



The Poplar Creek Library landed at the top of Library Journal's list titled 'New Landmark Libraries.' Designed by Frye Gillan Molinaro Architects. the project entailed expanding on a Brutalist structure in a lively and colorful way that at the same time attended to the building's sustainability.

## The Gary Comer Youth Center and Gary Comer College Prep,

a pair of South Side projects by John Ronan Architects received silver medals from the Rudy Bruner Awards for Urban Excellence. The biennial awards recognize exceptional urban places that transform their neighborhoods and communities. The aim is to help other communities learn from these innovators; honorees are written up as case studies that can be emulated.



### For a hostel in South China for a large Hong Kong developer,

Zoka Zola, AIA, designed her firm's fourth zero-CO2 building. The concept of the project was to develop "an innovative building configuration that acts like a large ventilation machine," she said. The work was done in collaboration with Arup. The client will use the hostel as a training center and family retreat for corporate employees. The siting and materials were carefully considered to minimize the use of air conditioning even though the climate is subtropical. Expansive glass, for instance, was avoided. In its place are solid bamboo panels fitted with glass panels just large enough to admit sufficient daylight.

#### VOA Associates has two new senior vice presidents.

Theresa A. Gorman received a promotion to that rank. Her responsibilities include business development and marketing strategy, among other duties. Heather Weed Niehoff, AIA, came to the firm from Lucien Lagrange Architects. She will lead projects in the design phase and work on business development.









#### In May, Lauren Find

joined the staff of AIA Chicago as communications director. Finch had been a public relation manager at Mercha Mart Properties Inc. where she worked t three years.



# A former Borders store in downtown Highla

Park is getting a complete facelift. The redesign is the work of Myefski Architects of Evanston and is intended to make the 20,500-square-foot, two story structure capable of accommodating up to four tenants in what was a one-user space. According to the firm, the rhythm of masonry openings and glazing patterns set within a stone ribbon offer individual identity, while horizon aluminum blades provide a coordinated backdrop for signage and emphasize design's horizontality. Triou LLC is the developer and owner of the project, and expects to have it ready for occupancy in the fall.



#### In May, the Regional Transportation Authority tapped John

Frega, AIA, LEED AP, for its board of directors. Frega, we a principal at Frega Associates, will represent suburban a County as he serves out the term of Judy Baar Topinka was elected the state's comptroller.