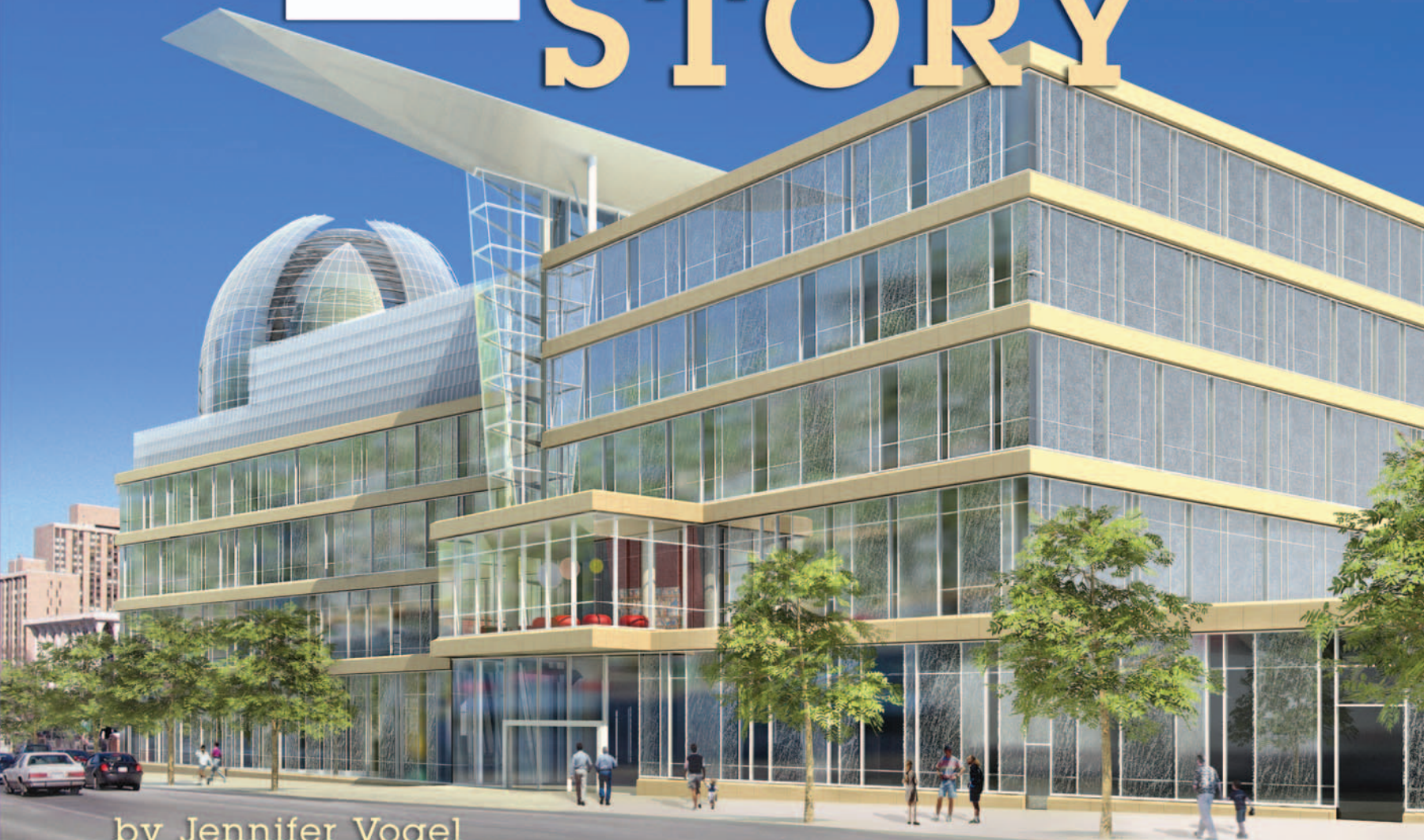


A Library STORY

Building a New Central Library



by Jennifer Vogel

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A Library
STORY



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Millbrook Press
Minneapolis

FOR LOGAN, my smarty-pants niece

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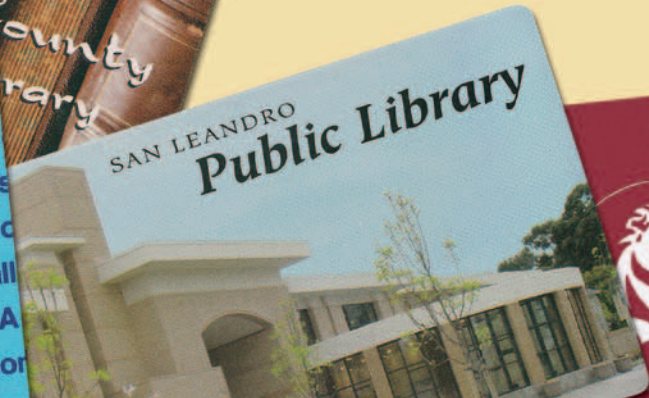
In any Library in the world, I AM AT HOME

—writer Germaine Greer



...y (li'brer'e) n., pl. -ies. Abbr. lib.
...nity information center with resources for
...rning. 2. A repository for literary and
...aterials such as books, periodicals
...s, pamphlets, and prints kept for reading
... A collection of materials, usually
...ematically arranged for reference. 4. A
...ing maintaining such a collection

LIBRARY CARD



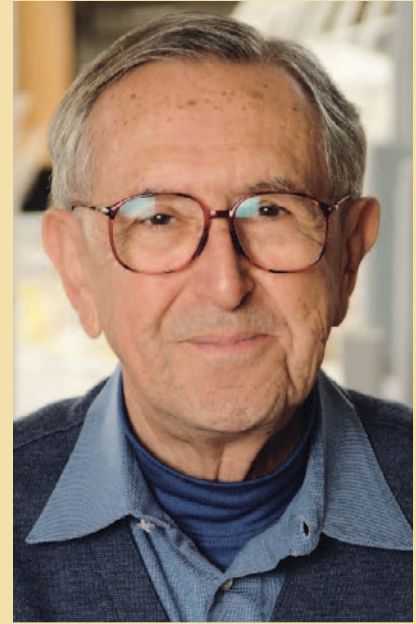
A Letter from the Architect, Cesar Pelli

I love libraries. They can be magical places where many worlds await us. In our design of the Minneapolis Central Library, we tried to capture some of this magic and excitement. The building is enclosed in glass, letting light in and providing views out. Picking up a book and reading in this building is pure pleasure. In the evening, the library glows like a lantern.

The windows around the building have special designs on them. On the east side, the designs are birch trees, and on the west side, they are prairie grass. On the north, looking toward the Mississippi River, the designs show ripples on the water, and on the south side, they are heavy snow on tree branches.

The entrances to the building can be seen from far away because of shiny steel overhangs that project over the sidewalks. These overhangs are the ends of a long wing-shaped roof that covers Library Commons, the central space of the library. This is a tall, exciting space filled with light and people.

In the design, we were inspired by the spirit of Minneapolis. The building is beautiful and functional, restrained and exuberant, practical and poetic. It is a classical design that will look new for a very long time. It is a unique building for a unique city.



A Letter from the Library Director, Kit Hadley

Welcome! I invite you to take a tour of the new Minneapolis Central Library in the pages of this book.

This library is the product of many people's imaginations. Minneapolis voters imagined a state-of-the-art library and a beautiful public gathering space. The architects, along with citizens and officials, envisioned a library that will accommodate the city's needs for years to come. Students from around the city helped design a teen library that is exclusively theirs.

The new Central Library is remarkable, but it has much in common with libraries across the country. What happens inside any library is the product of your imagination. What do you want to read? What do you want to write, compose, create, invent? Where in the universe do you want to explore? Your library is a place for you to read, listen to music, study with friends, organize a poetry slam, or just hang out.

Newcomers from other countries remind us of a truth sometimes taken for granted. The public library is a powerful place, based on a powerful idea. Because it belongs to everyone, the public library is part of our common wealth. The books and resources are free to all people. Differences among us are welcomed and celebrated.

After you finish reading, be sure to pay a visit to your own community's library. Come in and make it your own.





BOOM! **CRASH!**

**LOOK OUT FOR THE
WRECKING BALL!**

**The Minneapolis Central
Library is coming down.**

The workers pounded against the sides of the building. They smashed until there was nothing but rubble. What a mess! What did they do with all that old cement and metal? It didn't go into a garbage dump. Instead, almost all the materials from the building were recycled. The rubble became sidewalks, roads, and even other buildings. That's smart thinking—and libraries are known for good ideas. The library was torn down to make way for a brand-new Central Library in Minneapolis, Minnesota.