

## Merced Branch Library---Design Review Responses

### Library Commission Meeting of September 18, 2008

- Designer: Paul De Freitas, DPW, Bureau of Architecture
- Peer Review Panel: Robert Colyer, AIA, The Colyer Freeman Group LLP Architects and Jane Chisaki, Library Director for the Alameda Free Library.
- Library Commission/Peer Review Meeting: March 20, 2008

1. There were questions about whether this was the best location for the new addition.

**Response:** This is a renovation project with a small 1115 SF addition for ADA restrooms and circulation. The community wants to preserve the south terrace (courtyard) so no addition is planned there. Adding to the east of the Children's Area is not cost effective because there would be a need to remove structural wall and the resultant addition area is small. Adding to the west side along 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue is not efficient due to noise and visual issues next to 6-lane highway on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. As a result of this analysis, the best location for the new addition is on the northeast corner as proposed.

2. There were questions about whether the addition has the highest and best uses.

**Response:** As proposed, the addition will house the Staff Lounge, Book Return, ADA Restrooms and Entrance Foyer. There were suggestions to have the addition house public functions such as for adult or children collections instead of for back-of-house functions. After a careful study of programmatic and functional requirements, it was determined that the proposed layout is the best use. The existing footprint is T-shaped. The Service Desk is centrally located to have good sightlines to the three areas. After a careful analysis, it was desirable to keep the Children's area as shown for adjacency to courtyard and sight lines from circulation desk.

3. There was a concern about separating the staff functions into two areas.

**Response:** The proposed layout shows that the staff spaces are divided into two separate areas: Staff Lounge and Staff Restroom/Locker are located in the new addition and the Staff Work Room and Storage rooms are located behind the Service Desk. It is important to preserve the sightlines in this T-shaped plan. It was desirable to have the Adult Collections and Children Area adjacent to the South Terrace. The SFPL feels that the Staff Lounge does not need to be adjacent to Staff Work Room as these are separate functions and may be physically separated. Phones will be available in each area to communicate between the two areas.

4. There was a concern that the recessed main entry is not readily visible and may create security concerns especially at night.

**Response:** The reason for the recessed entry is to preserve the existing windows to Adult Collections and it is desirable to maximize natural lighting for LEED. The design team studied this area and added a decorative beam to better define the entry. There will be adequate site lighting and security alarm system for the building.