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### S.F.'s Parkside library back after makeover

Jessica Kwong, Chronicle Staff Writer

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Vanessa Kong (right) and Robyn Erler (left in the back), employees at the Parkside Library Branch are labeling books on the shelf for the official opening of the Branch this Saturday. Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010 in San Francisco, Calif. Photo: Jana Asenbrennerova, Special To The Chronicle



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A decade after the [San Francisco Public Library](#) got the green light to renovate or reconstruct 24 of its branches, the first one designed to meet specific green building standards sprouts in Parkside today.

Closed for 1 1/2 years, the Parkside branch library was gutted and got a 1,066-square-foot addition. The last thing to be set up before the

1 p.m. ribbon-cutting was a microphone for festivities with Chinese lion dancers, state Sen. [Leland Yee](#), Supervisor [Carmen Chu](#) and community members.

"It was in pretty bad shape for the past few years. The cork floor was beat up, the different areas were not very well defined," recalled [Sylvia Terpstra](#), 56, who lives less than a block away. "I would usually go to the West Portal branch. It was an excuse to take a walk."

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Apart from new biodegradable cork flooring and a designated teen area, the branch was upgraded with movable shelves in the children's section, more computers and laptops, a working gas fireplace and larger restrooms.

The building also got a handicapped-accessible entry ramp and seismic strengthening - all while preserving the large windows, reading courtyard and other architectural features that make it "a good example" of an Appleton & Wolfard library, said Mindy Linetzky, bond program administrator for the Branch Library Improvement Program.

Built in 1951, the Parkside branch was the first of eight libraries in the city designed by Appleton & Wolfard in the 1950s and 1960s.

"We upgraded it and made it more functional but still kept the basic charm of the building," Linetzky said.

The Parkside branch is the 15th of 24 library construction projects that are funded by the \$105.9 million Branch Library Improvement Bond measure voters passed in November 2000.

### City tab \$4.7 million

Renovation costs for the Parkside branch totaled \$4.7 million for the city. The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library raised \$500,000 for furniture, fixtures and equipment.

"From the community itself we raised about \$100,000. The jump-on-the-bandwagon enthusiasm from the people has been very heartening," said Marian Chatfield-Taylor, director of community programs for the Friends.

As the first branch built to meet silver certification standards under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system, the Parkside branch serves as "a model for what might work for the other nine branches" awaiting completion in the program, said library spokeswoman Michelle Jeffers.

Libraries completed before the Parkside branch do not meet silver certification standards because they were already under construction.

"When we started, the bond had not anticipated such a push for green buildings, so for us to be a part of it and make necessary changes is important," said City Librarian Luis Herrera.

The Park and Presidio branches are the next two branches scheduled for completion in the first half of 2011. Construction for the Bayview/Anna E. Waden branch will begin early next year, while the North Beach branch timeline is pending.

Jensa Woo, the acting branch manager, said members of Abraham Lincoln High School a block away, and the Parkside neighborhood in general, have been asking about the reopening.

### Full after school

"It's really been conspicuous in its absence," said Joel Balzer, a dean at the high school. "Before it closed, 20, 30, even 40 students went after school. I fully expect it to be inundated."

Marshall Terpstra, 55, is glad the wait is over.

With the brand-new library just steps away from their home, Sylvia Terpstra said, she and her husband won't have to go out of their way to other branches as often.

"We'll have to think of a different excuse to take a walk somewhere else," she said.



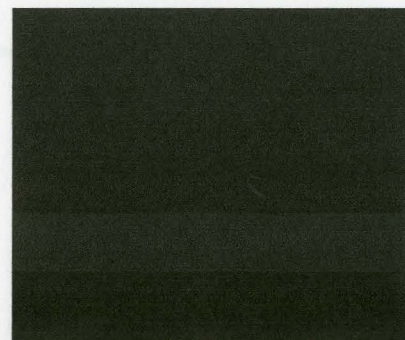
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