



## INDEPENDENCE LIBRARY & APARTMENTS

*Posted on November 5, 2019 by martabuges*



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**Categories:** [John Ronan Architects](#), [Middle Density](#), [Project](#), [Territory and mobility](#), [Urban Paradigms](#)

**Tags:** [Affordable Housing](#), [Chicago](#), [Collective housing](#), [Community](#), [Design strategies](#), [Green roof](#), [Library](#), [Mixed use](#), [Passive ventilation](#), [Project](#), [Residential](#), [Stormwater Management](#), [Sustainable](#), [USA](#)

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This hybrid library/affordable housing project in Chicago combines a 16,000-square-foot branch library with a 44-unit affordable apartment complex for seniors. The two-story library element is slid forward on the site to the street to foreground its public nature, while the residential block, which hovers above, is set back from the street.



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The two-story library supports reading and learning areas for all age groups, as well as a large community multi-purpose room which supports public lectures, gatherings and events. The second floor of the library extends out over the covered parking to form a park-like terrace space serving as an outdoor amenity space for residents as well as occasional library use.

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All apartments feature brightly colored balconies recessed into the façade that speak to individuality amidst the collective, enabling residents to identify their house from the street in a conscious attempt to transcend the brutal pragmatism that has characterized Chicago's past efforts in this area.

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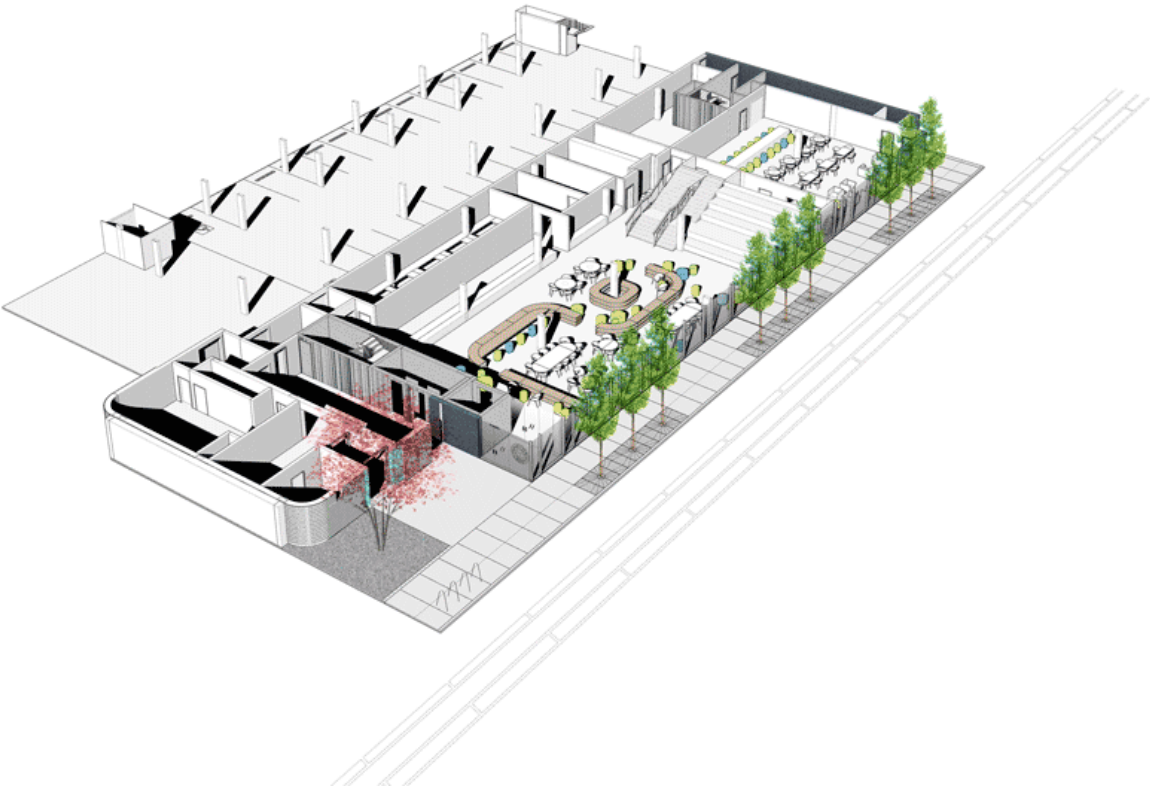


Sustainable design elements include a green roof, storm water management, daylighting and passive ventilation.

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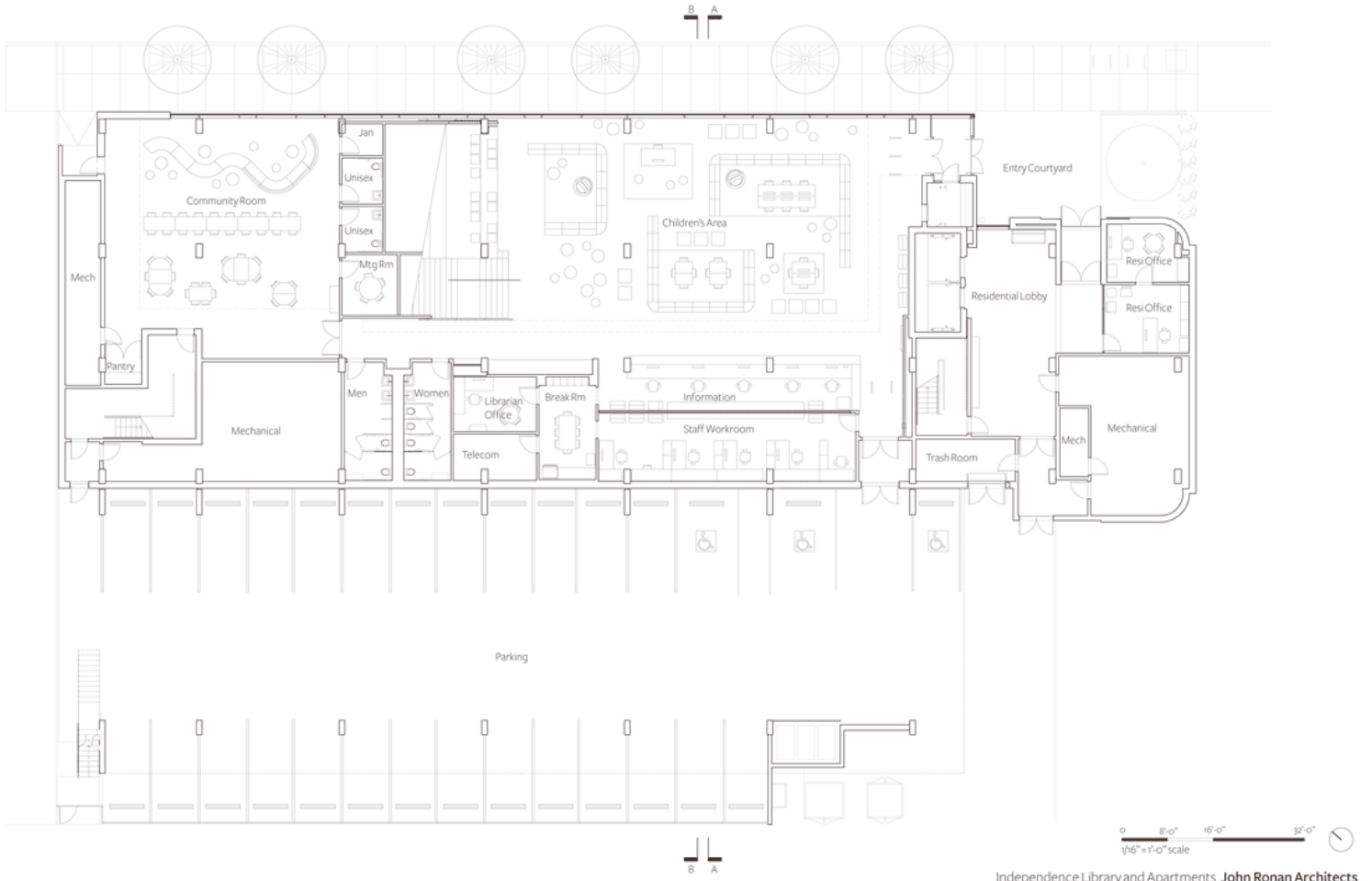


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