



1100 Parkview Avenue, Redding, California 96001  
(530)245-7250 Fax (530)245-7268

**Background:** Active planning for a new main library in Redding began in 1997, following a Shasta County Grand Jury report on the status of the County Library. A citizens' Library Review Committee published a report in late 1998 that called for a new main library. The report also recommended a change in library governance structure and an increase in library financial support.

Following a second Grand Jury report in 1999, and fueled by the passage in 2000 of Proposition 14, the Library Construction and Renovation Bond which provided funds for local communities to build new libraries, a county-wide grass roots advocacy organization, New Library Now!, was formed. Its purpose was to galvanize community support for a new main library and to collaborate with elected officials to pursue the goals articulated by the Library Review Committee in 1998. The City of Redding and the County of Shasta, working with New Library Now!, engaged the services of library planners Kathryn Page Associates and Critical Solutions, Inc., to conduct a community needs assessment, prepare a building program, and help prepare the coalition's application for State Library Construction Bond funds.

Under the banner of New Library Now!, Shasta County citizens raised the \$8.4 million in local funds required to qualify for the 65% state matching funds. In October, 2003, after an extremely competitive process, Shasta County's application was approved to build a new, \$20.6 million, 55,000 square foot, state-of-the-art library on the Redding Civic Center campus.

**Design Process:** In 2001, a community needs assessment was conducted as part of the building grant application process. The consultants conducted focus groups, general community meetings, surveys and key community informant interviews. Demographic data was gathered and analyzed. The finds and recommendations were shaped into a needs assessment report which was used to guide the conceptual design of the new Library.

LPA, Inc. – a California-based architectural firm with several recently completed, highly regarded public library design projects to its credit – was hired to design the new library. Lead Architect, Rick D'Amato, held a series of public meetings to gather local input in the design and features of the building. Citizens emphasized the importance of the use of natural light, sustainability, functionality, technology, and comfort.

**Building Construction:** A project team provided oversight and direction during the construction process. The team included representatives from the County of Shasta, City of Redding, New Library Now!, the Shasta Library Foundation, the library management, the architectural firm, and the project management firm.

The building was constructed by local contractor, Gifford Construction, Inc., with assistance from many local subcontractors.

The new 55,000-sq.-ft., two-story library opened in March 2007. It incorporates spectacular views of Mount Shasta, state-of-the-art library services and historical references while demonstrating a responsible attitude toward sustainable design practices. The first floor spaces are for high use and active use. The second floor spaces are for serious study and quiet use.

**Preserving History:** Many local historical elements were incorporated into the design of the library.

The Louvers:

The exterior louvers over the entry create an abstraction of the lantern created by Major Pearson B. Reading for his original adobe.

“As a guide to night travelers he (Major Reading) had a tower on top of his roof in which he kept a lighted lantern. If anyone missed his way or became lost, the lantern guided him to human habitation and a friendly hearth.”

The light from the two story entry as seen filtered through the louvers is meant as an abstraction of this lantern. Additionally, the lantern metaphor was used as an abstraction for the lantern over the information desk at the main entry to the library and at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor reference desk.

The “Future Fountain”:

The unrealized (but hopefully future) fountain at the main entry was inspired by the original Crystal Fountain that was installed the front of the original Carnegie library in Redding by the local Woman’s Club. The original fountain was made of stacked rock (although quartz) and became a focal piece for the library.

The “Front Porch” :

The entry to the Redding Library is based on an abstraction of the colonnade which dominated the front façade of the original Carnegie Library.

The Sacramento River:

The floor patterns in the lobby and entry of the library are an abstraction of the path of the Sacramento River. The idea is that it was “fed” from the Crystal Fountain.

The Exterior Community Room Event Space:

The trees planted in the Community Plaza are in fact Red Buds which were used by the original local Indian Tribes, The Wintu, in their basket weaving. The “woven” patterning of the concrete ground plane also reflects the basket weaving for which the Wintus were known.

Fireside Room

The design for the Fireside Room was based on the descriptions of the original living room of Major Reading’s adobe, in particular the fireplace.

The Green Roof:

The concept for the green roof was inspired by the last line of a poem about the Wintu Indians by Alfred Gillis.

“ Here nature grows her wild bouquets  
And mountain lilies love to bloom

And soft winds whisper through the pines  
In dirges o'er the Wintun tomb."

#### The Children's Library:

The Children's Library is based on the story of Drury Harrill's Rose Garden, a popular show spot in Shasta County during the 1850's. Harrill owned the Westcott & Bartlen Soda Factory and cultivated a large six acre garden next to the factory. The garden was located north of the current Shasta Elementary School, between School Street and Crocker Alley, on the hillside. The garden was a popular gathering place for young people on Sunday afternoons. The Drury Harrill story is written on the wall of the Children's Library, next to the information desk.

"All children of Shasta were welcome to this retreat to play and to bring lunch and eat in a vine covered summer house in one corner of the garden. In another corner lived "Old Man Harrill," beloved of every child in Shasta. Here in a screened room dozens of golden canaries made the hours golden with their singing."

*Shasta County California: a History* by Rosena Giles

#### The Children's Garden:

While the narrative behind the design for the Children's Garden is based on the story of Drury Harrill, the actual shape of the children's garden, which is twisted from the grid of the building, is reflective of the shift in the City Grid of Redding during its early development. This shift is especially evident in the original 1890 official Map of Redding.

#### **Building Features:**

- **Customer Friendly** – Patrons can always receive the assistance of library staff while also having the option of using self-check out machines. Items can be returned via an automated book sorting machine in the library or through a covered, drive-through book drop on the south side of the building. Staff is always available at the customer service desk to assist with registering new borrowers, settling accounts, or other services.
- **Environmentally Friendly** - The green features of the library include:
  - A 7,000-sq.-ft. vegetated green roof, constructed by Harbert Roofing, Inc. on the north side of the building that has plants as roofing material. The roof is planted with a combination of drought resistant plants that don't need mowing. The roots of the plants reach through the soil and gravel and anchor into a special fabric below the driplines, which provide water. The green roof provides better insulation – soil is an excellent insulator and improves the ability of the roof to hold in heat during the winter and keep it out during the summer. It has a longer roof life; roofing protected by a green roof may last up to twice as long as exposed roofing. It also provides better drainage. During a rainy day, the soil on the green roof will hold some of the water, slowing and reducing loading of the City's storm sewers, and filtering out some of the dust and nutrients.
  - A portion of the library roof is devoted to photo voltaic panels. Silicon wafers within the panels catch the sunlight and turn it into energy. The

panels are not visible from the ground level but there is an informational display on the first floor near the elevators.

- Four giant slushy tanks on the north side of the building help the library maintain its cool temperatures during the peak summer hours by using ice to keep the systems cooler. The Thermal Energy Storage system makes ice in its tanks at night, when electricity demand is low and cooler nighttime temperatures make cooling more efficient. During the day, the library uses the ice to cool the building. These tanks can reduce the drain on the city's electric utility system by as much as half the normal usage during the summer. The system is explained in the display in the Children's Library.
- The use of indirect lighting and extensive use of recycled and recyclable materials are other environmentally friendly features of the building.
- **Family Friendly –**
  - The children's library features books and audiovisual materials for children from birth to about age 14. There are public computer stations for children to explore age-appropriate software as well as filtered Internet access.
  - The story area provides a contained space where children can participate in a variety of book-related activities. Parents can observe what's happening in the room without being a distraction to the children.
  - The "Drury Harrill Rose Garden," named for a local attraction in Old Shasta in the 1850s, provides a beautiful outdoor reading area for children.
  - The Teen Scene is an area designed for teens, by teens, and features a young adult collection of various materials. Computers are available for study, recreation, surfing the Internet or checking email.
- **Technology Friendly –** The Redding Library has 80 computers for public access, including 21 computers in the computer center on the second floor. The library also features a wireless network that allows customers with wireless access to go online anywhere in the building. There are copy centers on each floor of the library. The library has advanced services for people with vision and hearing problems, including magnification software to enlarge small print and special computer hardware and software. Mobile technology enables staff to answer calls and maintain contact with each other, allowing them to help patrons while roaming the book stacks.
- **Meeting Friendly –** The library features a number of meeting spaces:
  - The large community room with state-of-the-art media equipment can be divided into two separate spaces. It has an adjoining outdoor community area.
  - There are two conference rooms available for use by the community for meetings or quiet study. The downstairs room features two hand-crafted conference tables created by Northern California furniture maker, Bruce Greenberg. The upstairs room features a large, stone fireplace and comfortable seating.
  - There are several small conference rooms on both floors for individual or small group study or meetings.
  - A café near the main entrance has an adjacent outdoor reading patio and wireless Internet access.

- The upstairs Computer Center is available for both classes and overflow Internet access.
- **Reader Friendly –**

The library has over 180,000 books, CDs, DVDs, audio books, large print books, newspapers, and magazines. The library's catalog is accessible online at [www.shastalibraries.org](http://www.shastalibraries.org). Special collections include:

  - Free online databases
  - Best sellers
  - Spanish language materials
  - Boggs local history collection
  - California Indian Library Collection
  - Genealogy collection and assistance from the Shasta Genealogical Society
  - Local author collection
  - Newspapers on microfilm
  - Back issues of periodicals
  - Federal, state, and local depository
  - Interlibrary Loan
- The Friends of the Library operate a Library Bookstore which sells gently used donated books as well as materials weeded from the Redding Library collection. The store also sells music CDs, DVDs, videotapes and other formats of materials. Proceeds from the sale of books in the store benefit library collections and programs.
- A variety of programs are available for all ages including children's story time, summer reading programs, monthly book reading and discussion groups, free computer classes, author visits, special speakers, workshops and performing arts.

## **REDDING LIBRARY FAQs:**

### **Project Cost:** *\$20.6 million*

- *State of California – 59.1%*
- *City of Redding – 13.8%*
- *County of Shasta – 8.7%*
- *Local citizens, civic organizations, businesses and foundations – 18.4%*

**Project/Construction Manager:** *Critical Solutions, Inc.*

**Architect:** *LPA, Inc.*

**Contractor:** *Gifford Construction, Inc.*

**Building Size:** *55,000 square feet*

**Website:** *[www.shastalibraries.org](http://www.shastalibraries.org)*