

PRESIDIO BRANCH LIBRARY – DESIGN REVIEW RESPONSES – DRAFT 6.9.09

LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING, June 18, 2009

LIBRARY COMMISSION / PEER REVIEW MEETING: February 5, 2009

DESIGNERS: Field Paoli Architects
Joseph Chow Associates

PEER REVIEW PANEL: Gita Dev, FAIA, Dev Architects
Lisa Rosenblum, Director of Library and Neighborhood Services, City of Hayward

1. Concerns were raised about small children reaching through the large decorative grilles and touching the radiators.

RESPONSE: The design team has provided for new black plastic coated wire mesh (1/4" opening max.) secured behind the grille.

2. "More modern design" could be included.

RESPONSE: The Presidio Branch is a registered landmark Carnegie library*. The design of the Presidio Branch renovation strikes a balance between enhancing the existing historic features of the Library while modernizing the quality of the building with new finishes; new and re-furnished furnishings ; new computer and AV equipment; new electrical and lighting; new public toilet rooms; and more efficient and ergonomic staff work areas. The patrons and staff will experience a treasured historic library that has been re-tooled for the 21st Century.

**For reference, the landmark designation requires preservation of particular features defined as the exterior composition and materials; the spatial dimensions of the Sacramento Street setback; the Main Reading Room spatial volume; the Main Reading Room ornamental ceiling; the paneled Vestibule; and glazed / paneled partition between the Main Reading Room & Children's Room.*

3. Building is "too serious," and that it is desirable to have something whimsical, to be "brightened and lightened" with something "shiny or bright."

RESPONSE: Several color palettes are introduced into the design to distinguish the Adult, Teen and Children areas. The Teen and Children areas will have colorful furniture and laminate accents in the shelving and display areas. Both floor levels will have new, brighter floor and wall finishes with various accent colors. Wall-washing accent lights above the perimeter bookcases, as suggested by a Peer Reviewer, have been designed to dramatize the Main Reading room volume.

4. Provide good exterior lighting for the access ramp leading to the community room.

RESPONSE: There are two new exterior light pole fixtures proposed for the sidewalk area near the book drop and the bike parking. The book drop is located near the top of the access ramp, and there is an existing exterior light at the bottom of the ramp. There are also two security lights mounted at roof height for general night-time security lighting for the Sacramento Street side.

5. Concerns were raised about indirect lighting and its appropriateness for a Library.

RESPONSE: At the Upper Level, there are new pendant fixtures that provide a combination of direct and indirect lighting for the Main Reading and Children's Rooms; these replace the surface mounted fluorescent fixtures which do not provide adequate light levels and are a detriment to the historic quality of the Presidio Branch. There will also be direct lighting provided above the free-standing book shelves for better visibility at tall shelves, and there are individually-controlled task lights provided at the reading tables for patron use. At the Lower Level, the suspended lighting in the Program Room provides a combination of direct and indirect lighting.