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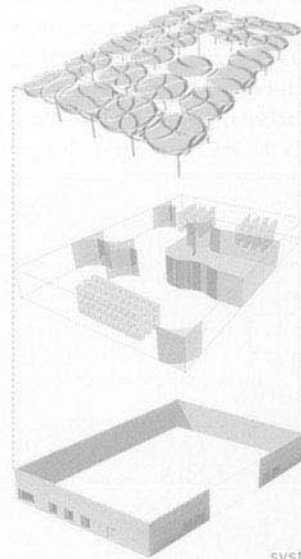
etched in Wiel Arets reconsiders the library
PLUS
The Affordable Mixed Use
An Edible Barn by SPF18
Stair Case Studies
memory
by Aaron Betsky

Located in rural Marfa on the high plains of West Texas, this public library sits on a 27,000-square-foot lot facing a park in a single-story residential neighborhood. Marfa's population of 2,500 and the 6,500 residents of Presidio County include cattle traders, factory workers, border patrol personnel, and an arts community established by Donald Judd in the 1970s.

In addition to the 13,000-square-foot library's collection of 120,000 volumes, it houses reading and writing programs, drama and language classes, and a gallery. The roof—made up of structural concrete "lily pads" supported by poured-in-place-concrete mushroom columns—is dotted with planted gardens and skylights and collects and distributes water and solar energy. Inside, book stacks and undulating glass walls with embedded photovoltaic cells organize the space. A shaded courtyard and an adobe perimeter wall, whose proportions reflect those of the surrounding neighborhood, help to reinforce the local vernacular. Completion is slated for next year. **Anna Holtzman**



- 1 entry courtyard
- 2 lobby
- 3 exhibitions
- 4 circulation desk
- 5 resource
- 6 children's area
- 7 general stacks
- 8 periodicals
- 9 young adult stacks
- 10 reading
- 11 computers
- 12 multipurpose
- 13 offices
- 14 Presidio County Room



systems diagram



➔ ZOKA ZOLA | "TOGETHERNESS" MIXED-USE PROJECT | CHICAGO

With this sustainable mixed-use project, Chicago's Zoka Zola aims to "remove imposed intimacy from the concept of community." The goal? A "togetherness without expectations" and with only "abstract or undefined contact," if any at all. The site—an industrial zone on Grand Avenue about two miles northwest of the Loop—is a nice blank slate for such social engineering. Zola offers verandas, balconies, and open-air corridors for social interaction, all rendered in spare, rectilinear volumes with ribbon windows. (Her inspiration is more ornate: the Art Nouveau housing of Belgian protomodernist Victor Horta.) Horizontal pre-cast-concrete panels tinted with red aggregate interlock at corners and cantilevers ("like Lincoln logs," says Zola), fastened by steel pins. Construction begins next month on the 12,000-square-foot project, which contains four residences of 1,500 to 1,700 square feet, two storefronts, and the owner-developer's 2,800-square-foot home with a large roof garden. **C.C. Sullivan**

