The present library is a fine general educational library with specialized emphasis on its engineering and scientific components, but it suffers from insufficient seating space and a costly division of facilities. Where the library should seat 1,250 students, it has a capacity for only 240. Where it should be combined into one permanent home, it is split between the Engineering Research Building and a temporary war surplus building.

Memorial opportunities abound in the construction of this new library. A Memorabilia Room, containing a permanent record of the history and development of the school, and a Rare Book Room are particularly well suited for living memorials and offer means of accomplishing lasting benefaction.

As the library suffers from split facilities, so the administrative offices suffer even more from scattered location. They are dispersed widely across the campus in over a half dozen buildings. Not only is such a setup uneconomic in time, effort, and money, it also retards the attainment of greater administrative efficiency. Cohesive control of constantly broadening educational and research functions will be more easily obtainable in a central administrative building.

Mies van der Rohe has created a building, already called his greatest single design, which fills the distinctive requirements both for a scientific and engineering library and a unified administrative center—together under one roof.

Cost of Library and Administration Building: \$900,000