



# Visual Connection with Nature

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a view to elements of nature, living  
systems and natural processes.



# Internal Planting

Placement of indoor plants and greenery in locations where direct natural views are limited, such as interior classrooms or corridors.



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# Glazed Facades

Large glazed elements improve the quality and quantity of natural views available to building occupants, particularly in study areas and lounges.



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# Rooftop Gardens

Architectural designs that incorporate glass facades or rooftop gardens, offering expansive and immersive natural vistas that transform the learning environment.



# Non-Visual Connection to Nature

Non-Visual Connection with Nature is the auditory, haptic, olfactory, or gustatory stimuli that engender a deliberate and positive reference to nature, living systems or natural processes.



## Soundscape

A carefully crafted soundscape, incorporating natural sounds like birdsong or flowing water, can enhance biophilic design by creating a calming and immersive environment that connects occupants to nature.





## Scented Plants

Use aromatic plants within spaces that can safely and subtly release natural scents into the air, like lavender for calmness or rosemary for focus.



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## Seasonal Snacks

Offer teas, juices, or snacks made with natural ingredients and flavors that are indicative of the local environment or seasons.



# Non-Rhythmic Sensory Stimuli

Non-Rhythmic Sensory Stimuli are stochastic and ephemeral connections with nature that may be analysed statistically but may not be predicted precisely.



# Kinetic Sculptures

Install sculptures or mobiles that move with the airflow in the space, providing a visual representation of air movement.



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## Automated Blinds

Program blinds or screens to adjust randomly or in response to environmental conditions outside, subtly altering the indoor lighting and creating a sense of natural variability.



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## Light Play

Use architectural features like louvres, textured glass, or reflective water elements to create shifting patterns of light and shadow within the library. This mimics the dynamic light play seen in nature under trees or near water bodies.



# Thermal/Airflow Variability

Subtle changes in air temperature, relative humidity, airflow across the skin, and surface temperatures that mimic natural environments.



## Automated Vents

Install manual vents or automated systems that open and close based on carbon dioxide levels, occupancy, or time of day, providing fresh air and temperature control while still maintaining overall energy efficiency.



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Subtle changes in air temperature, relative humidity, airflow across the skin, and surface temperatures that mimic natural environments.



## Green Walls and Roofs

Incorporate living walls or green roofs that naturally insulate the building, reducing temperature fluctuations. These features can be designed to allow user interaction, such as opening or closing sections to control shade and air quality.



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Subtle changes in air temperature, relative humidity, airflow across the skin, and surface temperatures that mimic natural environments.



## Individual Controls

Provide users with localized control over their immediate environment, such as adjustable air vents, personal fans, or even heated/cooled seating, allowing them to modify temperature and airflow to their preference.



# Presence of Water

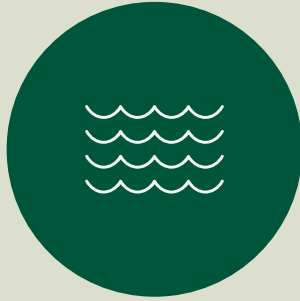
A condition that enhances the  
experience of a place through the  
seeing, hearing or touching of water.





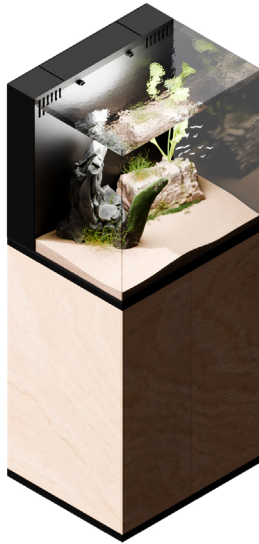
## Reflective Pools

Consider integrating small, shallow reflective pools in central areas or courtyards where they can be safely admired. These pools can reflect natural light and the surrounding architecture, enhancing spatial aesthetics.



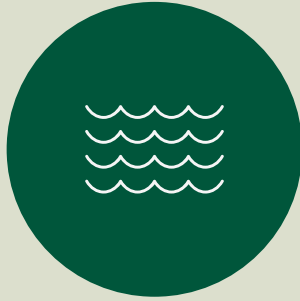
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# Aquariums

Introduce aquariums or fish tanks in certain areas of the library, such as children's sections or relaxation zones. Aquariums can be fascinating focal points and contribute to the overall sense of calm.



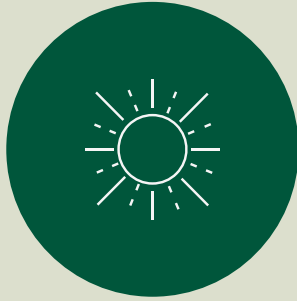
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# Rain Gardens

Create rain gardens in outdoor areas associated with the library. These not only manage stormwater sustainably but also allow users to observe the natural water cycle up close.



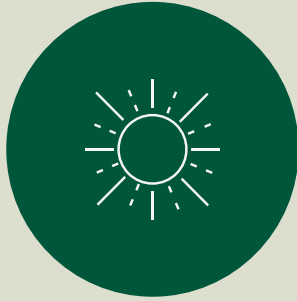
# Dynamic and Diffused Light

Provide varying intensities of light & shadow that change over time to create conditions that appear in nature.



## Diffused Light Fixtures

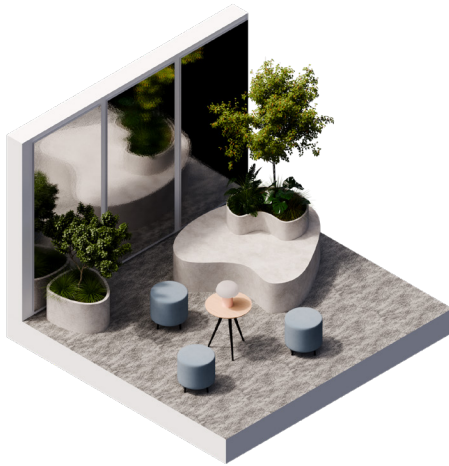
Incorporate light fixtures that diffuse light broadly, avoiding direct glare and creating soft, ambient lighting condition that changes subtly, reflecting the variability found in nature.



# Dynamic and Diffused Light

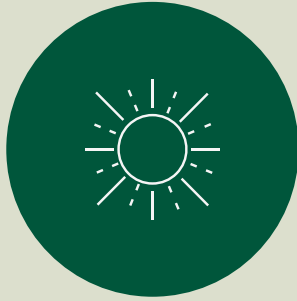
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# Reflective Surfaces

Use light shelves and other reflective surfaces to bounce daylight into the library's interior, increasing the amount of natural light and enhancing its distribution.



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## Task Lighting

Provide individual task lighting options for users, allowing them to adjust their immediate lighting environment according to their needs or preferences, adding a personal dynamic component.



# Connection to Natural Systems

Awareness of natural processes,  
especially seasonal and temporal changes  
characteristics of a healthy ecosystem.



# Indoor Ecosystems

Create indoor gardens or ecosystems that mimic those outside, such as a small indoor wetland or forest understorey, offering a direct link to the external natural environment.



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## Environmental Feedback

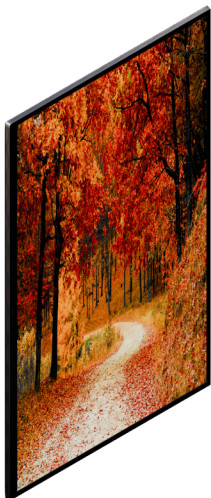
Use systems that provide real-time data on the natural environment around the library, such as weather conditions, the status of solar panels if any, rainwater collection levels, and even air quality readings.



# Connection to Natural Systems

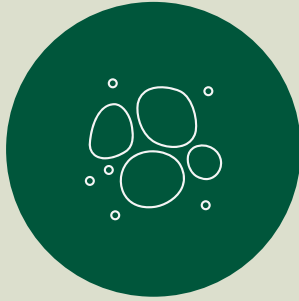
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## Seasonal Displays

Inside the library, create displays or installations that change with the seasons, highlighting local flora, fauna, and natural phenomena. This could include digital screens showing local natural landscapes in real-time or seasonal art installations.



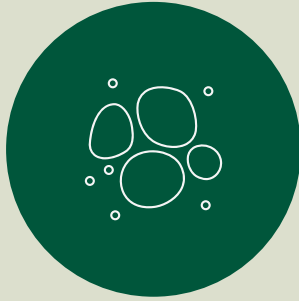
# Biomorphic Forms and Patterns

Symbolic references to contours,  
patterns, textures or numerical  
arrangements that exist in nature.



## Furniture and Fixtures

Choose furniture and light fixtures that mimic natural forms or patterns. Chairs might resemble the shapes of leaves or stones, and custom carpets or ceiling tiles could feature abstracted natural patterns like those found in leaves, waves, or cellular structures.



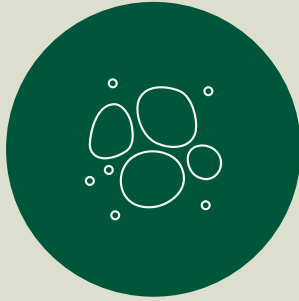
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## Art Installations

Commission or select art pieces for the library that reflect biomorphic forms and patterns. This can range from large-scale sculptures to detailed wall hangings or mosaics that draw the eye and engage the mind.



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# Curvilinear Shapes

Incorporate curvilinear and organic shapes into the architecture, moving away from strictly rectilinear forms. This could manifest in the overall building shape, windows, doorways, or interior architectural elements.



# Material Connection to Nature

Materials and elements from nature that, through minimal processing, reflect the local ecology or geology to create a distinct sense of place.





# Materiality

Incorporate natural materials, like wood in structural elements, finishes, furniture, and decorative details. Use stone for floors, walls, or as part of the furniture. The visual and tactile qualities of stone can evoke a sense of solidity and permanence, grounding users in the space.



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## Colours from Nature

Use color schemes in the library that reflect natural environments, focusing on earth tones, greens, blues, and the varied hues found in nature. This can create a subtle but effective reminder of the natural world.



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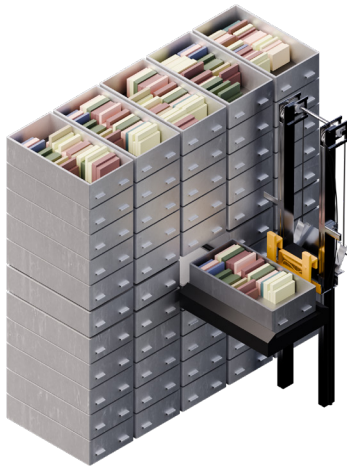
## Handmade Elements

Incorporate artisanal or crafted details in the library's design, such as handwoven textiles, handcrafted furniture, or custom metalwork. These elements can convey a sense of human connection to natural materials, celebrating traditional skills and craftsmanship.



# Complexity and Order

Rich sensory information that  
adheres to a spatial hierarchy similar  
to those encountered in nature.



## Interest Points

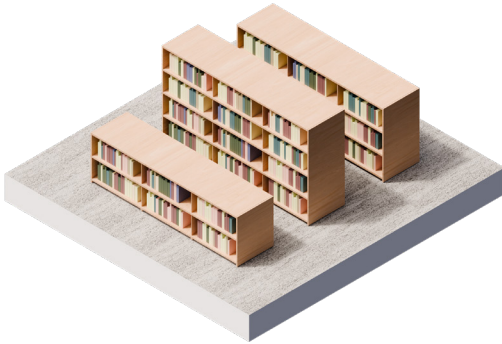
Use design elements to create interest points and landmarks that help users navigate the space. This could be a distinctive piece of art, a unique architectural feature, or a beautifully designed reading nook.



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# Cohesion and Variability

Ensure that while spaces contain elements of complexity, the overall design feels cohesive and ordered. This balance between complexity and order is key to creating an environment that is engaging without being overwhelming.



# Complexity and Order

Rich sensory information that  
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to those encountered in nature.



## Decorative Elements

Incorporate fractal patterns that recur at different scales within the space. This could be through the use of wallpapers, lighting fixtures, flooring tiles, or façade elements that mimic patterns found in nature, such as the branching of trees or the structure of leaves.



# Prospect

An unblocked view over a distance for  
surveillance & planning.





## Elevated Areas

Consider creating raised platforms or mezzanines that offer a vantage point over the interior of the library and, if possible, the exterior surroundings. This can fulfill the human desire for prospect, allowing users to see and be seen.



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## Zone Without Obstruction

Use low partitions, bookshelves, or transparent barriers to define different areas within the library without significantly obstructing views. This maintains a sense of prospect while still providing necessary functional separations.



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## Maximise Views

Position windows to provide expansive views of the surrounding landscape, cityscape, or courtyard gardens. Place seating, reading nooks, and study areas near these windows to allow users to enjoy the views while engaging in their activities.



# Refuge

A place for withdrawal, from environmental conditions or the main flow of activity, in which the individual is protected from behind and overhead.



## Private Study Booths

Offer individual study booths or pods that are soundproofed and designed to minimize visual distractions. These can be particularly valuable in busy or open-plan areas.



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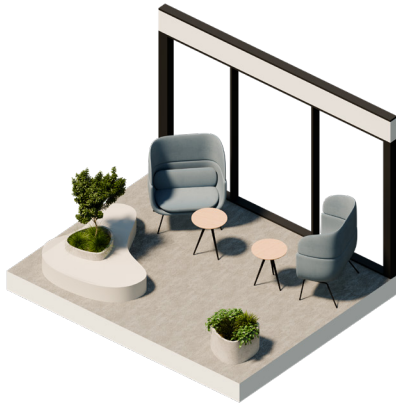
## Use of Textiles

Enhance the sense of comfort and seclusion in refuge areas with the use of soft furnishings, plush seating, rugs, and draperies that absorb sound and create a cozy atmosphere.



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## Window Seats and Alcoves

Create window seats, alcoves, or reading nooks that are slightly removed from the main traffic flow. These spaces can offer both comfort and a sense of personal space, along with natural light and views.



# Mystery

The promise of more information achieved through partially hidden views or other sensory devices that stimulate the individual to travel deeper into the environment.





# Indirect Routes

Instead of straight, predictable paths, design walkways that curve or meander, obscuring the full view of what's ahead and encouraging exploration.



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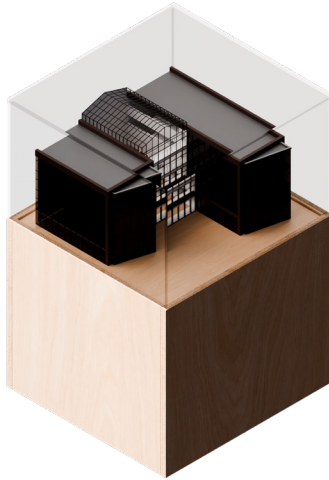
# Transitions in Lighting

Create areas of transition where the lighting subtly changes, leading visitors from brightly lit spaces to those with softer lighting, hinting at a change in atmosphere or function.



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# Storytelling

Use art, design elements, and materials that tell a story or hint at a narrative, encouraging visitors to uncover the story piece by piece as they move through the space.



## Risk / Peril

A space with a good Risk/Peril condition evokes a sense of thrill and excitement, with a hint of potential danger. The space challenges users to 3 with it, creating a sense of intrigue and fascination that may be difficult to resist.



## Mezzanines

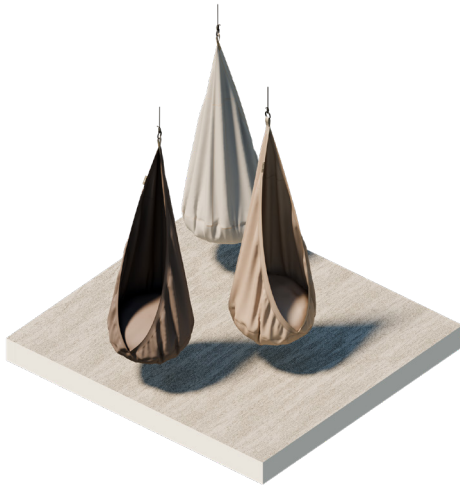
Design elevated areas within the library that allow users to experience height and perspective, such as mezzanine levels or viewing platforms overlooking interior spaces or natural vistas outside. The key is to ensure robust safety features that make these high places exciting but secure.



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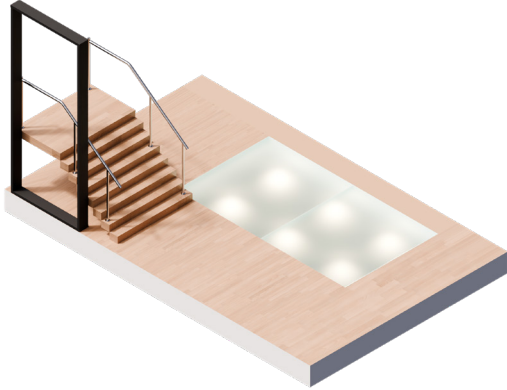
# Hammocks

Introduce seating options that are suspended, like hanging pods, swings, or hammocks, offering a unique experience of leisure and study. These elements should be securely anchored and designed for ease of use to ensure safety.



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# Transparent Elements

Use glass floors or walkways in certain areas to create an illusion of walking over space. This can be particularly effective over interior gardens, art installations, or even book stacks, providing thrilling views while being completely safe.