

Keystone Academic Library -

Keystone Academic Library is a four-story library catered to everyone's educational needs. Inspired by hundreds of years of architecture and educational developments, Keystone Academic Library was designed for the purpose of educational inclusivity. With each floor segmented to suit a different style of learning. Beginning in October, we always knew that this is what we wanted our building to be centered around, the question was how to achieve that. To us, libraries are not just for renting books, they are community spaces and help centers for all types of education, and it quickly became our mission to design a building with a space for everyone, accommodating people of all ages, backgrounds, needs, and education levels.

Once we first solidified our conceptual idea, we began to draw out rough sketches of the building and played around with ideas that could be incorporated, but we quickly seemed to be facing some issues. We found ourselves only including elements that we saw fitting and useful, but with the wide variety and expansive demographic of people we wanted using this library, we needed a better understanding of all types of learning needs and accommodations. This led to us conducting interviews with the students and staff of our school, garnering over 80 responses answering questions about personal learning styles and educational needs. We used this input to separate the library into three distinctive learning styles: collaborative, kinesthetic, and isolation. Assigning a learning style to each floor and then choosing elements to include in the library that correspond to them, as well as allocating the library's literature selection to correspond with the learning style as well.

Upon entry, you will see that the first floor of Keystone Academic Library is community-focused. Here you will find a reception and help desk, with guides to help you find your way around. A café, with an array of food and drink options to eat while you study; and multiple work areas, including a 70s-style conversational pit in the main library area. The second floor of Keystone Academic Library is centered around collaborative learning and team building. On this floor, you will be able to find a lecture hall that can be rented and used for large groups. You will also find multiple classrooms where public classes can be held, such as art lessons, tutoring, or language classes. In the main library section, multiple seating spaces are available, designed for a multitude of people to use at once.

Ascending to the third floor, you can see that this space is specially designed for kinesthetic, or "hands-on" learners. Complete with a workshop and optimal storage space for any projects, as well as a computer lab for any digital work. The literature in this area of the library is also centered around subjects including engineering, architecture, the arts, construction, and other kinesthetic tasks. And lastly, the very top story of Keystone Academic Library is focused strictly on isolation learning. Here you will find a multitude of private study rooms that can be reserved, all soundproofed and set with TVs, desks, and adjustable lighting. This floor is closed off from the others, making it silent and perfect for those who need to be in a silent, closed-off environment to benefit their education.

The exterior of the building was specifically designed to encapsulate multiple styles of architecture. We included a formal entrance at the front of the building, leading to the front desk and making the

building easy to navigate, but there is also a backside pedestrian entrance for people who attend more often or use the back patio and back courtyard. Another large goal of ours was to give the library a timeless feel. By creating a modern base using a neutral gray and brown color palette, as well as materials commonly found in modern architecture, such as stone, stucco, and large glass panes, we were able to seamlessly blend classical elements, such as Ionic columns, a symmetrical building shape, and circletop windows. This allowed the building to not only blend in with a wide array of environments but also cater to all different tastes. By paying tribute to so many types of architecture, we are able to symbolize the wide variety of people that will find a space at Keystone Academic Library.

The building also incorporates and promotes environmental cleanliness and efficiency by using solar panels, LED lighting, smart systems that regulate airflow and lighting, and high-quality insulation. It also uses recycled materials, low-carbon concrete, and non-toxic finishes to preserve and protect the natural environment that these resources would come from.

The different features and elements of the building are not only included to be accommodating but to be representative of the diversity within the people that visit, use, and work at the library. Honoring the diverse plethora of individuals who find themselves in need of a library also works to highlight the importance of the role they play in our community. We wanted people to walk into the building and see that there is a space meant for them and the people in their life to feel safe, included, and motivated.