

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 at the māmawêyatitân centre.

Is it an oversight that the heritage value of Central Library is not mentioned in the RPL proposal, nor any mention of its official legal designation as part of the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District?

Central Library is an outstanding example of modernist architecture, designed by Massey Award-winning local architect Kyoshi 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 2012, 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). The report discusses Renovating Modernist Buildings: Using a historical restoration approach, the building envelope is upgraded but its appearance remains unchanged with minimal intervention. 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. This is an important point for consideration if the building or any part of the building were to be replaced in the future, the cost at which materials of a similar quality, durability would be to reinstate as part of any new Library building should any or part of the elements be replaced in the future.*

https://cld.reginalibrary.ca/sites/default/files/RPL%20Building%20Assessment_%20Feb%202015.pdf.

The embodied energy of materials when a building is demolished - wastefully discarded - is an environmental cost that a sustainable city must take into account. The inherent cultural value and use of a Public Library by an internationally known local architect should be preserved, maintained, and sensitively expanded.

With great foresight, the 1962 plans for Central Library included future plans for expansion: if more space were needed, said the Opening day program notes, a tower could be built on the lot west of the building. (*Program notes, Opening ceremony, December, 1962*).

At the last RPL public meeting of February 2020, a majority of voices spoke in favour of preserving Central Library: Regina citizens questioned the expense and desire for a new building. At a previous public meeting in 2015, the RPL's library consultants showed examples of good library buildings from around the world, one, and a consultant admitted that RPL Central's Reading Room, with natural light filtered by its jaunty brise soleil (sunscreen) was very similar to their new Scandinavian example! Our Modernist Central Library has stood the test of time, and compares favourably to newer and more costly libraries.

Our iconic Modernist Public Library provides an opportunity for the City of Regina to develop a reputation for sensitive and imaginative retention and preservation of its built heritage, elegantly situated on its central public square, our Victoria Park.

RPL Board of Directors tell is that they have "considered what's best for customers and the community". Many citizens do not consider ourselves to be "customers" of the Regina Public Library: we, the taxpayers, give RPL the money needed for the public service of a free public library. Regina citizens are the stake-holders who have the most to lose if we do not preserve our Heritage public library.

Central Library was built after a civic plebiscite vote.