



Mulvane Public Library | Mulvane, KS

THE NAUTILUS

Welcome to our first newsletter edition of The Nautilus. Each quarterly publication will feature a specialized design practice within our firm. This edition features our library expertise. The Nautilus, the name for our newsletter, is the focal design element in The Clark Enersen Partners' logo. It represents a mathematical ratio that can be found in nature, as seen in the shell's structure. This ratio is closely related to the Fibonacci Sequence and is known as the Golden Ratio, which describes an intuitive, natural balance between two proportions. The external circular shape of the nautilus shell represents wholeness, but its continuous motion—an infinite spiral—empowers and inspires future growth and change. Internally, the cross-section depicts how all pieces seamlessly fit together in meaningful partnership. Collectively, as one, that's The Clark Enersen Partners. In everything we do, we strive to empower and inspire through partnership in thoughtful design.



July 2017

JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY

Johnson County, Kansas



story by

RICK WISE AIA, LEED AP
Architect, Senior Principal

EMPOWERING & INSPIRING THROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY DESIGN

\$60 in supplies, a MakerSpace, and a 9-year-old boy in need of a working hand inspired Mason Wilde of Louisburg, Kansas to develop a prosthetic hand at the Johnson County Central Resource Library. We became aware of this amazing feat through an article by Maria Rose Williams of The Kansas City Star. In the article she tells Mason's story and how he was approached by a family friend to develop a prosthetic hand for the little boy. Williams shared in her article, "Mason was home recovering from a concussion he'd gotten playing high school football when a family friend asked if he could build a prosthetic hand for her son. Not that Wilde had ever done such a thing. But the friend knew he was good at building things and had a math and science mind."

Mason accepted the challenge and successfully built a prosthetic hand for \$60 in supplies at the Johnson County Central Resource Library's MakerSpace. He was given the design, but had to modify the size to fit the 9-year-old boy. Using the 3-D printer in the MakerSpace he was able to create the parts and assemble it to fit. Today, Mason owns and operates Dextella Co., a nonprofit that manufactures other robotic hands to order.

Stories like this fuel us every day—they drive us and motivate us to form meaningful partnerships with our clients so that together we can thoughtfully design spaces that empower and inspire end-users to achieve insurmountable goals. One of our partners is the Johnson County Library (JCL) in Kansas. We have been working together for the past 12 years. JCL consists of 14 branch library locations throughout Johnson County, Kansas. The Library is a vital asset for the citizens of Johnson County, providing much needed access to books, CDs, Audio Books and DVDs. The Library of today, however, is much more than that. Libraries provide convenient, free access to services that county residents need on a regular basis. This includes access to computers



Central Resource Library



Leawood Pioneer Branch Library



New Monticello Library



Central Resource Library - MakerSpace



Central Resource Library

for job searches; maker spaces for the exploration, design and realization of ideas; meeting rooms for community groups; children's programming; adult programming; and more simply—a place to learn, explore, and discover.

Through our partnership with JCL over these past 12 years we have built a strong bond with current library staff, administration, facilities staff, and the Johnson County Library Board. We truly feel we are part of the JCL family and they are part of ours. Over our tenure of work with JCL we have had the privilege of working on small and large projects with three different County Librarians—Mona Carmack, Donna Laufer, and Sean Casserley.

We treat each and every project for Johnson County as its own unique opportunity, avoiding preconceived notions of solutions based on previous designs. Our process allows us to work hand-in-hand with library staff to arrive at a solid understanding of their needs, while also carefully listening to external project stakeholders to ensure the design meets everyone's expectations. It is through this partnered approach that we have helped JCL serve their local community.

Our most recent project with JCL exemplifies our personalized approach to contemporary library design. The Monticello Library will be built in western Shawnee, Kansas on a narrow site we helped select in 2005. At the time of selection, the site was only anticipated to accommodate a one-story, 18,000-square-foot library. The needs for Monticello, however, have evolved. The population of the western Shawnee area has grown significantly and the size of the building program has needed to reflect that. Working together with the library we determined that the space program needed to

grow to 30,500 square feet. We worked through these challenges which resulted in a two-story solution, maximizing library space as well as green space on the constraining site.

The Monticello Library has been designed hand-in-hand with key project stakeholders including: library staff, library administration, County facilities staff, and a project executive team over the past 10 months. Together, we explored layout options, pursued design opportunities and challenged past paradigms of what a library should be. During this integrated process, the Library challenged the design team to create space that not only met today's needs, but would accommodate library needs well into the future. We met this challenge and developed a design that would break from past paradigms associated with library typology.

Conceptually, the design for the Monticello Library was developed to be a place for exploration, discovery, and the unexpected experience. The Library was also to be a place where everyone could discover a space that fit their individual, ever-changing needs. This was accomplished through the creation of several "vignettes" within the Library, allowing a unique experience for all.

The result of our integrated approach not only fosters the development of long-term relationships, but also empowers and inspires through partnership in thoughtful design.

Please visit this link to read The Kansas City Star's full article about Mason Wilde and the family he helped: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/technology/article136358603.html#storylink=cpy>

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



RYAN WOOLDRIDGE, AIA
Architect

Q: WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

A: Snow ski, water ski, tennis, woodworking, traveling the world, home improvement, washing my car.

Q: FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT & WHY?

A: Bunker Hill Ranch Resort outside of Mountain View, Missouri. This was our family vacation for over a decade as a child; no AC, no Internet, no TV, no phones. Awesome place to get away from it all and stay in cabins on Jacks Fork River.



DANIELLE DUSCHENE
Structural Engineering Technician

Q: HOW HAS THE FIRM IMPACTED YOU IN YOUR LIFE?

A: I have grown a lot in my knowledge and experience in architecture and developed much pride for the projects that I have helped with. I love being able to say I helped draw the plans for that building.

Q: LAST MOVIE YOU SAW? HOW WAS IT?

A: Last movie I saw was Trolls and I thought it was very cute. My kids were excited to see it and now it is the most watched movie in the house!

WE ARE DEDICATED TO LIBRARIES.

THE CLARK ENERSEN PARTNERS HAS DESIGNED PUBLIC AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIES FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, INCLUDING 30 LIBRARY PROJECTS IN THE PAST 10 YEARS.

Winfield Public Library | Winfield, KS



Mulvane Public Library | Mulvane, KS



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