

#205 Bailey H. Dunlap Memorial Library, 450 S. Main St., La Feria, 1963, David Ashcroft, architect.

McAllen architect David Ashcroft was a protégé of John York and he continued to pursue modern architectural explorations after York left the Valley in 1960. Ashcroft designed the Bailey Dunlap Memorial Library in La Feria as a one-story pavilion. The sloping profiles of the library's battered red brick walls give the building a more forceful spatial presence than if the walls were flat planes. Continuous horizontal clerestory windows at the top of the walls suffuse the interior with daylight while keeping interior wall surfaces free of interruption. The thick, overhanging roof soffit ensures that daylight, as it enters, will be modulated and diffused. As a model small town public library, the Dunlap Library was so successful that Ashcroft was asked to adapt its design for the Edith L. Whipple Memorial Library in Los Fresnos, 1966.