

WE BUILD THE CITY

**NYC'S DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION
EXCELLENCE PROGRAM**



**FOREWORD BY
MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG**

ORO
EDITIONS

» GLEN OAKS LIBRARY

- » QUEENS, 256-04 Union Turnpike
- » MARBLE FAIRBANKS
- » Percent for Art: Janet Zweig
- » Queens Library, 2013



This new 18,000-square-foot structure doubles the size of the original Glen Oaks library. The building includes adult, young adult, and children's reading areas and collections, a community meeting room, digital workstations, an outdoor reading garden, and a landscaped plaza. To relate the building to the scale of the surrounding residential community and to meet zoning requirements, half of the interior space is below grade. A double-height space adjacent to the building entry provides abundant natural light for the lower level. Skylights in the plaza bring light through a contoured ceiling to define specific reading areas below.



ABOVE » Glen Oaks Library sits at the juncture of a low scale commercial area and a residential neighborhood.
LEFT » Time lapse sequence of the word "search" as it travels across the façade during the course of the day.



LEFT » The contoured ceiling shapes intimate reading areas lit by skylights in the plaza above.
BELOW » Adult reading room, lower level.



OPPOSITE, TOP » The adult reading room on the lower level is connected to the main floor by an open stair.
OPPOSITE, BOTTOM » Teen reading room and outdoor reading garden.

The building massing and materials respond to differing site conditions on each elevation, while the interior library spaces are open plans with reading rooms on all three levels. The exterior materials speak to the scale of the library and its residential adjacencies, and include channel glazing and fiber-cement paneling. A large picture window along the front elevation provides views into and out of the second floor children's area, while presenting a civic identity to the community.

The word "search" is projected onto the façade through natural daylight, with the size and intensity of the letters varying according to the season and the strength of available sunlight, creating a moving, ephemeral register of local site conditions. A frit pattern on the glass at street level includes the word "search" translated into the 29 languages spoken in Glen Oaks.



» MARBLE FAIRBANKS



FAR LEFT » Scott Marble.
LEFT » Karen Fairbanks.
BELOW » Marble Fairbanks offices.

Marble Fairbanks is an architecture, design, and research office founded in 1990 by Scott Marble and Karen Fairbanks. The firm is committed to highly innovative design through research and analysis of the core issues surrounding each project. Building on the combined experience of completed work and ongoing research, Marble Fairbanks approaches every project as unique and searches for original solutions. The firm's continuing connection to academia inspires a creative and highly collaborative working environment where theory and practice are informed by each other.

Marble Fairbanks' most recent work has focused on cultural and institutional projects for public and private clients including the New York Public Library, Queens Library, the Museum of Modern Art, Princeton University, Hunter College, The New School, New York University, and Columbia University. The research-based practice is at the forefront of discussions concerning digital technology, integrated design processes, and education.

Marble Fairbanks is the recipient of numerous local, national, and international design awards. The firm was awarded an AIA Honor Award in Architecture for the Toni Stabile Student Center, their tenth AIA Award from the New York Chapter. They were commissioned by MoMA to design a speculative project for the exhibition *Home Delivery: Fabricating the Modern Dwelling*. Scott Marble and Karen Fairbanks were the Michael Owen Jones Memorial Lecturers at the University of Virginia and the Charles and Ray Eames Lecturers at the University of Michigan. Their book, *Marble Fairbanks: Bootstrapping*, was published on the occasion of that lecture. The work of Marble Fairbanks is published internationally and has been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world including the Architectural Association in London, the Nara Prefectural Museum of Art in Japan, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York where their drawings are part of the museum's permanent collection.



» MARIPIERO POLLAK ARCHITECTS

Marpillero Pollak Architects' multidisciplinary design practice, rooted in the strengths and sensibilities of its partners, spans architecture, landscape, and urban design, enabling it to mine the rich and often unseen potentials of a project and site. Its award-winning projects in the United States and elsewhere receive acclaim for the skill with which they redefine their contexts at multiple scales, not only realizing innovative and technically robust design solutions, but also enriching a project's productive impact on its surroundings.

Sandro Marpillero and Linda Pollak are licensed professionals, with experience producing projects for institutional, residential, and commercial clients. They have worked together since 1991, first as associates, then as partners in the firm MPArchitects. In his 20 years of professional experience in the USA and Europe, Sandro Marpillero has focused extensively on the relationship between architecture, urbanism, and art. Linda Pollak contributes professional and academic

experience with issues of landscape in the city, and for the architectural quality of relationships between indoor and outdoor spaces.

For MPA, design is a way to take things that exist in the world and intensively revalue them through invention and design innovation. Closely examining what is, the firm derives meaning and expresses identity through reciprocity: inside and outside, architecture and landscape, existing and new. Engaging everyday materials, site conditions, and light in new relationships, it generates strong iconic images that establish the character of a place while providing flexibility to accommodate growth and change.

MPA designs and implements transformative environments, which catalyze social, economic, and ecological sustainability while maximizing the value of existing conditions. It takes an integrative approach to sustainability, shaping healthy, active places whose innovative energy, stormwater, and maintenance practices contribute to the life of the project.



ABOVE » Linda Pollak (left) and Sandro Marpillero (right).
RIGHT » MPA projects overview.

