

BREAKING GROUND

IDEAS & INFORMATION YOU CAN BUILD ON

WINTER 2010



A 3,000-square-foot addition to the Kentland Public Library maintained the historic integrity of the structure, replicating the two-story design and the attractive red brick exterior.

Hamstra Group Turns The Page On Two Library Projects

For the staff at The Hamstra Group, libraries are special projects. There is nothing more pivotal in a community than the local public library. Over the past decade, the company has worked on more than a dozen new library and library rehabilitation/addition projects, many of them enhancements to historic Carnegie-financed structures built in the early 1900s.

Now Hamstra is turning the page on two recent library jobs. At the helm were project manager Curt Albertson and construction superintendents Ryan Klemp (Kentland Library) and Bill Dykstra (LaCrosse Library).

The first project, the Kentland Public Library in Kentland, Ind., involved a 3,000-square-foot addition to the historic structure. To maintain the architectural integrity of the design, Hamstra kept with a two-story expansion and matched the building's red brick exterior. A wheelchair lift, instead of an elevator, provides access for people with disabilities while conserving precious space.

"We're delighted with the expansion,"

says Roberta Dewing, director of the Kentland Library for the past 25 years. "We're getting more visitors and feel we can better serve our patrons."

For Pat Spiess, veteran director of the LaCrosse Public Library in LaCrosse,

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Ind., the brand new facility built by The Hamstra Group was “like going from a house trailer to a mansion.” The just-christened library on Main Street is a 5,000-square-foot structure executed in sage green with beige trim and incorporates a railroad theme. It replaced a very small and obsolete library the town had outgrown.

The library is located adjacent to the excursion railroad track operated by the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum in North Judson. The train makes regular trips to the library in LaCrosse, where authentic railroad signal stanchions have been wired to cast a green light when the library is open and a red one when the facility is closed. The library itself was designed with a depot ambience; even the illumination in the parking lot is typical of antique railroad station lighting.



The LaCrosse Library is a brand new facility reminiscent of a train depot; it is located next to railroad tracks operated by the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum.

This new library construction project was made possible by a half-million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Rural Affairs.

“Our new library is the talk of the town,” Spiess says. “We had a wonderful grand opening with a special train trip for children and their parents, and an ice cream social to celebrate. The people at The Hamstra Group did a wonderful job for us and this has been a real benefit to our community.”

Spiess has worked at the library for 46 years and believes the new facility is just what LaCrosse needed. “We have many more visitors now and everyone loves the new library.”

Our New Year's Message

If one were to sum up the past year in a single word, “challenging” would probably be a good choice. No individual, family or business was unaffected by what’s taken place economically, and its effects, both on a personal and global scale, will be felt for many years to come.

Ours, though, is a nation that always picks itself up, dusts itself off and moves forward. We are survivors. We’ve learned some lessons from what’s happened and, hopefully, will make changes that help prevent the same mistakes in the future.

As a business, times like these cause us to appreciate our blessings more than ever—our dedicated, hardworking employees, outstanding building team partners, supportive corporate friends and, of course, our loyal clients. You are the heart and soul of our company, without whom we would not exist.

The Hamstra Group’s entire team hopes you enjoyed a safe and healthy holiday season and wishes you a year ahead filled with happiness, promise and opportunity.



We're doing our part. This newsletter is printed on environmentally-friendly paper—50% recycled, using 25% post-consumer waste, and is composed of a mixture of fibers from certified forests, post-consumer recycling processes and fibers from other controlled sources.



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