Biophilic Design for Libraries:
Integrating and Referencing Nature to Create More Human-Centered Spaces

Biophilic design is a concept based in environmental psychology that recognizes mankind’s psychological affinity with nature and seeks to enhance and restore the experience of the natural world into the built environment. It is sometimes called restorative environmental design. Psychological and physical benefits for people who inhabit a biophilically designed environment include a sense of well-being, less stress, better performance, and increased comfort. Biophilic design places more focus on the human element compared to sustainable architecture’s focus on renewable materials and efficiency.

Integrating Features Found in the Natural Environment
- Indoor Wall Fountain, Soothing Water Sounds
- Fountains, Clift Gardens, Mineral Wells, TX
- Natural Ventilation
- Indoor Plants and Flowers

Designing with Natural Forms, Shapes, Patterns and Colors
- Wallpaper Murals, Painted Murals and Paintings
- Natural Patterns, Colors and Shapes

Using Light as a Physical and Psychological Design Element
- Skylights
- Stained Glass Ceiling

Creating Inside-Outside Spaces, Transitional or Bound Spaces
- Green-Wall Plants, Tokyo, Japan
- Harry Hay and Perreira, Greek Theatre Gardens, Barcelona, Spain
- Giant Railways with Indoor and Outdoor Railings and Green Wall, Concerat Place, Office Tower McWard, Hong Kong, China

Referencing the Cultural, Historic, Indigenous or Ecological Aspects Specific to the Site
- Green-Brookharn, Haruyo’s Al, Nara
- Jean-Marie Iturri Cultural Centre, New California, Monkeys by Barba Planas
- Saint Parliament, Norway, by Henning Larsen and Christian Sarup

Creating a Psychological Sense of Refuge, Security and Protection
- Garden House, Peres, Agriculture Library, Ohio State University
- Natural Home (greenhouse, Agriculture Library, Ohio State University)

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References:
- References: http://guides.library.unt.edu/librarybiophilicdesign