

## **NORTH BEACH BRANCH LIBRARY – DESIGN REVIEW RESPONSES**

### **LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING, JUNE 4, 2009**

**LIBRARY COMMISSION / PEER REVIEW MEETING:** June 4, 2009

**DESIGNERS:** Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects

**PEER REVIEW PANEL:** Anne Cain, County Librarian, Contra Costa County Library  
Craig Hartman, FAIA, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

1. Anne Cain: Consider combining and making smaller the separate circ/reference/children's desks and combine with "roving staff".

**RESPONSE:** We have studied the operational activities that must take place behind circ/reference desk and current size is required to meet the range of service. The library will maintain a separate children's desk in the in the children's room to help monitor the children's room and serve children and their caregivers.

2. Anne Cain: The meshed screens for closing off the ground floor of the library after-hours should be easy to use by staff.

**RESPONSE:** Standard sliding glass doors will be used to close off the adult area and the teen area. The reference desk / self check area will be closed using standard meshed screens similar to what is used in mall retail spaces. The design team will continue to develop the details to assure ease of operation for the staff.

3. Craig Hartman: It will be important to make sure the fencing enclosing the tennis courts, as repositioned on Greenwich Street, do not create a negative urban edge.

**RESPONSE:** Tennis court fences are typically 10 feet tall. Due to grading at the site, the tennis courts will be 13 feet lower than the sidewalk level Greenwich Street. With this height difference, the fence will only need to be up to guardrail height at Greenwich Street.

4. Craig Hartman: To the extent that more glass is possible, especially in the adult reading room, it would be a positive addition.

**RESPONSE:** The articulation of the facades will continue to be studied in the next design phase. The constraints of the construction budget and energy efficiency will limit further increases to the amount of glazing.

5. New library should incorporate display areas about literature and the neighborhood.

**RESPONSE:** The design team will study how to incorporate these display areas into the library design.

6. It is important that the construction of the project use high-quality materials and craftsmanship.

**RESPONSE:** The design team will continue to develop the design and details with the goal of creating a civic, durable building. This will be balanced with the need to ensure the project meets its construction budget.

7. Concern is raised regarding the orange color selected for the interior of the library.

**RESPONSE:** The design shown represents the end of Schematic Design, the first design phase, and all the materials and colors shown are only preliminary selections. The design team will be studying the overall color and material palette more closely in the next design phase.