Libraries are beacons of information, inspiration and innovation in their communities. They are trusted treasures where communities connect, where lifelong learning happens, and where hearts and minds engage.

Today’s libraries must reach out and be inviting to everyone in our society – people of all ages and backgrounds. We’re committed to designing libraries with possibilities for all.

We partner with our clients to design effective community meeting spaces where neighbors gather and connect. Here are the top five trends we are seeing in the industry.

1. **Expansion of services** such as designing the infrastructure for integrated STEM programs within libraries.

2. **Maker spaces** where people come together to create, invent, and learn are becoming more popular with an increasing number of tool lending libraries emerging. Libraries often have equipment such as 3D printers and other hardware to encourage this creative activity.

3. **Co-locating** libraries and the adaptive reuse within recreation centers, activity centers, shopping centers and senior centers. These adjacencies strongly reinforce what libraries are all about, community.

4. **Children’s areas** that offer early childhood programs with compelling designs/stories that tie back to the community.

5. **Sustainable features** and programs that encourage environmental learning such as outdoor classrooms, green roofs, living walls, and integrated site design such as public art, electric car charging stations, permeable paving, and more.

Learn more about planning for success

Grimm + Parker is committed to design for learning. We help educators and administrators plan for success, even before your next project is identified. Send us an email and we’ll be in touch:

grimmandparker.com
contactus@gparch.com

@GPArchitects
@Grimm + Parker Architects
T. 301.595.1000
Envisioned as a modern space for discovery and community rather than a repository for print media, Laurel Branch Library embraces its place in the community through transparency—dissolving the barriers between interior and exterior while providing an array of modern educational amenities. Its open, intuitive floorplan and comprehensive technology integration along with its pedestrian friendly location make Laurel Branch Library an accessible space for socializing and exploring educational resources. Private study and conference rooms serve as meeting spaces for groups of students and local organizations, and all user groups are valued with their own modern spaces including adult, teen, and children's reading areas with specially selected, age appropriate features and furnishings.

The liveliest of these spaces is the children’s wing, or “Discovery Island”—an exploration zone intended to encourage early literacy. Children enter via a cave-like opening in a stone wall, emerging onto a lush tropical island where they are greeted by reading nooks tucked into the greenery. Young readers navigate the stacks, following illuminated dinosaur tracks to discover a complete model Nanotyrannus skeleton, encased in the glass floor, and illuminated from within as though recently excavated. The remainder of the tracks lead young readers to another hidden reading nook—this time disguised as a discarded dinosaur ribcage. Utilizing Laurel Branch Library's transparency to full effect, this nook overlooks an adjoining pathway, linking the library to the newly renovated Emancipation Community Park.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

+ Prince George's Co. Gov't
+ 31,000 sf
+ New Construction
+ Drive-through book drop-off/pick up

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LAUREL VISIT**