2017 MERIT

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LYCEUM
A traveling fellowship in Architecture
“Once you learn to read, you will be FOREVER FREE.”

Frederick Douglas
STREET VIEW facing South-West

This proposal for the Audubon Terrace Library celebrates the book as that which shapes our thinking and expands our worlds. Books are the basis of our knowledge; the oldest, strongest, most reliable form of transferred wisdom. No matter our cultural background, books provide us with a foundation and structure for our lives from which we can reach out and experiment with new ideas.

The ‘Forever Free’ Audubon Terrace Library takes this idea literally. Five, three-foot thick bookshelves made of cast reinforced concrete support the entirety of the building. Without the stacks, the building would not be standing … just as we would not be here today without books and the knowledge, perception, and passed information that we are granted from them.
The bookshelves support a beam grid from which is suspended the two large glass library volumes and the stairways. The juxtaposition of light steel construction and suspension cables with the heavy fossilized bookshelves reinforces the sense of freedom and latitude while recognizing the interdependence of things.
INTERIOR VIEW
3rd floor facing North
Looking from circulation desk to main adult/bookstack area.
FLOOR 1: street side - community center entrance
- outdoor public access to terrace

FLOOR 2: work space mezzanine
INTERIOR VIEW
4th floor - facing South
Looking from the teen center, across one of the building’s two atriums, into the story hour room.
INTERIOR VIEW
4th floor - facing South-East
Looking up towards the suspended stair leading to a 5th floor reading room, overlooking the Audubon terrace.

“Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness.”
-Frank Gehry