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SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL LLP WINS ALA/IIDA LIBRARY INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS

CHICAGO, IL — The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) and the American Library Association are proud to announce Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP as the Best of Competition winner of the 2016 Library Interior Design Awards for the project Chicago Public Library, Chinatown Branch. The biennial Library Interior Design Awards recognize achievement in library interior design aesthetics, creativity, and function.

“The design of the Chinatown Branch of the Chicago Public Library balances elegant, but simple aesthetics, pragmatic programming, and green design solutions for one of the busiest libraries in the city. This project exemplifies how libraries have moved beyond their original purpose to become places of gathering, education, connection, entertainment, and more,” said IIDA Executive Vice President and CEO Cheryl S. Durst, Hon. FIIDA, LEED AP. “We are so pleased to honor Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP with the best of Competition Award.”

Projects were judged by a panel of distinguished professionals, including Christy S. Cain, IIDA, RID, LEED AP BD+C, Principal, idea|span; Jessica N. Kayongo, J.D., M.A., Sociology Librarian, Hesburgh Libraries, University of Notre Dame; Mindy Sorg, IIDA, NCIDQ, LEED AP, Interior Designer, OPN Architects; and Stasia Czech Suleiman, IIDA, NCIDQ, Vice President/Senior Project Interior Designer, HOK.

“An organic, multi-story structure immediately connects the patron to the space through vertical elements recalling the exterior of the Chinatown branch of the Chicago Public Library. Pops of color create and define areas for different user groups while also offering visual connection to adjacent collections,” said Suleiman on behalf of the jury. “Everything about this design is a nod to the culture of the Chinatown neighborhood it serves.”

The Best of Competition winner was announced Sunday, June 26, during the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, where all of the competition winners were celebrated. Images of the winning projects are featured on the IIDA website and will be published in Contract and American Libraries magazines.

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About International Interior Design Association
IIDA is the Commercial Interior Design Association with global reach. We support design professionals, industry affiliates, educators, students, firms, and their clients through our network of 15,000+ Members across 58 countries. IIDA advocates for advancement in education, design excellence, legislation, leadership, accreditation, and community outreach to
increase the value and understanding of Interior Design as a profession that enhances business value and positively impacts the health and well-being of people’s lives every day. iida.org

About the American Library Association
The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest and largest library association in the world, providing association information, news, events, and advocacy resources for members, librarians, and library users. Founded on October 6, 1876 during the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, the mission of ALA is to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services, and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.