

New Central Library

CONCEPT DESIGN REPORT

Located on Treaty Six Territory and the Homelands of the Métis.



**SASKATOON
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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OVERVIEW

The new central library will be located in downtown Saskatoon at 321 2nd Avenue North on a 0.656 ha long rectangular parcel of land bordered by 24th Street East, 2nd Avenue North and 25th Street East.

The following are key objectives and aspirations for the project:

- Replace the existing library with a new central library that is a flagship of reconciliation in action.
- Create an inclusive and safe environment to learn and discover.
- The physical form of the building and the interior and exterior spaces will embody First Nation and Métis identities (traditions and cultures) and express the aspirations of the Saskatoon community as a whole.
- The new central library will be a model of sustainability in Saskatoon and will strive for LEED® Gold Certification.
- Accessibility is a key objective, and the new central library is targeting the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™.

The concept design for the new central library aligns with the project's strategic vision, which is to build a library that's infused with the spirit and the potential of the community, and to be a leader in reconciliation, sustainability and accessibility.

PLACEMENT ON SITE

The planned gross building area is 12,634sm (136,000sft) over four levels. The design concept integrates the functional program requirements of the library over four storeys and a lower sub-grade level.

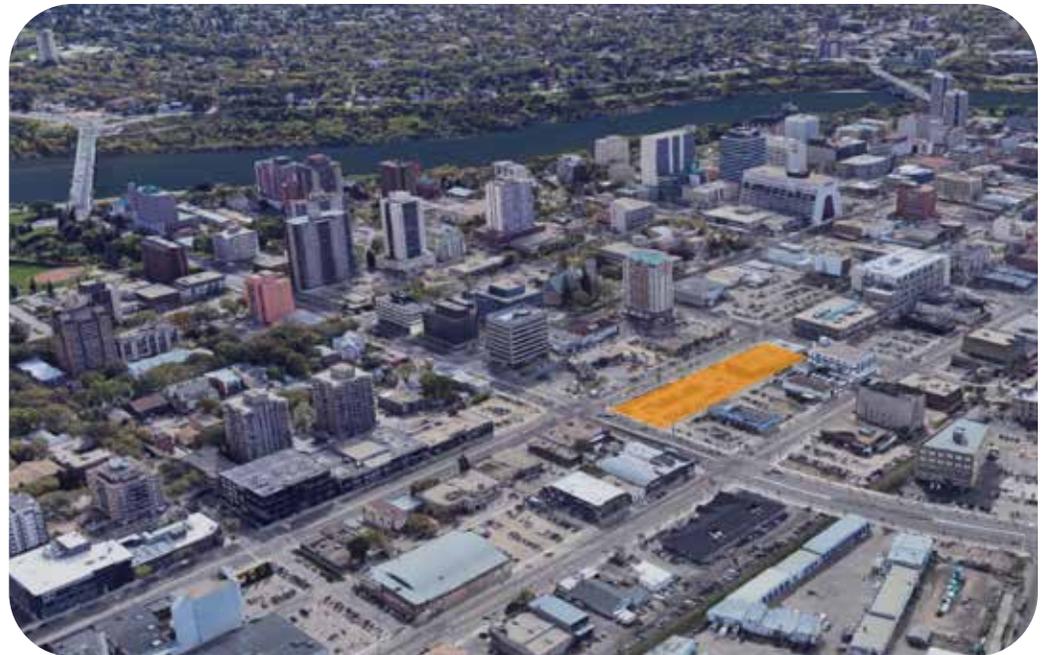
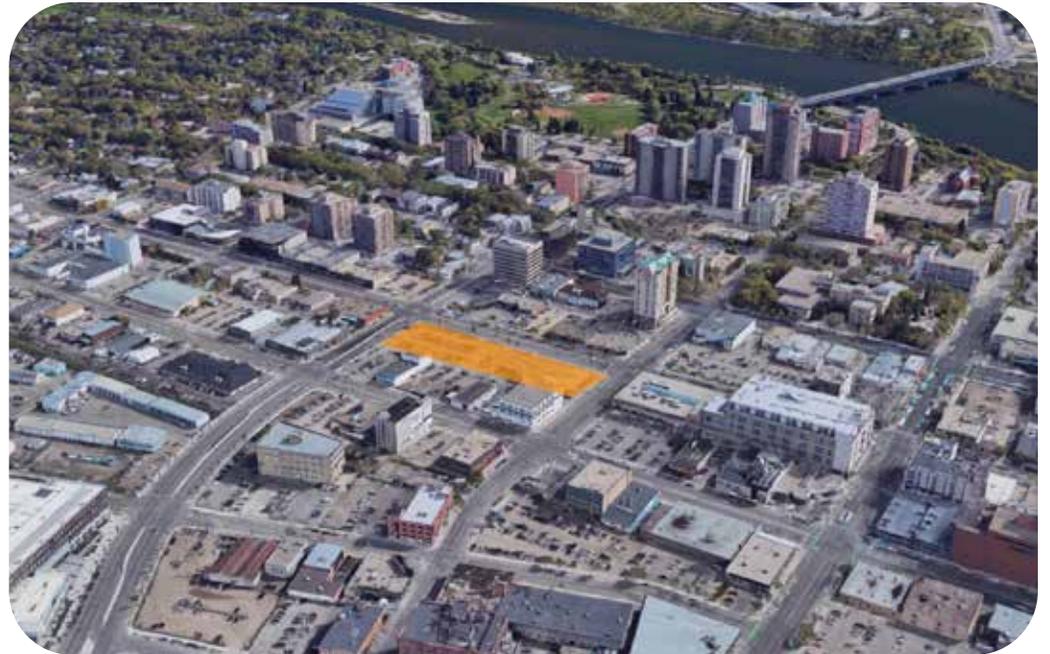
The building covers 45% of the property, which provides a generous south green space and entry plaza, along with landscaping on the north side.

Top left: looking south-west

Top right: looking east

Bottom left: looking north

Bottom right: looking south-east



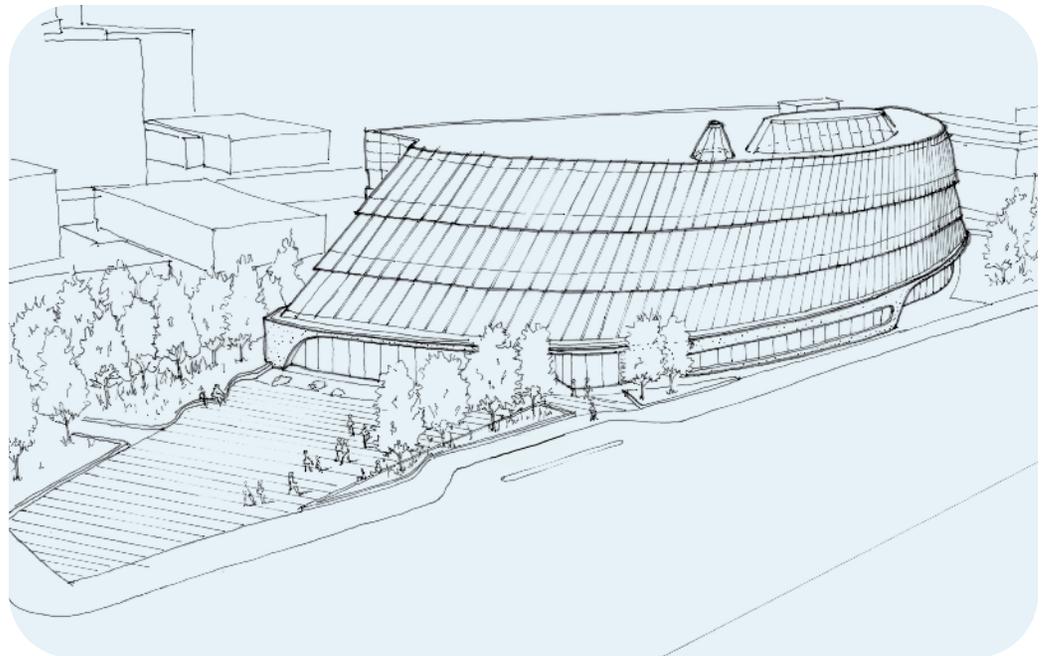
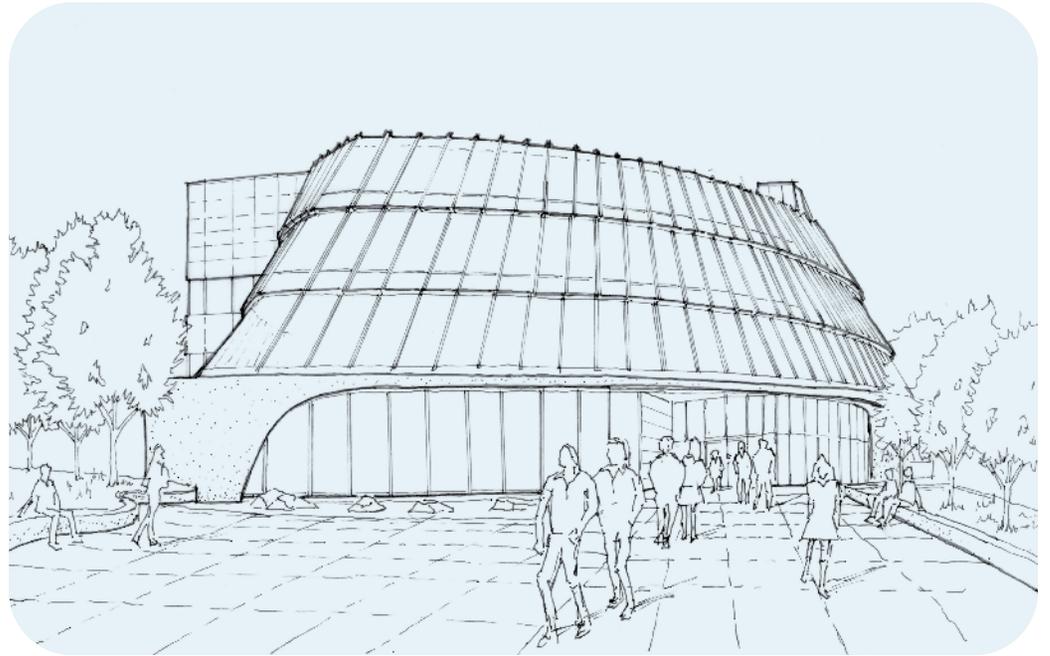
EXTERIOR

The inspiration for the building's concept is drawn from both traditional First Nation and Métis architecture. The exterior of the building references the traditional First Nation tipi, while the interior mass timber structure references the Métis' log cabin.

The tipi is a simple, elegant design with a translucent skin that allows diffused light to transfer. The tipi is constructed from lodgepoles tied together to form an ovoid plane. The lodgepole conical structure created a natural ventilation chimney to ensure smoke from the fire could be exhausted. The structure was enclosed by animal hides, which were predominately bison in Saskatchewan.

Traditionally, the Métis log cabins were constructed from wood and had open floor plans that reflected traditional values of communalism and social connection.

Both First Nations and Métis people oriented buildings outward toward the landscape, demonstrating a deep connection to nature and preserving links to the natural environment, with which the structures interacted. The design for the new central library and the placement on the site endeavours to provide continuity with the surrounding landscape.



MATERIALITY

The materiality of the library takes its source from Saskatoon's landscape, its tones and textures, and is a play on natural light and shadows. The strong shape of the building and the quality of the materials such as wood, glass and the concrete details are used to create a simple, comfortable and unique environment.

The exterior of the library will be a tight, stretched, curtain-wall glazing system with integrated translucent insulated panels evocative of a tipi. The materiality and the simplicity of the construction details are evocative of a timeless tectonic approach. The building envelope is a combination of transparent, translucent and opaque glass panels. This will ensure that there are ever-present views of the beautiful sky. The exterior landscaping will incorporate native plants and trees, and reflect the surrounding land.

The interior spaces of the library are defined by the expression of a mass timber structure: wood elements such as columns and ceilings are visible throughout the public spaces of the library and bring a unique atmosphere to the interiors. The openness and transparency of the building brings an abundance of diffused natural light.

The library establishes a strong relationship with its surrounding environment and demonstrates its openness to its diverse community of users. The quality of the interior spaces and the simplicity of the exterior envelope create a holistic environment, reaching to the people and the community of Saskatoon.

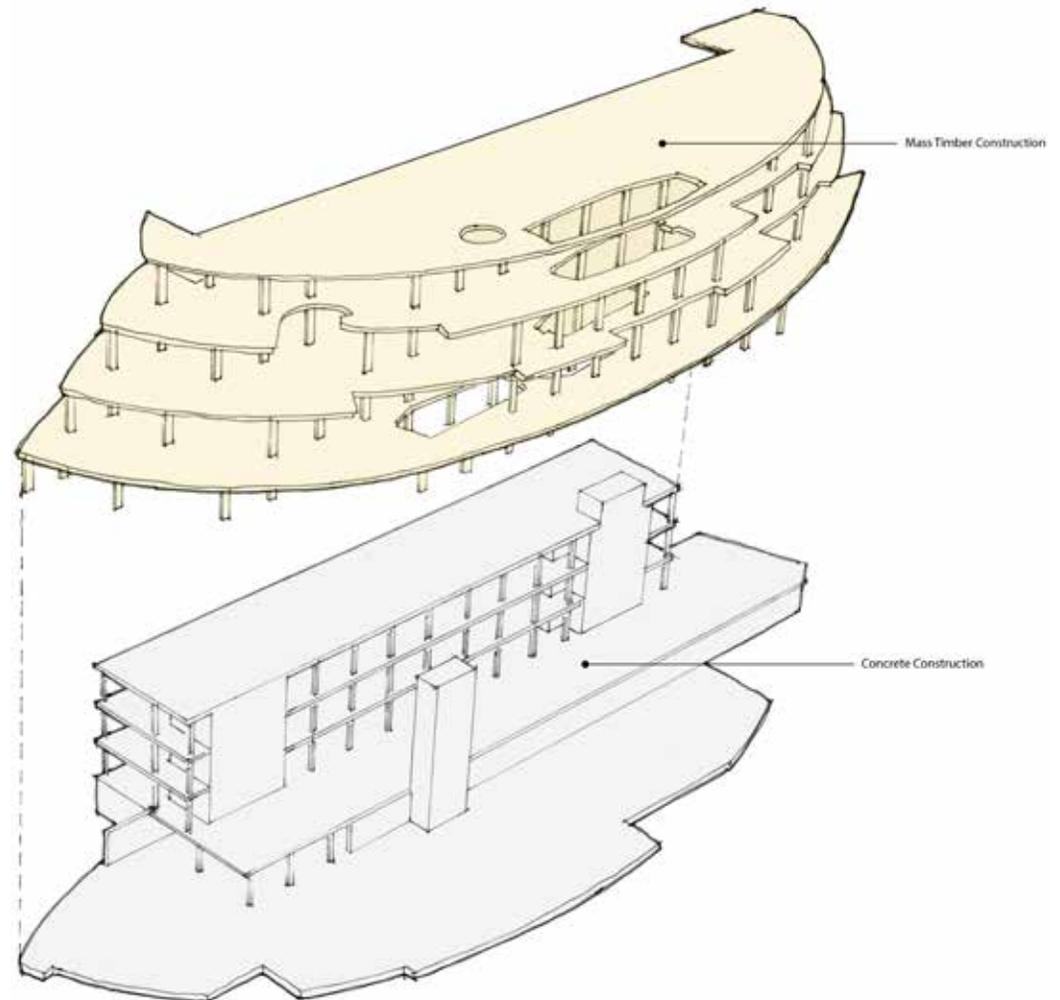
At night, the library becomes a warm, glowing lantern — a beacon at the heart of Saskatoon.



STRUCTURAL

The building's structure is conceived as a tree, with a strong concrete structural trunk in the back and a light wood mass timber structure branching off it. Mass timber in the form of cross-laminated timber hybrid panels and glulam columns and beams will be located in the main floor plates. This structure will enable the library to have large open and interconnected areas, with a minimum number of interior walls and separations.

The portion of the building containing enclosed program spaces, back of house and employee spaces will be constructed with conventional suspended concrete slabs and concrete beams. The raised-floor system for the main public areas will be carpeted modular raised-floor components.

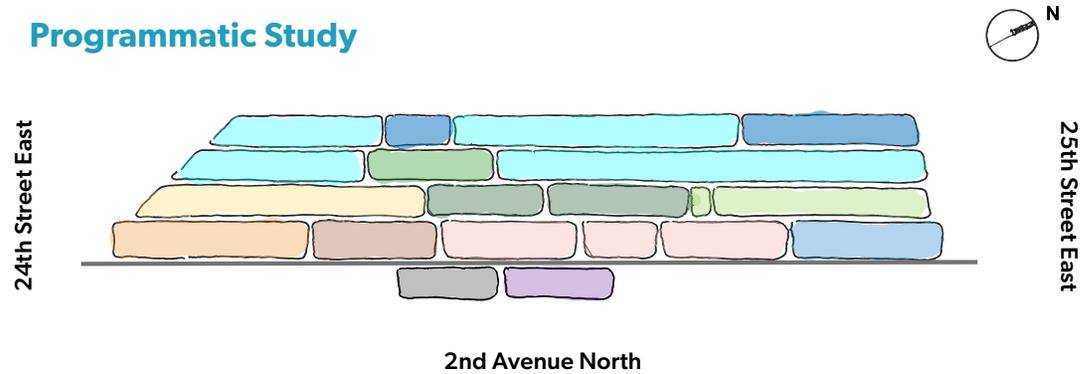


INTERIOR

Building Section

- Entrance
- Atrium, Concourse & Programming
- New & High Demand Collection
- Employee Workspaces
- Building Services & Back-of-House
- Mechanical Rooms
- Children's Library
- Teens
- Creation Spaces
- Community Services
- Adult Collection
- Local History
- Administration
- Building Services & Washrooms

Programmatic Study



INTERIOR

Main Level

The main level is surrounded by exterior green spaces and opens onto the southern exterior plaza and 2nd Avenue North. This level includes the entrance, theatre, programming rooms and the new and high-demand collection. The main level also includes a café, which faces towards 2nd Avenue North.

The main public elevators and the central staircase are appropriately located in the heart of the building, connecting all levels and offering patrons an intuitive navigation experience.

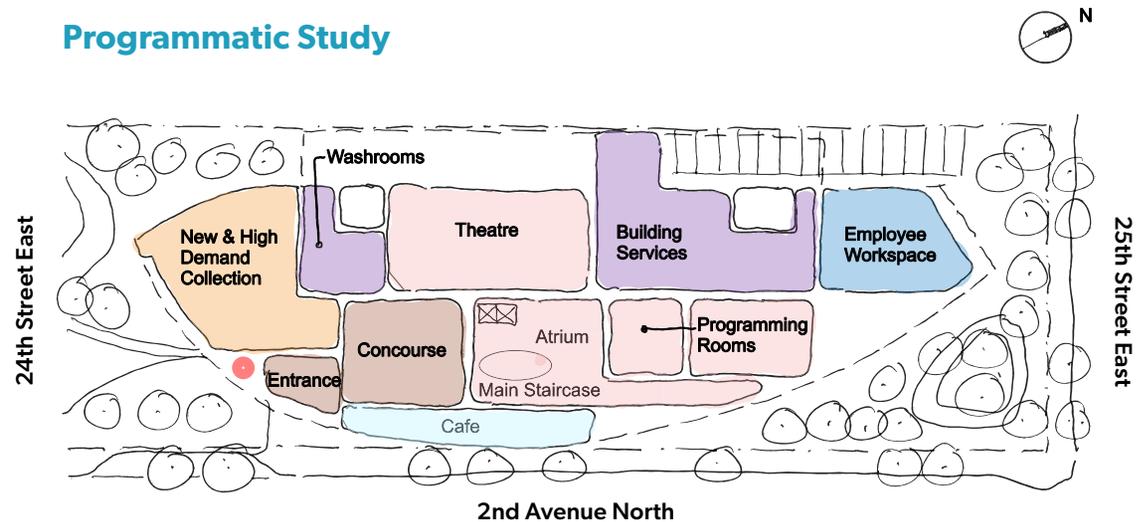
Atrium, Concourse & Programming Rooms:

- Large programming room
- Small programming room
- Demonstration kitchen
- Theatre
- Holds pick-ups
- Friends of the Library shop

New & High-Demand Area:

- New & popular collection
- Casual chairs
- Laptop bar
- Public computers
- Print, scan & fax station

Programmatic Study



INTERIOR

Second Level

The second level is home to the children's library, including the children's storyroom. This level also houses the creation and innovation spaces, which include audio and visual production studios and a technology-training room. The final space on this level is the teen area.

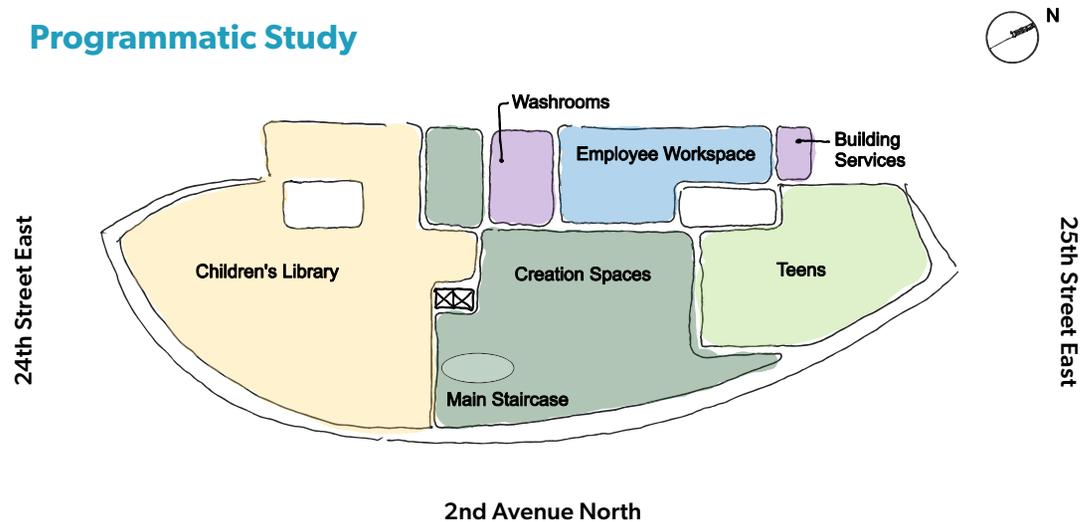
Children's:

- Children's collection
- Children's theatre
- Play zone
- Public computers
- Reading alcoves
- Group tables
- Casual chairs
- Family washroom
- Stroller parking
- Self-service checkout station

Teen:

- Teen collection
- Casual seating
- Individual study carrels
- Group tables
- Laptop bar
- Booth seating
- Public computers

Programmatic Study



Creation & Innovation:

- Visual recording studio
- Audio recording studio
- Recording booths
- Post-production studio
- Whisper booths
- Digital tools workstations
- Multi-purpose creation space
- Gaming stations
- Creator-in-Residence office
- Public computers
- Laptop bar
- CD, DVD, audiobook & video game collection
- Technology (computer) training room

INTERIOR

Third Level

The third level houses the adult non-fiction collection, the quiet study room and the bookable rooms. Also on this level is community services, which houses the accessible collection and equipment, a programming room and a meeting space for the Outreach Workers.

Community Services:

- Specialized collections (e.g., materials in languages other than English, law and legal resources, large print, alternate formats)
- Assistive technology
- Small programming room
- Outreach Worker consultation room
- Knowledge Keeper-in-Residence office
- Public computers
- Print, scan & fax station
- Individual tables
- Group tables
- Laptop bar

Adult Collection:

- Non-fiction collection
- Quiet reference room
- Bookable rooms
- Public computers
- Laptop bar
- Individual study carrels
- Casual chairs
- Print, scan & fax station

Programmatic Study



INTERIOR

Fourth Level

The fourth level contains the adult fiction collection, magazines and newspapers, and a reading room. It also has the storytelling and learning circle, as well as The Gallery and Local History.

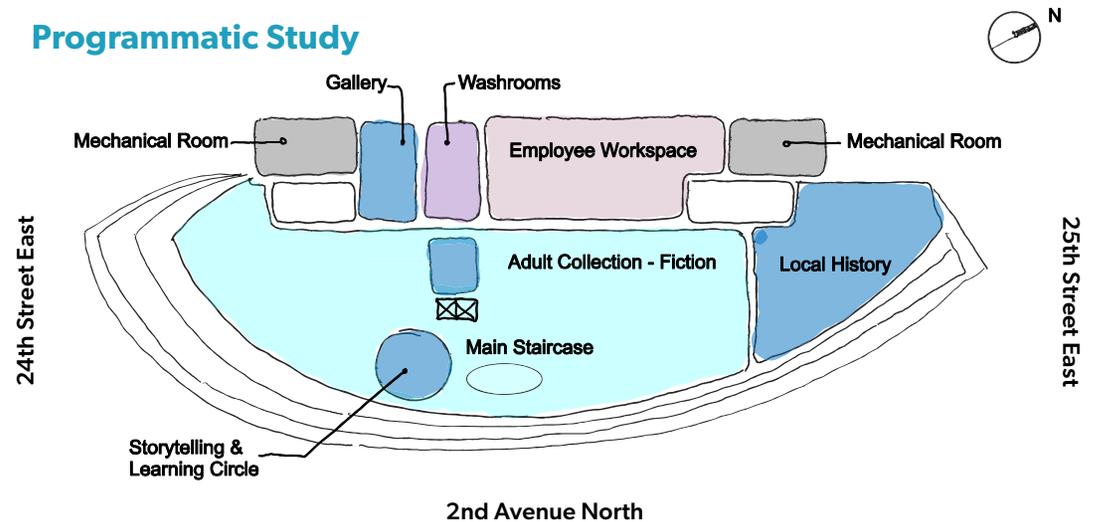
Adult Collection:

- Fiction collection
- Newspaper & magazine collection
- Reading lounge
- Writer-in-Residence office
- Public computers
- Laptop bar
- Casual chairs
- Individual study carrels
- Print, scan & fax station

Community History:

- Local History
- Art gallery
- Storytelling & Learning Circle
- Public computers
- Group tables
- Print, scan & fax station

Programmatic Study

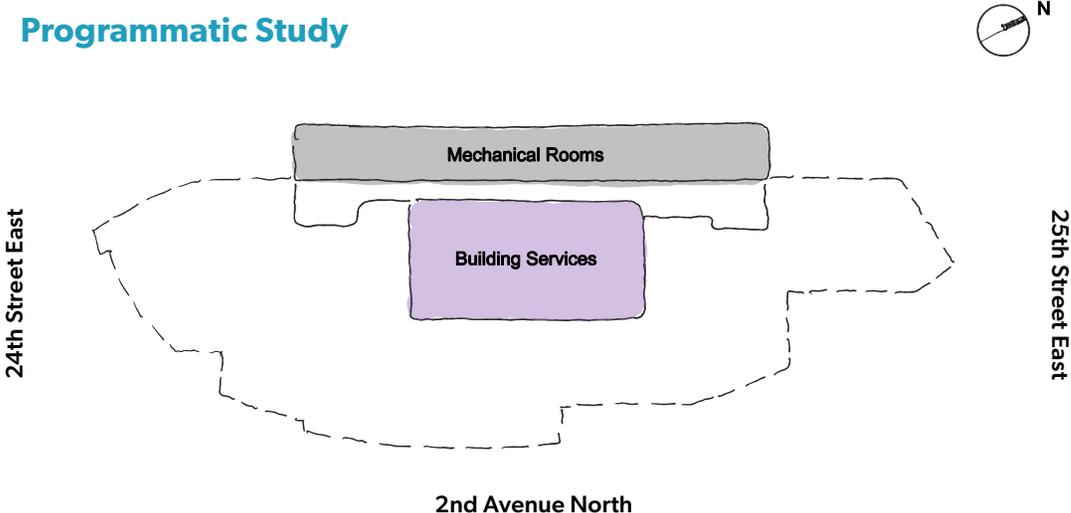


INTERIOR

Lower Level

The partial lower level is below the main level. This contains mechanical spaces, storage and the automated material-handling equipment.

Programmatic Study



SUSTAINABILITY

In addition to targeting LEED® Gold Certification, the objective is to highlight sustainable strategies inspired by First Nation and Métis ways of knowing and enhancing the environment. The design team is exploring sustainable strategies that minimize our environmental footprint and improve the quality of spaces within the building. The design will focus on passive strategies and the Indigenous approach of placing nature at the centre of our value system. The goal is to create a healthy environment. One of the primary strategies is to reduce the building's carbon footprint by using mass timber, a low-embodied material. The additional benefit is that the use of wood promotes the health and well-being of the mind and body.

Planted walls are recommended as a sustainable strategy as well as bringing nature into the building. This concept respects the idea that all things are interconnected. There is a symbiotic relationship between humans and plants as we exhale carbon dioxide, and many plant species absorb carbon dioxide through photosynthesis and convert it to sugar and oxygen.

Following the idea of working with nature, we will focus on the following passive strategies:

- Displacement ventilation inspired by the tipi.
- A high-performance building envelope with attention paid to the reduction of thermal bridging and air leakage.
- Maximize daylighting and control solar loading by sun shading through ceramic frit coating or fixed sunshade devices.

