

Cambrian Branch Library



Cambrian Branch Library is a two-story 27,000 square foot public branch library that replaces an out-dated library previously located on the same site. The new building provides an extensive children's collection, storytelling area, teen room, group study rooms, Internet Café, community living room and adult collections.

The building is located at the tangent of the curved site so that it is easily visible from Hillsdale Avenue. The glass and metal façade follows the curve of the street with fins spreading like the pages of a book. The entrances act as book ends to anchor the building onto the site. Curves are repeated throughout the building to create movement and lead the user through the building to places of discovery.

The first floor is devoted to the marketplace where the new books and multi-media collections are displayed in a retail manner. From the first floor, the Children's area and Internet Café are easily visible to draw the user up the curved stair to the second floor collection. The living room is located at the opposite end from the Children's area to provide a quiet sanctuary for reading a book in front of the fireplace.

The project design is also based upon the green building principles as outlined by the U.S. Green Building Council's "LEED" rating system. A few examples are noted below:



The site is designed to reduce the amount of stormwater and pollutants that enter the Bay Area water system. This is accomplished by the use of infiltration basins in the parking lot and at the entry to treat the site water run-off and mechanical separators to treat the run-off from the roof.

Energy use of the building is reduced by the use of low-E glazing, wall and roof insulation and an Energy Star rated cool roof. In addition, the fins at the curved glass, the louvered shading devices and the awnings shade the windows to reduce the air conditioning use.

The project was built using green materials. Many of the materials have recycled content such as the aluminum panels, the steel structure and the carpeting. The materials were also selected to reduce the amount of volatile organic compounds or VOC's in the building. These include the sealants, the interior and exterior paints, the carpeting, and the cabinetry substrates. In addition, little waste was sent to the landfill; over 90% of the construction and demolition waste was recycled.

This building will better serve the needs of the community, providing facilities for life long learning, while supporting a more sustainable environment and providing an identity for the community.



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Dedicated Team Members that have contributed
to the successful completion of the project

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C&C Painting & Decorating, Cell Crete Corporation, Center Glass Company,

Cohen Landscape Services, Inc., Custom Drywall, Inc., CWP, Inc.,

Creteseal, Debco School Equip., Dudley Acoustics, Inc., E.L.Wills, Inc.,

The Energy House, Facility Systems Mechanical Cont., Inc., Ferma Corporation,

Frederick Meiswinkel, Inc., George H. Wilson, Inc., Griffin Soil,

Kier & Wright Civil Eng. & Surveyors, Inc., Kim's Flooring, Inc., Kinel Interiors,

Lindsay Associates, Inc., Master Craft Waterproofing & Sealants, Niles Electric,

O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc., Overhead Door of Santa Clara Valley, Pacific Erectors, Inc.,

Pacific Underground Construction, Inc., Paul Wolff Company, Pro Media,

Ross McDonald Company, Inc., SDI Insulation, Inc., SHC Hazard Control,

Sierra Lumber Company, Sign A Rama, ThyssenKrupp Elevator,

Trim Tech Construction, United RMR Enterprises, Value Fire Protection, Inc.,

United Mechanical, Inc., Vassallo Tile & Marble, Inc.,

Weatherly Striping Company, Inc., Yag Manufacturing, Yamada Enterprises

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