

Robert B. House Undergraduate Library

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Structural planning for the Robert B. House Undergraduate Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been completed and work is continuing on interior design and equipment. This library, named for the former Chancellor, is part of a projected building complex which will include a new campus bookstore and a new student union building. The architectural style of all three buildings is contemporary. Groundbreaking is expected to take place this spring with a completion date of September, 1966.



Robert B. House Undergraduate Library, U. N. C. at Chapel Hill.

The Undergraduate Library has an ideal location immediately adjacent to Wilson Library. It is also central in the area of the new student union, the campus bookstore and Lenoir Dining Hall where it lies in the natural path of student traffic.

The planned building has a floor area of approximately 60,000 square feet and is 152 feet wide by 124 feet long. The site and architectural planning will permit expansion of 100 per cent at some future date.

A modular building, each of the three floors consists of twenty bays 28 feet square. Since the site is on a slope, the lowest level is below ground for half of its length. From

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the front the building appears to have two levels, but it is three stories high at the rear. The main entrance, centered in the front, opens on the middle level which is glass-walled from floor to ceiling with heat and glare reducing solar bronze glass. The upper level overhangs this glass by eight feet, giving additional protection from direct sunlight. The exterior of the upper level is of precast concrete panels alternating with narrow floor-to-ceiling windows.

The main esthetic feature of the interior will be an open central stairway with large landings doubling as lounge areas at each half-level. Behind the stairway on the second and third levels there will be large openings through which one may view the garden and lounge area on the first level. Thus, apart from serving as the main artery of traffic, this airy stairway will assure the esthetic and physical unity of the three levels within the building.

Carpeting is planned for all levels to provide better acoustic treatment, for esthetic appeal and even certain economic advantage. In an area provided for students who must smoke while reading, the floor surface will be finished in ceramic or stone.

A large percentage of the seating will be designed as individual study spaces. These have proved to be the most effective and desirable type of library reading space. Lounge furniture will also be sprinkled liberally throughout the building.

The building will be all library. There are no classrooms, faculty offices, or space-eating auditoriums. The main concessions to advancing library technology will be a record listening area and adequate wiring and conduits to handle anything our machine-haunted profession may devise in the future.

The book capacity is estimated at 75,000 volumes in open stacks carefully designed to make the most of wall spaces available and to provide for separations in reading areas. It is felt that a well selected and constantly weeded collection of this size in the Undergraduate Library will fulfill 85 per cent of undergraduate needs with maximum convenience while the Wilson Library, only one hundred feet away, will supply the remaining undergraduate needs. \$1,315,000 has been appropriated for the library.

"New Libraries"

Prize-winning entries in the Library Buildings Award Program of the American Library Association, the American Institute of Architects, and the National Book Committee are featured in a new photo exhibit, "New Libraries," available from the American Institute of Architects.

The exhibit, costing \$30, consists of 24 panels, 30 by 30 inches in size, mounted on heavy card stock. A total of 122 photos and plans are shown together with explanatory text. Accompanying the exhibit are six copies of a folder providing general background material and listing the names of the architects and buildings. A bibliography, suitable for developing an extended program centered on library design, is included in the folder.

The exhibit visually presents: Relation of buildings to surroundings, organization of interior space, the interior environment, the use of architecture in administrative control areas for increased services and technical material, reading rooms with special facilities for children, expanded community use (meeting rooms, exhibit, galleries, music rooms and auditoriums), special libraries, building expansion, addition to existing structures, and additional features. The exhibit should be ordered from: The American Institute of Architects, Department E, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. 2006.