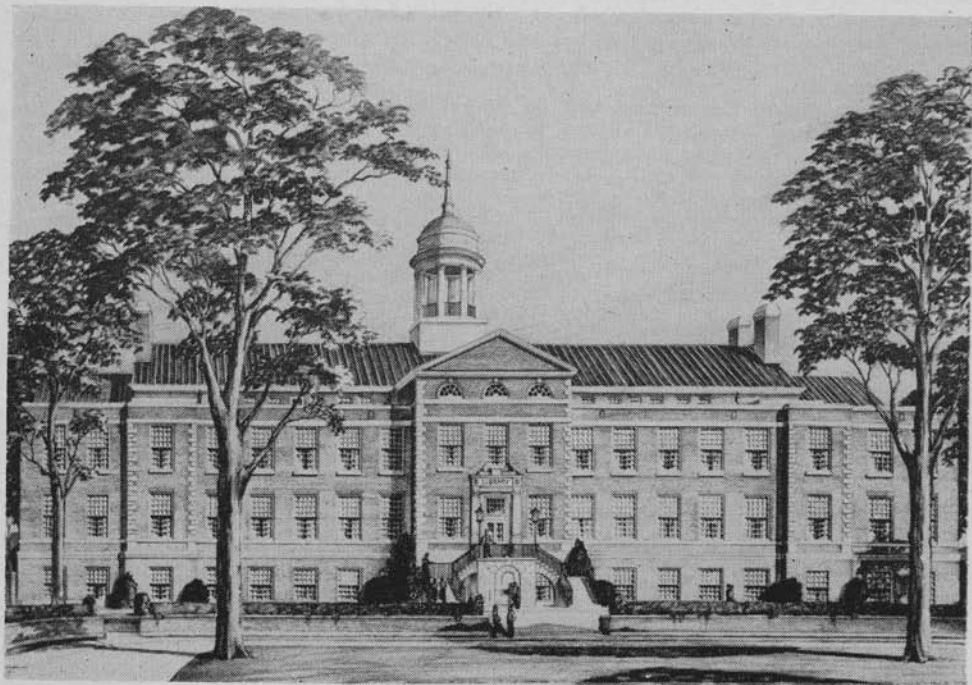


THE LIBRARY FOR WAKE FOREST AT WINSTON-SALEM

Together with two other buildings, the library for Wake Forest College on the new campus at Winston-Salem is now well under construction. Mr. Jens Frederick Larson, internationally known, in part for the gracious design of the Baker Library at Dartmouth College, for the library and other buildings on the campus of Colby College, and for the library at Bucknell University, was chosen as the architect for the entire new Wake Forest campus.



Architectural Drawing of Wake Forest College Library at Winston-Salem

The library for Wake Forest is being constructed of red brick with a limestone trim, in a simple rectangular shape. The building will have three main floors with a fourth recessed floor from which roof terraces will open. Two side entrances convenient to classroom buildings will supplement the main front entrance which is to be approached by one flight of steps.

Early in the planning for the Winston-Salem campus it was decided to adopt a modified Georgian style for most if not all of the buildings. This decision was largely the result of a desire to preserve the essential atmosphere of the original Wake Forest by following the inspiration of a form in use in the South at the time the College was founded. Mr. Larson has developed a fresh interpretation, recognizing modern functional demands, for the Winston-Salem campus.

Basically the building has been designed for smaller university use, to accommodate a student body of from 2500 to 4000 members. At the lower figure there will be seating space for fifty per cent of the student population; at the higher figure, to which the College is expected to expand, no less than thirty per cent of the students may be seated. The following brief survey of the principal features of the building will doubtless show that those facilities necessary to the operation of a college or university library on a broad educational basis have been provided.

When completed and fully equipped, the library will accommodate 900,000 volumes. Although the bulk of the collection will be shelved in a conventional multitiered stack area in the center of the building, a potentially cramping stack core, provision has been made for further expansion under the campus areas which will separate the library from flanking classroom buildings. It will be noticed, furthermore, that the original installation makes possible an exceptionally generous expansion of the collection as now existing in Wake Forest.

Across the front of the ground floor a large reserve room has been located, which may be reached directly from outside entrances. Adjoining at either end smaller rooms have been added, to which reserve materials may be taken and in which smoking and conversation will be unrestricted. Division of reserve reading facilities in this manner will, it is hoped, guarantee quiet reading in the larger room but at the same time make possible group study and discussion in the presence of pertinent materials. The desire of students to discuss assigned passages as they are being read is thus recognized as thoroughly legitimate.

The use of reserved books will be organized on a plan representing a compromise between open shelf and closed reserve arrangements. Reserved books will not be shelved around the walls but rather in a special adjacent stack area to which students will have free access. They must check the books before reading but they may make their own choices from the shelves.

Across the back, also on the ground floor, will be located a classroom for library instruction, a commodious area for microfilming and other photographic processes, a book repair room, a receiving and storage room, and a small lounge for janitors and other building attendants.

A mezzanine between the first and second floors will support a room for newspaper reading but not storage. A map room, the staff lounge with accessory facilities, and a microfilm reading room will share the remaining mezzanine space.

At the front of the building, on the second floor, served by the only front entrance, the main circulation lobby will be placed. It has been planned to be large enough for adequate free standing catalog cases and for the location of exhibit and display installations. To the left, occupying all of one end of the building, is the periodical room. Current issues will be displayed on sloping shelves, behind which there will be bins for other numbers of the current volume. An adjoining stack enclosure will provide shelving for permanent bound volumes.

The principal reference room will occupy all of the back of the second floor. Materials for reference use will be shelved in alcoves forming a part of two levels of the main stack although separated from it by a grille. Individual study tables will be placed along the walls, in addition to the common reading tables.

To the right of the circulation lobby, and extending across that end of the building will be the processing room, which will house most procedures in acquisition and cataloging. Materials will be brought by lift from the receiving room directly beneath. Between the processing room and the reference area will be located a bibliography room in which the more basic works will be shelved. This room will be accessible to the public by means of an outside corridor door. The office of the chief cataloger will be established between the processing room and the circulation lobby.

As in the case of the lower floors, the third floor will contain four peripheral areas. That on the front will be occupied by a large lounge reading room, furnished in the usual comfortable manner. The center portion may be utilized as a Wake Forest memorabilia room. Ample kitchen facilities have been planned to make it possible to use this room for library social and cultural functions.

On one side, at this floor, are located the administrative offices and the rare book space assignments which include a general rarities room and an adjoining suite for special collections. It was believed desirable that the rare book rooms be in close proximity to the offices for general administrative control.

The back of the third floor will contain another large reading room equal in size to that of the reference room immediately below. It is now expected that this space, when permanent arrangements have been made, will be assigned to divisional or subject reading use. The remainder of the third floor will be devoted to seminar classrooms, of which seven have been planned.

The top floor, aside from the stack level associated with it, will include only a few larger faculty studies and a faculty lounge. From the latter doors will provide access to the roof terraces.

Although not modular in construction, it is hoped that the building will be sufficiently flexible. Not all of the partitions are structurally vital, and expansion, as already indicated, has been anticipated.

An attempt has been made, in designing the building, to arrange areas in a way to permit either open or closed stack use. No one can deny that there are important educational advantages in the open stack privileges; neither would any librarian, with administrative problems in mind, consent to the planning of a building operable only on an open stack basis, however much such operation may be desired.

When the College introduces a graduate program, which may at first be modest, the Library will have available a sufficient number of carrels, most of which will be of the fully-enclosed type. Until graduate work is established, these may be used by undergraduates engaged in more advanced work.

At the time of writing, furniture and decorations have not been chosen. It is intended, of course, that all rooms be as attractive and comfortable as possible. The installation of air-conditioning equipment to serve the entire structure should make the Library one of the most frequented buildings on the campus, if intellectual stimulation fails in part to attract a respectable number of students.

—CARLTON P. WEST, *Librarian*
Wake Forest College