re-connecting the city + river
How can a growing first-ring suburban city restore a community identity?
project typology

Community Center + Library
[Riverfront Development]

project site

Sartell, MN
The design will be re-discovering the city’s historical influence to aid in restoring a sense of community identity.
- Population growth
- Downtown abandoned
- Historical origin
- ‘Front Door’ to city
“they must feel that it is at gut-level, theirs; that they are willing to fight over it and for it. They must see it as having an importance relative to their personal interests. They must see it, at some gut level, as a community”  (Garreau, Joel in *Edge City*)
The city of Sartell has experienced a loss of community identity. The relationship between the paper mill and the Mississippi River has historic value and is a framework for the re-vitalization of the city’s origin.
floodway line
mississippi river
100 year flood
500 year flood
floodway line
research topics

- Establishing a sense of community identity
- Re-connecting city and river
- Waterfront development
- Mixed-use development
10 principles that underpin the framework

Promoting a more holistic approach to city building, the Development Framework reflects a fundamental shift in thinking, represented in the Ten Principles summarized below.

1. Evoke a Sense of Place
2. Restore and Establish the Unique Urban Ecology
3. Invest in the Public Realm
4. Broaden the Mix of Uses
5. Improve Connectivity
6. Ensure that Buildings Support Broader City-Building Goals
7. Build on Existing Strengths
8. Preserve and Enhance Heritage Resources
9. Provide a Balanced Network for Movement
10. Foster Public Safety
concept + process

[footprint + viewsheds]
massing + form
[spatial organization]
community center

[elevations]
library

[elevations]
[shading + signage]
structure
library

[structure]
[site + bridge]
[midterm perspectives]
[final design]
1. retail space
2. lobby/circulation
3. rest rooms
4. elevator
5. cafe
6. kitchen storage
7. teaching kitchen
8. bifold garage doors
9. indoor market flex space

1. meeting room
2. vestibule
3. lobby
4. rest rooms
5. children area
6. circulation desk
7. computer cluster
8. large study
9. small study
10. stacks
11. reading area
12. outdoor patio
1 community center mechanical

1 library mechanical
1. gallery/historic viewing area
2. studio
3. indoor group area
4. rest rooms
5. teen area
6. lounge
7. green roof patio
8. river outlook patio
9. elevator
steel tube
steel wide flange girder
steel wide flange column
core 10 steel
wood laminate decking
glass bifold door
wood composite panel
glass curtain panel
steel mullion assembly
cast in place concrete floor
“There is no telling what the power of the people and river can do”
discussion + ?