

# Freeport Public Library

Freeport, Illinois

Architect: Howard R. Green Co.

The City of Freeport, Illinois has dreamed of a new public library since the early 90's.

The building opened the week before Christmas in 2003. The total design effort required the Howard R. Green Company to engage in 9 different site studies before the actual location could be determined. The site itself shares several unique historical precedents. During the summer of 1858, a senatorial campaign was waged between Abraham Lincoln and Senator Douglas. The heart of the debates was the issue of slavery and the locations were at 7 different cities in the state. The site directly to the east of the new library is commemorated historically in a special park area since it is one of the original locations of these debates. A local resident donated this site, the former home of an abandoned auto dealership building to the City, which finally got the project moving ahead in late 2000. The street between the sites has been closed to make one continuous site to emphasize the importance of the library to the historical fabric of the community.



Photos Courtesy of Ken Smith

The meeting rooms' portion of the building is angled towards the city square and entrances to the main lobby are provided on either side of the facility to encourage entrances from both adjacent streets. The main street on the south being the business route for Illinois Highway 75.

Due to the parking requirements for a 42,000-square-foot library, the building is designed as a 2-story structure in order to accommodate 100 cars on site, a small sculpture garden and sufficient green space.

The building is constructed of two colors of brick, buff colored limestone trim and large areas of fixed glass in Kynar® colored frames. Roof overhangs are 6-foot deep with a 4:1 slope to keep the scale more humanistic. The building has become a focal point of the downtown aesthetically and functionally. The main floor of the building contains the lobby, a coffee shop, meeting rooms, a local history room, circulation services, technical services and the children's library. The second floor contains all of the adult collection including study rooms, periodicals, etc. as well as the administrative offices of the library.

The Children's area, including their program room, opens onto an exterior courtyard to create a visual connection to the debate site, as well as providing space for group reading programs in pleasant weather.

The interior spaces make use of both strong and subtle colors, and details which integrate the design of custom wood end panels, furniture choices, with the public stair and open well railings.

A fund raising project is now underway, initiated by the local newspaper, to create a fountain sculpture to serve as a link between the debate site and the library site in the area of the existing closed street. A project that was initially hard to get community support for has finally been accepted as the centerpiece of the downtown area as it continues to serve its community into the 21st Century.

## MANUFACTURERS/SUPPLIERS

**DIV 07:** EIFS: Sto Corp.

**DIV 08:** Curtainwall, Storefront, Doors: Vistawall; Glass: Arch Aluminum & Glass Co.; Automatic Door Operators: Dor-O-Matic; Locks, Exit Devices, Door Closers: Sargent; Metal Doors & Frames: Curries; Wood Doors: Graham.

**DIV 09:** Acoustical Treatment: Armstrong Cirrus™, Tectum, BPB; Wood Ceiling: Rulon; Drywall: Georgia Pacific; Steel Studs: Dietrich.

## EXTENDED PRODUCT INFORMATION

Glass: Arch Aluminum & Glass Co. See advertisement on page 17.

Door Closers: Sargent See advertisement on page 7.

## ARCHITECT

HOWARD R. GREEN CO.  
8710 Earhart Lane, S.W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
www.hrgreen.com

## FILE UNDER

CIVIC  
CV050316  
Freeport, Illinois

### CONSTRUCTION TEAM

#### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

**M2B Structural Engineers, LLP**  
422 2nd Avenue, S.E., #B, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

#### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: J. P. Cullen and Sons Inc.

P.O. Box 1957, Janesville, WI 53547

#### ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL ENGINEER:

**Howard R. Green Co.**  
8710 Earhart Lane, S.W., Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

#### COST ESTIMATOR: Stecker-Harmson, Inc.

103 E. 6th Street, #201, Ames, IA 50010

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

**SITE:** 2.2 acres.

**NUMBER OF BUILDINGS:** One.

**BUILDING SIZE:** First floor, 22,358; second floor, 20,650;  
total, 43,008 square feet.

**BUILDING HEIGHT:** First floor, 12'4"; second floor, 13'2";  
floor to floor, 16'; total, 48'

**BASIC CONSTRUCTION TYPE:** 2C/New.

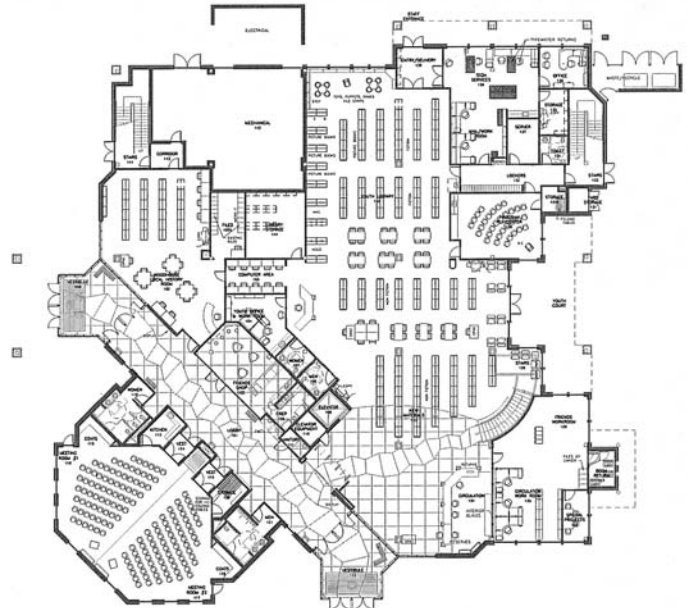
**FOUNDATION:** Concrete.

**EXTERIOR WALLS:** Masonry.

**ROOF:** Membrane, shingles, metal.

**FLOORS:** Carpet, vinyl, ceramic tile.

**INTERIOR WALLS:** Gypsum.



Howard R. Green Company

FREEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

FIRST FLOOR FURNITURE PLAN

## FREEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Date Bid: June 2002 • Construction Period: Aug 2002 to Oct 2003 • Total Square Feet: 43,008**

C.S.I. Divisions (1 through 16)	COST	% OF COST	SQ.FT. COST	SPECIFICATIONS
BIDDING REQUIREMENTS	—	—	—	—
1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	555,872	9.94	12.92	1 General conditions, mobilization, construction facilities & temporary controls, insurance, testing, bond, allowances.
3. CONCRETE	360,980	6.46	8.39	3 Formwork, reinforcement, accessories.
4. MASONRY	364,652	6.52	8.48	4 Masonry & grout, stone.
5. METALS	686,460	12.28	15.96	5 Structural metal framing.
6. WOOD & PLASTICS	271,840	4.86	6.32	6 Rough carpentry, finished carpentry.
7. THERMAL & MOIST. PROTECT	531,605	9.51	12.36	7 Insulation, EIFS, shingles, membrane roof, manufactured roofing & siding, joint sealers.
8. DOORS & WINDOWS	399,024	7.14	9.28	8 Metal doors & frames, special doors, windows, curtainwall.
9. FINISHES	712,475	12.74	16.57	9 Metal support systems, gypsum board, acoustical treatment, ceramic tile, carpet, painting, wall coverings.
10. SPECIALTIES	75,501	1.35	1.76	10 Identifying devices, flagpoles, toilet & bath accessories, library.
11. EQUIPMENT	—	—	—	11 —
12. FURNISHING	—	—	—	12 —
13. SPECIAL CONSTRUCTIONS	—	—	—	13 —
14. CONVEYING SYSTEMS	38,978	0.70	0.91	14 Elevators (1).
15. MECHANICAL	1,088,400	19.47	25.31	15 Fire protection, plumbing, HVAC.
16. ELECTRICAL	504,800	9.03	11.73	16 Basic materials & methods, insulation, controls, testing & balancing, fixtures.
<b>TOTAL BUILDING COST</b>	<b>5,590,587</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$129.99</b>	
2. SITE WORK	490,333			2 Preparation, earthwork, paving & surfacing, landscaping. Included in Site Work.
LANDSCAPING & OFFSITE WORK	—			
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>6,080,920</b>			

(Excluding architectural and engineering fees)

**UPDATED ESTIMATE TO APRIL 2005: \$146.50 PER SQUARE FOOT**

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