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Orcas library expansion team works to get reading room lighting just right

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

Orcas Island Public Library recently re-opened at 500 Rose St. in Eastsound after a 6,000-square-foot expansion that doubled its size.

The late Henry Klein, founder of HKP Architects, designed the original library, which was completed in 1992. HKP Architects designed the expansion.

It includes a reading room, computer area, group rooms, children's room and young adult room and a lobby display by the Friends of the Library display that consolidates their collection of books and merchandise.



Photo by Mike Penney

Here's the design team: MIG/SvR (civil/landscape architecture), Lund Opsahl (structural), Harris Group (mechanical), K Engineers (electrical), [The Greenbusch Group \(audio visual/acoustical\)](#), Adams Consulting (hardware), Applied Building Information (specifications) and Wetherholt (envelope).

HKP said the project cost \$4.2 million. The state provided \$1.4 million, and \$2 million came from donations, \$700,000 from a levy lift and \$100,000 from Friends of the Library.

In a press release, HKP said the new reading room is designed to have a similar quality of light as the one patrons enjoy in the existing reading room. HKP and Integrated Design Lab compared different window and skylight iterations to select the size and location for a large skylight and south window wall in the new reading room. Natural light, highly efficient lighting and daylighting controls help reduce energy use, HKP said.

Other sustainable elements include low-VOC and natural materials, recycled content, high efficiency equipment, LED lighting, daylighting, solar glazing to reduce heat gain and loss, local labor/products where possible, native and drought-tolerant plants, no irrigation, dual-flush toilets and a pin pile foundation, which reduces site impact and concrete use.