



Entrance lobby

**THE CHARLES P. STEVENSON, JR. LIBRARY,
BARD COLLEGE**

Architects: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc.

Location: Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

Client: Bard College

Area: 27,500 sf (new construction); 25,000 sf (renovation)

Construction Cost: \$5,990,000

Completion: 1993 (new construction); 1994 (renovations)

Situated on a bluff overlooking the Hudson Valley, the 1893 Greek Revival Hoffman Library has been a stirring tribute to Classicism for over a century. Bard College retained VSBA to expand and renovate the library into a state-of-the-art complex serving as campus’s intellectual and symbolic focal point. Design requirements included doubling the size of the library to accommodate 230,000 volumes and 400 users, expanding computer capabilities, providing specialized study and seminar rooms, improving acoustics, introducing new mechanical systems, and integrating the new addition with the original Greek Revival temple. The extension also had to relate to the loft-like Kellogg Wing, a 1974 addition to the north of the Hoffman original.



Stacks & computer carrels

The design presented a true challenge: how to extend a Classical temple, a form that exemplifies the architectural whole par excellence? VSBA’s solution was to design the Stevenson Wing addition as an architectural whole but also a fragment whose billowing facade inflects toward Hoffman; the Wing would not make sense standing alone. As seen adjacent to the Hoffman temple, the new Wing’s vertical rhythms and vibrant colors simultaneously complement and contrast with the heroic Classicism of the existing temple. Its crescendo of modern pilasters strikes dissonant -- jazzy or possibly Mannerist -- permutations of Hoffman’s sedate Classical colonnade. In contrast to the old, this polychromatic facade makes a vivid (if half-hidden) accent on campus.

Inside, the addition’s varied and naturally lit perimeter spaces serve specialized academic and administration functions while uniform internal structural bays efficiently house the book and manuscript collections. Electrical and communications provisions throughout the perimeter and reference areas meet current and anticipated developments in information technology and library practices. Each floor offers views of the adjacent Classical temple.



Detail of architecture & desk

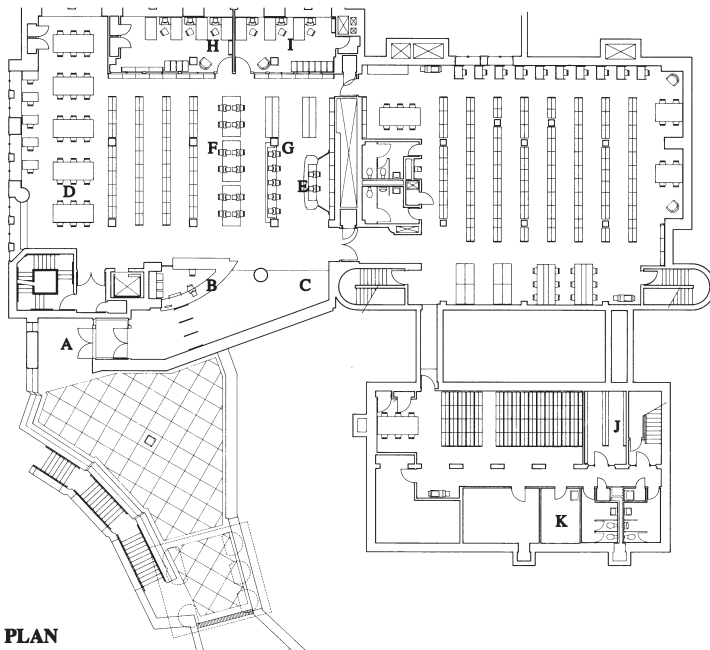
The principal approach to the library complex, the North Mall, preserves the existing view of the original colonnaded and copper-roofed Hoffman Library while featuring a new freestanding entrance pavilion announcing the complex and helping to form a new outdoor entrance plaza. The plaza, poised along the original Acropolis-like rock plateau of the temple, provides a dramatic overlook to the athletic field and Catskill mountains to the west and serves as a sunny outdoor meeting and study space.

View from playing fields





Main Approach to library



- A. ENTRANCE
- B. MAIN CIRCULATION DESK
- C. NEW BOOK DISPLAY AREA
- D. MAIN READING ROOM
- E. REFERENCE DESK
- F. OPTICAL DISC (CD ROM)
- G. ON-LINE CATALOG
- H. READERS SERVICES
- I. DATA BASE SERVICES
- J. CLOSED ARCHIVE
- K. ARCHIVAL WORK SPACE

LEVEL ONE FLOOR PLAN



Site plan



View from playing fields