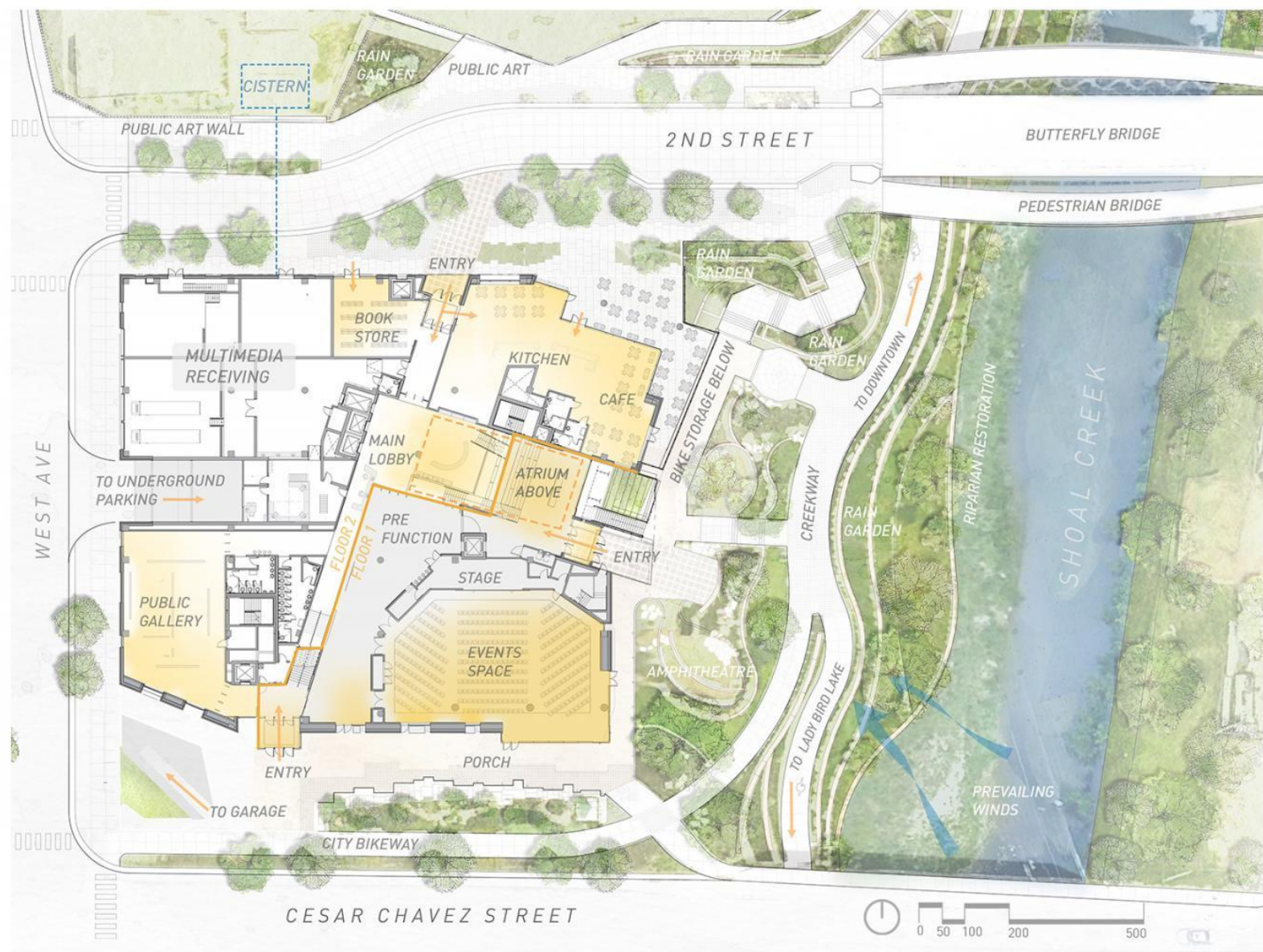
This is a library that went and studied libraries across the world, to come up with a template for it. This is something that this part of the world has never seen before. We hope people really enjoy it. It's just as technology rich as you can imagine.

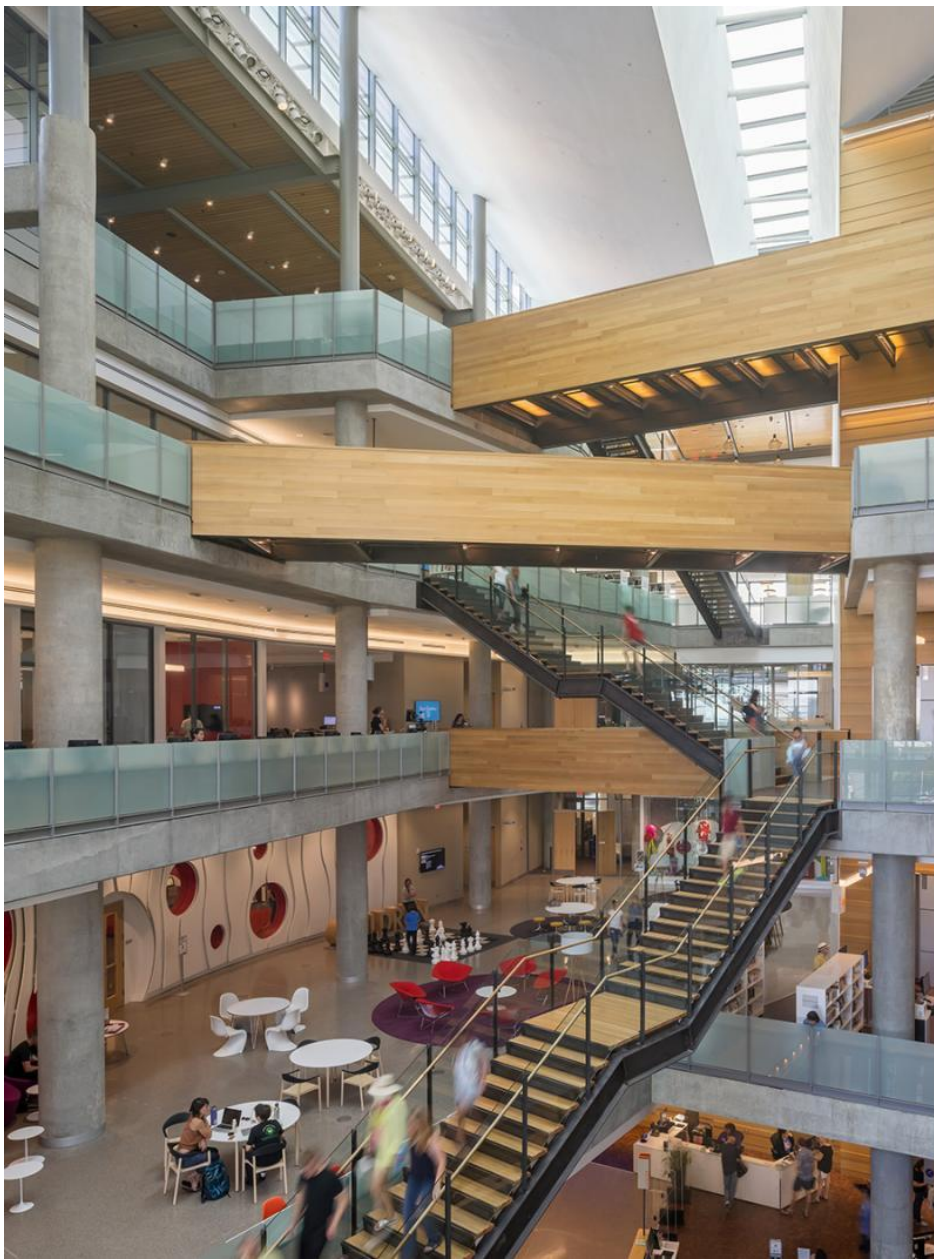
John Gillum
City of Austin Facilities Manager



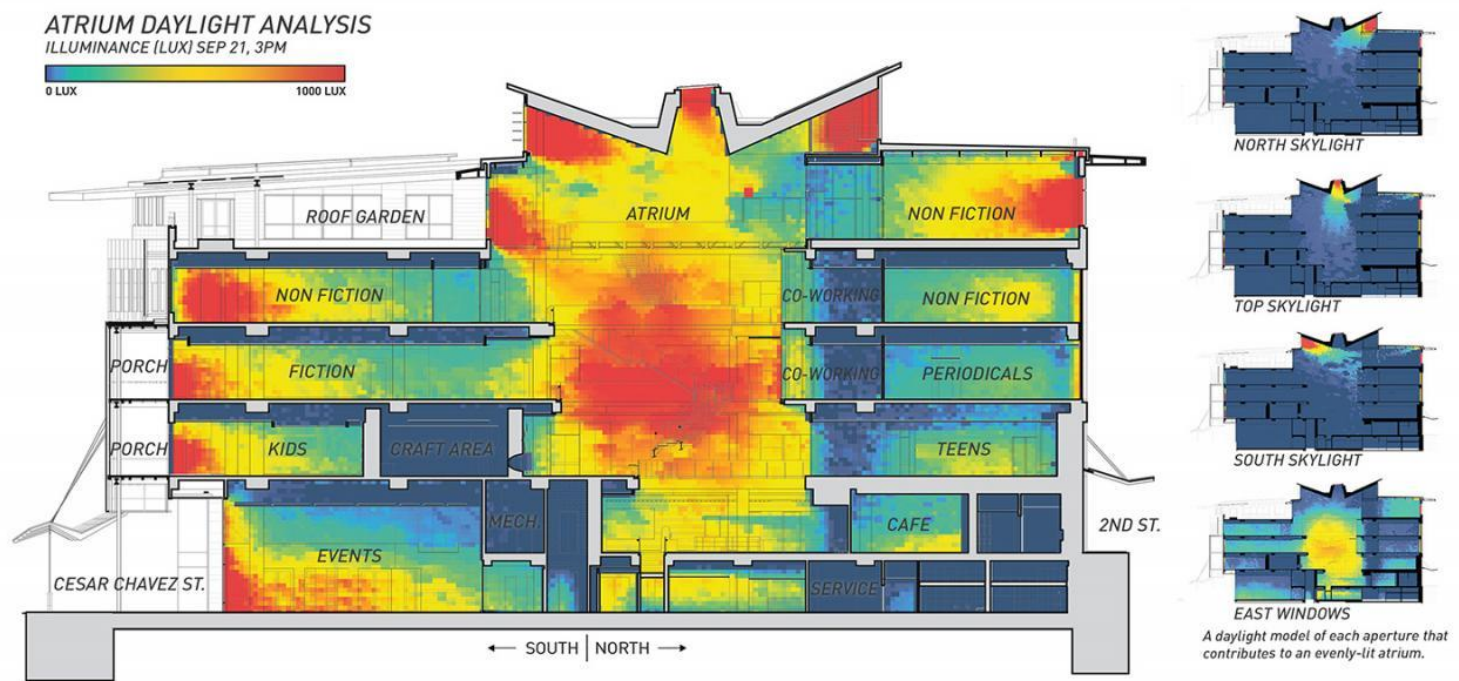












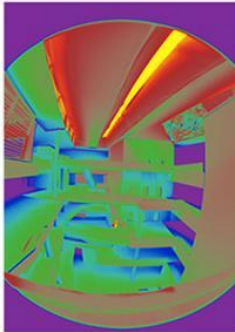
DAYLIGHT PROCESS



PHYSICAL MODELING



LUMINANCE MAPPING



ON-SITE LIGHT MEASUREMENTS

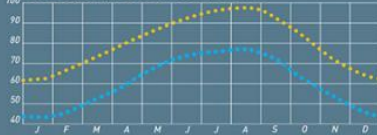


SKYLIGHT UNDER CONSTRUCTION



CLIMATE DATA Austin, Texas

Average High and Low Temperature



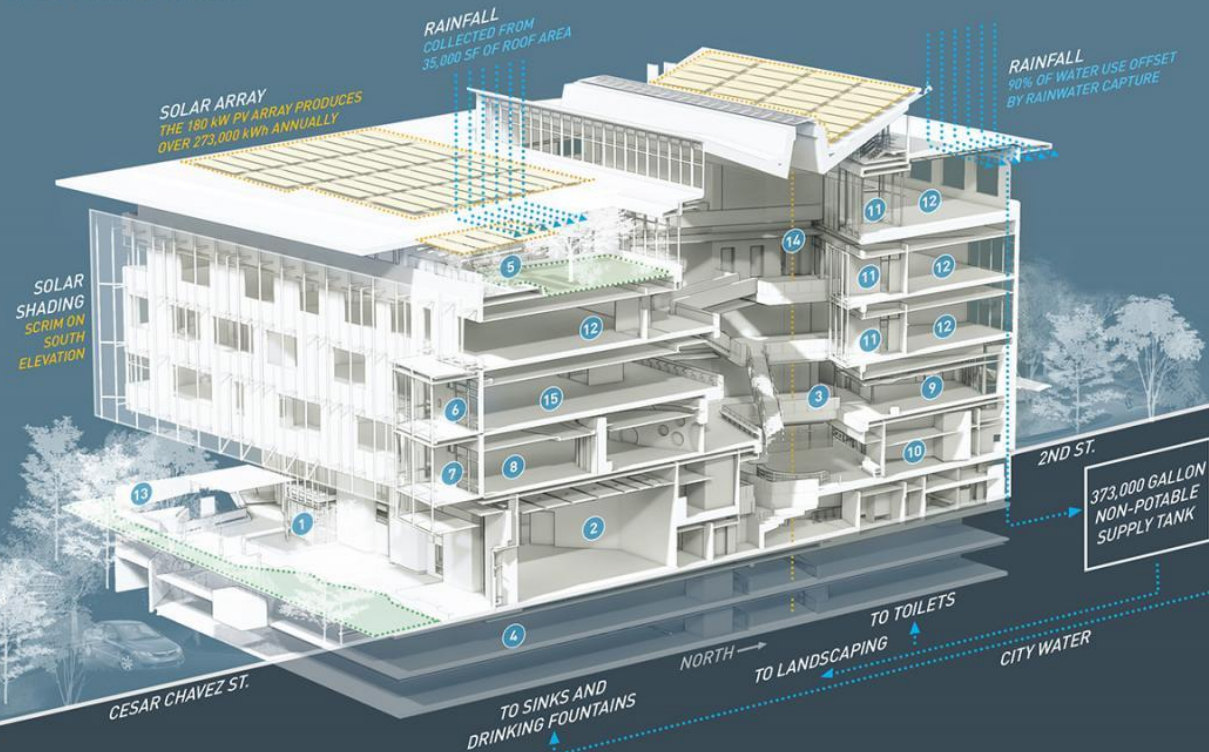
Average Monthly Rainfall



Average Monthly Cloud Cover



WATER AND ENERGY

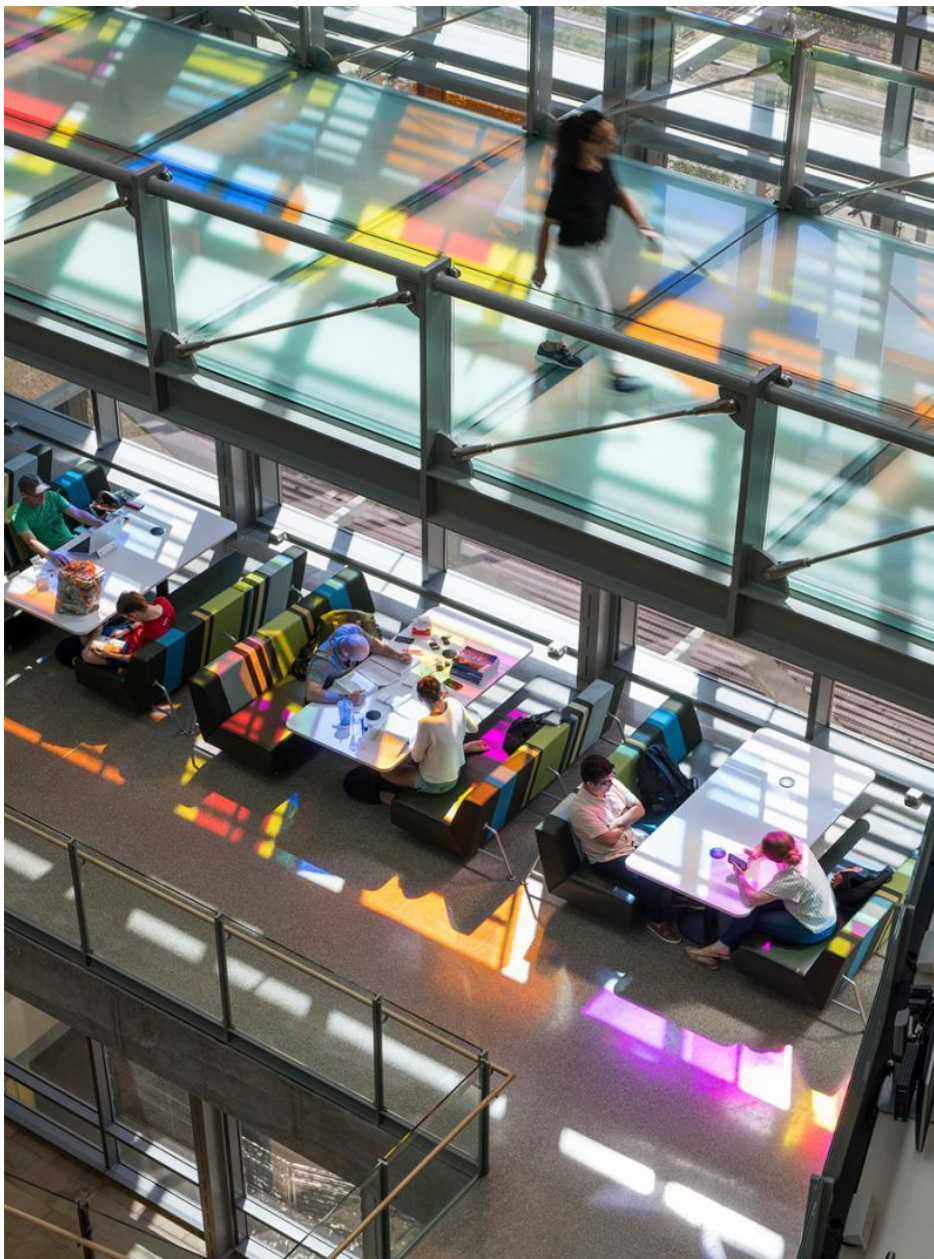


The solar PV array provides shade for the roof garden.

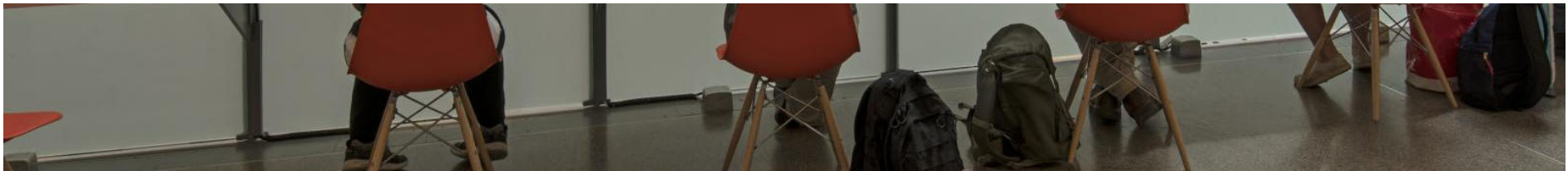


A re-used vault acts as a 373,000 gallon rainwater tank.

1. Cesar Chavez St. Entry
2. Event Space
3. Atrium
4. Parking Garage
5. Roof Garden
6. Screened Reading Porch
7. Children's Screened Porch
8. Children's Area
9. Teen's Area
10. Cafe
11. Co-Working Space
12. Non Fiction
13. Garage Light-Well Entry
14. Regenerative Elevators
15. Fiction







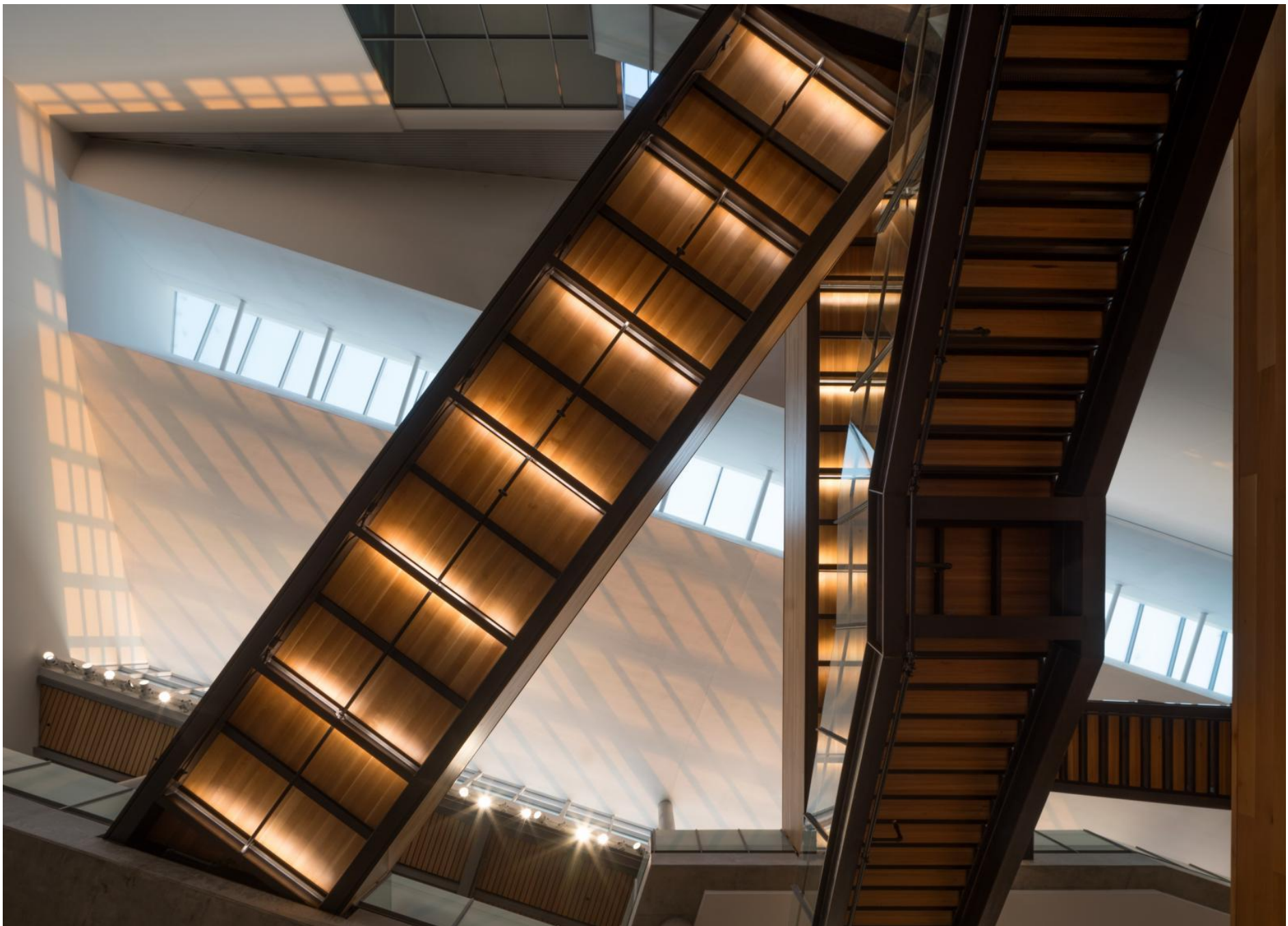


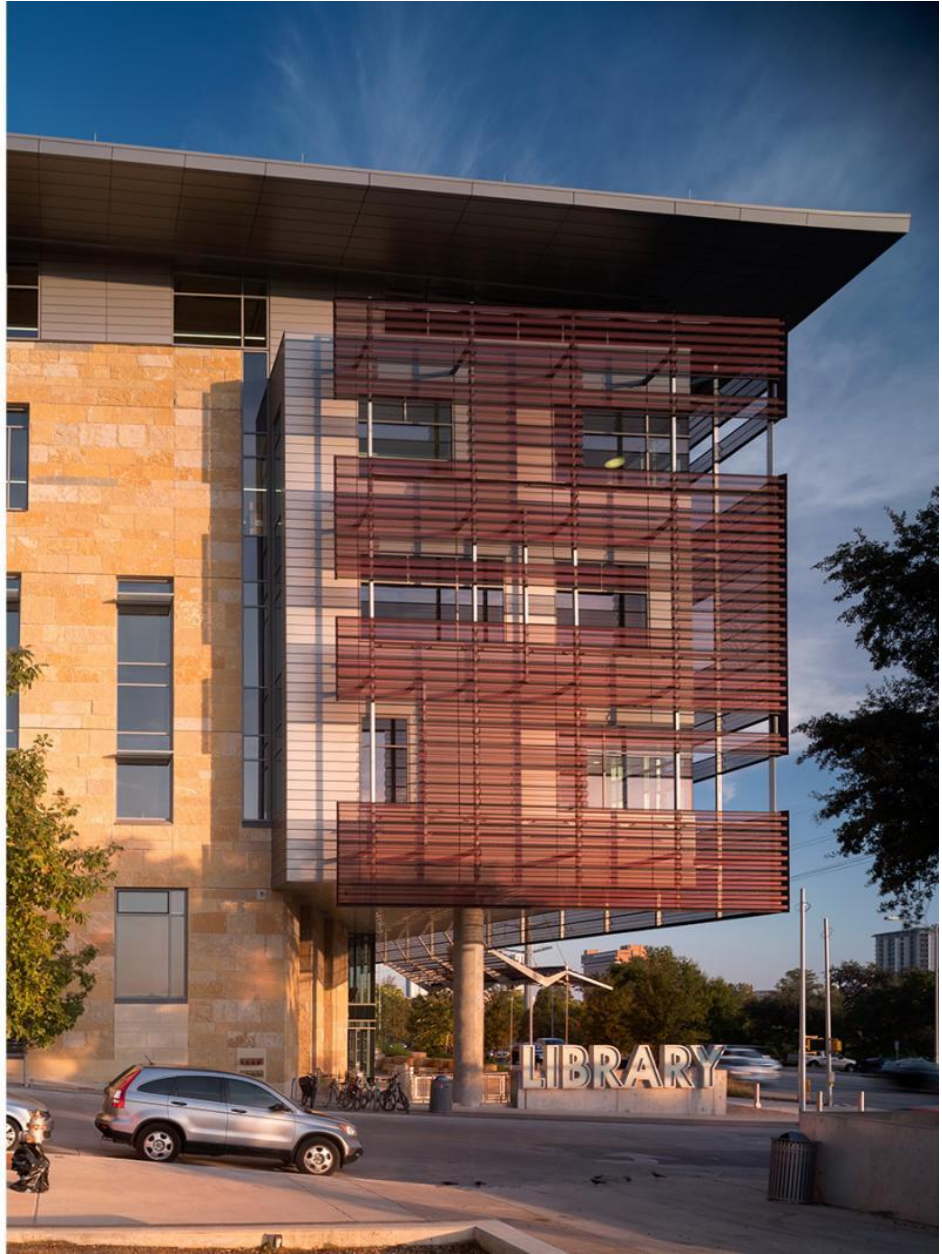
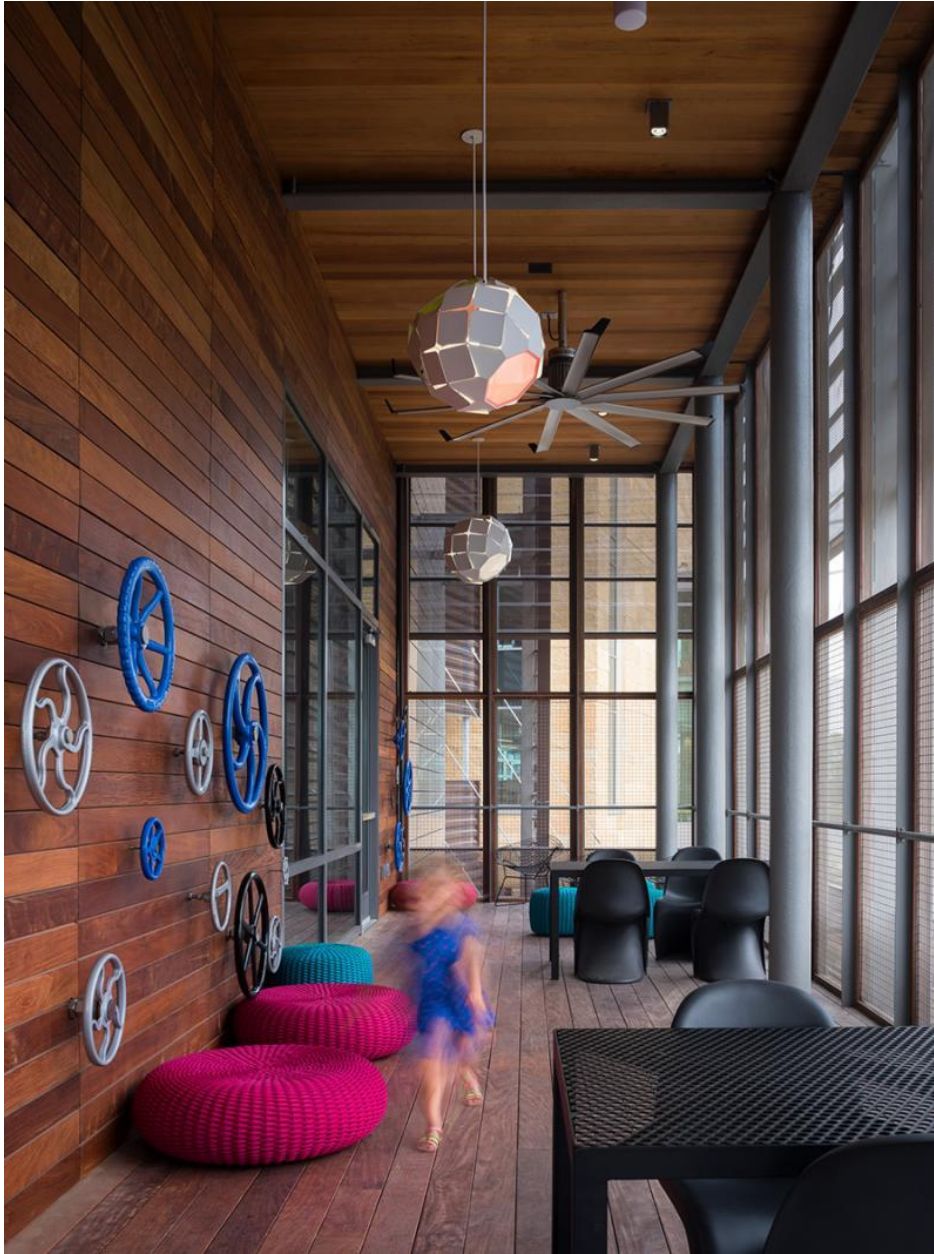








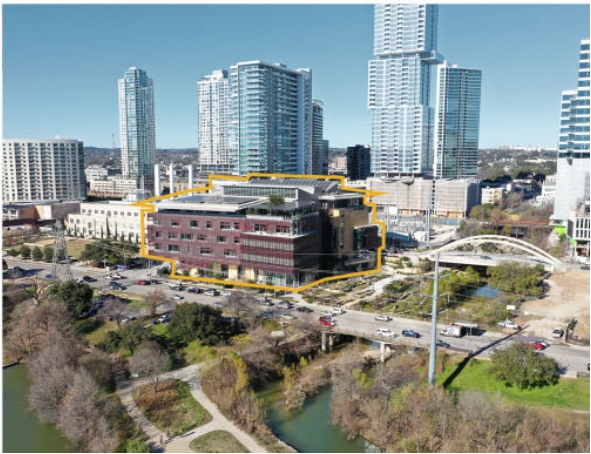
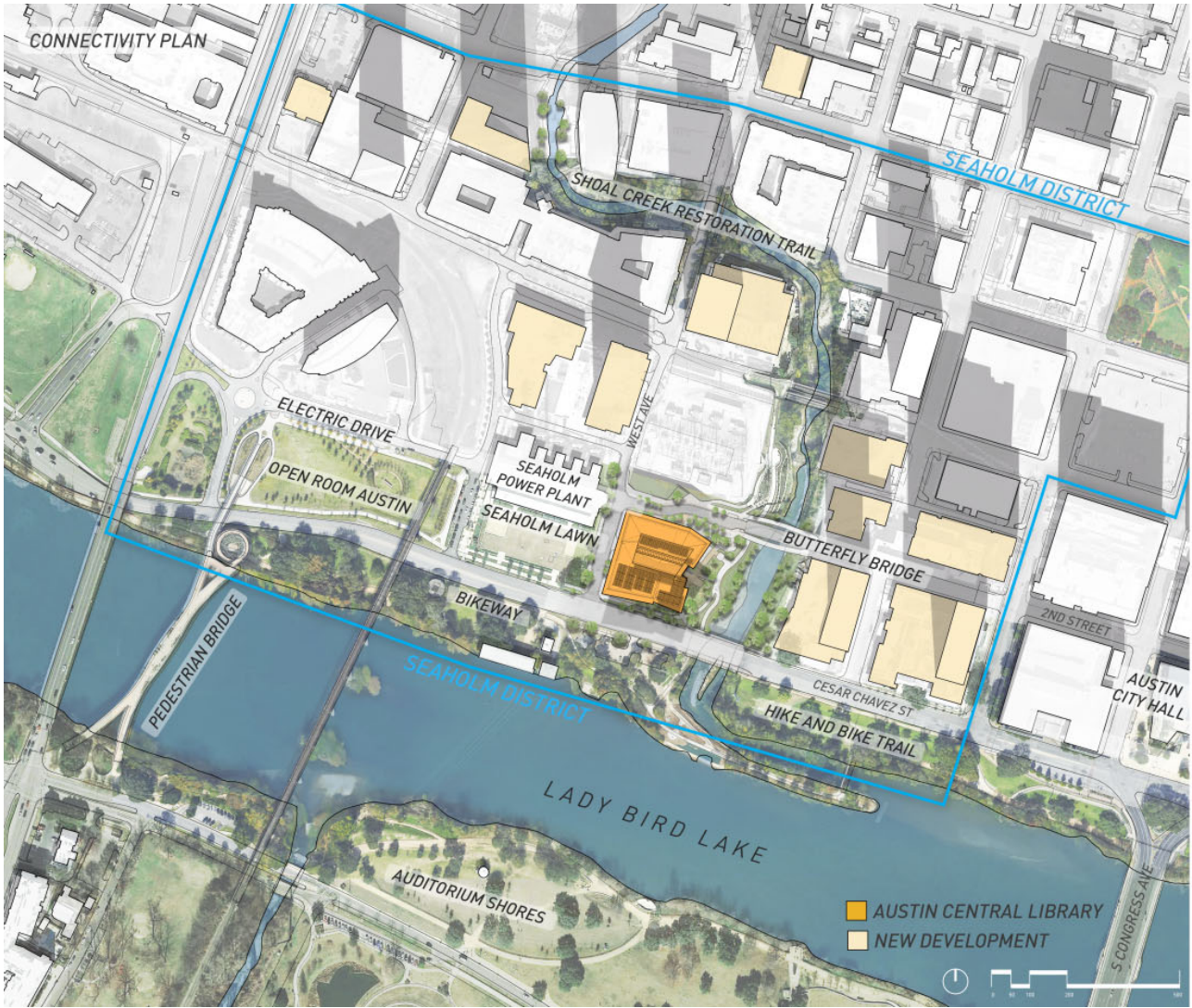
















AWARDS

- 2020 [AIA Committee on the Environment Top Ten Award \(https://www.aia.org/showcases/6280244-austin-central-library\)](https://www.aia.org/showcases/6280244-austin-central-library)
- 2018 [AIA/ALA Library Building Award \(https://www.aia.org/showcases/187056-austin-central-library\)](https://www.aia.org/showcases/187056-austin-central-library)
- 2018 ALA/IIDA Library Interior Design Award
- 2018 AIA Austin Design Award with Sustainability Commendation
- 2018 American Public Works Assoc. TX Chapter Proj. of the Year
- 2018 Architizer A+ Awards Special Mention
- 2018 Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute HONORS Award
- 2018 ULI Austin Best Project Design Award
- 2018 Austin Green Awards Project of the Year
- 2018 Finalist for the International Federation of Library Association's Public Library of the Year Award
- 2018 Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards from the National Council of Structural Engineers Assoc.
- 2018 Texas Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award
- 2018 Named one of the World's Greatest Places by Time Magazine
- 2018 Top Innovator Award from Urban Libraries Council

PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 - [Texas Architect \(http://txamagazine.org/2018/03/12/austin-central-library-public-responds/\)](http://txamagazine.org/2018/03/12/austin-central-library-public-responds/)
- 2017 - [Tribeza \(http://tribeza.com/austins-new-central-library/\)](http://tribeza.com/austins-new-central-library/)
- 2018 - [Dallas Morning News \(https://www.dallasnews.com/arts/architecture/2018/03/21/co-working-spaces-bike-repair-butterfly-gardens-austin-reinventing-public-library-dallas\)](https://www.dallasnews.com/arts/architecture/2018/03/21/co-working-spaces-bike-repair-butterfly-gardens-austin-reinventing-public-library-dallas)

PROJECT SIZE

Conditioned: 198,000 sq. ft.

TEAM

Construction Manager: Hensel Phelps

Structural Engineer: Datum Engineers

Civil Engineer: Urban Design Group
Landscape Architect: Coleman and Associates
Cost Estimator: Eudacorp
Acoustic Consultant: Dickensheets Design Associates
ADA Consultant: Accessology
LEED Consultant: HOLOS Collaborative
Security Consultant: Kroll Security Group
Environmental Consultant: Baer Engineering & Environmental
Interior Design: Shepley Bulfinch
Furniture Procurement: West East Design Group
Food Service Consultant: Cosper & Associates
Permitting: Austin Permitting
Fire Protection: Jensen Hughes
Building Enclosure: Simpson Gumpertz & Hefer
Wayfinding: FD2S
Electric Lighting: Clanton and Associates
Daylighting: Integrated Design Lab
Sustainability Consultant: Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems
Photovoltaic Consultant: Integral Group
Energy Consultant: Supersymmetry USA
Water Consultant: Biohabitats
Electrical Service: Harutunian Engineering
Parking Consultant: Datum Gojer Engineers
Public Art: Celia Munoz
Traffic: HVJ Associates
Photography: Nic Lehoux, Casey Dunn, Andrea Calo, Lara Swimmer

