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***Library Journal* Names 10 New Landmark Libraries
Inaugural list identifies public library buildings
shaping the future of library design**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York, NY, May 12, 2011—What does the 21st century public library look like? How does its design best serve your community? To see the face of the future, in communities across America, you could start with Poplar Creek Public Library in Streamwood, IL. This library and nine others featuring vibrant, innovative designs were today named New Landmark Libraries by *Library Journal*. The New Landmark Libraries showcase inspiring buildings that will help shape libraries for the next generation and beyond. Ten additional libraries were named Honorable Mentions.

Library Journal's New Landmark Libraries project seeks to discover groundbreaking public library buildings and establish a set of standards for library leaders, and communities, to address as they build. It strengthens their ability to design and build excellence into their public library facilities. Chosen from a national pool with submissions from large cities and small communities, the New Landmark Libraries and Honorable Mentions can be used as prototypes or think tanks for library projects of all sizes.

A group of 16 judges—primarily library directors and architects—led by project coordinator Louise Schaper, evaluated the submissions sent by public libraries. Their criteria covered overall design and construction excellence, response to community context and constraints, sustainability, functionality, innovation, and beauty and delight. The judges focused on libraries built or renovated in the last six years, and those not already on the national radar.

“We define a new landmark as a professional exemplar for someone setting out on a new building project—a library to mine that isn’t as well known as the biggies. There’s plenty to learn from those, of course, but the New Landmark Libraries project is a quest to find and highlight less-well-known library buildings that offer exciting and sometimes paradigm-breaking design in response to community needs and changing times,” Schaper explains in her article, “The New Icons,” in the Spring 2011 issue of *Library by Design*, a *Library Journal* supplement.

According to Schaper, who built the Fayetteville Public Library (*LJ*'s 2005 Library of the Year) while Executive Director there, the winning libraries refine many of the most important trends of the past decade and highlight new, emerging ideas. For example, Poplar Creek Public Library offers a plethora of green strategies, from a gigantic planted green roof to sun “scoops” that capture heat in winter and release it in the summer to high-efficiency boilers, water heaters, and

chillers. Or, for another example, Phoenix's Palo Verde Library/Maryvale Community Center features a flexible design that shares use with the Parks Department and brings the whole community together.

Anacostia Library in Washington, DC, an Honorable Mention, is helping to revitalize and save its neighborhood with an open floor plan and green features like a rain garden that invite patrons to enjoy the building as well as the books. In addition, innovations such as fewer and smaller service points, more self-service and automated checkout points, borrowing the best ideas from museums and bookstores, and applying a minimalist design ethic that makes the most of natural materials and adds the excitement of color are all signatures of New Landmark Libraries.

Read the complete story and see a full list of the winners and Honorable Mentions at www.libraryjournal.com/NLL.

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