

Award-winning design

Location
Laurel, Maryland, USA

Wall Products
BENCHMARK DesignWall 2000
BENCHMARK DesignWall R Series

Finishes
Champagne Gold



Overview

The new Laurel Branch Library in Laurel, Maryland, was designed to be much more than a repository for books and other media. Grimm+Parker Architects designed this 2018 AIA/ALA Library Building Award winner to be a modern space for discovery and community – a central hub for the local community. The 32,000 sq. foot building replaced the original facility that was built in 1965.

The new building features a host of modern amenities, including study rooms, a teen zone, a gaming room – even a dinosaur-themed children's room as a tribute to dinosaur bones discovered in Laurel.



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Elegant Design, Naturally

A Modern Look:

The exterior of the library features a modern look, designed with patrons in mind – patrons who are increasingly immersed in technology. And it took a lot of technology and engineering to create some of the signature features of the Laurel Branch Library, which utilizes insulated metal panels in the design.

Complex Architectural Applications:

There are eight window-surround “pods” built into the exterior of the building, and three entrances of similar construction. The plans called for no exposed fasteners on these. Kingspan developed a unique modified edge detail for the lower pods that comprised a full-wrap panel edge with a concealed 20-gauge mounting angle. The abutting panel that intersected around the corner contained a short-flange modified edge so the trimless corners could be stitched together using #10 screws. Color coordinated silicone sealant was used to fill the fastening cavity, which allowed the pods to build without exposed fasteners or exterior trim. The end result was a clean, modern look that met the design intent.



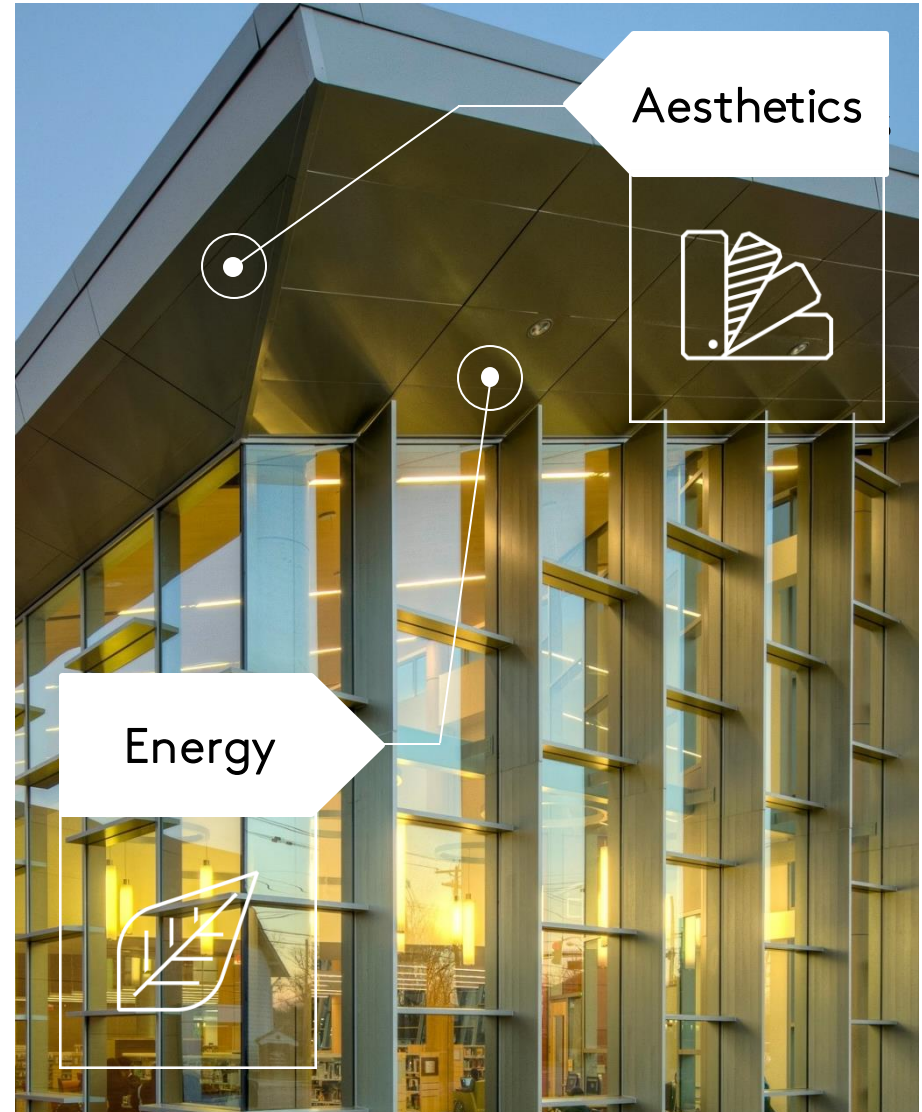
The Shape of Things to Come

IMP Uses Around Windows:

On the exterior walls of the pods, insulated metal panels were used to create a frame-effect around the windows. Each of the pods, in essence, has a roof, a soffit, a window sill, side walls, inside walls and end walls. The specifications for this portion of the project required that minimal flashings or trim were to be used, and exposed fasteners were not allowed.

Complex Engineering:

Kingspan spent approximately three months engineering the panel design for this project. The challenge for the company on this part of the project was getting the joints to align around all four sides of the building's upper sloping canopy. Three-dimensional modelling was used as a solution to establish a joint layout for one section and then modelled around the other three sides. While the design was extremely complex, the installation was relatively simple and was handled by the general contractor.



Setting Down New Roots

An Award-Winning Library:

The Laurel Branch Library was a winner in the 2018 AIA/ALA Library Building Awards, with the judges saying, "It is inspiring to approach as you walk up into the library and it is awe-producing as you make your way through the inside."



Contact

For more information on
the products used in this
project, please email

Info.NA@kingspanpanels.com

