

SUBMISSIONS | PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN CONTEXT

Project Title

S. Walter Stewart Branch
Toronto Public Library

Address

170 Memorial Park Ave.

Project Team

Phillip H. Carter - ARCHITECT
Ellen Vera Allen - ARCHITECT
Sheilagh Fletcher Inc -Interior Design
Blackwell-Bowick - Structural Engineer

Owner/Client

Toronto Public Library



2009

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Once the focus of cultural life of East York the Community desired to retain the unique architecture of this 1959 flying saucer. The circular shape, low gluelam timber ceilings, inadequate environmental and lighting systems presented a challenge.

A large glazed vestibule along the east side links tennis courts and parking to the north with pedestrian access from the southeast to the former East York Town Centre; creating a single Library entrance.

Raising the centre to become a lofty rotunda bathing the central area with natural light creates a focus for the Library. A grand stair links the rotunda to the lower level cafe, auditorium and children's area.

A new copper clad roof above the existing provides a plenum for mechanical systems leaving the original glulams intact, improves the performance of the building envelope, and allows for natural daylight demonstrating sustainable architecture can be achieved while preserving important heritage assets.

2009