

DESIGN WORK UNDER WAY ON THE NEW SKANEATELES LIBRARY

Library building project enters an exciting next phase with the hiring of Oudens Ello Architecture.



Conrad Ello



Matthew Oudens

The Skaneateles Library Board of Trustees recently approved the hiring of the award-winning architectural firm for the design of the new library at 75 Fennell Street, propelling the project into a very real and exciting next phase.

The newly-hired team of Oudens Ello Architecture – a Boston-based firm that has designed beautiful libraries and other civic and cultural buildings in New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts – was on site the second week of March to begin meeting with local partners.

The library’s building committee, which made the unanimous recommendation to the library board after an intensive six-month process, found Oudens Ello to be “aligned exactly with our vision,” said David Hempson, building committee chair.

INSIDE THE BUILDING COMMITTEE’S 6-MONTH PROCESS:

- Worked with local firm Three Needs Creative to define and articulate a design strategy
- Sent a Request for Proposal (RFP) to 21 library-focused firms
- Reviewed 11 RFP responses
- Invited four firms to Skaneateles for in-person meetings
- Committee members made trips to Ohio, Vermont, and Massachusetts to visit three finalist firms and at least two of each of their libraries
- Committee made unanimous recommendation to Board for a vote
- Board votes unanimously to approve the hiring of Oudens Ello Architecture

“We were very pleased with the caliber and experience of the candidate firms,” said board president, Susanne Guske, stressing that the three finalists were especially “terrific.” In the end, she said “OEA seemed to be in a league of their own” and added, “We are very excited to finally begin the process of designing a new library for our community.”

OEA has done 15 public library projects since 2010, with four in progress now. Hempson said the broad range of references contacted for OEA were lavish in praise, which validated what the committee already saw in terms of talent, responsiveness, listening, and collaboration.

WHAT SETS ODENS ELLO’S DESIGN STYLE APART?

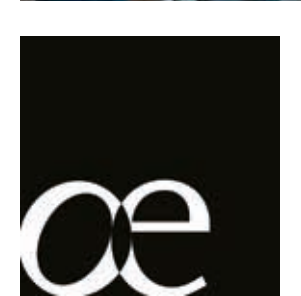
- Expertise in bringing the outside in
- Fine balance of classic and contemporary styles
- Mastery of flexibility and flow
- Careful consideration of the natural landscape
- Superior execution of ‘surprise and delight’

The next step is for Oudens Ello to create preliminary designs to be shared with the community, said Hempson. It will be helpful for potential donors to be able to envision the exciting possibilities, he said. Preliminary designs are expected by the end of June 2023, with final drawings expected by March of 2024.

The library is engaged in a capital campaign to raise the necessary funds and has passed its first major fundraising milestone. Private, grant, and foundation funding are all being pursued.



Superior execution of ‘surprise and delight’



the Skaneateles Library Summer Book Sale



Thursday, July 6th
6pm to 9pm
Friday, July 7th
9am to 8pm
Saturday, July 8th
9am to 6pm
Sunday, July 9th
Bag Sale!
11am to 2pm

New Location: 75 Fennell St.
For more info: www.skanlibrary.org



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