

What Will the New Library Look Like?

The **Site** is the north fifteen lots bounded by Smith, Twelfth and Lorne. This includes the site of the present building and is owned by the library.

The **PLAN** provides adequate space to serve the city for the foreseeable future. The **PLAN IS NOT FOR A GRANDIOSE OR IMPOSING BUILDING.**

The **BUILDING** will have a full basement area, a main floor and a partial second floor.

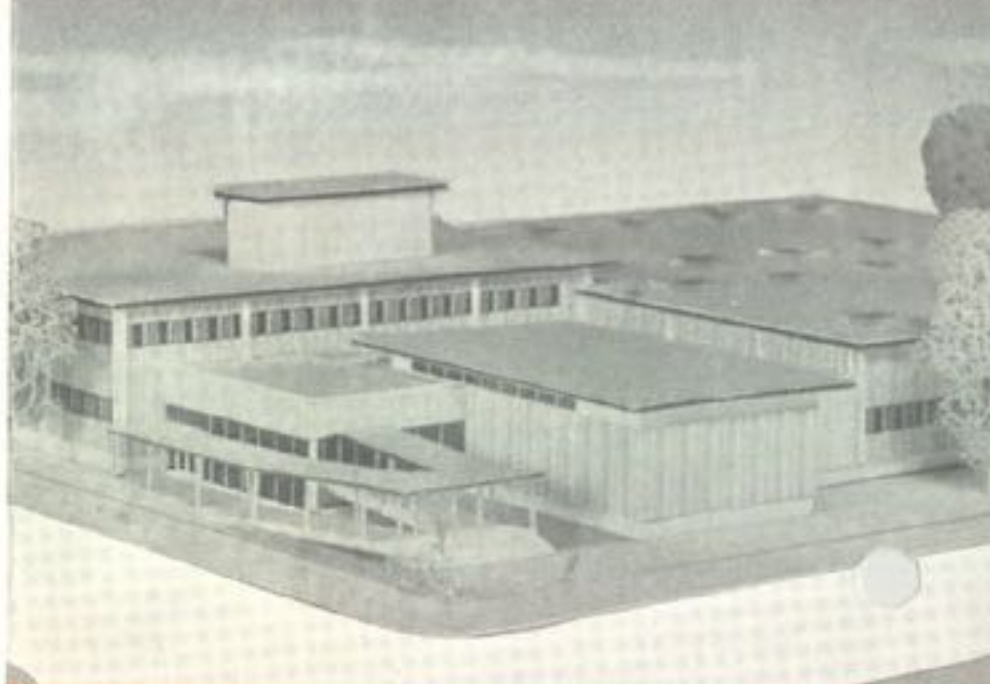
The **EXTERIOR FINISH** will be cut stone trim, precast stone panels, some metal panels and generous use of glass. It will be an **economical but beautiful library** with a friendly and inviting atmosphere.

This is the **absolute minimum requirement.** To reduce the cost:

1. The children's department has been located on the lower level.
2. No provision is made for servicing the book-trailers at Central. The booktrailer headquarters will remain at Albert Branch.
3. The closed stack area and meeting rooms will remain unfinished for the present to reduce the initial cost.
4. **ECONOMY IN INTERIOR FINISHES AND DETAILS** will be the rule.

What Will It Cost?

Based on the current city assessment and mill rate tax only **80c per annum** will be required on each current property tax of \$100 over a 20 year period to finance the \$925,000 required. Over a period of years the Library Board by stinting has managed to save money from operating costs, and this sum amounting to \$110,000 will be used to cover additional costs of moving, furnishings and fixtures.



SOMETHING *for*
the **WHOLE FAMILY**

**A NEW
LIBRARY**

VOTE

YES X

**ON
NOVEMBER 2**

Our Modernist Central Library was built in 1962 after winning a city-wide plebiscite vote to spend \$925,000 for a new library.

Sixty years later, with neither discussion paper nor public discussion nor mention of its Heritage status, the RPL Library Board has “considered what’s best for customers and the community”, and has voted to demolish Central Library.

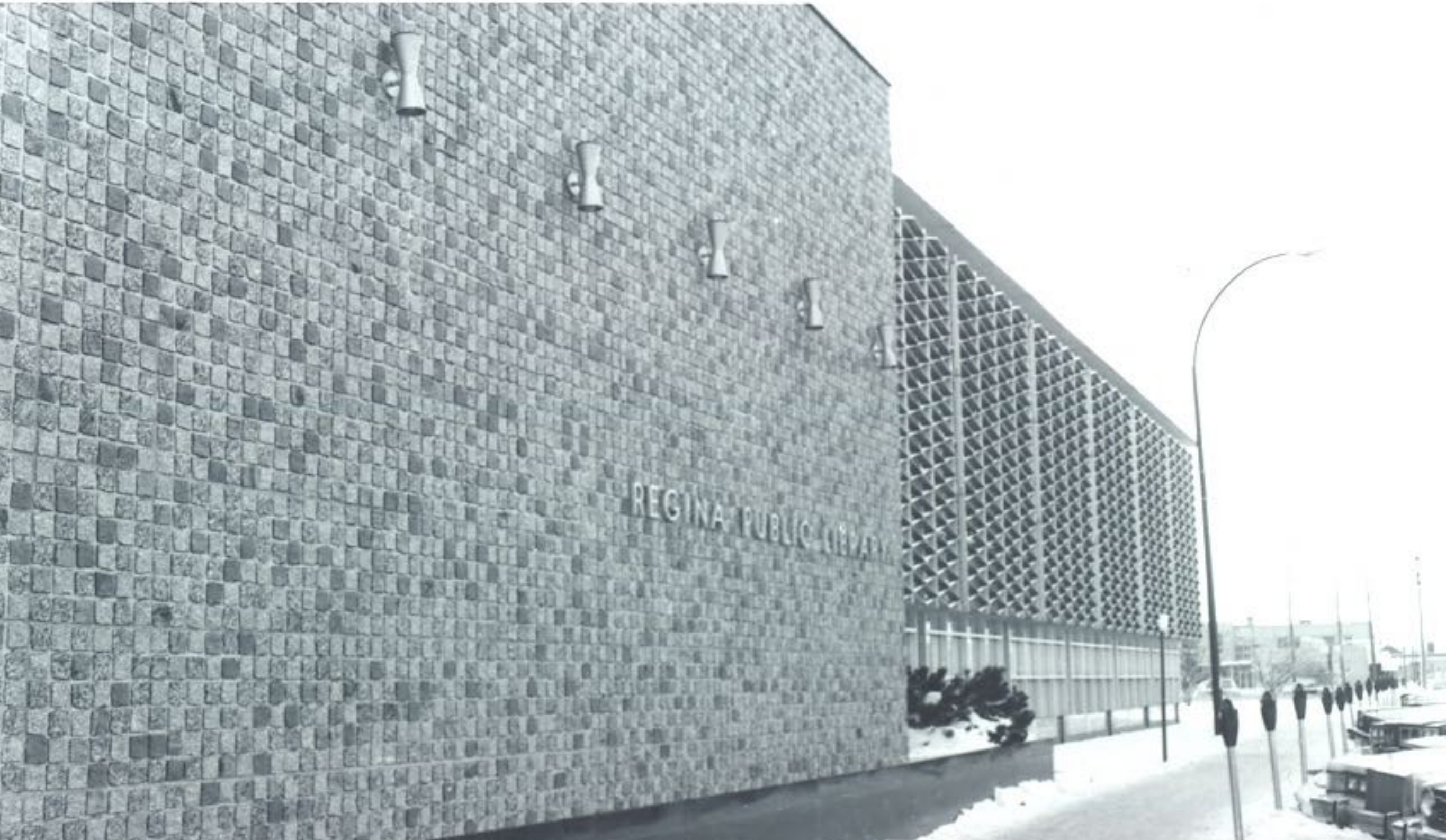


Central Library is an outstanding example of modernist architecture, designed by Massey Award-winning local architect Kiyoshi Izumi, and built with the highest quality durable materials of finished and cut granite. National architects and the Regina community signed the **Regina Declaration at the Ordinary Amazing Symposium** in 2007, to confirm that Regina's Central Library "is a building of national, historical, cultural and architectural merit, and urge City Council and the Library Board to find a way to keep and maintain and enhance the heritage value of this fine building consistent with the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*; as well as explore creative possibilities for a building enlargement that would complement the 1962 building, so it can continue to serve the changing needs of Regina's people, and enhance its key public spaces."

RPL's own 2015 Building assessment tells us that Central Library **is distinguished by its aluminum sunshades, granite exterior cladding and sections of curtain wall glazing**, with a Reading Room which **receives ample natural light from full height curtain wall glazing on the north, west and south sides**. It **holds Municipal Heritage Designation and is located within the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District (Bylaw 9656)**.

Our iconic Central Library was built of the highest quality materials for under \$1 million dollars and still compares favourably in style, design, and function to newer multi-million dollar public libraries.

In 2015, when RPL's Library Consultants showed examples of new iconic libraries from around the world, they agreed that the Central Reading Room, flooded with natural light filtered by a jaunty sunscreen, was very similar to their new multi-million dollar Scandinavian example! CORA -A-1025





CORA-RPL-S-0410

While we admire the shiny new Snøhetta and Dialog Calgary Public Library (\$245 million) and the Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects and local studio Fowler Bauld & Mitchell Halifax Library (\$57.6 million), it is curious that the RLP Library Board has not considered the successful, award-winning and cost-effective expansion of the more economical Patkau rehabilitation of the 1967 Winnipeg Centennial Library.

Completed in 2005 for \$21-million, the Patkau expansion of the Winnipeg Millennium Library added 3,700 square metres (40,000 sq ft) of new space, construction of a new fourth floor, and renovations throughout the existing 10,000-square-metre (110,000 sq ft) library. <https://www.patkau.ca/projects/winnipeg-millennium-library>



The Palm Springs Architectural Museum is very similar in style to our Central Library.

In Palm Springs modernism is celebrated and revered. Regina has amazing modernist architecture.

Joseph Pettick's Sask Power Building and Kiyoshi Izumi's Central Library are the modernist cornerstones of the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District. Demolition would require City Council to amend its bylaw, beginning a public process wherein any objection would require a meeting of the Saskatchewan Heritage Property Review Board.



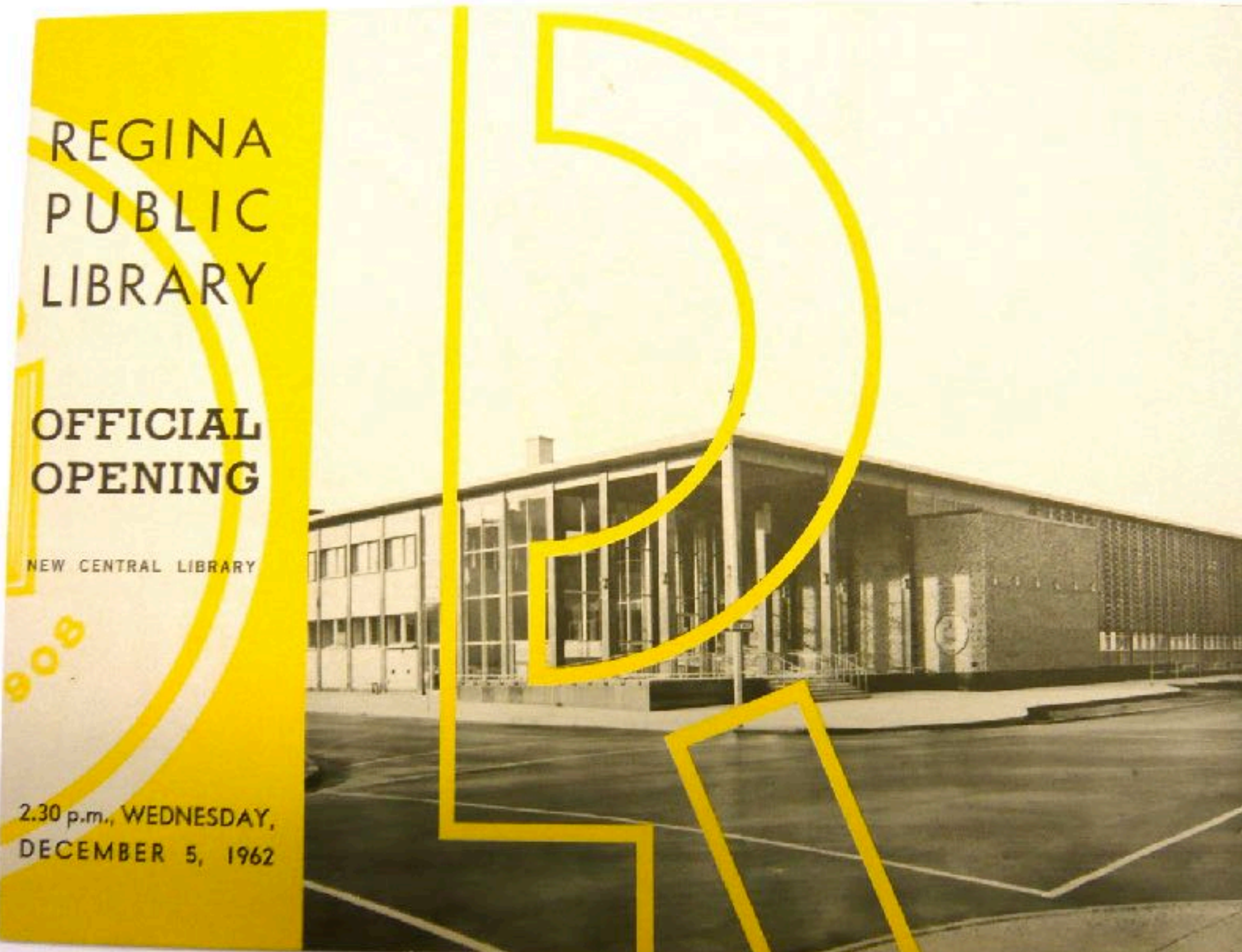


Central Library and the Palm Springs Architectural Museum also share the modernist aesthetic of a metallic sunscreen as a functional and decorative motif.



With great foresight, Central Library included future plans for expansion. From the official opening programme of December 5th, 1962 :“The building is designed for a future mezzanine floor over the centre third of the large adult service area. A multi-storied wing can be added on the remaining 6,500 square feet of the site.”

Renovating Modernist Buildings: **Using a ‘historically sensitive’ approach, the building’s modern characteristics are maintained but the new elements are added which compliment the original structure. (...). The original materials, such as terrazzo, granite cladding and aluminum were of good quality and have been more or less well maintained.** https://cld.reginalibrary.ca/sites/default/files/RPL%20Building%20Assessment_%20Feb%202015.pdf



Our iconic modernist Central Library compares favourably in style and function to newer multi-million dollar public libraries. At the last RPL public meeting of February 2020, the majority of voices spoke in favour of preserving Central Library: Regina citizens questioned the expense and desire for a new building.

WEST'S STUDIO
FEB. 19/65

64-983-02
PUBLIC BUILDINGS EXTERIOR

MR. JIM FYLES, PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATORS OFFICE
HEALTH & WELFARE BLDG., DEMONSTRATES PERSON IN
WHEEL CHAIR, ON RAMP AT PUBLIC LIBRARY.



In 1962, the ramp was considered to be “state of the art” by Health and Welfare. Now it is now considered to be “inaccessible” because the hand rail is 1.5 cm too low.

Terri Sleeva, who uses a wheelchair, says: "There are very few buildings in Regina that compare with the RPL from the accessibility point of view. Excellent and well-maintained outdoor ramp, auditory signals in elevator, wheelchair accessible washrooms already exist."

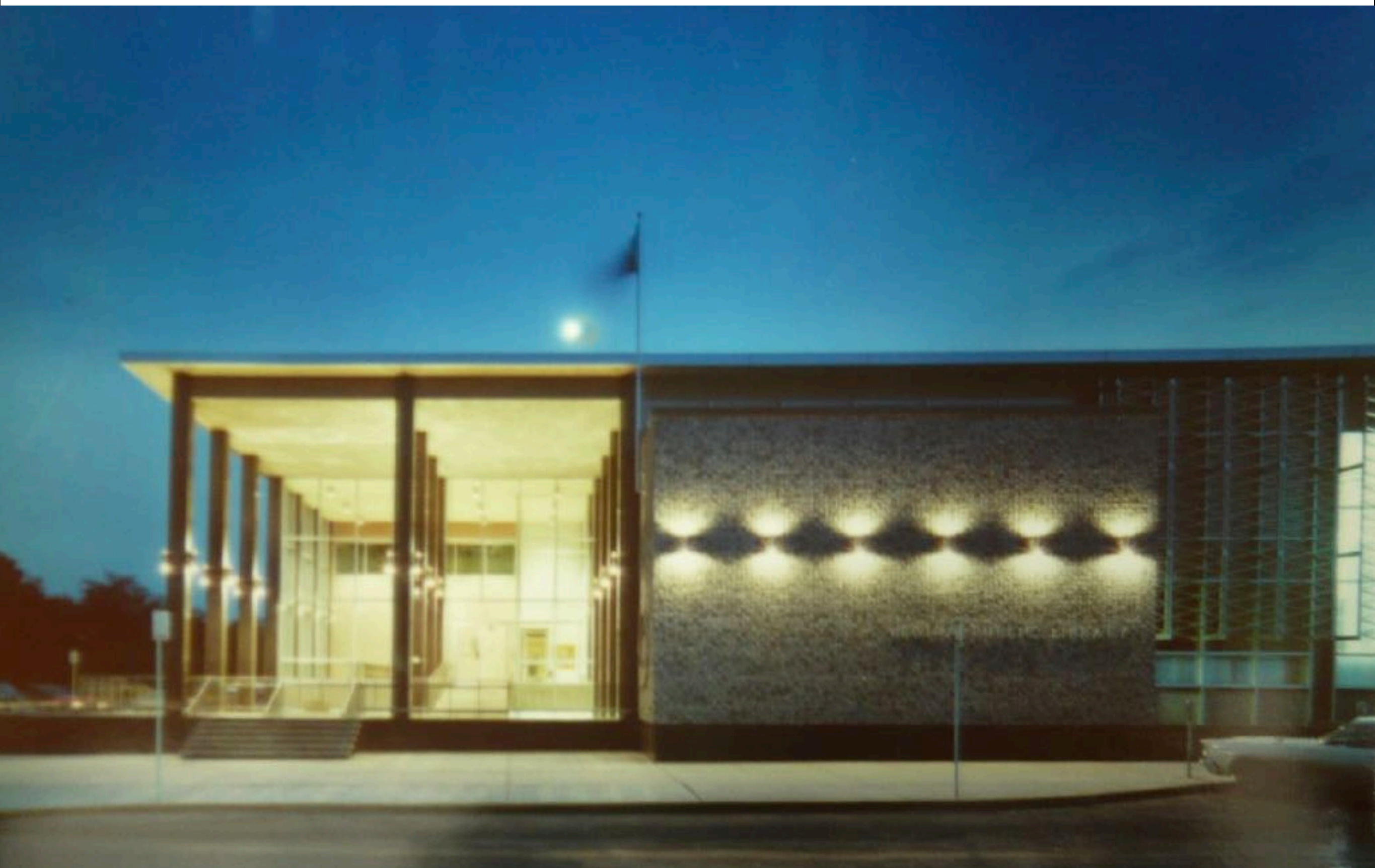
Upon examination, the ramp has been repaved, with about 1.5 cm of asphalt on top of the concrete: an insensitive in-house repair has created the “inaccessible” problem.

The embodied energy and sequestered carbon when a building is demolished is an environmental cost that our sustainable city must take into account. **Rehabilitation of Central Library**, by updating to meet current codes of safety, accessibility, ventilation, and energy, in consultation with specialists to insure conservation standards, would be the most sustainable and economic approach.

Respecting our own cultural history and built heritage, we could frugally, yet with great imagination, expand on our own existing foundation, allowing the City of Regina and the Regina Public Library to develop a reputation for sensitive and imaginative retention and preservation of its built heritage.



Our iconic modernist Central Library, by internationally-known and Massey Award-winning Japanese-Canadian local architect Kiyoshi Izumi, could be dynamically expanded onto the west lot, to meet our future need as we preserve and respect our collective civic history.



A proposed new build, for \$124 million, would only last 60 years. In 1992 we attended a Regina Public Library public meeting about the future of Central Library: the RPL Board was proposing to tear down Central Library because the boiler needed to be replaced. Citizens were outraged! Central Library was then only 30 years old. Thirty years later, the same boiler is still guilty of being old. Had the boiler never been fixed? Sadly, all the iconic modernist lights have been removed!

While it is true that Regina's Central Library was built in 1962 to serve its population of 110,000, over the last 60 years, Regina Public Library has astutely built five new suburban branch libraries to serve our city as it grew - Regent Park 1966; Glen Elm 1979; Sherwood Village 1981; South Albert 1985, moved and became George Bothwell 1994; Sunrise, 1990 - and has recently rebuilt two inner-city branches, Prince of Wales and Albert Library.



REGINA PUBLIC LIBRARY