

1. Our iconic modernist Central Library was built of the highest quality materials for \$925,000 dollars, after a civic vote. “The plan provides adequate space to serve the city in the foreseeable future. The PLAN IS NOT FOR A GRANDIOSE OR IMPOSING BUILDING. (...) It will be an **economical** but **beautiful library** with a friendly and inviting atmosphere.
2. Massey Award-winning Japanese-Canadian local architect Kiyoshi Izumi created an iconic library of the highest quality durable materials - finished and cut granite, for less than \$1 million dollars, and it 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!

3. 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, and the best examples frame Victoria Park. Joseph Pettick’s recently renewed SaskPower Building and Kiyoshi Izumi’s Central Library are the modernist kitty-cornerstones of the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District.

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

5. Central Library is an outstanding example of modernist architecture. National architects and the Regina community signed the **Regina Declaration at the Ordinary Amazing Symposium** in May 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, 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.”

7. 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 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

8. 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. A multi-storied wing can be added on the remaining 6,500 square feet of the site.”

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.

While we admire the new Calgary (\$245 million) and Halifax (\$57.6 million) libraries, a better example is the successful and award-winning 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>

9. 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.

10. 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 **already iconic modernist Central Library** could be dynamically expanded onto the west lot to meet our future needs, while preserving and respecting our collective civic history, heritage, architecture and local architect. (729)

11. In 1962, the ramp was considered to be “state of the art “ by Health and Welfare. Now considered to be “inaccessible” because the hand rail is 1.5 cm too low, yet, upon examination, we see that the ramp, insensitively and inaccurately repaved, with about 1.5 cm of asphalt on top

of the concrete. The RPL has created its own “inaccessible” problem, and then blames the building.

12. 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.