



Shaw Library Study Group Online Survey Qualitative Responses

Portions of direct responses to the library design images shown to the Shaw community on January 30, 2008 and put on the DC Public Library Website.

The unique District Dynamos online survey can be found here >>
http://www.districtdynamos.org/forms/shaw_online_survey.php

I think it looks amazing and the community needs a center like this. What I love about DC is that there is historic and modern together. It is possible and it looks like it has been done well. As mentioned above, the city is growing and not to think about the future is short sighted. I only wish the metro thought like that. The community needs a common space. as long as it is flexible in terms of being used for different reasons and can be divided for smaller events.

Looks nice and modern. I am concerned that it looks small. It appears to be heavy on meeting spaces, in general I am concerned that the library size is too small. The design is modern, I view that as an asset not a liability. The neighborhood is changing and being revitalized, a modern design to the library would be a nod to the future and an example of how reading/knowledge are a key to a successful future. I think that the current design is too small. I think it should be all built now not in a phased approach. I think that there needs to be multiuse "flexible" space, but there should still be dedicated rooms for computer labs, reading/research rooms and childrens story telling/theatre. DCPL should address all issues raised by the public at a future public meeting. More input from the community is always good. I think revaluation would be beneficial before tear down, however, this process should be used to evaluate community needs and not as a stalling tactic to adequately address community concerns. Anything that can be done to involve children in the process should be done. The best way to prevent adult illiteracy issues is to ensure children can read. Involving them in the design process so they are invested in the library would assist in creating a "buy-in" from the children who the community really needs to be active library users.

Not an inviting space, but definitely an improvements over the demolished prison structure. Please add a space for a coffee-mart or coffee shop. This space needs to be inviting. Also, commercial space should be added on the third floor to provide continuous and frequent traffic -- with revenue that could also support the library programs -- to increase foot traffic and safety in this near, dead-zone. The stories should be added, per my comments above, during the original rendition and build out -- commercial spaces to create more foot traffic and programming funds to support the library. community education is a valid conception and modern use of a library.

Generally, seems sparse and somewhat out of character with the neighborhood. The steel bars give it a

prison like atmosphere, and the gray/glass color scheme make it look out of character with the historic feel of the neighborhood. Its a modern/sleek design - perfect for downtown, or waterfront. But this is a neighborhood building, in a historic neighborhood - and should reflect that. Whatever happened to brick? I seriously doubt that the city will ever put money into this library again, so no. Plus, I like the green roof concept. I prefer this room be usable for all. I believe it is important for the community, and providing space is just one of the hurdles.

I like it. IT would be nice to have a community gathering area outside the site on in an internal area. Not sure I like the horizontal lines in front of the bldg. More glass would be better. Like the light and modern look. Needs more trees and green like around it. Plan for growth. Multipurpose is good. We need space to gather and meet.

I am so grateful for fresh architecture such as this design for an honored structure. This is beautiful building and appears welcoming rather than imprisoned as it had once looked. I love the openness the building conveys with its use of Glass. The Green Roof is very friendly and will extend the life of the building. This building will sparkle against the various structures that it sits with. [style_historic] => yes Designing a classical building in this neighborhood will begin to make Shaw into a "Disneyland" We are the nation's capital, we must push for the architecture of today. Flexibility in design is important. I work in I.M. Pei building that was designed 30 years ago. Pei and his team designed plans for expansion but the offices are still in need or re-configuration for a changing work force. I believe that the library should be the heart of the community. I still hold dear the librarians that helped me as a child and as I grew-up. Similarly, public spaces should be used to progress community and society. I live in the area so I will most likely attend meetings held by the ANC and Civic Association. YES!!! ESL, GED, LSAT, GRE, GMAT test preparation. Reading courses, math, anything to help instill the value of education. ANC's need to be involved. For older library buildings I believe that the DCPL and the City should consider adaptive-reuse. If the building was built in the late 60's to late 80's perhaps a tear-down should be considered. Quality of building has gone down since the early part of the 20th Century. School presentations could have been done that could bring parents and children together to discuss the library's plans. As for seniors, perhaps a mailing or a door to door survey would be great. The digital divide is still around so many will not benefit from web broadcast, I would, but not my neighbors.

I really like the design (as much as I have seen). I think the marriage of modern and old is great and that a library with a modern look moves us all forward in terms of what we want our neighborhood to be like in the future. I think that would impact the integrity of the design...it is not a large parcel of land. Teaching esl/etc helps all of us in our community. I think it just provides one more opportunity to bring people in....but the dcpl also needs to indicate that this is the last opportunity. Perhaps entice specific communities...contact churches, garden groups, etc...provide opportunities for those groups to come at the same time...potluck? encourage conversation at neighborhood meetings... Big Bear's book club?

Better than a bunker. Like the airiness (and green roof?) ... But it's a complementary contrast. Yes, accommodating future needs is key to avoid tearing down a perfectly sound structure and starting all over again. This would be wasteful and not very green. I was always curious why the existing structure couldn't have been incorporated into the new design. A multipurpose room is more efficient requiring less sf to heat, cool and maintain. It would miss the market. This neighborhood is in transition and the demographics do not have a need for an adult literacy center. There are other more convenient locations that would serve the population much better. Only if there are unrefined issues shared by the majority of the participants. YES YES YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Tearing down a building unnecessarily fills up the landfill and drives up the cost which is not very "green".

I do not feel that the design is commensurate with the other structures in the area. It is too modern for an area filled with homes built in the early 1900s. Something with less glass and more brick would be more appropriate to the neighborhood. The neighborhood is fast growing and may possibly need the expansion as these babies in this area reach school age. The library should provide some space for neighborhood meetings. Because of the literacy problem in D.C. Does not appear that there was significant public input into this decision. We are the ones who will be using it and deserve an opportunity to speak.

Beautiful structure maximizing use of the site plan. Window louvers appear to cut down on energy consumption. Seems there is an outside fountain of pool. This is not very green and I am certain will not be maintained. Black granite instead? The pool or fountain (black bar) needs to be altered. It will not be properly maintained and it is not very environmentally sustainable. Is there a green roof? Why not solar panels. This spot is quite sunny. If there is a cafe make it a leasable space. It is high traffic and across from the Metro. A Starbucks or something similar would defer cost to the city and its residents. Vending machines will not be as much of a draw. More of the surrounding materials should be used - recycled red brick could be integrated into the design without significantly altering it. This would be a nod to the neighborhood while maintaining an inviting and modern design. If the neighborhood continues to add condos as is anticipated with the 7th st Giant and Radio One more capacity may become necessary and then we will not need to tear down and rebuild from scratch again. Also all wire conduit should be of sufficient size to accommodate upgrades in electronics. A multi-purpose room can serve many functions for the community. This is a great idea. It seems that the primary interior structure of the old building could have been retained and the new building constructed around it. Was a cost-benefit analysis conducted?

Very nice concepts, but a very dramatic departure from the historic neighborhood look and feel (use of light). I wonder if the Georgetown Library rebuild is going to have the same dramatic departure from those buildings in the neighborhood. The old building looked like a fortress, and it didn't reflect the neighborhood either. This building should use light and history as parts of the template. It needs to be a place that is functional with a long life span (adaptable). It is unfortunate that buildings are built with such a short life-span (flavor of the decade). The design needs to be sturdy and not one that becomes

dated & obsolete after a few years. We need to stop building things that become dated before the ribbon-cutting. This is an opportunity to build smart and purposeful. Don't waste this chance. If the place is built the right way & with the right amenities, it will attract people who probably never used its predecessor. Additionally, the neighborhood population has changed--more might find the library as a good go-to place for information and making connections. The community should feel at home in this central gathering place. DCPL should follow the examples of other communities, like Seattle, that have built new libraries that are useful for the community. Structured programming is a vital part of this planning. Has there been any pursuit of funding by corporate or philanthropic entities to help support a well-crafted [literacy] program? Those in the neighborhood are the primary voices in this space and should have the ultimate say in what is there---that's the purpose of neighborhood libraries. Those in the neighborhood are the primary voices in this space and should have the ultimate say in what is there---that's the purpose of neighborhood libraries. Tear down the red tape that makes these processes so onerous. Think smart and fast in making community improvements.

I think the design is very forward thinking, it shows a green roof, is this a LEED accredited project and is it a sustainable building? I like the fact that it used the space of the old library to the fullest. I also like the use of glass and metals. It fits because in order to have "a historic fabric of the neighborhood" some building need to be more modern looking. I doubt the library will become overcrowded, but in the case it does, then add another library on an alternate site within the neighborhood or city. It should be a multipurpose room for all kinds of activities. If people want to voice an opinion then they should have made the effort to find out when the meetings were being held and attend. Older buildings use much more energy, a new sustainable building will reduce energy costs and help the environment. DCPL should look into handing out surveys at churches in the affected neighborhoods to include seniors and children as well as the general public.

I like it... I like the glass. We have limited land in DC we should grow up. I want a place that can support many different uses since it will increase the use.

Nice design. difficult to tell how many floors it will have. it's more art deco than the neighborhood but i think that's good. Expandability needed so to adjust to community needs as they change.

I would have liked to see some echoes of traditional architecture in the building design. While the design does look very sleek, I would hope more of the existing greenery would be utilized. Without more trees, the all glass building will be very expensive to heat and cool. I like the potential to use the top floor as a cafe/outdoor reading area. I also would like to see the large triangle utilized as a green roof. While I understand the challenges in creating a new building in an awkward location, I think the stark modernity of this building will stand out too greatly against the surrounding neighborhood, which includes the Phyllis Wheatley YMCA nearby and other, even older Victorian buildings. I feel both yes and no about adding floors later because I think the site is ideally suited for a green roof. Any plans to

add stories on top of the building should either preserve a portion of the green roof or create a roof that can be raised as needed, without destruction of the green roof. I prefer that the room be open to many public uses. These programs are valuable resources for the city. Also, putting these programs closer to residential neighborhoods will make it easier for residents to volunteer. Although DC residents are notoriously fussy, if issues are identified by residents, the DCPL is obligated to address them with additional meetings and attention. Those who are interested will get the message. In this age of recycling, using as much of the original material as possible is the smartest thing to do. I am a firm believer in renovation over construction.

It's very unattractive and doesn't fit in with the historic nature of the surrounding buildings. Too "modern" in a way that will look dated in a decade, like the MLK library does. Looks like there would be lots of windows and light potentially, which would be pleasant (although potentially dangerous for books). I live 2 blocks away and would not look forward to walking past this unappealing building every day. I like the idea of lots of light and large windows, that would make the library feel safer to be in. I dislike the overall "contemporary" design and would prefer a faux-Victorian look. I wish more of the space was green space, because that corner is currently very depressing, concrete filled and bland (the Metro and 7-11 contribute to this as well). I'd rather have community gardens and edible landscaping rather than have the building go all the way to the sidewalk. Also, the building is colorless, which is an unpleasant contrast to the warm brick and brightly painted houses in the residential areas around the library. As I mentioned above, the design doesn't fit in with the surrounding buildings. It's too "modern" in a way that will look dated in a decade, like the MLK library does. It's also to be honest, ugly, in my opinion. Definitely, this makes sense. I also don't understand the green triangle rooftop in the designs. Are these solar panels or a rooftop garden (either would be great) or is it just a weird design idea. I like there's definitely a need for this in Shaw and would make the library feel accessible to as many people as possible.

