

"The greenest buildings are the ones that already exist," wrote Carl Elefante, 2018 AIA President, and iconic places like the Hamline Midway Library possess both the infrastructure to support ongoing community needs and the historic and aesthetic values that enrich our neighborhood.

Renovate 1558 https://www.renovate1558.org

Current Issues in the Library



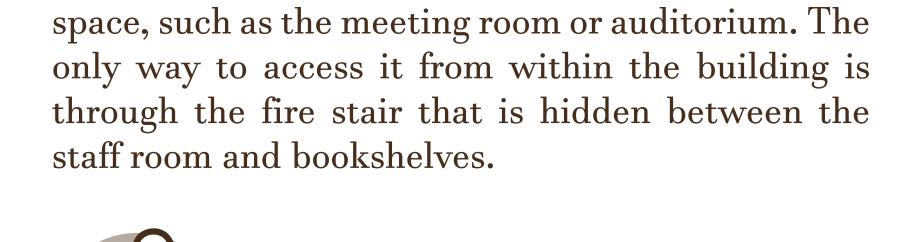
Poor Layout

The staff has to walk from one side of the building, into the elevator, and walk again through the whole lower level to get to their work area. The only restroom in the building is in the basement and needs keys to access it. The stairs to the basement are also the fire stairs and are tucked away on the opposite side of the library as the elevator.



Lacks Designated Space

There is very little separation of space. The computer station is surrounded by books and is in the same room as the kid's space which is connected to the only sitting space currently in the building. It is one large room with everything squeezed into it. The basement is not interacted with unless it is people reserve the space. There is no sense of privacy and talking, even if it is to ask a question to a worker, feels like it is disturbing the entire library.



Underutilized Basement

The lower level is unwelcoming with dimly lit

hallways and low ceilings. It is only interacted with

if someone is entering the building through the

elevator, using the restroom, or has reserved the

The elevator is only accessible from the side door around the west corner of the building. To access the restroom, one must use the elevator to get to the upper floor to get a key, use the elevator down to go to the bathroom, which is through a long hallway, only to use the elevator again to bring back the keys. The auditorium has another mini elevator people can use but it again needs a key to access.

Original Floor Plans Legend

1 Front Desk 2 Kids

3 Computer Station 4 Collections 5 Study

6 Breakroom 7 Office

8 Fireplace 9 Restroom

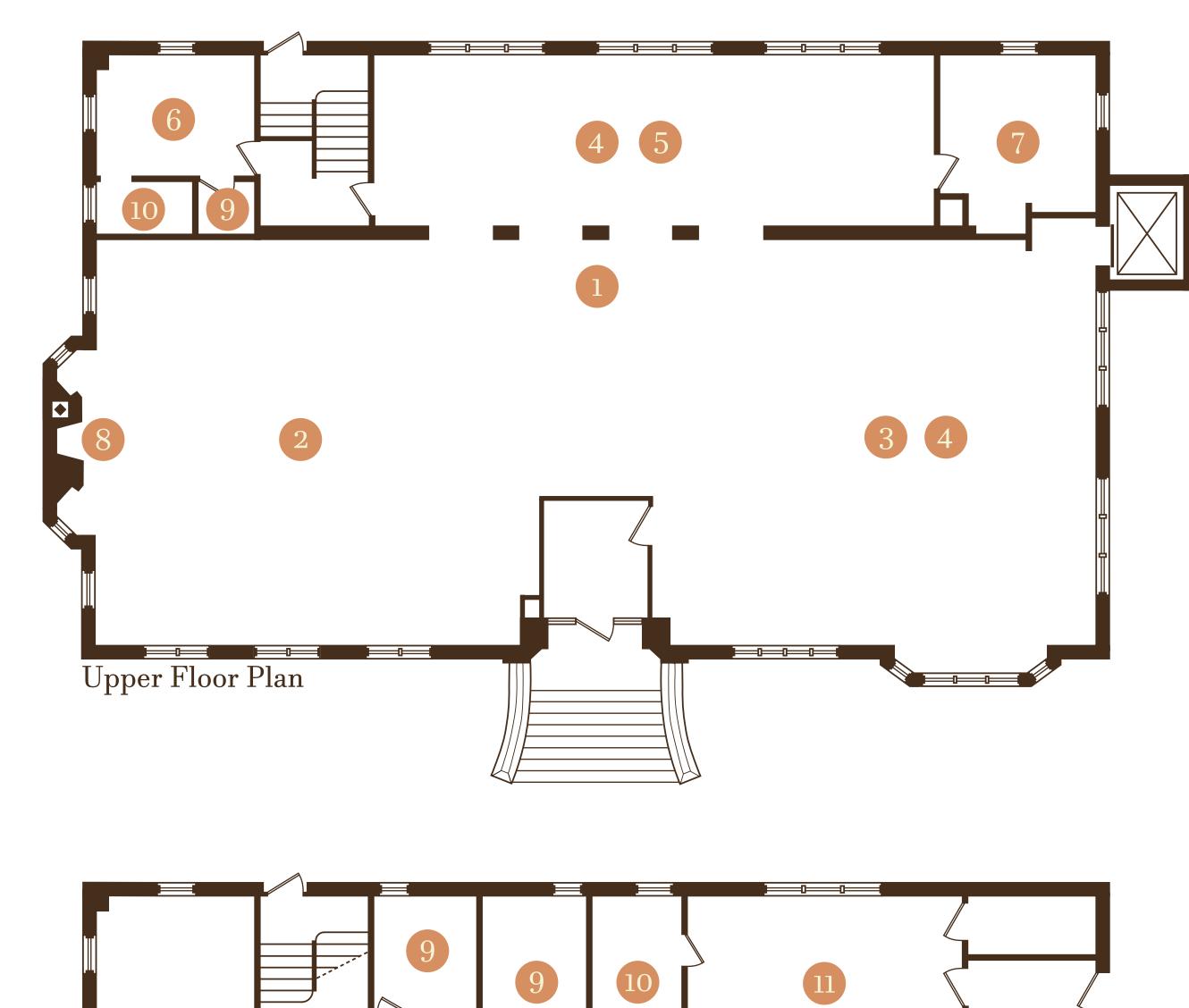
10 Kitchenette 11 Meeting Room

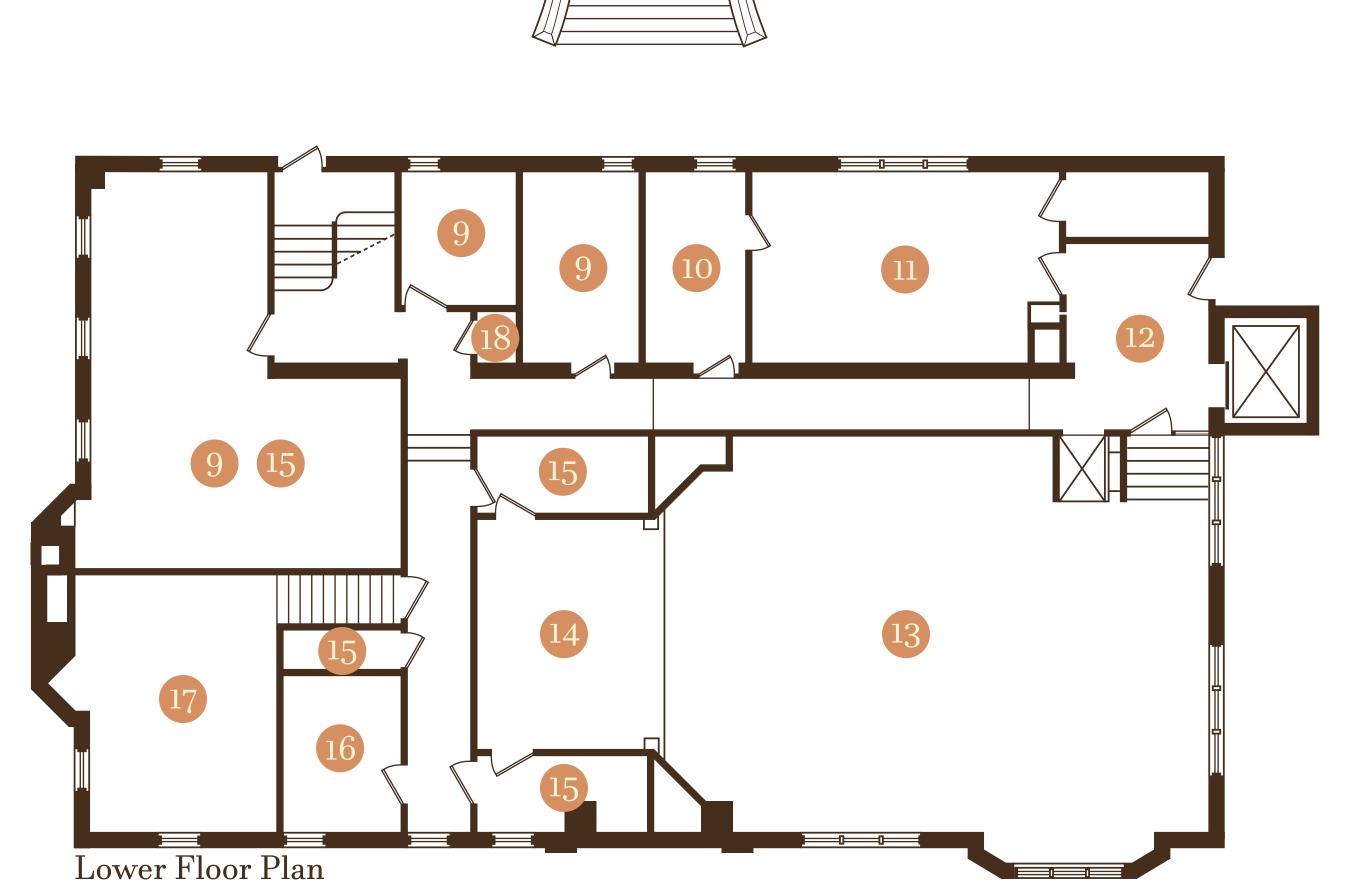
12 Entry Hall 13 Auditorium

14 Stage 15 Storage

16 Maintenance Office 17 Boiler Room

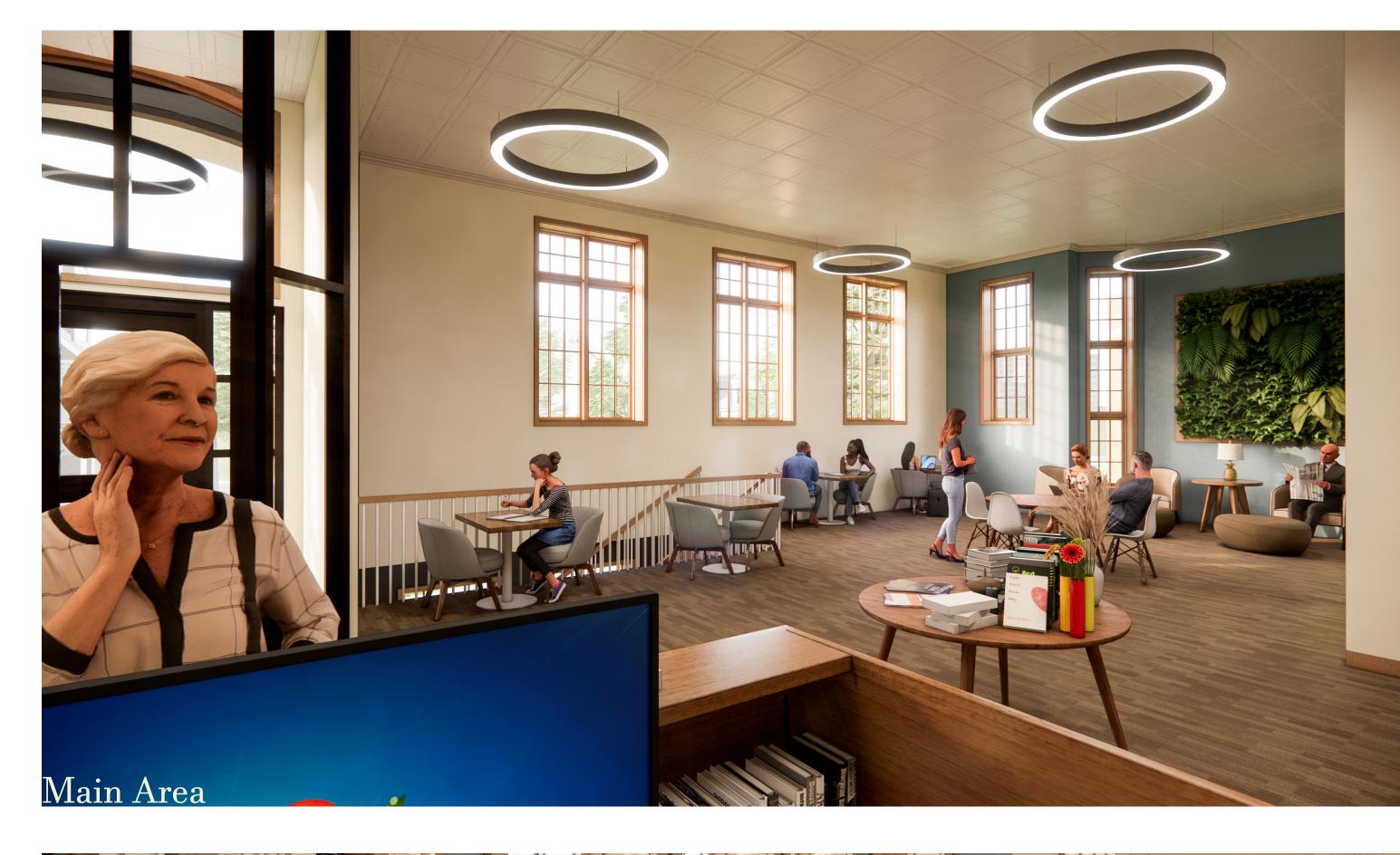
18 Janitor Closet







CELEBRATING THE PAST, WHILE CREATING THE PRESENT & IMAGINING THE FUTURE









Architecture is more than four walls and a roof. It becomes a beacon to a community. As a whole, the United States is relatively young; hence the architecture is not as historic compared to other countries. Despite this, there seems to be a pattern that if the building is not working, tearing it down and starting over is the "best" option. Through the Hamline Midway Library, there will be an effort and a proposal for what could be if the building was given a chance. Despite the building not functioning in a way that is conducive to the community and the people that work there, there was a huge push to save the existing structure. The library has been a part of the area since 1930 when it opened and despite the communities best efforts to preserve it, the city confirmed that demolition and construction of a new library will start this spring. This will not be the last building torn down before being allowed to succeed but hopefully, this research will encourage people to try and preserve the history that surrounds them.

