



**BRONX LIBRARY CENTER  
NEW YORK, N.Y.**

**90%** of demolition debris recycled

**20%** energy cost savings

**80%** of wood is FSC certified

**LEED® Facts**

**Bronx Library Center  
New York, N.Y.**

LEED for New Construction  
Certification awarded July 27, 2006

**Silver 34\***

Sustainable Sites 7/14

Water Efficiency 3/5

Energy & Atmosphere 3/17

Materials & Resources 7/13

Indoor Environmental  
Quality 9/15

Innovation & Design 5/5

*\*Out of a possible 69 points*



## BRONX LIBRARY CENTER

# Resourceful Design

The Bronx Library Center offers a fresh look and a range of opportunities.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

When it opened in early 2006, the Bronx Library Center replaced the nearby Fordham Library Center. At five stories and 178,000 square feet, the new library is three times the size of the facility it replaced. It has also welcomed twice as many visitors, loaned three times as many books and other items, and issued five times as many new library cards as the previous facility. The library boasts more than 150 public-access computers in addition to more than 200,000 books, magazines, videos, audiotapes, CD-ROMs, and DVDs. When it earned a LEED® Silver rating in July 2006, the \$53 million library became New York City's first municipal building to achieve LEED certification.

## BORROWING A PAGE FROM RETAIL DESIGN

The project team designed the Bronx Library Center to make visitors feel as if they are stepping into a modern bookstore. A dramatic glass façade welcomes the library community inside to reading areas, connecting occupants to the surrounding community. The ground floor, or "loud floor," also features a Teen Center, where speakers and flat-screen TVs infuse the space with sounds and images. The library regularly hosts public events in its auditorium, conference rooms, and classrooms.

## STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

The glass curtainwall, which allows daylight into much of the library, is made of high-performance glass and insulated frames. Custom lightshelves and translucent shades support the building's effective use of natural light. Photosensors and occupancy sensors ensure that electric lights are turned off when rooms are unoccupied or sufficiently daylight. ENERGY STAR® roofing reflects solar heat, limiting the project's contribution to the urban heat-island effect and reducing internal cooling loads. When the weather allows, the building uses outside air for cooling. Combined, the energy-efficient strategies are anticipated to reduce the library's energy costs by 20%.

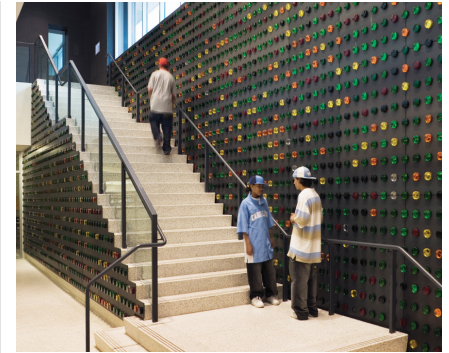
The project team selected materials based on their environmental characteristics. Materials with recycled content include the foundation, structural steel, carpeting, and terrazzo and linoleum flooring. About 80% of the wood used in the library, by cost, was certified to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards. The paints, adhesives, and sealants feature low chemical emissions, and the composite wood products have no added urea-formaldehyde. More than half of the building materials were manufactured within 500 miles of the site, and a recycling plan diverted 90% of all construction and demolition waste from the landfill.

## ABOUT THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Created in 1895, the New York Public Library comprises four research centers and 86 branch libraries. Its research and circulating collections include more than 50 million items. The New York Public Library serves more than 15 million visitors, and another 21 million online users, each year.

"In conceiving this major new library for the Bronx, we were determined to make a contribution to the environment. Many of the environmental features, such as the striking glass façade and extensive use of natural light, have helped make the library a welcoming and comfortable place for the more than 700,000 visitors."

Paul LeClerc, Ph.D.,  
President of the New York Public Library



**Architect and Interior Architect:** Dattner Architects  
**Owner:** The New York Public Library  
**Owner's Representative:** Walter Associates, Ltd.  
**Construction Manager:** F.J. Sciamè Construction Company, Inc.  
**Structural Engineer:** Severud Associates Consulting Engineers, P.C.  
**MEP Engineer:** Robert Derector Associates  
**Geotechnical and Civil Engineer:** Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.  
**Landscape Designer:** MKW & Associates, LLC  
**Lighting Consultant:** Domingo Gonzalez Associates, Inc.  
**Sustainable Design Consultant:** Jonathan Rose Companies, LLC  
**Commissioning Agent:** Steven Winter Associates, Inc.  
**Photograph Courtesy of:**

**Project Size:** 78,000 square feet  
**Total Project Cost:** \$53 million  
**Cost per square foot:** \$679

## ABOUT LEED

The LEED® Green Building Rating System™ is the national benchmark for the design, construction, and operations of high-performance green buildings. Visit the U.S. Green Building Council's web site at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org) to learn more about LEED and green building.



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