

WEST HOLLYWOOD Independent

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ALL BOOKED UP

Sneak peek at the
new, soon-to-open
West Hollywood Library



PRAY AWAY THE GAY?

Inside the controversy enveloping Michele Bachmann and her husband



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD CLIPPINGS

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Project officials give a sneak peek at the "97 percent complete" West Hollywood Library ahead of its fall opening.

BY JOHN A. MORENO
MANAGING EDITOR

Wearing hard-hats and a justifiable sense of pride, project officials last week showed off the "97 percent complete" new West Hollywood Library during a preview tour that seemed to offer a dazzling feature around every corner.

"The first question that many intelligent friends of mine, and strangers, and members of the press, ask, is: 'Why in the world are building libraries today? We have Google, we have Amazon. What's the point?'" said Steve Johnson, co-founder of the architectural firm Johnson Favaro, which designed the state-of-the-art, LEED-certified facility. "There's a distinctive, qualitative difference between sitting in your pajamas, Googling, and availing yourselves of the services of a librarian. ... And just simply being in a physical space, with the light of day coming down on your iPad or on your book, is an important function of a library — sitting in solitude but with your neighbors."

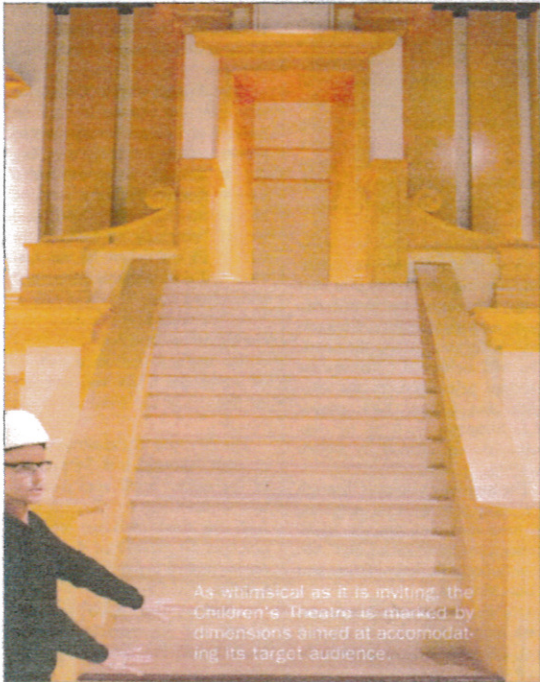
West Hollywood residents will have the opportunity to browse and read in the company of their neighbors after the library's October 1 grand opening. However, given the facility's array of astonishing attributes — innovative design, breathtaking views, and a very cool children's theater — it may be some time before any semblance of "solitude" is to be found there.

The 42,000-square-foot library, built at a cost of \$35 million, boasts a long list of environmentally friendly components, one of which is even beneficial to the city's coffers.

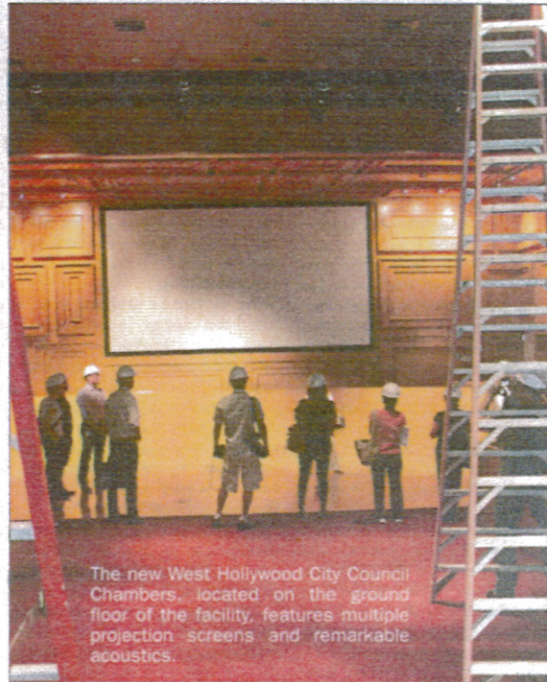
"We have photovoltaic panels on the roof that are generating power," said construction manager Daniel Adams of Heery International, Inc. "The city has made the decision to put that power back onto the grid, so every month [Southern California] Edison gives the city a nice little rebate check for contributing power rather than using it up."



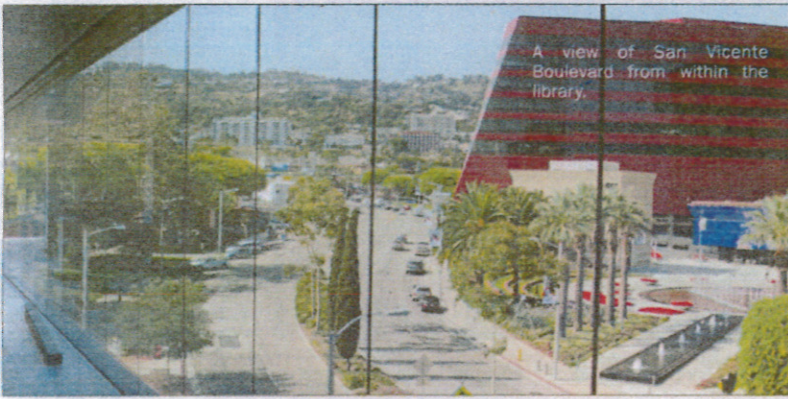
The west side of the library and the adjacent 330-space parking structure, which includes tennis courts on the roof.



As whimsical as it is inviting, the Children's Theatre is marked by dimensions aimed at accommodating its target audience.



The new West Hollywood City Council Chambers, located on the ground floor of the facility, features multiple projection screens and remarkable acoustics.



A view of San Vicente Boulevard from within the library.



Steve Johnson, co-founder of the architectural firm Johnson Favaro, which designed the library.



The bamboo-veneered ceiling is a marvel of handcraft and technology.



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