Concept

Bibliography:
Olson, Sheri. "Thanks to OMA’s Blending of cool information technology and warm public spaces, Seattle’s Central Library Kindles Book Lust". *Architectural Record* 2004 July v. 192 n. 7 pg. 88-101.

Olson, Sheri. "How Seattle Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Ren Koolhaas’ Plans for a New Central Library”. *Architectural Record* 2000 August v. 188 n.8 pg. 120-125.

SEATTLE'S CENTRAL LIBRARY

Another provocative building is in the works for Seattle, a $159 million library that offers revolutionary design inside and out. The mission, by Rem Koolhaas, and his OMA Architects in the Netherlands, in partnership with LMN of Seattle, is a building that will honor books and prepare for ambitious technology.

The exterior is striking, even startling—sheets of glass and metal encasing airy spaces inside and stretched like a network between suspended translucent blocks. The design, according to OMA/LMN literature, "captures the free floating boxes like a butterfly net."

How the design evolved

[Diagram of the building's evolution]

What will be inside

[Diagram of the building's interior layout]

■ Headquarters

■ Collections

■ Mezzanine

■ Entrance levels

■ Staff level, garage

Statistics

[Table of statistics]

OMA Seattle Central Library  1000 Fourth Ave. Seattle, WA 98104  Completion: 2004
Blocks of floors were pushed and pulled almost 50 feet out of vertical alignment inside a diamond pattern mesh woven by beams and toobs. Every platform is designed for a unique purpose, ie. parking, book stacks, offices, therefore they vary in size and opacity.
The new library provides spaces that are designed to articulate different programs. From the inside, Rem Koolhaas had utilized the structure to frame Henry Moore’s “Vertebrae” sculpture across the street. The library’s odd angles also makes the most of the water views. They seem to piece themselves together through the diamond grid of smart glass. This smart glass will welcome in the winter light and screen out summers glare.

Since the building is open and transparent, views are both external and internal.
Container VS. Contained

Materials depicting Fun

check-
cut

Scale based on Program

Volume

OMA Seattle Central Library 1000 Fourth Ave. Seattle, WA 98104 Completion: 2004