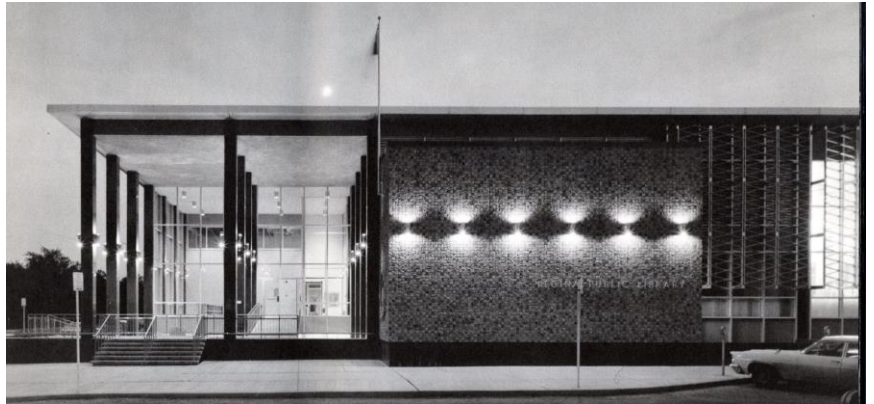


Why We Should Save Our Central Library

Friends of the Regina Public Library invite you to join Architectural Critic **Adele Weder**, Architectural Modernist Advocate **Cheryl Cooper**, and artist **Jeannie Mah** on a **walking tour of Kiyoshi Izumi's Modernist Central Library**, to celebrate its beauty and significance for Regina's heritage, and to understand its status within the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District.



Sunday September 29th, 2024, 2 pm

Meet at front steps of Central Library: Lorne St + 12th Ave.

During the **Ordinary Amazing Symposium** at the MacKenzie Art Gallery in 2007, Cheryl Cooper and Trevor Boddy co-drafted **The Regina Declaration**, signed by national and local architects, and Regina citizens.

Regina's Central Library is a building of national, historical, cultural and architectural merit, and we 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.



Adele Weder is a Vancouver-based architectural writer, critic, curator, and contributing editor to Canadian Architect magazine. Adele completed her Master of Advanced Studies in Architecture at the University of British Columbia School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, where she is currently a member of the advisory committee. She is the founding director of the West Coast Modern League design advocacy group, the author and co-author of several books on architecture, and the recipient of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) President's Award for Architectural Journalism, among other honours. Her most recent book, *Ron Thom Architect: The Life of a Creative Modernist*, was published by Greystone Books last fall.



Cheryl Cooper is an advocate for the conservation of the modern period, most notably saving Arthur Erickson's Evergreen Building in Vancouver (City of Vancouver Heritage Award of Honour 2009). She was instrumental in installing the reflecting pond at the Museum of Anthropology (2010), completing the vision of Arthur Erickson and landscape architect Cornelia Hahn Oberlander. In 2011, she worked with a team to nominate the Museum of Anthropology, Robson Square, and Wiens' Heating and Cooling Plant for the University of Regina for the RAIC Prix du XXe Siecle. All three won. RAIC recognized Cheryl's long contribution with the *2011 Architecture Canada Award of Excellence* as an Advocate of Architecture. Cheryl grew up in Regina and lives in Vancouver.

Telling Details: The Architecture of Clifford Wiens, curated by Trevor Boddy and circulated by the Mendel Art Gallery. MacKenzie Art Gallery, 2007. Patricia Wiens, Trevor Boddy, Clifford Wiens, Arthur Erickson, **Cheryl Cooper**, Timothy Long.

Jeannie Mah, a Regina ceramic artist whose work explores self-identity within the intricacies of geography, race, and local history, is included in many books on contemporary ceramics. She is co-editor of *Regina's Secret Spaces: Love and Lore of Local Geography* (2006), and *Biblio Files: A History of the Regina Public Library* (2016).

Central Library By Bernard Flaman, Heritage Architect

The current Central Library, completed in 1962, designed by the Regina architecture and engineering firm Izumi, Arnott and Sugiyama, reflected the arrival of modernism as a mainstream architectural style in Regina.

The Library's flat roof, simple cubic composition and large areas of glass, are hallmarks of the modernist style. The massing and architectural composition of the building reflect its functional components. While the exterior of the building may be austere, the cladding material comprised of various types of granite, the most durable stone for buildings, lends a rich and luxurious appearance. The aluminum sunshades add texture to the exterior and allow a generous amount of natural light into the interior without the problem of glare.



CORA-A-1025

The library addresses the park with a prominent double-height glass entry at the north-east corner. Here, the corner opens up to reveal the columned structure of the building and a sunken garden that provides a visual connection to the lower level. The entrance forms an inviting, generous and public gesture on the corner of Victoria Park, and shines like a beacon on even a cold, snowy winter evening. The ramps that cross over the courtyard are also modernist in nature and were often employed by the modernist master, le Corbusier, as part of an idea of "architectural promenade," where the act of entering allows the visitor to explore and experience important elements of the building. At the entrance to the library, token decorative stone elements from the original Carnegie Library of 1912 were salvaged in an early attempt at heritage commemoration, if not conservation. The limestone columns from the 1912 building are arranged in the courtyard, and the original lintel stone, bearing the words, *Regina Public Library* is incorporated into the vestibule.

The interior of the building is characterized by a series of three major spaces: the entrance vestibule, the Dunlop Art Gallery, and the main reading room. The vestibule, like the rest of the building contains expensive and durable materials, in this case, terrazzo flooring, and, in the same material, the unique boot racks. The benches with wood seating areas and heating ducts below still survive and offer comfort on a cold winter day. Inside the door, the window of the Dunlop Art Gallery is perfectly located to attract library visitors, especially children, who may not otherwise think of visiting an art gallery.

Friends
of
RPL

FRPL - Protecting the Library

Central Library is threatened with demolition because the Regina Public Library (RPL) Board's plan to "renew" only currently includes the options of: a rebuild on the same site after demolition of the current building; or, a new location for Central leaving the current building's future uncertain.

FRPL has long indicated that RPL's Call for Proposals should include options for rehabilitation and expansion of Central Library, with the Winnipeg and Edmonton Centennial libraries as example, as the most cost-effective and environmentally-sound solution, while preserving our architectural and cultural history.

On Oct. 1, 2024 Regina's City Council will vote on whether to reconsider the \$119M debt load it had committed to ensure for the Central Library "renewal" and its proposed building plans.

Contact the RPL Board, City Council and your community about the need to preserve our heritage of Central Library.

The ***Spring on the Prairie: Kiyoshi Izumi and the work of Izumi Arnott and Sugiyama*** exhibit at the MacKenzie Gallery continues from Sept.13, 2024 to Jan.19, 2025, containing original plans for Central, Centre of the Arts and many other buildings. The exhibit "celebrates the understated modernism of their buildings, highlighting the blend of durable materials and human-centric designs" helping create an understanding of why preserving them is important.

For more information, contact FRPL:

Website: <https://friendsofrpl.ca/>

Email: frpl@sasktel.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/106863629401085>

Phone: (306) 535-9570 or (306) 551-8500