level 3 basement

1 reading room
2 book storage
3 light court
4 audio visual department
5 computer room
6 music department
7 loading dock
8 staff parking
9 meeting rooms
10 offices
11 existing conference center
12 planetarium
13 operational support

level 2 basement
A triple-height lobby
B registration
C southwest curtain wall
D staircase that leads to main reading room

1 reading room
2 book storage
3 light court
4 audio visual department
5 computer room
6 music department
7 loading dock
8 staff parking
9 meeting rooms
10 offices
11 existing conference center
12 planetarium
13 operational support
A light wells that reach floors below grade
B light courts
C indirect lighting (reflective aluminum-clad roof angled to intercept the greatest amount of sunlight)
rock
With a capacity to contain over 8 million volumes the bookstacks are undoubtedly the "heaviest" programmatic element.

paper
The library's granite cladding is secured to the circular concrete diaphragm wall via stainless steel clips.

scissor
An open-air sky-bridge connects the library to the university of alexandria campus.
the bridge
An open-air sky-bridge cuts through the library linking it to the University of Alexandria campus.

schools etc.
International School for Information Studies
Children's library
Cafeteria
Audio visual dept.
Computer room

service "wedge"
A service wedge divides the main reading room and bookstacks from the administrative offices and meeting rooms. The wedge contains circulation elements, elevators and staircases.

reading room
The large scale of the reading room (1.25 million-cubic-feet) is balanced by a series of tiers that provide a degree of intimacy.

texture

entrance
column grid
38 cast-in-place columns. Each of the four corners support a 20 ton beam, mechanical and electrical system distributed through the void in the center.