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ARCHITECTURE &
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Design Intent Summary

Kokomo-Howard Public Library – South Branch Addition:

The South Branch expansion is intended to fulfill two needs; the first being public space increase, and the second being non-public space increase. The public space increase will increase the collection capacity of the library an aggregate 30%. This will allow expansion of a now-cramped adult, audio-visual, and children's areas. This addition will also increase the public community room capacity to a comfortable 150 in a room available for public use which can be divided in two by an electrically-operated movable wall. The non-public space increase is driven by the need to move two departments: the bookmobile (outreach) department and the collection management department. These two non-public spaces moving to the South Branch frees up space in the future Downtown branch so that it will allow maximum ability and cost effectiveness to build downtown on just one block, rather than the two it would require if these two departments remained downtown. Remaining true to the original architecture of the existing South Branch, the new addition will build off of the low prairie style made popular by those including Frank Lloyd Wright. In the interior of the building, there will be a central circular 'core' which includes the meeting rooms, adult computer area, and will be surrounded by a easy-to-navigate path which will lead patrons to all areas of the building with ease. This addition is being designed to maximize daylighting which will decrease the need to use artificial lights during the day. This is just one of several strategies being employed to design this building as an environmentally and cost-effective solution for the needs at the South Branch. This library project is registered with the United States Green Building Council and is seeking LEED certification, which will determine a 'grade' on how well the building performs in its consumption of energy and it's general impact on the environment and the building's occupants.