



Shawmut Design and Construction completes Brooklyn Public Library's Adam St. location with WORKac

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Brooklyn, NY Shawmut Design and Construction has completed Brooklyn Public Library's (BPL) newest location at 9 Adams St. in Dumbo, marking the 60th branch in the system and first new library built in Brooklyn since 1983.

In partnership with WORK Architecture Co. (WORKac), the Adams St. Library project consisted of a renovation to the ground floor of a historic manufacturing building located beneath the Manhattan Bridge, originally built in 1901, delivering 6,565 s/f of new community-focused public space to the area. As a part of BPL's broader effort to expand and revitalize its network to create inspiring and innovative spaces, the Adams St. Library features flexible meeting rooms and programming space with modern technology, in addition to areas for books and resources.

LERA Consulting Structural Engineers was the structural engineer for the new library, located on the ground floor of the landmarked 135 Plymouth Building. The building was originally constructed as an industrial manufacturing facility, and the new library design creatively incorporates and celebrates the historic masonry and heavy timber construction. LERA helped develop the renovation design to preserve and expose the existing heavy timber structure in the building. LERA's condition assessment and evaluation of the existing timber informed where and how the new structure attached to the existing timber so that it wasn't overstressed.

Fronting Brooklyn Bridge Park, the library offers views of the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges and

downtown Manhattan from its 15-ft. windows, while the interior provides a place to read, work, and gather.

A focal point of the interior space is the area for children, elevated in the center of the library so younger children can see out of the large windows. Teens will have their own area to gather as well, part of a wider BPL initiative in libraries across the borough to provide a separate and safe area for teens to do homework or meet.

“Leveraging our expertise in completing complex, dynamic renovation projects, we couldn’t be prouder to create this vibrant, meaningful space that will offer endless opportunities as an educational and cultural resource. The Adams St. Library represents a transformational example of a modern, inspiring, and innovative space,” said Sharvil Patel, director of institutional, healthcare, and life sciences in Shawmut’s New York Metro region. “As the first branch to serve the communities of Vinegar Hill, DUMBO, and Farragut Houses, this latest outpost is set to serve locals and visitors alike for generations to come.”

“Adams St. is the first new library in Brooklyn in nearly four decades and a model for all public libraries in the decades to come,” said Linda Johnson, president and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library. “We’re grateful to our partners at WORKac for helping us realize a 21st-century library that’s both artful and accessible, beautiful and versatile, and we can’t wait for the entire DUMBO community to bring it to life.”

Created by Dumbo-based graphic design studio Link By Air, two massive murals are on display at the new library, reflecting the historic supergraphics which are iconic in Dumbo across the old manufacturing plants and warehouses throughout the neighborhood. Behind the check-in desk, a wall-length pixelated mural depicting large-scale plants give the wall texture and color that resonates with the whitewashed timber ceiling and brick. On the exterior of the building, visitors in the neighborhood are drawn to the outside of the building with the bright orange lettering spelling out Library.

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