



# News Release

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## **VARINA AREA LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL DESIGN AWARD**

**The Varina Area Library in Henrico County, Virginia receives a national design award by the American Institute of Architects and American Library Association.**

The Henrico County Public Library's new Varina Area Library has won the prestigious AIA/ALA Library Building Award. The library, designed by Richmond architecture firm BCWH and Tappé Architects of Boston, was one of eight American and European libraries to be recognized. The Library Building Award is presented by the American Institute of Architects in conjunction with the American Library Association, and is the only award that recognizes whole library buildings for their design.

Varina Library was noted by the awarding agencies for "[bridging] its rural and historic context with the contemporary ambitions of the community." The design was praised for its variety of indoor and outdoor spaces, supporting collaboration, communal activity, quiet study, project production, self-directed access to information, and appreciation of the natural landscape. Other award recipients included the University of Oregon Allen Price Science and Research Library, the Rosa F. Keller Library and Community Center in New Orleans, the Boston Public Library's Main Library, and the National Library of Latvia.

BCWH and Tappé architects were selected to design the Varina Library due to their history of excellence in the design of libraries and public buildings. The team also designed Henrico County's Libbie Mill library, which earned recognition from the Richmond chapter of AIA for its design, and are in the planning stages for a new Fairfield Area Library to be completed in October, 2019. BCWH is a local architectural firm, also involved in designing the forthcoming Institute for Contemporary Art at VCU. Henrico County is proud to be able to work with such an accomplished team to deliver the highest quality library services to its residents.

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