

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Altadena Library has served as a beacon for the community for over 40 years. Designed by noted Los Angeles Architect Boyd Georgi, the Mid-Century Modern design with its park-like setting has been much beloved by the community since it opened in 1967.

Located on a sloping site nestled amongst mature trees, the library is a celebration of the spirit of Altadena. Arrival to the Library is an experience in itself with an entry bridge that separates from grade as you approach the main Library entrance through a garden of mature Deodar trees.

Upon entering the user is greeted by an exhilarating interior space. The Library is planned around a central reading area where light streams in from above through clerestory windows. The central space is further defined by a sunken floor plane, interior plants and park-like lighting fixtures. With the interplay of light and plane, you immediately understand why the community embraces their Library. The structure represents an outstanding example of a significant era in American Architecture. This is also seen in the classic furnishings selected by the Architect which though well-worn, still reflects the character of the design.

Well used and well loved, the facility suffers from 41 years of wear and tear. Changes in library practice and changing service models as well as technology advances and legislative changes, have put the library at a disadvantage in providing service to the residents of the library service area. Concerns include providing disabled access as well as environmental concerns to provide for more energy efficient and sustainable operations. Programmatic changes include increased technology needs, largely unforeseen 40 years ago, changing demographics, movement toward a self-service model, and an increased desire for community programs and meeting spaces.

A thorough needs assessment included focus groups, interviews, all community meetings, and a well received community survey in 2008. The 2008 strategic planning process, which addressed both long range and short term goals, also involved broad based community participation. In addition, library staff conducted exit interviews, customer observation activities, head counts, and interviews with library patrons. A detailed Building Program with space requirements for services, programs and collections became the basis for the design studies which followed..

Findings of the needs assessment indicated a need to significantly expand the facility to be able to deliver the services requested by the community and to meet accessibility requirements. Elements of the planning that required the added area include:

- Full accessibility to facility, services, collections
- Improved collection stack access
- Additional public use technology
- Expanded and improved meeting rooms spaces
- Literacy Center
- Increased collections
- Acoustical separation
- Enlarged children's area

CWA then developed studies to illustrate the impact of the challenges of adding significant square footage to the structure. A graphical depiction of the program was generated to verify the space needs. Concurrent with the process were several design camps and presentations to the Library Board to solicit input and disseminate information regarding the project with the community. During the course of these meetings an even greater understanding of the significance of the structure was expressed by the community. The meetings resulted in very effective dialogue with stakeholders in the Library. A satisfactory solution was achieved that incorporated the planning goals and the preservation goals for both the site and the structure.

This package, which represents all the design studies that were performed by CWA for three public presentations, will assist the public in understanding the design process and how these ideas evolved. The findings of the community survey are included in this report and copies of the Strategic Plan for 2009-2012 are available on the library's website.

We would like to thank all that participated in this project, with special thanks to:

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- Altadena Heritage
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- Jan Sanders, Director of the Pasadena Public Library, Strategic Planning Consultant,
- Cy Carlberg, Registered Consulting Arborist
- The District Director, Barbara Pearson and the Librarians and Staff of the Altadena Library District