

Architect Selected For Building Of New Library At St. Ambrose

The Indianapolis-based firm of Woollen, Molzan and Partners has been selected as architect for a new library to be built at St. Ambrose, ready for occupancy in the spring of 1996 at an estimated cost of \$7 million.

With the total renovation of Lewis Memorial Science Hall nearing completion, the building of a new library becomes the University's No. 1 capital priority.

Formal planning for a new library has been under way since 1988, directed by one of the nation's leading authorities on construction of college and university libraries, Dr. David Kaser of Indiana University. He has been working with the St. Ambrose library staff and a 10-member library building committee. Together, and with the involvement of the University faculty, they have developed a program to serve as the primary document from which a building will be designed.

The Woollen, Molzan architects were selected based on their reputation for creating libraries functionally suited to the individual needs of client institutions, St. Ambrose library director Corinne Potter says. She cites St. Mary's Library at the University of Notre Dame and the St. Meinrad Archabbey Library as examples of the firm's award-winning capabilities.

She notes also that Evans Woollen, the founder and principal partner of the firm, has a thorough understanding of collegiate libraries and also has a demonstrated ability to work with Dr. Kaser, the consultant.



Principal Architect Evans Woollen and Corinne Potter, director of McMullen Library and Learning Center, during the architectural team's initial visit to the St. Ambrose campus. The team is developing site and design recommendations based on studies and discussions with faculty, staff, students, administrators, and members of the board of directors. Site and design recommendations will reflect the role of a new library building in relationship to other academic facilities, campus activities, traffic patterns, and campus growth projections.



Lovely to look at but functionally outdated and lacking capacity to adequately support quality academic programming at St. Ambrose. McMullen Library and Learning Center will be converted for other use upon completion of a new library building.



Maintaining study space for students and faculty has proven increasingly difficult with the acquisition of approximately 3,500 bound volumes each year. Strategies to alleviate space and storage problems have included purchase of periodicals on microfilm and the installation of compact shelving. These are but temporary remedies, and the library staff say they are running out of options. Every inch of space is occupied with needed materials, says librarian Corinne Potter,

The building currently houses 150,000 bound volumes, but an institution such as St. Ambrose should be supported by a collection of 275,000 volumes, she says.