

LIBRARY BUILDERS



Acknowledgements

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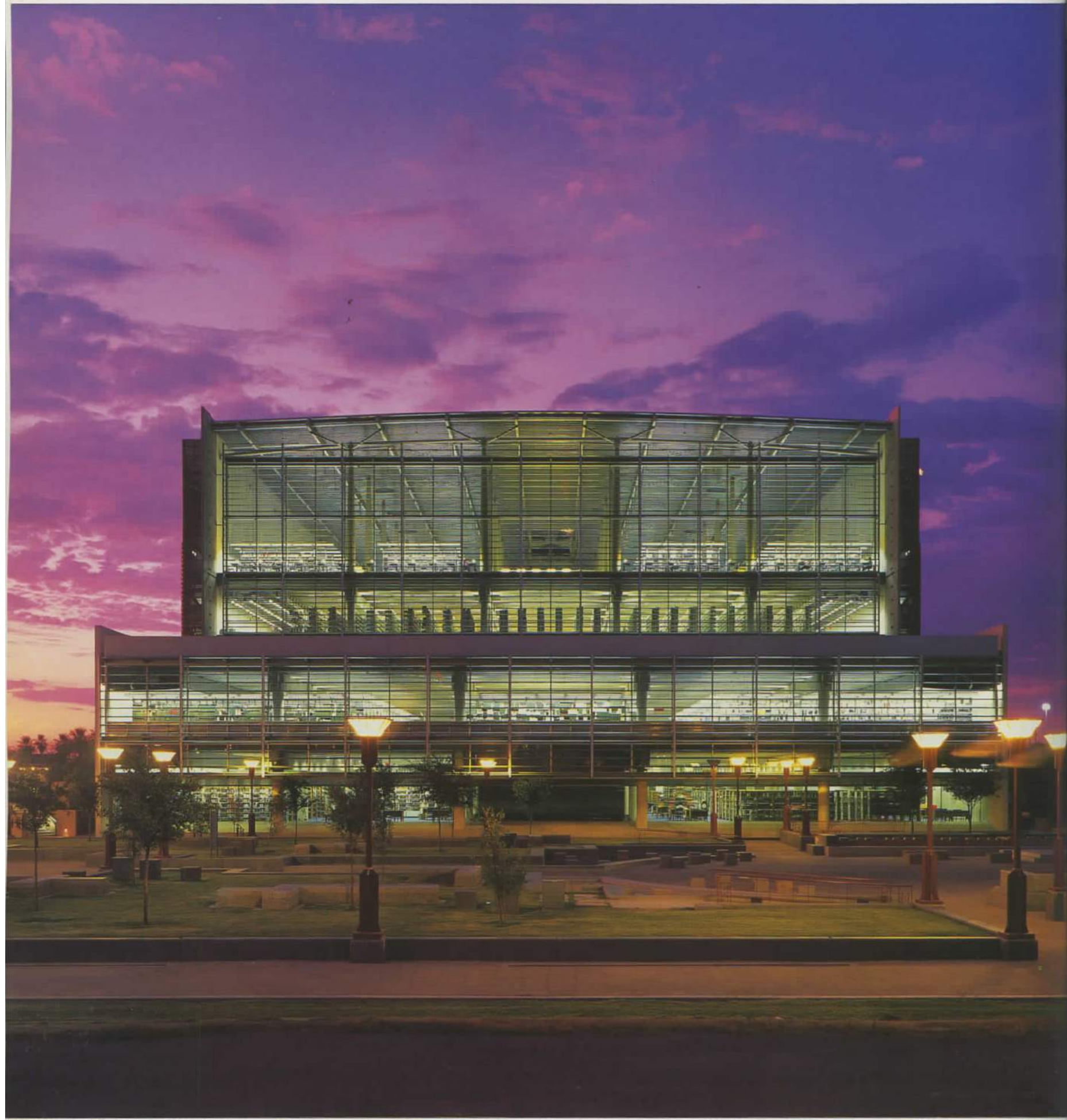
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BRUDER DWL ARCHITECTS PHOENIX CENTRAL LIBRARY

Phoenix, Arizona, USA

Phoenix Central Library is to serve as the city's public library until 2040 and beyond. The library rises above its site on Central Avenue as a poetic metaphor of Arizona's unique natural beauty; a majestic mesa transplanted from the landscape of Arizona's Monument Valley. Functionally, it incorporates both a programme of logical library planning, and the concept that a library must have a vision which acknowledges future change.

The building's five floors, in a simple rectangular configuration, provide 26,000 square metres of flexible space. A simple orthogonal grid comprised of square ten-metre bays (based on library stack modules) creates the matrix of the building. The fixed services, including fire stairs, service elevators, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and lateral structural systems, are contained in two service walls flanking the east

and west, thus completely freeing up the central floor area for library-related use. The library's internal public spaces are simply organised around a futuristic 'crystal canyon' atrium. Set in a stainless-steel rotunda above the atrium, nine computer-controlled, tracking skylights animate the space from dawn to dusk. Three glazed elevators and a grand sculptural staircase rise from a black, reflecting pool at the foot of the light well.

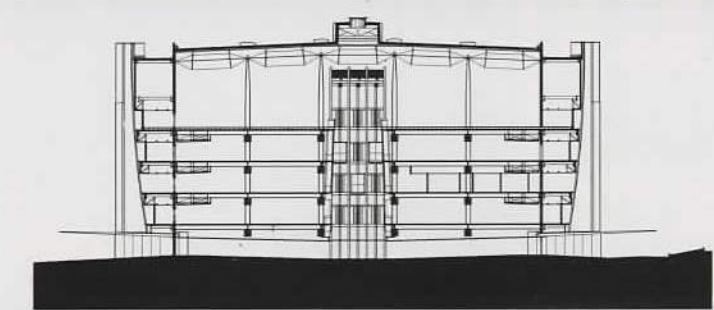
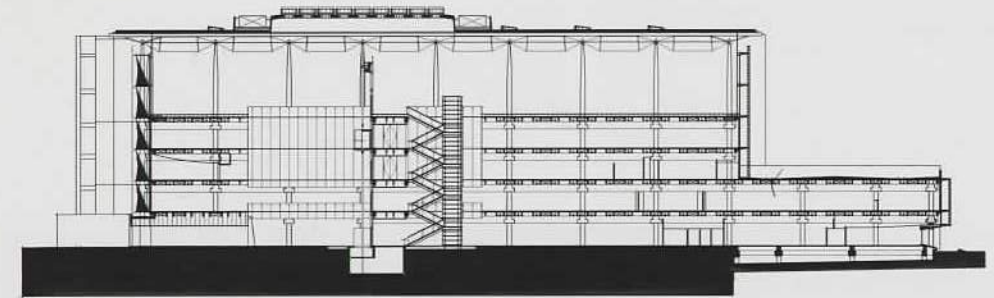
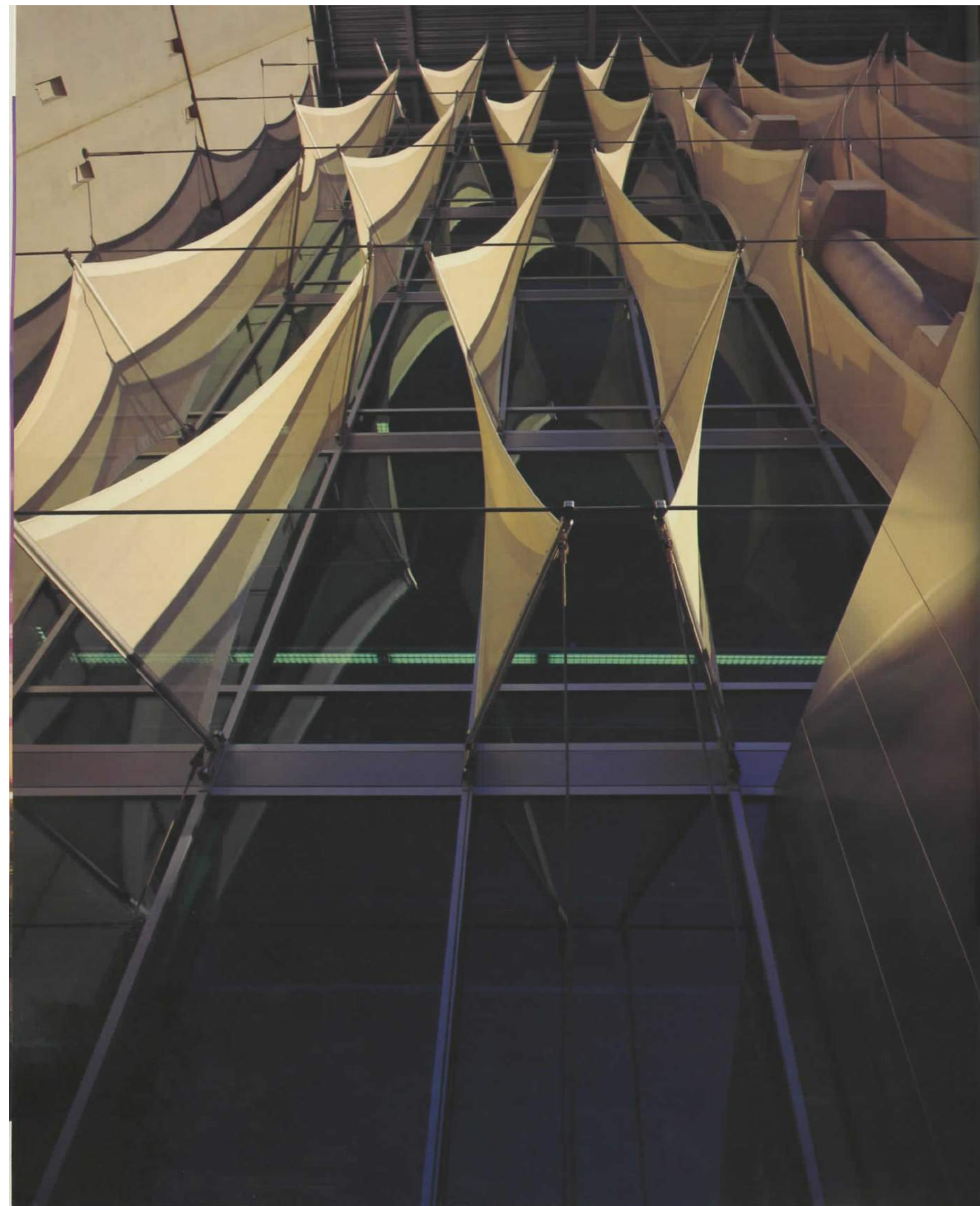
The fifth floor is a great public reading room, in the spirit of the past, which houses the entire nonfiction collection. Natural daylight is carefully orchestrated internally by the steel roof structure which maintains the building's primary structural grid.

The prevalent external materials of the library are concrete, copper, stainless steel and glass. The east and west elevations are dominated by the heavy corrugated

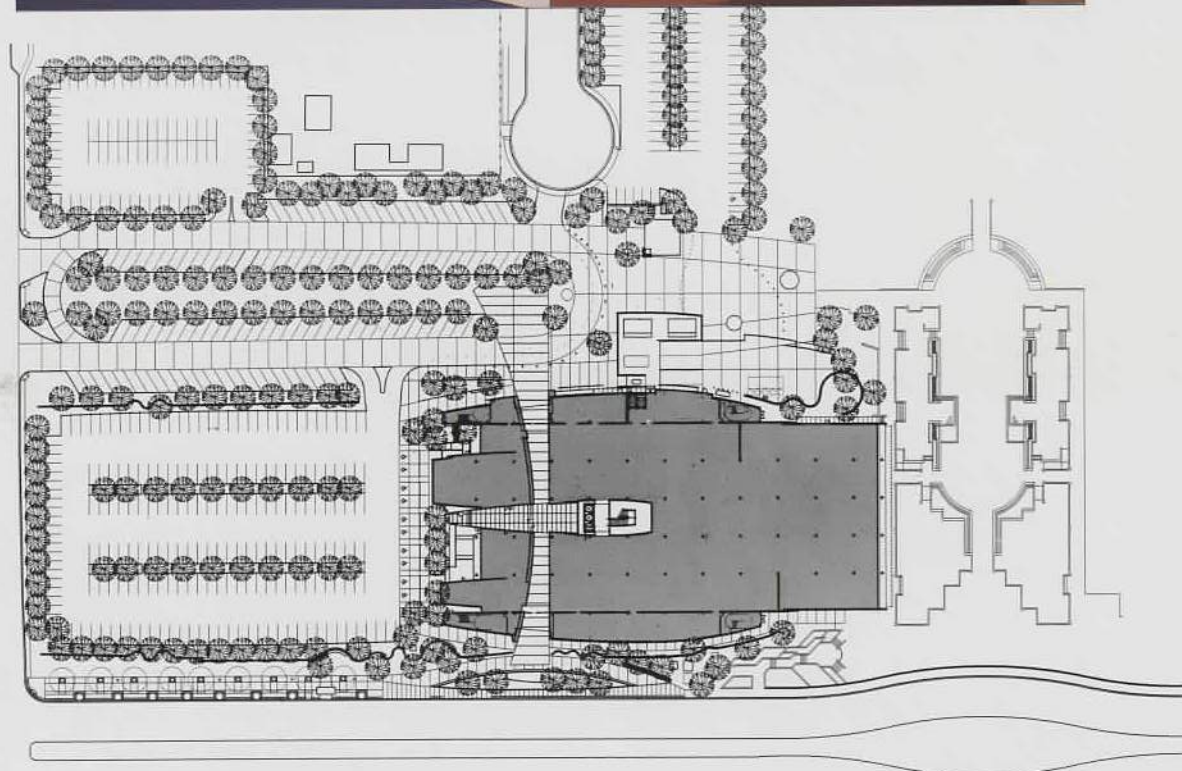
and flat panelled copper skin of the service walls. This skin will patina to the colour of an old penny, with flashes of purple and gold. Reflecting the changing colours of the sky, stainless-steel panels set into the east and west elevations accent the points of entry. To the north and south the building's transparent glazing showcases the books and the library users inside, emphasising the building's operation in the community. The entirely glazed south elevation uses automated solar tracking devices to minimise heat gain and glare. A system of 'fabric sails' on the north elevation eliminates the harsh glare of the summer sun while optimising views.

The design of the new Central Library has created an urban environment in the starkly dramatic desert setting, offering its occupants the illusion, not imitation, of buildings from the past.



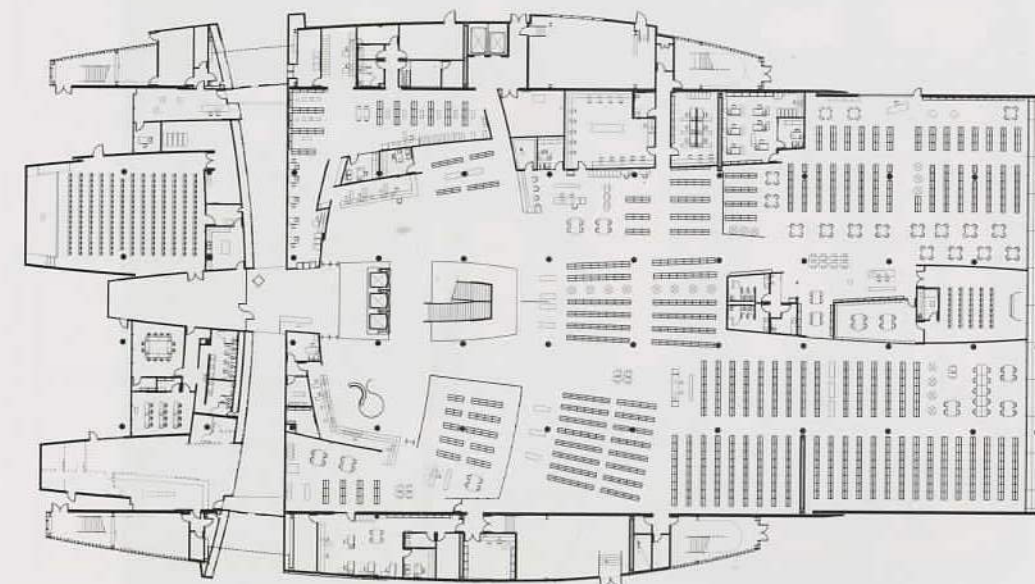
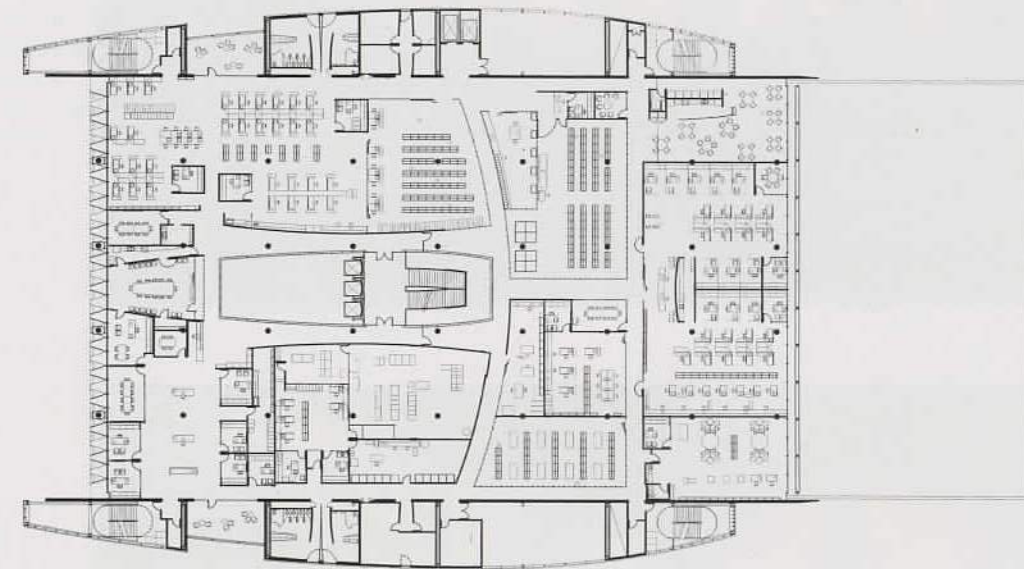
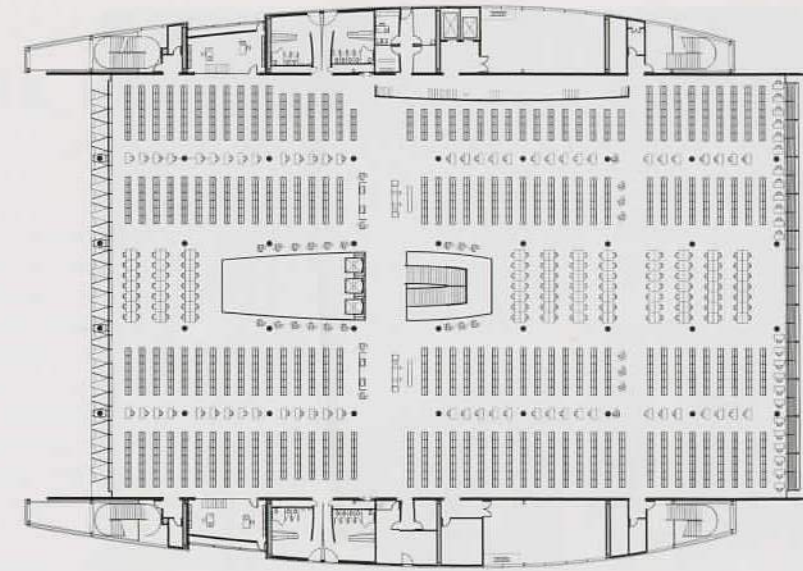


FROM ABOVE: North-south section through atrium; east-west section through entrance



Site plan





FROM ABOVE: Fourth floor plan; second floor plan; ground floor plan