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GET SPACIOUS LIBRARY PLANS

Kansas City, Kansas, Structure Moves Step Closer

MAY COST 2 MILLION

Board of Education Will Share 3-Story Building

A new Kansas City, Kansas, public library, and central school office building, will move a step closer tomorrow when members of the board of education will view preliminary plans and a color perspective, prepared by Joseph W. Radotinsky, architect.

The new 3-story and basement structure, with front entrances on Minnesota avenue, immediately north of the present 62-year-old Carnegie structure, will feature contemporary uncluttered lines. Its cost is expected to be between 1½ and 2 million dollars.

A 70-Foot Plaza

Entry to the building from Minnesota avenue will be across a 70-foot paved plaza, interspersed with planter boxes. The unit will extend 138 feet along Minnesota and be 159 feet deep. With the basement the total gross floor area will be 73,000 square feet.

The library will have almost five times as much space as at present, jumping from 10,208 square feet to about 52,000. Administrative offices of the school system, which now have 6,500 square feet, will go up to 21,000

The library will have seating facilities for more than 300 patrons, as compared with its present 63. It is designed eventually to provide shelving for 200,000 volumes. The present building holds 62,000.

The air-conditioned building will have an exterior using two shades of face brick, with accents of marble and granite and a flat roof. The Minnesota avenue side of the main floor will have full-length glass windows. Fewer windows will be used in the second story, but the top floor, to house the school offices, will have 4-foot glass panels all around, providing the effect of a top wall of glass.

Twin Entrances to Lobby

Twin north entrances will lead to a lobby providing access either to the main library floor or to stairs and elevator.

A suspended ceiling will top the loan and return book desks, which form the focal point of the main floor. Also on this floor will be a reference area, browsing nooks, stacks, recreational reading materials and a new Kansas room.

More stacks in the basement will be connected by a special elevator to the control desk and to the second floor. The second floor also will include a separate area for children, the film and library collection, catalogueing areas and a meeting room to accommodate up to 150 persons.

Administrative offices of the school district will occupy the entire top floor. It also will have a centrally located meeting room for the school board, which also may be used for educational functions.

Following the board's consideration of the plans, the architects will proceed to draw up working drawings and specifications, with the hope of starting construction early this summer.

Bonds in 1958

When district residents, in 1958, authorized a bond issue of $6,850,000 for school expansion, $1,430,000 was allowed for the library and office building.

Since that time building costs have increased and plans for the library have been considerably expanded, leading to an expectation by school officials that total cost of the new unit may run closer to 2 million dollars. Any difference will be made up from the district's continuous building fund.

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