ENLIGHTENING LOS OSOS
SOUTH BAY LIBRARY: THE LINK BETWEEN COMMUNITY, MEDIA, AND NATURE

The library is a place for learning and enlightenment for all. More than a stoic, silent reading room full of books, the modern library needs to be a space to serve the community—a warm and inviting “community living room” where the Los Osos community, long without a community focal point, can savour the joy of media in all forms, both digital and analog.

Los Osos, CA is situated right on the Pacific Ocean, subjected to its immense power, resulting in a hazy, crisp, and sparse environment that can only be described as “costal wilderness.” Living here are people of all different ages and backgrounds, but who all share a strong sense of community and love for the environment in which they reside.

The Los Osos Library will serve as a welcoming beacon in the fog, glowing and encouraging people to come inside. It acts as a frame, reclining visitors from around the local area and providing opportunities within the architecture for framed second-floor views of Morro Bay and Morro Rock, as well as immersing the lower floor in the surrounding dune vegetation.

The experience begins with a covered entry, gazing up at the screened volume in the trees and the warm glow within. Immediately inside is a two story atrium clad in translucent channel glass. The airy daylit space links the activity of the ground floor with the seclusion and peace of the canopy level. All of the active, busy, loud, and bright spaces are on the ground level, while the second floor houses and protects the quieter, dimmer, and more sheltered spaces.

The Los Osos Library will be a lighthouse in the fog, bringing the local residents together, and serving as a refuge and community home where learning and enlightenment are available to everyone.
BUILT-UP ROOFING
Green Roof - Plants, Growing Medium, Drainage layer, insulation, waterproof membrane, roof deck

PARAMETRIC WOODEN SCREEN
Wooden vertical 2x2 slats that become more spaced around the central reading area and then more closely spaced near the end

CHANNEL GLASS CLADDING
Channel glass is a self-supporting translucent but not transparent material with light diffusion properties that make it ideal for a library. During the daytime, it diffuses sunlight into the space, while at night it reverses its glow outward on the world, serving as a beacon for the community.

TIMBER FRAME TRUSS
Truss made of heavy timber wooden sections. This adds to the natural aesthetic of the building while providing lateral support.

HIGH-EFFICIENCY GLAZING
Insulated glazing units from Kawneer offer high thermal performance.

KAWNEER
ALUMINUM MULLIONS
Kawneer curtainwall systems offer premium performance and flexibility while retaining a high standard of aesthetic appeal.

PRIMARY FRAMING
Concrete framing, floor slabs, and shear walls provide the primary building structure, with open-web steel joists supporting the main atrium roof.
SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

MATERIALS -
Kawneer aluminum systems utilize recycled aluminum, a sustainable resource. The use of local wood for the truss and screen integrates the building with the surrounding vegetation. Concrete with fly-ash additive utilizes coal by-products while creating thermal mass.

ENVELOPE -
Kawneer 1000UT aluminum framing systems utilize a dual thermal break and impact-resistant glazing for an efficient building envelope.

HEATING -
The floors are cast with radiant-floor heating tubes to provide efficient and comfortable heating during colder Los Osos days.

ROOF -
A green roof on the top level benefits the building envelope and uses the abundance of rain and fog to sustain plant life.

Because the environment is so important to the Los Osos community, not only should the building maximize views of its natural surroundings, it should be an example of building sustainably and responsibly. The building meets LEED Gold criteria, and utilizes several sustainability strategies, in addition to passive cooling and lighting systems.

The South Bay Library will serve as a sustainable home for the Los Osos community, an illuminated natural hub for learning, seclusion, imagination, and contemplation.

ENTRY FROM PALISADES AVENUE / PARKING LOT

PASSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

DAYLIGHTING -
Northern light is brought into the space through floor-to-ceiling window walls in the children’s area and community space. Southern light is diffused by the channel glass, causing the central atrium space to glow, while eastern and western light is filtered in through the upper-level wooden screens. Western light is blocked on the lower floor by Kawneer Versoleil sun shading vertical louvers attached to the Kawneer curtainwall system.

VENTILATION -
An operable clerestory on the southern side allows for natural cross-ventilation from the north to the south. In addition, the central atrium space functions as stack ventilation, with openings in the top that cause the hot air to rise out of the building.