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Des Moines library has doubled in size

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

The Woodmont Library in Des Moines has reopened after a \$3.5 million renovation that doubled the size to 10,000 square feet.

The glass and metal addition, designed by Miller Hayashi Architects, removed 80 feet of brick wall at the southeast corner to allow for an open layout and increase visibility along Pacific Highway South.

Miller Hayashi said the roof is the predominant unifying architectural element. Cantilevered steel girders are concealed within a tapered rooftop designed to “float” above the building. A band of clerestory windows separates the roof structure from the building below.



Photo by Northwest Architectural Photography [\[enlarge\]](#)

An 8-foot deep light shelf runs across the east wall and bounces reflected daylight into the space. Bookshelves are anchored to concrete “fins” beneath the light shelf, creating alcoves for reading and study.

A green wall faces the parking area near the entry. Runoff from the roof and parking lots will enter an expanded bioswale system.

The owner is the King County Library System, Lease Crutcher Lewis was general contractor and URS Corp. was the project manager. SvR Design Co. was civil engineer and landscape architect, Swenson Say Faget was structural engineer and Hargis Engineers was mechanical, electrical and IT engineer. Susan K. Okamoto, Inc. designed the interiors, and Katy Stone and Chris Jordan provided public art.

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