PROJECT INFORMATION
Sitting in contrast to the desert climate of its setting, a gathering of mature and verdant Aleppo pine trees rest in the east side Las Vegas neighborhood that serves as the site for the new East Las Vegas Library.

PROJECT DATA:
• 40,000 sf including reading rooms, story room, conference space, collaboration space, study space, recording studio, green screen room, tech arts lab, computer lab, tutoring, workforce connections, classrooms, multipurpose event space, cafe, staff areas and outdoor event space
• $17,000,000

PROJECT GOALS:
• create a building that provides a sense of place
• create a building that is welcoming and approachable
• connect the building to the community and it’s culture through design
• create a flexible building that can adapt to changing library needs
• maximize potential of existing tree grove
• provide public plaza that acts as a community gathering space
• provide a multi-purpose room for community and library events
• create a building with longevity in mind, that will stand the test of time

From the outset the LVCCD leadership and the neighboring community didn’t just want a new library, they wanted a library that represented their unique community. They were outspoken about the need for a welcoming building with a sense of place. A place with active indoor and outdoor space open to everyone. They wanted to set aside the outdated idea of the library as a quiet place and build a dynamic and colorful building where they could share stories, celebrate milestones, learn new skills, and come together as a community.

Our design team took this to heart and strived to connect the building to the community and it’s culture through design. We were inspired by the color and vibrancy of traditional mercados through Mexico and reinterpreted across the United States. This informed our palette of materials and playful forms including colorful undulating canopies and interior volumes that define the main reading room.

The project site once existed as a public housing development for the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, leaving behind that collection of pine trees that once dotted the residential cul-de-sacs and provide a character unique to the desert landscape of Las Vegas. The trees represent the history of this community and became a driving force for the siting of the building.
Sustainable Design Intent and Innovation

ARCHITECTURE
• Focus on sustainable design and building performance strategies
• Regional building materials that contain recycled content were used throughout the design
• Emphasis on bringing natural light into the library spaces
• A highly reflective roof was specified to reduce cooling loads

LANDSCAPE DESIGN
• Utilizes environmentally appropriate materials for the Southern Nevada climate
• Landscape elements are incorporated into the site to frame important design elements, screen unattractive areas, enhance site amenities and serve as a counterpart to the building architecture
• Designed to optimize the safety, comfort and usefulness of the outdoor spaces
• Shade trees are used in conjunction with architectural elements and seating to provide users relief from the sun in hot summer months and reduce heat gain
• Large grove of existing mature pine trees were protected in place
• The plant material is to be drought tolerant and have low water requirements
• Plant selection and design will minimize maintenance requirements

MECHANICAL AND PLUMBING DESIGN
• Condensing boilers with 5-1 turndown capability and 94% energy efficiency
• Air-side economizers on the air conditioning units to save energy
• VAV air handling systems with CO2 sensors to implement demand control ventilation
• Underfloor air distribution system for the library (UFAD)
• Domestic hot water heating system will utilize 95% high efficiency condensing water heaters

ELECTRICAL DESIGN
• All LED lighting system
• Infrastructure for charging electric vehicles
Material Selections

EXTERIOR
The building was designed with longevity in mind, while also being welcoming and approachable. Undulating shade canopies intermixed with the existing pine trees throughout the plaza celebrate the main entry into the building. Masonry walls finished in cement plaster define the exterior skin. While a steel framed structure and aluminum clad modified bitumen cover the undulating roof lines. Building walls that line the plaza and main reading room are clad with oversized blue porcelain tile reminiscent of the traditional ‘telavara’ tile that identified important structures.

- Roof is a structural frame of steel pipe columns supporting steel wide flange beams and structural steel roof decking.
- Exterior walls are cement plaster/stucco with a synthetic topcoat over masonry with an exposed concrete stem/base wall up to 24”
- Glazing is double insulated Low-E in a thermally broken aluminum system

INTERIOR
The colorful plaza materials are drawn into the main library spaces creating an inviting vibrant indoor space. Special attention was paid to durability and acoustic control. Material colors are used as a wayfinding tool, saturating specific programmatic spaces.

- Extensive perforated gypsum board, acoustical panels, and perforated wood paneling are utilized for acoustic control
- Exposed concrete access floor tiles, ground and polished concrete, carpet tile, rubber resilient tiles, and porcelain tile define various uses of the library
- An accessible floor system sits under the entire collection and reading room space accommodating subfloor mechanical, electrical, and tele-data distribution thus This technique minimizes the tempered volume of the space, eliminates traditional overhead mechanical plenum and provides future flexibility for changing library needs
- Task oriented and stack mounted lighting allows for the flexibility to move portions of the collections or reading areas without compromising adequate lighting.
Sitting in contrast to the desert climate of its setting, a gathering of mature and verdant Aleppo pine trees rest in the east side Las Vegas neighborhood that serves as the site for the new East Las Vegas Library. The design of the library seeks to preserve and emphasize this distinctive landscape by integrating it into the gathering spaces that are central to the library’s connection to the community.
The site sits along the arterial of Bonanza Road that provides primary access on the northern edge of the site. The collector road to the west, 28th Street, provides a secondary but significant route to the site from the south. Parking is located to the south and northeast of the building, utilizing access from the western, and eastern sides of the site. The northeast lot provides parking for library staff as well as a drive-up book drop window for patron use. The south lot provides visitor parking. Ancillary on-street parking is also available along the three residential roads adjacent to the site: 28th Street, Walnut Avenue, and Wardelle Street.
The three main zones of the library bound plaza: the library reading and stacks area, the multi-purpose room, and the CALL center. The multi-purpose room, CALL center, and café can be accessed after hours via the entry plaza. Oriented toward the southern side of the building, the plaza provides shade during hot summer months, warmth during the winter, and ambient light throughout the year.
A flexible library space is defined by the orthogonal grid of the structure and the folding form of the roof structure above. Glass to the north and south of the main library space creates transparency through the building, connecting the public plaza to the south through the library and out to Bonanza Road to the north. Vibrant plaza color palette is pulled through the interior spaces reinforcing the indoor / outdoor feel.

Undulating colorful canopies, reminiscent of traditional mercado, define the public plaza, provide shaded outdoor program space, and celebrate the main entry into the building.
Interior forms housing functions are below the undulating perforated gypsum board ceiling. Festune lighting brings the spirit of the mercado indoors.