

## THOMAS JEFFERSON LIBRARY

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PROJECT TYPE: BRANCH LIBRARY  
LOCATION: FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA  
BUILDING AREA: 19,595 SF  
COMPLETION DATE: APRIL 2010

Originally constructed in 1966, the Thomas Jefferson Library was expanded from its original 10,291 square feet to 19,595 square feet providing the much needed additional space and renovation to the existing building. The library is located in Falls Church, Virginia and serves a diverse group of neighborhood users with the need for a more technologically advanced, state of the art, user friendly library that highlights its namesake as well as welcome its rich multi-cultural, multi-lingual clientele.

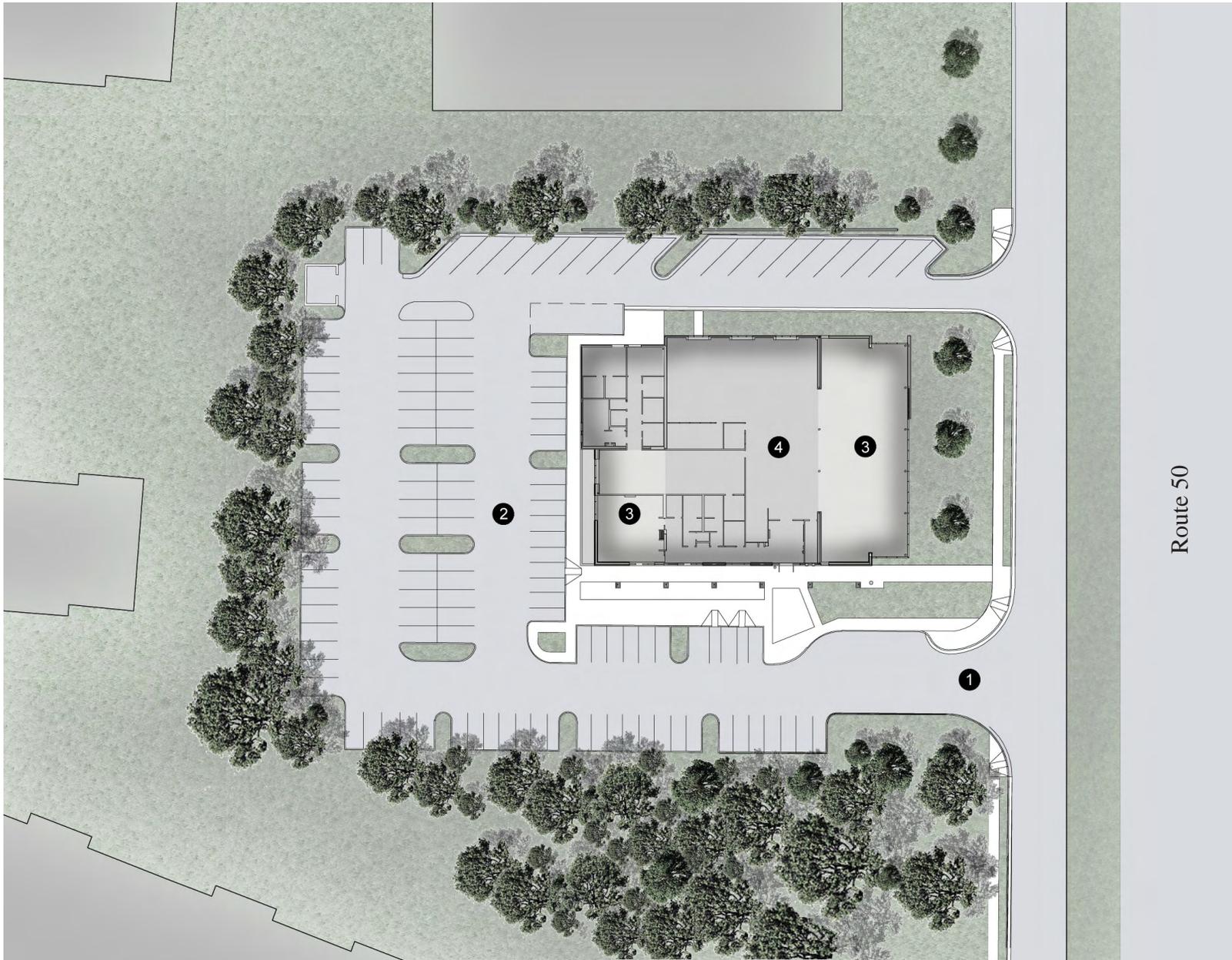
The design strategy was to expand the facility by approximately 42 feet on the front, north façade to create a new public face for the library and enhance its street presence while creating a new canopy entry element that facilitates covered pedestrian access from every part of the parking area. The rear addition, approximately 33 feet square, was seamlessly added to appear as if it were part of the original structure. The interior of the existing library was completely rehabilitated to meet the new and updated programming requirements of the library.

The Thomas Jefferson Library obtained a LEED silver certification incorporating numerous sustainable practices in the design and throughout construction. A significant portion of the original building shell was used in the new design gaining LEED Building Reuse points. Stormwater management is accommodated with precast cisterns buried under the south parking area and reforestation measures were provided on the south and east property lines. Rainwater is captured from a portion of the roof to irrigate a large planter used to buffer the parking from the south face of the building. High efficiency building envelope elements include high performance glazing and insulation in the walls and roof which is a solar reflective membrane.

The design reflects the ideology of its Jeffersonian namesake with the use of details, forms and materials such as the use of advanced building systems, an oculus ceiling opening in the entry, slate flooring and cabinet designs that refer to the grounds at the University of Virginia. The placement of the new reading room adjacent to the main road at the north of the building with its dramatic sloping roof, expansive volume and abundance of glass has increased visibility to the surrounding community while providing a strong connection to the exterior for the library's occupants. The main addition also has greatly increased the quality of daylight in the interior while still remaining energy efficient due to the use of high performance glazing. The palate of materials includes new brick that closely matches that of the original building, clear anodized aluminum, high-performance glazing, wood cabinetry and slate flooring.

One of the main design challenges was incorporating updated, high performance mechanical and electrical systems within the volumetric and height constraints of the existing building, as well as bringing the existing building up to current structural standards by increasing reinforcement.

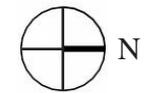
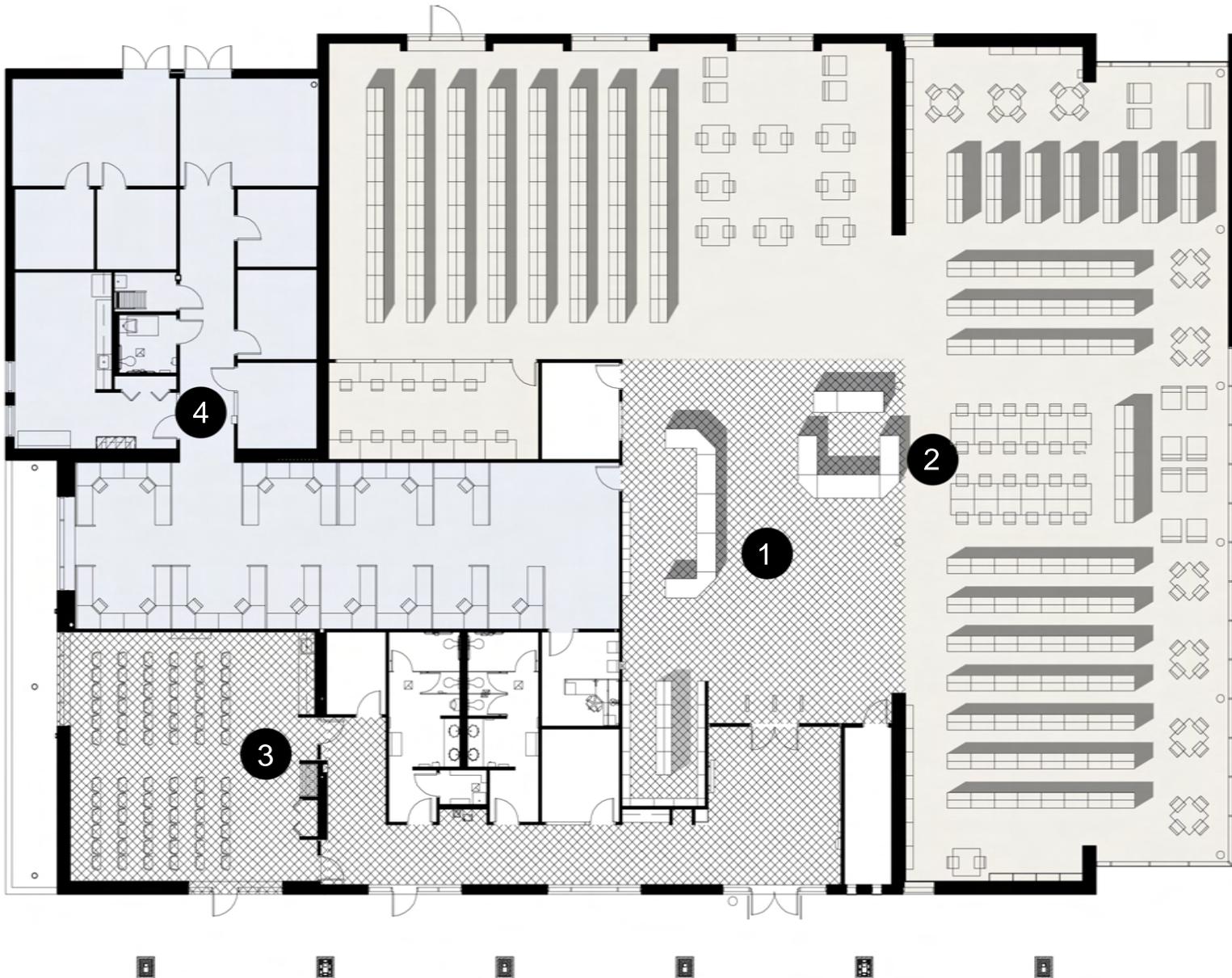
The Thomas Jefferson Library has been renovated and expanded within the project budget and provides a revitalized appearance and a new lease on life to serve its citizens well into the future.



Route 50



- 1. Entrance
- 2. Parking
- 3. Addition
- 4. Existing Building



1. Control
2. Stacks + Reading
3. Public Meeting
4. Administration





**THOMAS JEFFERSON LIBRARY**  
A Fairfax County Green Library  
• Low-Flow Toilets, LED Light Fixtures, Energy Efficient Windows  
• 100% Recycled Carpet Tiles  
• 100% Recycled Paper Products  
• 100% Recycled Office Furniture  
• 100% Recycled Office Supplies  
• 100% Recycled Office Equipment  
• 100% Recycled Office Paper  
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library









