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Learning from Undoing 21st Century Designs for 21st Century Library Services

Design Advocacy Group Presentation
December 5, 2019

Philadelphia, PA

- 1.56 million residents
- 6th largest US city
 - (by population)
- It's an old city
- It's a politically interesting city
- It's a city of promise
- It's a city of entrepreneurs
- It's a city of many neighborhoods and churches
- It's a civically engaged city
- It's a poor city
 - 25% poverty rate
 - 50% low literate adults



A little bit about the Free Library of Philadelphia

There are 1300+ full-time and part-time employees

There are

- 54 library facilities
- 3 Hot Spots
- Airport Lounge

We produce over 25,000 programs annually

We have the benefit of a Foundation

We aligned forces with the Rosenbach Museum and Library to create the largest publicly accessible rare book collection in the US.

We are an organization that invites risk and innovation...and at the same time we are afraid of our own success

We have our own beer!!



NYPL 53rd Street
Library



Buildings

SPACE MAKES PLACE

Traditional

FLP's
Tacony
Library



Modern

Geelong
Public
Library
Victoria, AU



Popup



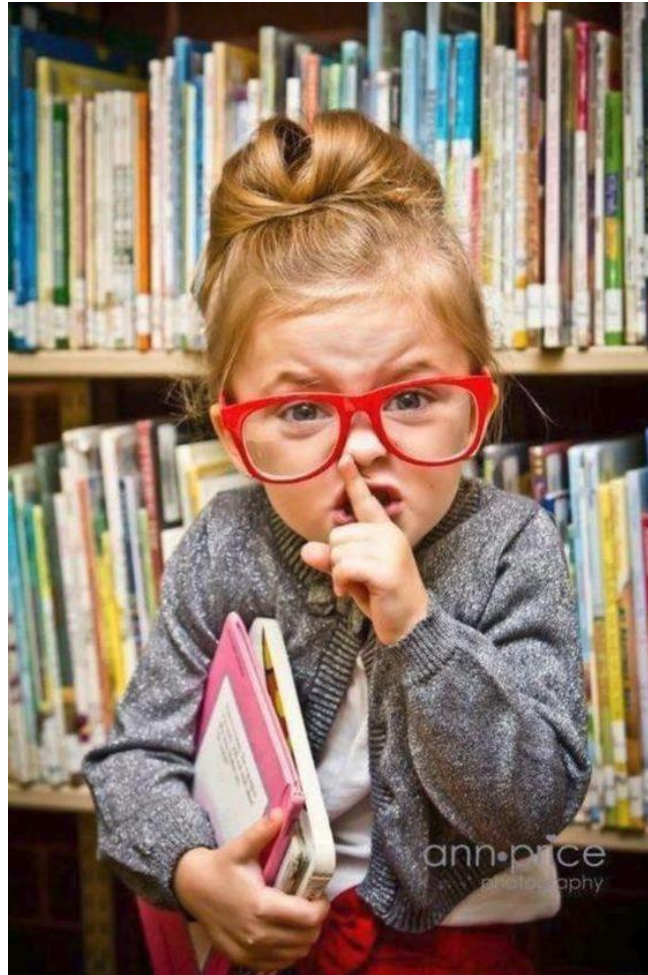
Italian Riviera



New Zealand Waterfront



Traditional



Current

Almere
Public
Library
Netherlands



Traditional



Current

Penn
State
Commons



A Quiet Place

National
Library -
Queensland
Australia



A Highly Activated Place

Central Library
Halifax, NS



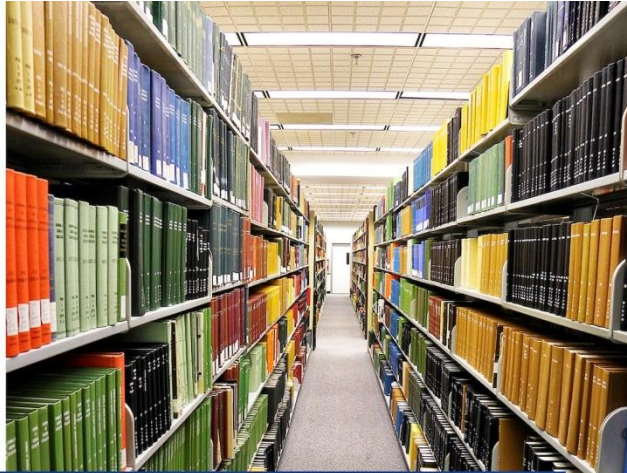
Traditional Interior



Intriguing Interiors



Still conflicted about food



the library: where you go to
feed your brain & not your belly.



FIU
Libraries

food & beverages are not allowed above
the ground floor of the libraries.
only water in a covered container is permitted.



Signage and Wayfinding



Create Spaces for Civic Dialog by Undoing

Proposed



Actual Result





Logan Library Adult/Children's

BUILDING INSPIRATION 21st Century Libraries Initiative

Free
LIBRARY OF
the 21st century



LILLIAN MARRERO LIBRARY INTERIOR



Lovett Library Teen/Adult

Tacony Library – Interior (New)



Many Thanks

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Free
LIBRARY OF

the 21st century