

Parkside Branch Library—Design Review Responses Library Commission Meeting of July 17, 2008

- Designer: Thomas Hacker Architects
- Peer Review Panel: Sarah Willmer, Studio Sarah Willmer Architecture and Monique Le Conge, Director at the Richmond Public Library.
- Library Commission/Peer Review Meeting: January 3, 2008

1. *The Peer Panel asked to scale down the ramp into the building if possible.*

Architect: The landscape architect reduced the size and number of new walls at exterior ramp in order to achieve a design and scale that is more consistent with the original library.

2. *The Peer Panel urged to study the circulation area as the circulation desk is a rather large space and might be reduced to provide space for other uses.*

Architect: The area associated with the circulation desk has been reevaluated, and reduced to provide more usable space for the work room. The circulation desk uses a modular and more efficient design.

3. *The Peer Panel likes the new designated Teen Area but questions the number of computers in the teen area.*

Architect: The number of teen computers reflects SFPL's branch library standards. These computers are reserved for teens, but teens are not limited to using these computers only. Total number of computers: Existing is 10, proposed is 17.

4. *The Commission commented that the building could be slightly larger and that the number of books is not going to increase.*

Architect: The building expansion was based on programming needs identified by SFPL, available budget, and the limited area available to the library. The collection is increasing slightly, and there will be more public space in the building than before. Most of the addition went to providing larger complying ADA toilets and circulation.

5. *The Commission has concerns over the use of the courtyard and whether that could be used as part of the teen section.*

Architect: The design calls for opening the north wall of the proposed teen room to bring in daylight and to help further activate the courtyard. This strong connection between inside and out will make this area more visible and less

conducive to inappropriate conduct. Expanding the teen room into the courtyard would exceed the current budget and scope of this project.

6. *The Commission commented that this is a well used library and it might be best to use the courtyard space for the expansion.*

Architect: Expansion into the courtyard was considered. The current budget does not allow for an addition larger than 1,000 sq.ft. However, the proposed location of the service elements (bathrooms, mechanical room, IT closet, etc.) would not conflict with future expansion into the courtyard area.

7. *The Commission would like to know how the windows affect the screens on the computers.*

Architect: Glare is not anticipated to be an issue. The computers in the adult reading room are perpendicular to the northern-facing windows and will not receive any direct sun light. Almost all modern flat monitors have screens that minimize glare from ambient light.

8. *The Commission would really like to see the fireplace retained.*

Architect: The fireplace is a significant historical element of this building. It will be retained in the renovated building. It will be made operable with a gas connection.

9. *The Commission has a concern about the sight line to the restrooms from the Circulation Desk.*

Architect: The circulation desk is located in an ideal central location for maximum sight lines to all areas. If necessary, additional measures could be taken by SFPL to include a security camera at the bathroom vestibule.

10. *The Commission wishes there were more space in the building.*

Architect: The building expansion was based on programming needs identified by the SFPL, available budget, and the limited area available to the library. More space is being created in the teen portion of the library. This will free up room in the adult area.

11. *The Commission would like to see an outdoor sitting area.*

Architect: Outdoor seating will be provided in the form of benches in the courtyard.