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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

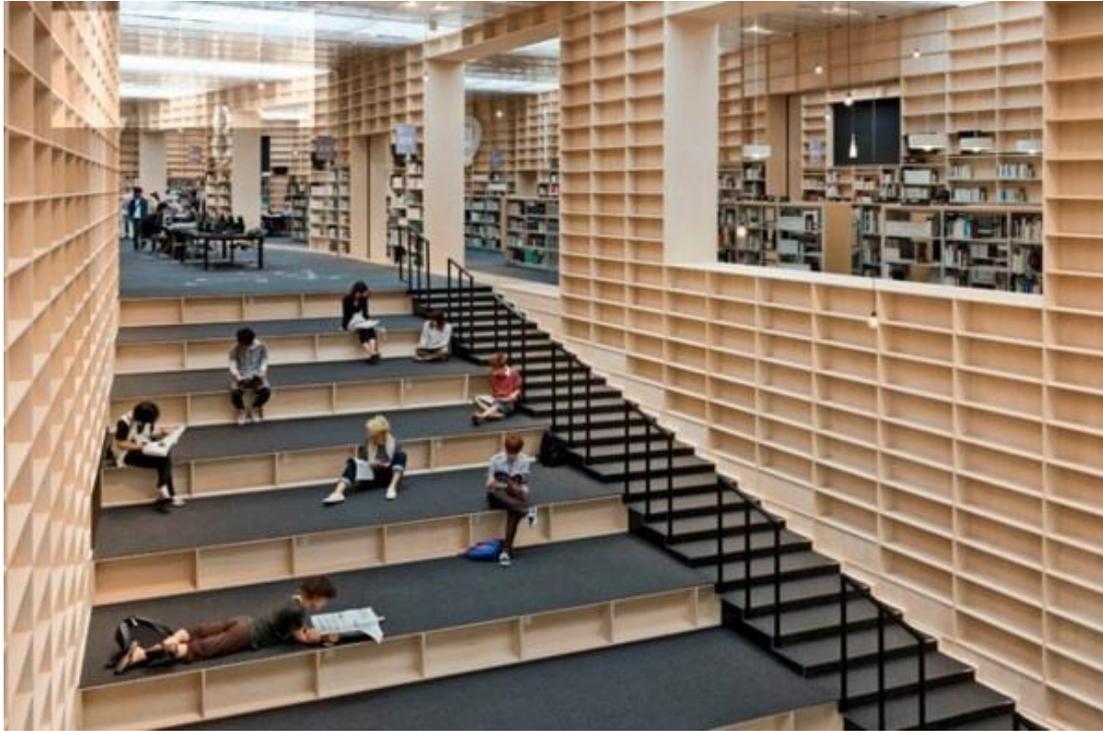
We aligned forces with the Rosenbach Museum and Library to create the largest publicly accessible rare book collection in the US.

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



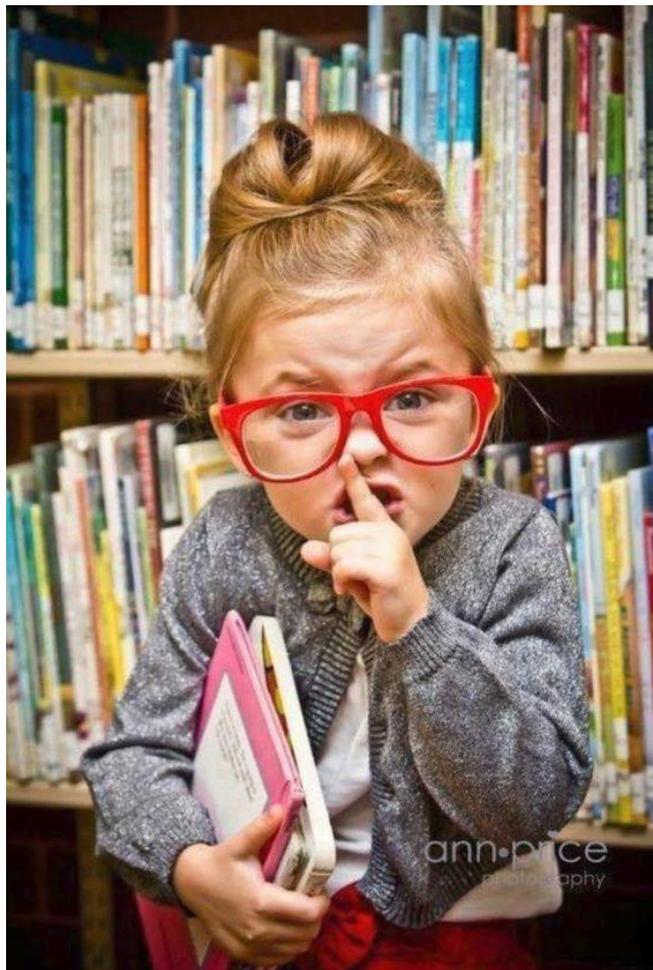
Italian Riviera



New Zealand Waterfront



Traditional



Current

Almere
Public
Library
Netherlands



Traditional



Current

Penn
State
Commons



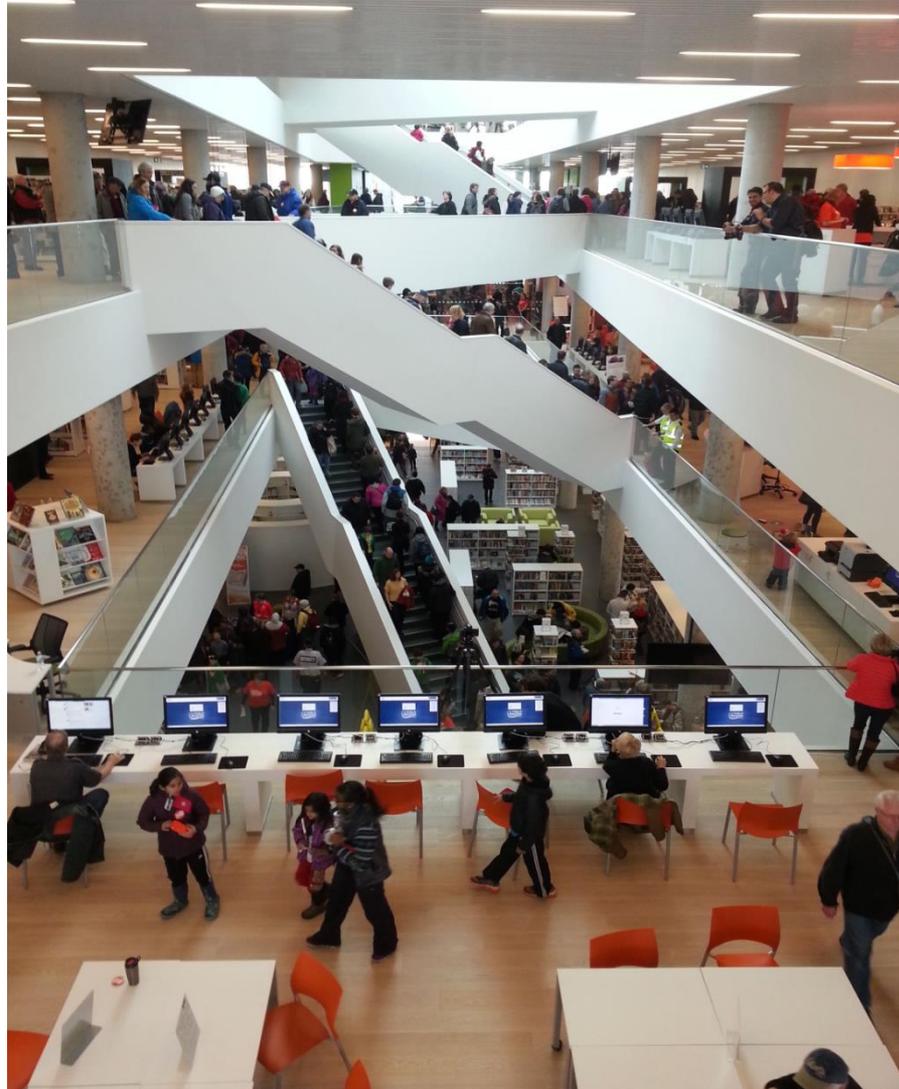
A Quiet Place

National
Library -
Queensland
Australia



A Highly Activated Place

Central Library
Halifax, NS



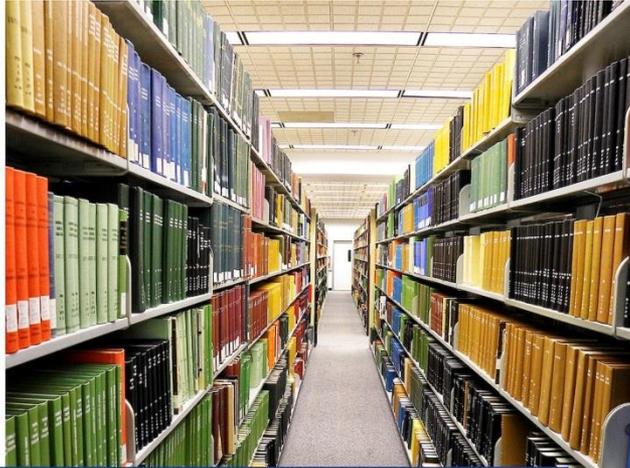
Traditional Interior



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

Siobhan A. Reardon
President and Director

James C. Pecora
VP Property Management

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Free
LIBRARY OF

the 21st century

Learning from Undoing: The Reimagined Library for 21st Century Uses and Users

Design Advocacy Group Presentation

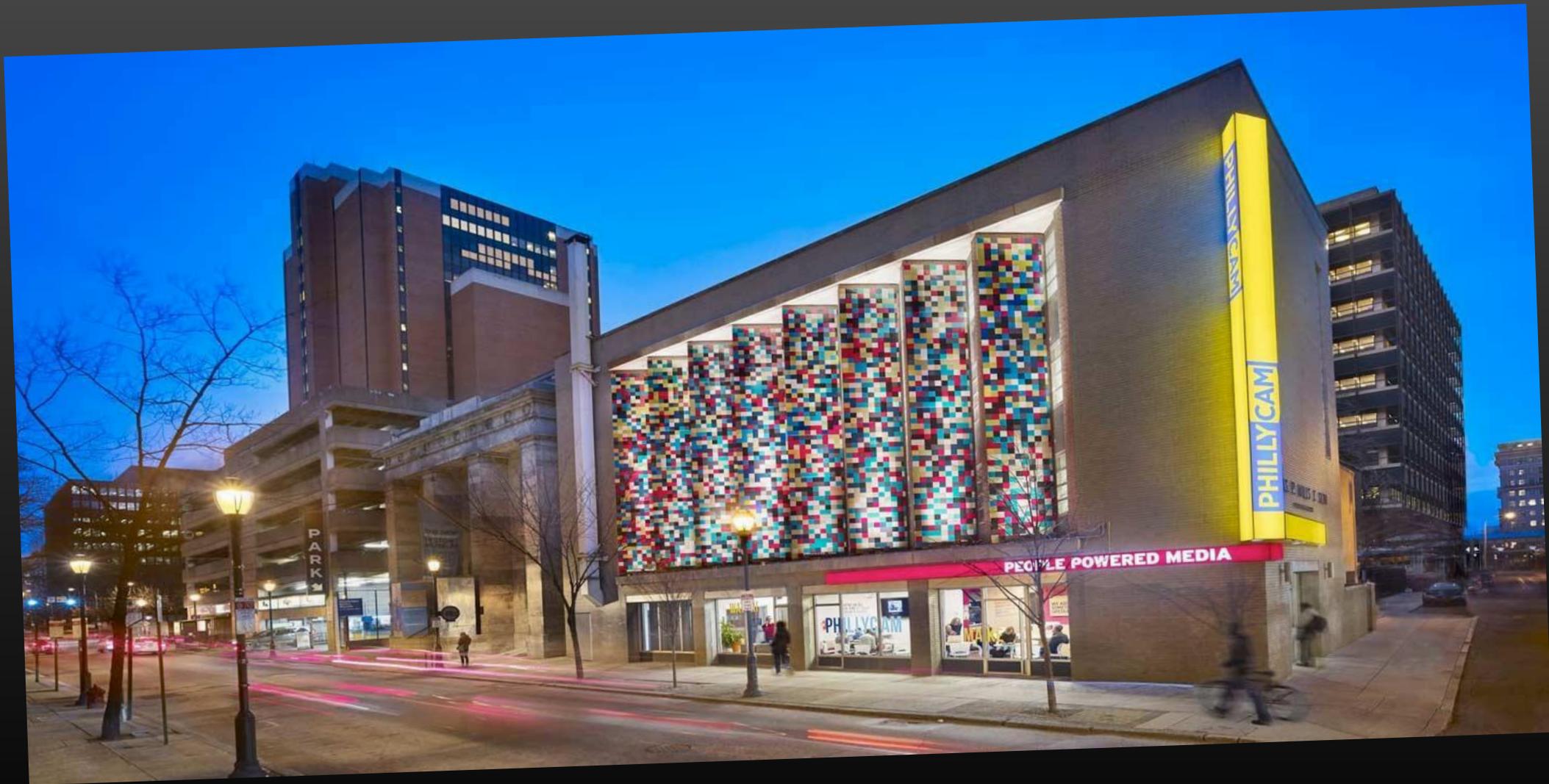
December 5, 2019



UNDOING



a 1965 building
used for
a photography
company
699
ranstead street







30 30-Minutes-Or-Less
E.R. Service Pledge

CHESTNUT HILL HOSPITAL
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK
Click for current average E.R. wait time.

Excavator crashes into public-access TV studio in Center City

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The PhillyCAM studio at 699 Ranstead St. (JESSICA GRIFFINI STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER) JESSICA GRI

Alex Wigglesworth, Philly.com

LAST UPDATED: Friday, June 19, 2015, 4:52 PM
POSTED: Friday, June 19, 2015, 4:09 PM



An excavator crashed through the window of Philadelphia's public-access television station Friday afternoon, sending glass and debris into the street.

The incident happened shortly after noon at the PhillyCAM studio, located at 699 Ranstead St. in Center City, police said.

A construction firm was doing street work when an excavator struck the side of the building, shattering a large glass window and knocking bricks from the façade before coming to a rest inside a common area.

"It sounded like a huge explosion," said PhillyCAM executive director Gretjen Clausing, who was sitting in her office when she heard the impact.



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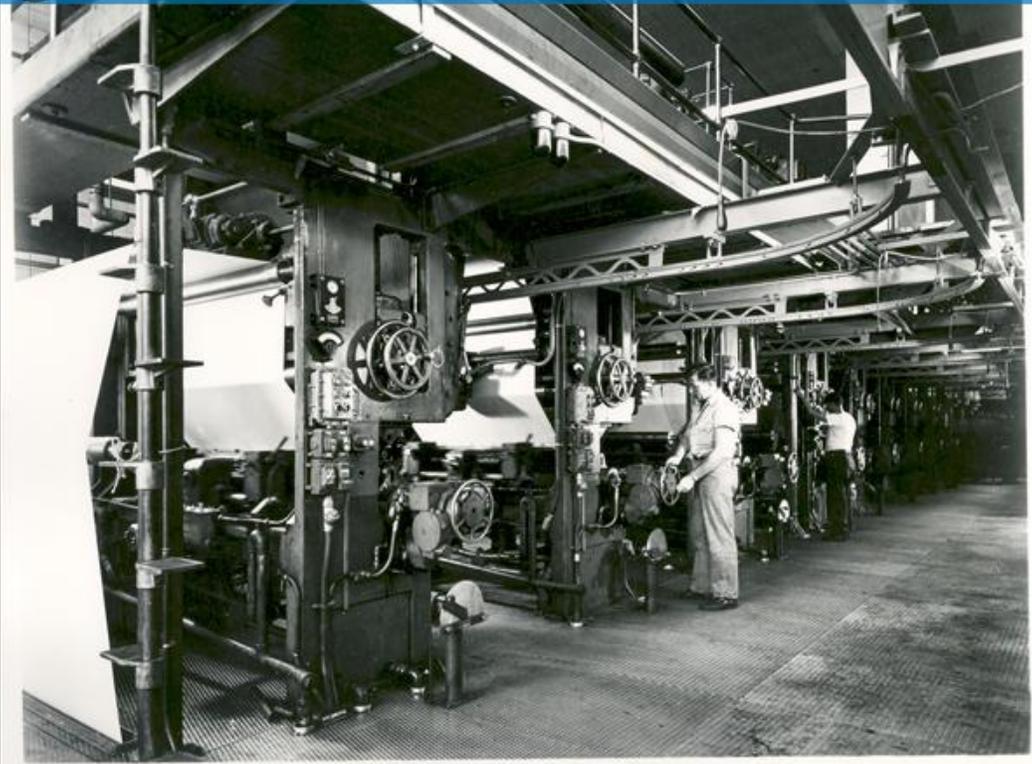


Tossed bottle leads to drug arrests

UNDOING



the historic
elverson building
former home of
the Inquirer
and daily news
400
north broad





Neg# PNI43-24 Date: 1-2-96
copyright 1996
The Captured Image
(610)534-8480

400 Bldg. reel rm.
C line, looking east.





The Inquirer

News Desk

News Desk

City Desk

Online

News Desk

City Desk

News Desk

Nat'l / Foreign

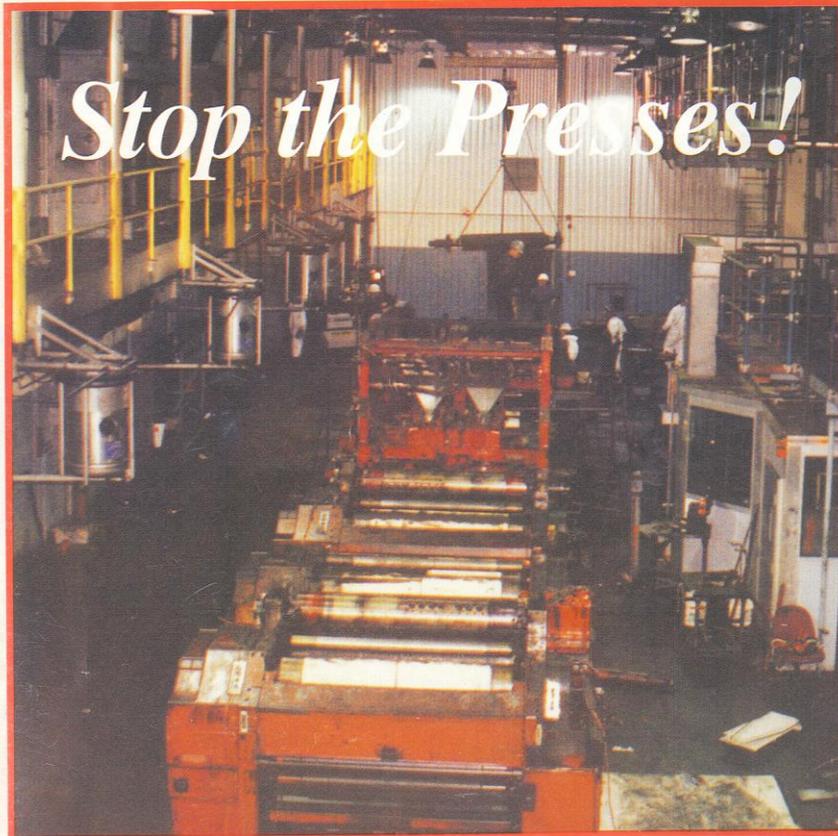
DEMOLITION AGE



The Official Monthly Magazine
Of The National Association
Of Demolition Contractors

Volume 23, Number 11

November 1995



Demolition Age Magazine
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Doylestown, PA 18901

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UNDOING



the historic
closed stacks
of the parkway
central library
1901
vine street

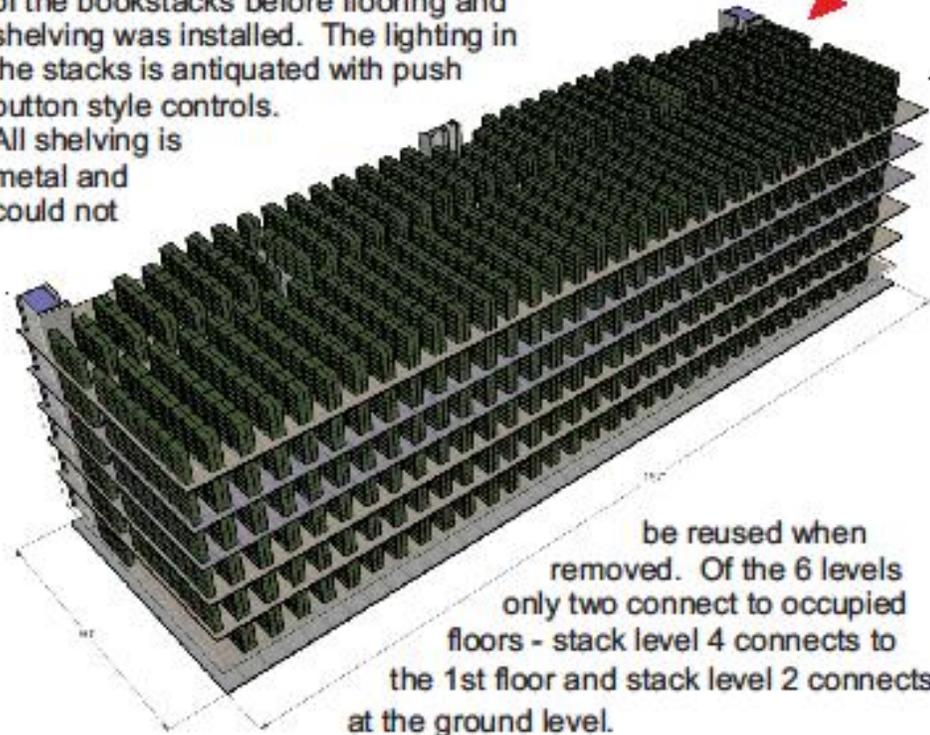
the stacks

1927 – stacks built for 800,000
books

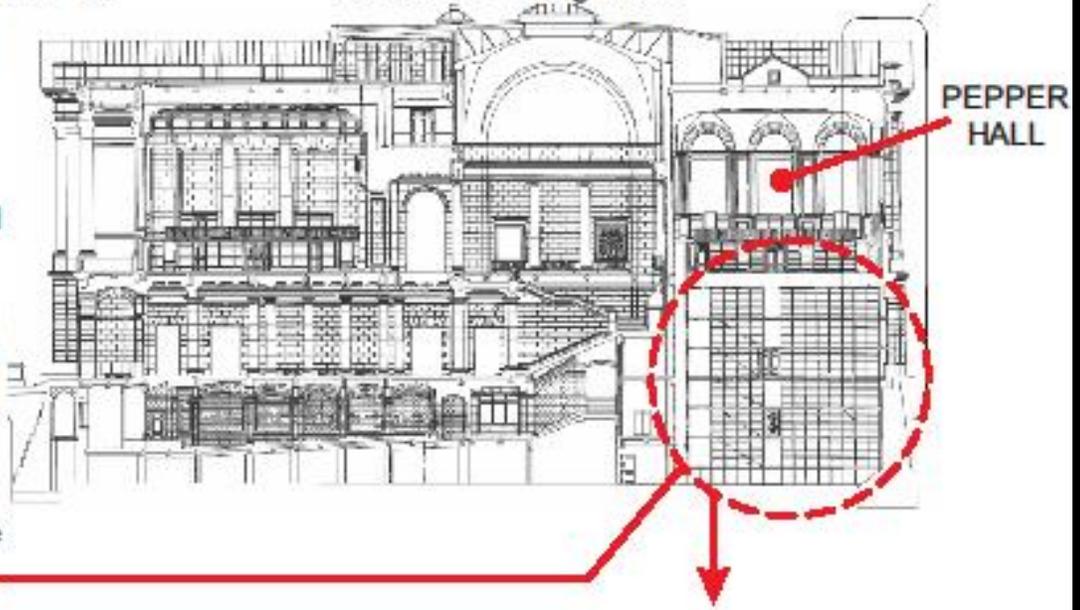
**BOOKSTACK CONVERSION CONCEPT:
EXISTING STACK DESCRIPTION**

rev 04.04.19

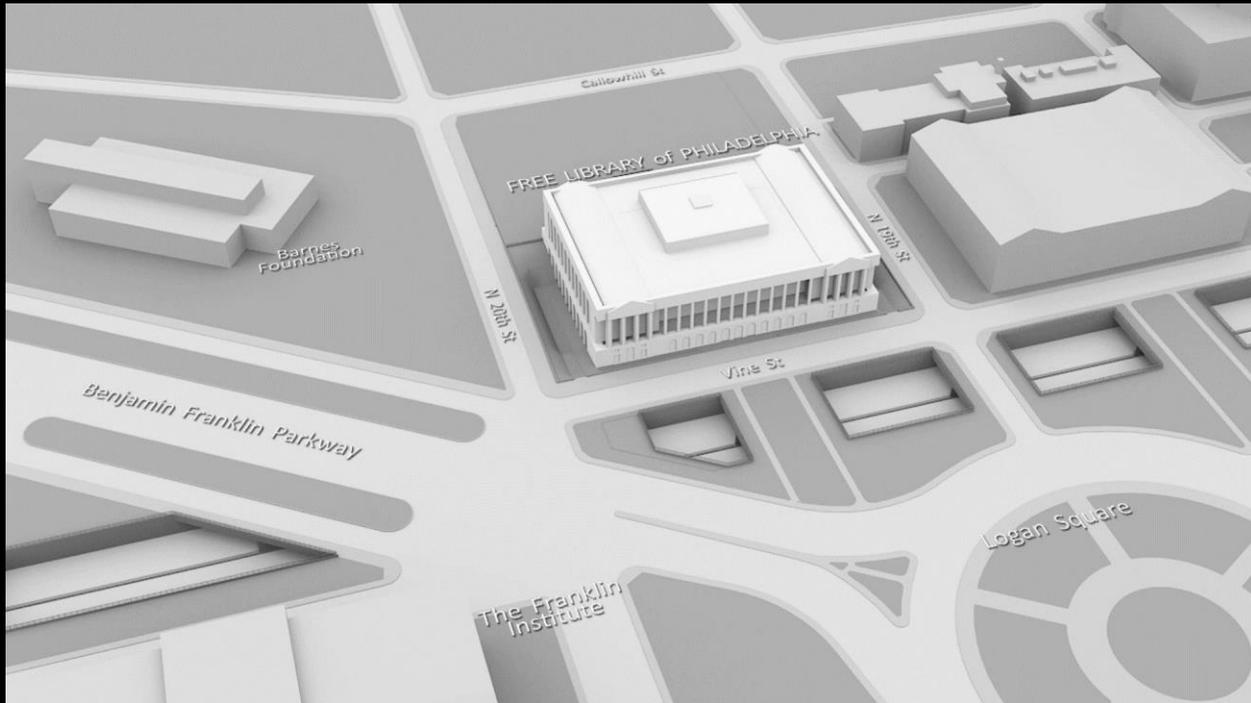
A self-supporting structure within a 50' wide by 170' long by 55' high space. The structure is comprised of angle iron built sort of like an erector set with 6 levels of shelving and 1 1/4" thick inlaid stone flooring that adds stability. This structure can literally be unbolted to dismantle it. The stone is Tennessee Pink marble - 14,00sf wer reclaimed and fabricated for new stairs and hallways. This bookstack structure can hold more than 800,000 items. Heating is done with radiators, air flow is from basement under the stacks that passes up through the base of each shelving unit. The HVAC ducting under the stacks was leaking and in need of repair. Abatement is required under the stacks to remove duct insulation so repair work can be done. There are 2 elevators in the stacks that work but are in need of repair. The historic photo to the right shows the structure of the bookstacks before flooring and shelving was installed. The lighting in the stacks is antiquated with push button style controls. All shelving is metal and could not



Elevation - Facing West



the facts



Parkway Central

phase 3 "stacks" project

The stacks were 50,000sf of space closed to the public

There were over 800,000 books in the stacks that had to be moved

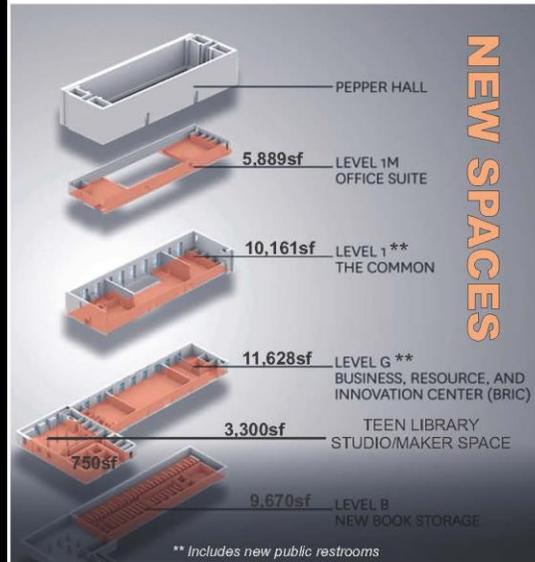
48,000sf of marble floor was removed during stack demo; 12,000sf reclaimed for use in the new space

The new stacks creates 32,000sf of publicly accessible space



An offsite storage facility was built at Penn's Penovation Ctr to house the relocated stack material

Over 200 staff and 9 departments were relocated to improved space to accommodate the stack renovation



NEW SPACES

When the renovations began in Parkway Central in 2006 only 33% of the building was open to the public. After Phase 3 nearly 65% will be available for public use

Building automation: LED lighting, networked shade, lighting, air/heat controls, networked (IP) phone and security systems.

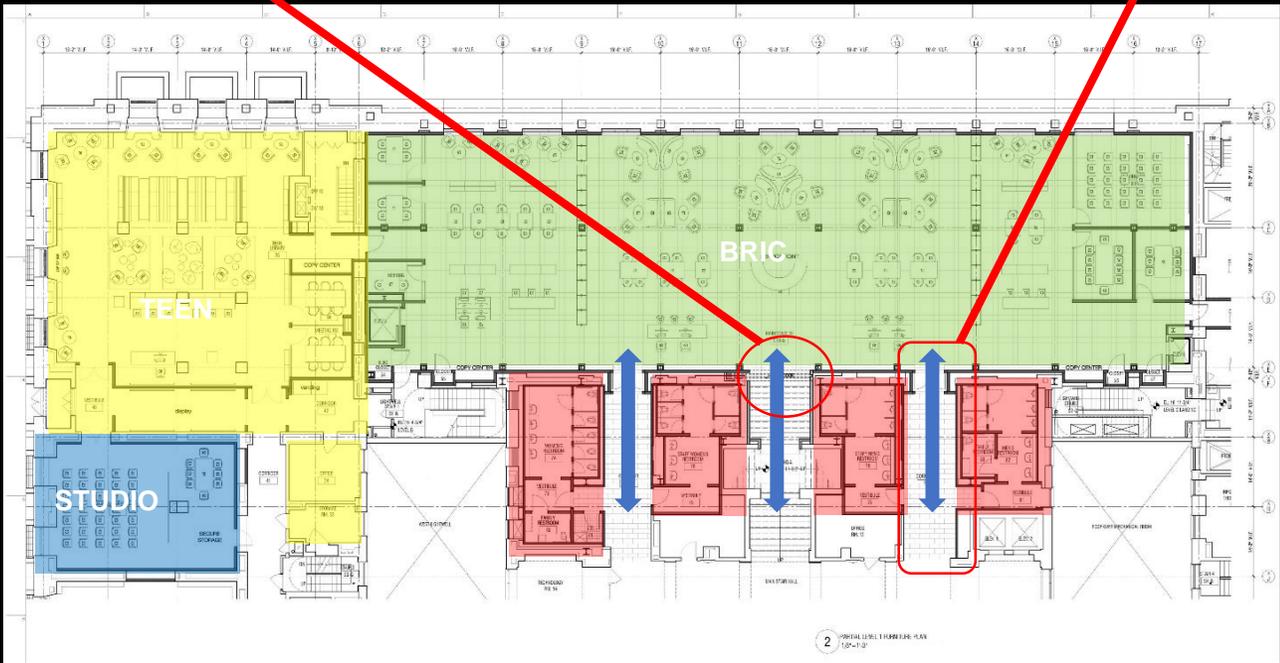
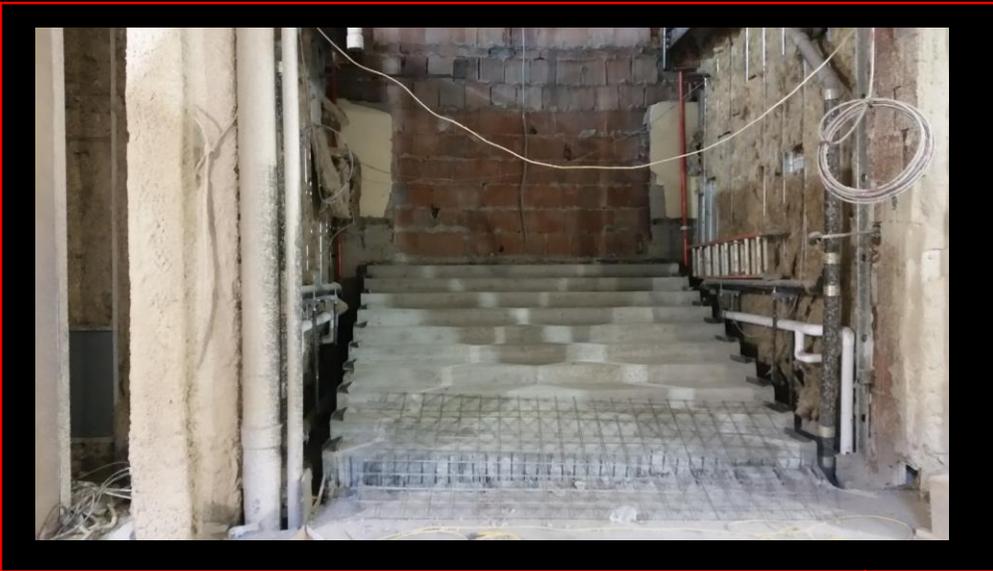
\$ \$35.8m Budget

Construction (GMP) is \$21m; Architect & Engineering \$3.3m Furniture, Tech \$3.5m Admin, PM, Dev and Abatement \$5.9, and Contingency \$2m

Space includes an array of audio-visual systems; an acoustically engineered music room

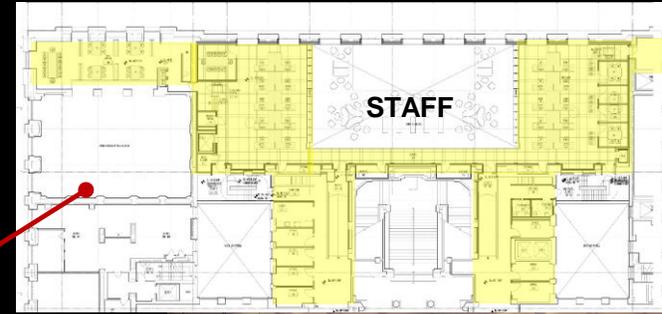
Substantial completion of the construction was January 2019. The Grand Opening of the space was April 12, 2019





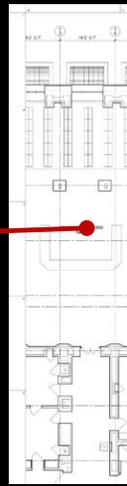
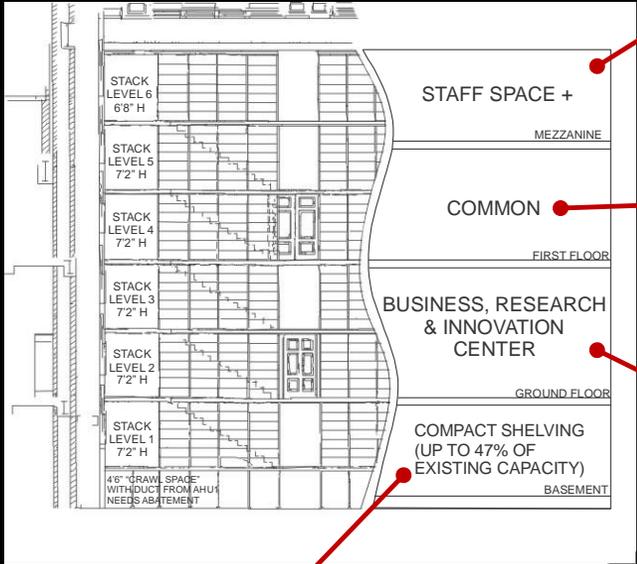
GROUND LEVEL

the scope

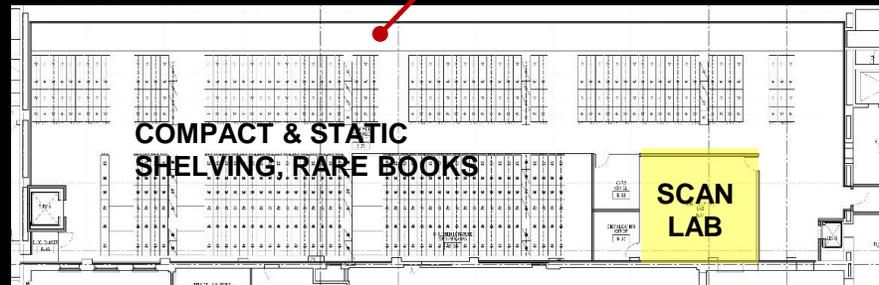


**CURRENT
BOOKSTACK
STRUCTURE**

PROPOSED



BASEMENT

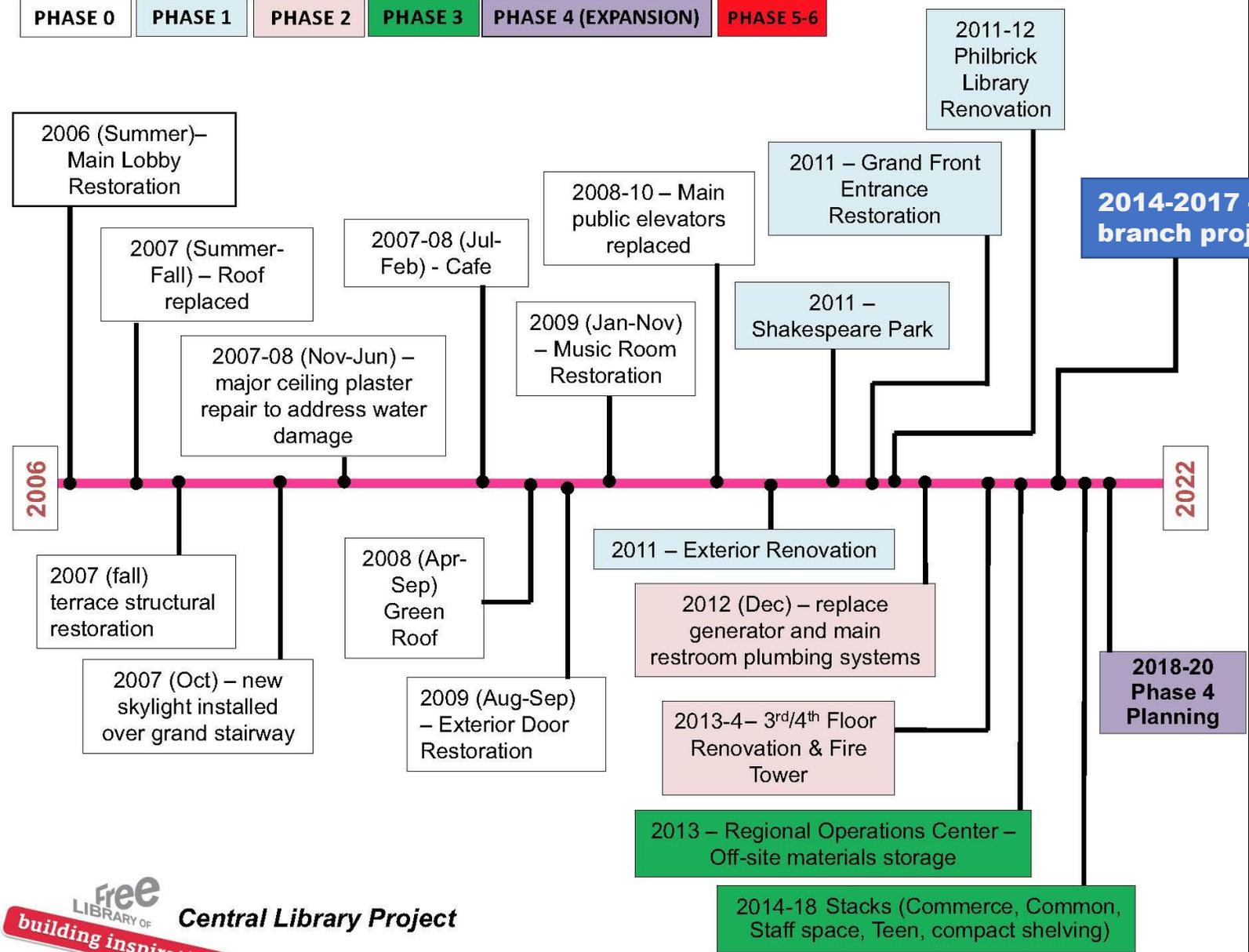




The Undoing Process

- 2006-08 – Stacks concept developed
- 2011-13 – locate, lease and build new book storage at Pennovation warehouse
- 2013-14 – move 800,000 books
- 2014-16 – plan the stacks Phase 3 project
- 2015-16 – move 200 staff to accommodate construction
- Feb 2017 – begin “enabling” phase of construction
- Jan 2019 – construction complete
- April 2019 – grand opening

PHASE 0 PHASE 1 PHASE 2 PHASE 3 PHASE 4 (EXPANSION) PHASE 5-6

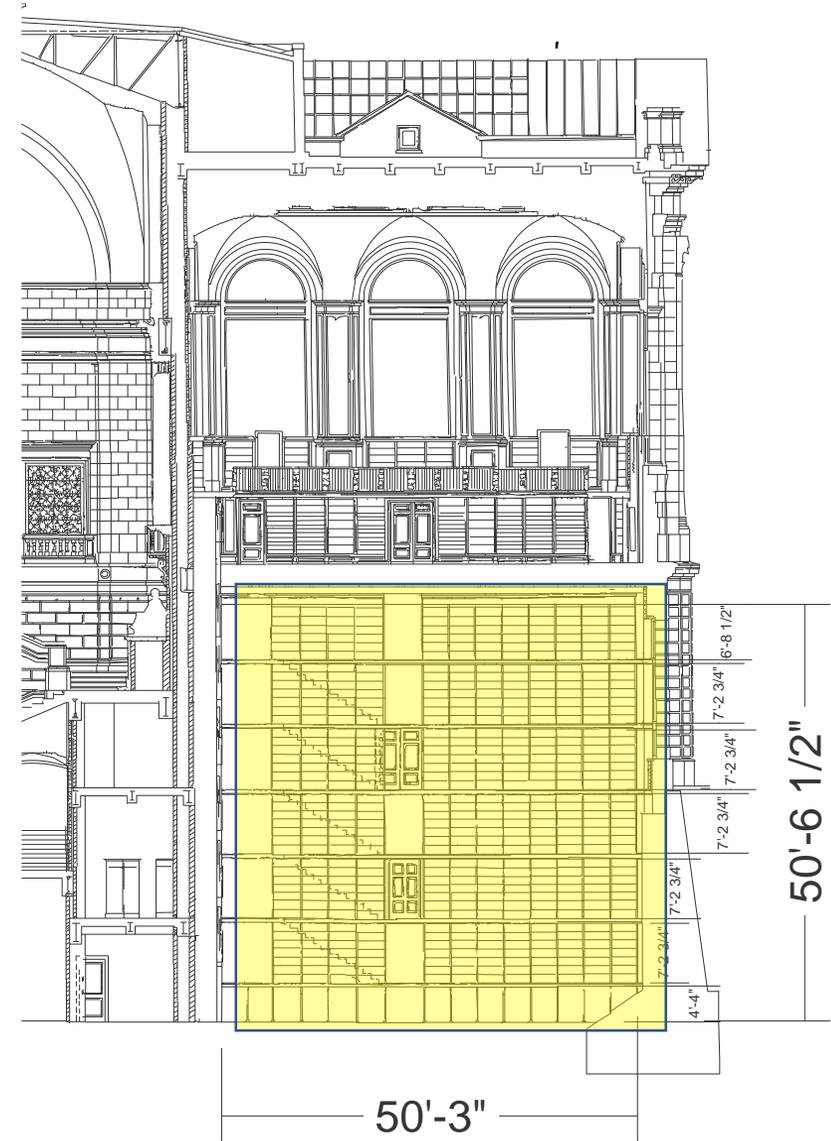
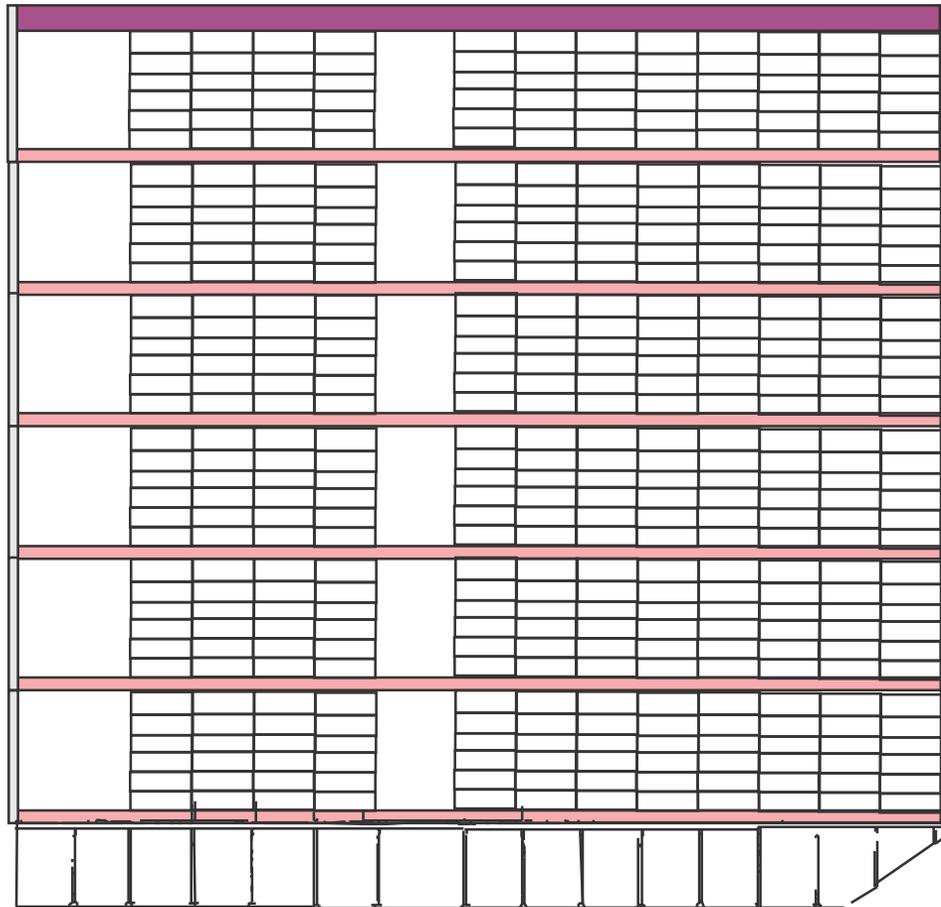


free
LIBRARY OF **Central Library Project**
building inspiration

feb 2017: the "enabling" phase

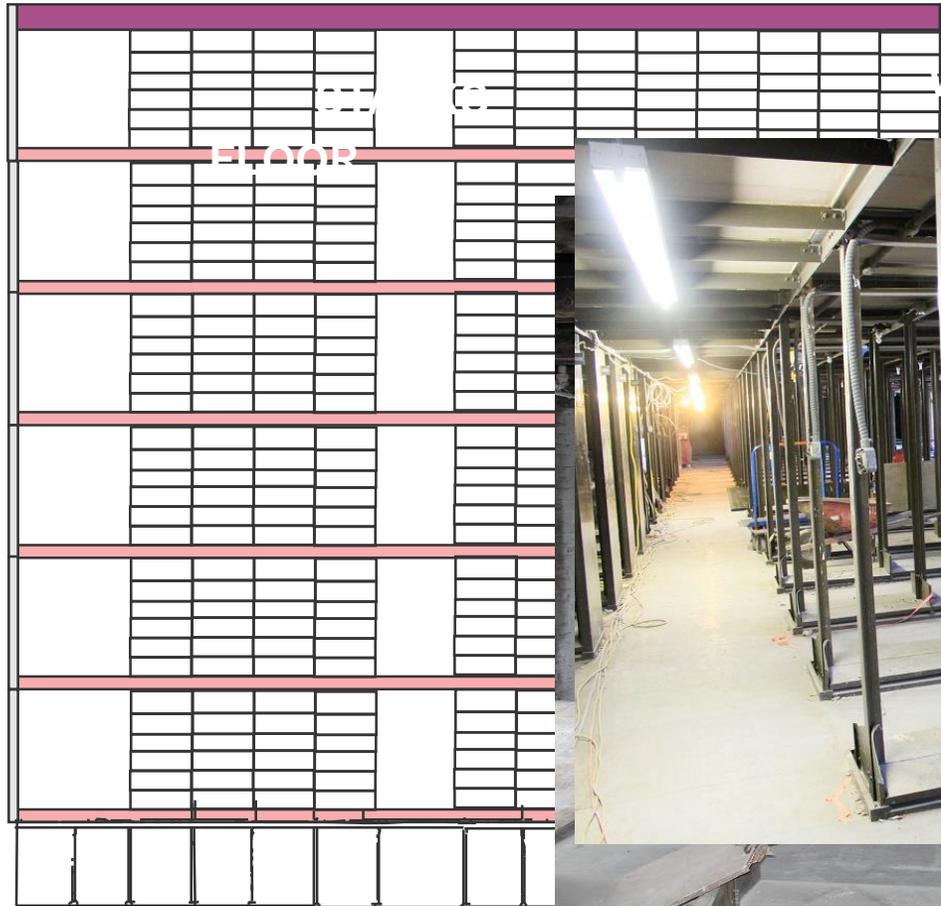
- 2017-18 – demolition

Stack Demo/ceiling



CURRENT STACKS

Stack demo











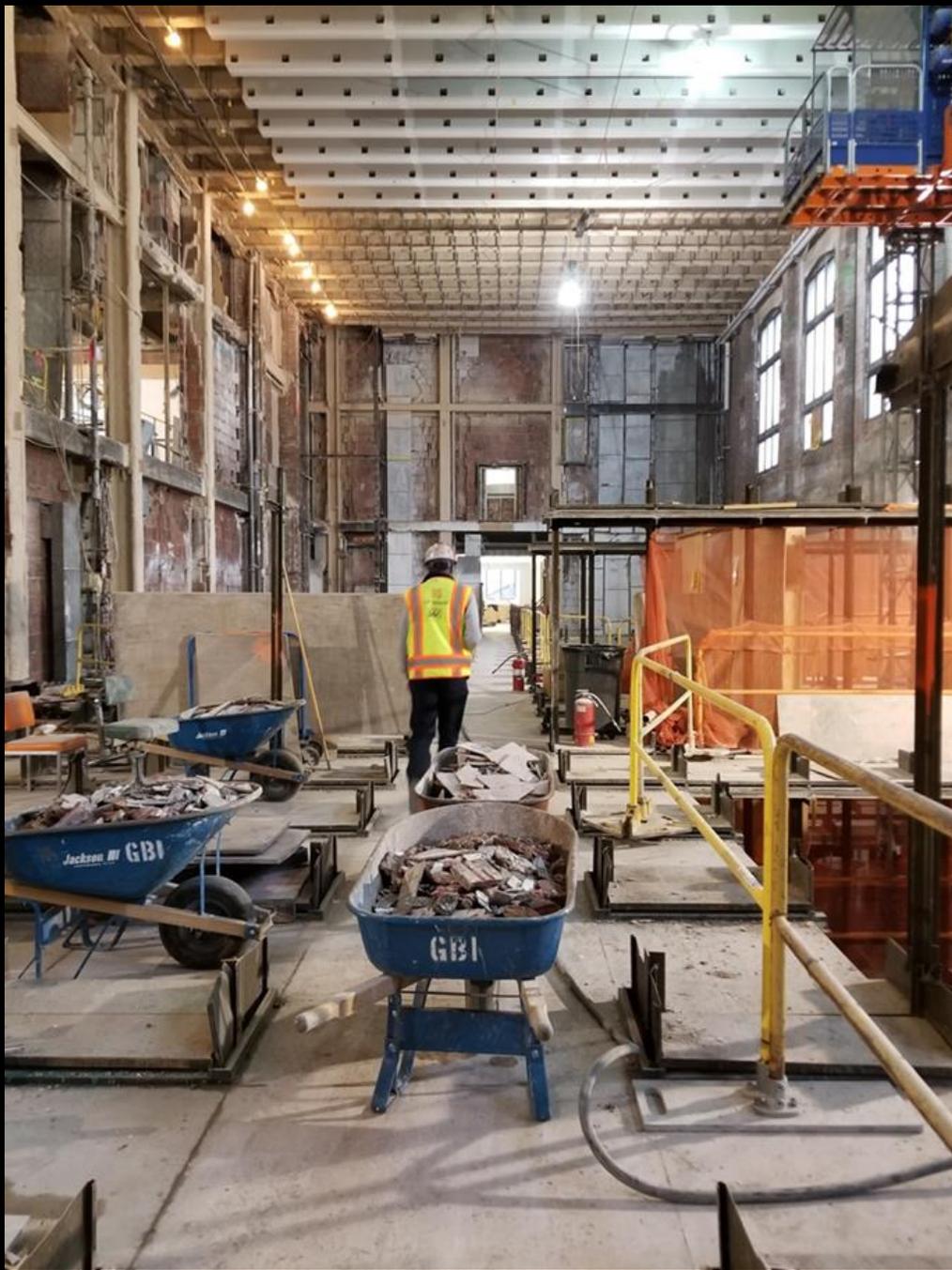
















6129



2019 – the new stacks







