



Plymouth Public Library Opens

Hennepin County's new library in Plymouth, Minnesota celebrated its Grand Opening Saturday, March 13th, 2010.

It is a new 30,000 sq. ft. facility that boasts many sustainable features including green roofs, passive solar heat through large south-facing windows, geothermal heating and cooling systems, and a storm-water management pond and rain garden to control storm-water runoff.



The structural challenges included large open spaces spanned by 90 foot long exposed steel trusses that are both light and strong enough to carry the extra weight of the green roof. Tall and thin areas, such as the teen gallery and the adult 'living-room' were clad in glass, making the lateral load resisting systems challenging. Much of the architecture was expressed through the exposed structure. Therefore, the steel pieces were chosen and connections were designed with an eye to aesthetics as well as strength and stiffness.

Photo right showing exposed steel trusses



Photo below showing main entrance

