

The 25 Most Beautiful Libraries in America

Libraries are magical places, filled with tales of faraway lands, adventure, romance and chivalry, inspiring the imaginations of generations and instilling a lifelong love of learning. But the excitement within and without libraries is not only found in the pages of books—the very stones and bones of the buildings themselves tell a unique and amazing story, in many cases inextricably entwined with the history of the surrounding community and the United States as a whole. Libraries serve as the architectural anchors and cultural centers for many of America’s downtowns, and it is not surprising that many libraries feature lavish exterior and interior design features. Here are some of the most beautiful libraries in the country.

By [Donna Boyle Schwartz](#)

Aldrich Public Library

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This stunning Classical Revival building was designed by architect Penn Varney of Massachusetts and constructed in 1907 and 1908 using a bequest from local businessman Leonard Frost Aldrich. The two-story structure features a brick veneer exterior trimmed in local granite, Ionic columns and a decorative granite frieze. The Vermont library was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2016.

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