The relationship of the library to the neighborhood will only be as strong as the relationship of the building to the library. As such, the building must be designed as both a systematic process and a working machine, rather than simply a static result.

The concept of pre-cast concrete presents many fascinating possibilities for an urban setting where time and space for construction are limited. The columns and terminating elements will be cast at a remote location, as ten-feet tall drums, whose joints will correspond to the floor joints illustrated around the building. Other concrete elements, such as foundation walls and floor slabs will be cast at the site, in preparation for the arrival of the pre-cast structure. Shipped to the site over-night, and erected in a matter of days, this massive skeleton will seem to appear while the rest of the building grows, piece by piece, around it.
The utility walls book-ending the building consist of an independent steel structure, clad with metal panels that are attached from within the utility space. Exterior panels are Core-10 steel, the color and texture of which relate well to the brick facades elsewhere in the neighborhood, while interior panels are a brushed stainless steel. Joints of the panels are articulated in the form of reveals that also become the panels' attachment points. The panels are arranged in a way that illustrates the floor joints and the cornice of the building, bringing texture and rhythm to the facades.
In the library floors, floor-to-ceiling glazing systems that allow daylight into the reading spaces must also block harsh, direct sunlight. An electronically operated system of frosted glass louvers creates a translucent screen of daylight when necessary. Twelve-inch deep, hollow metal mullions support clamps holding the glass louvers, as well as carry the necessary electrical wiring. Built into the glazing system, thicker members aligned with the column center-lines will carry roof drains down to the ground level.
In the Piano Nobile, immense steel trusses support a glass roof. With similar details to the library curtain walls, the roof system incorporates frosted glass louvers to diffuse harsh sunlight entering the space.

Truss and Roof Detail

[Right] Reflected Ceiling Plan, Piano Nobile
As important as meeting the sky, the building must also meet well with the ground. The rows of concrete columns terminate at the Assembly Level, with one long foot, which is essentially an exposed grade beam. Below the slab, the load from this beam will then be transferred into concrete caps and clustered groups of friction piles.