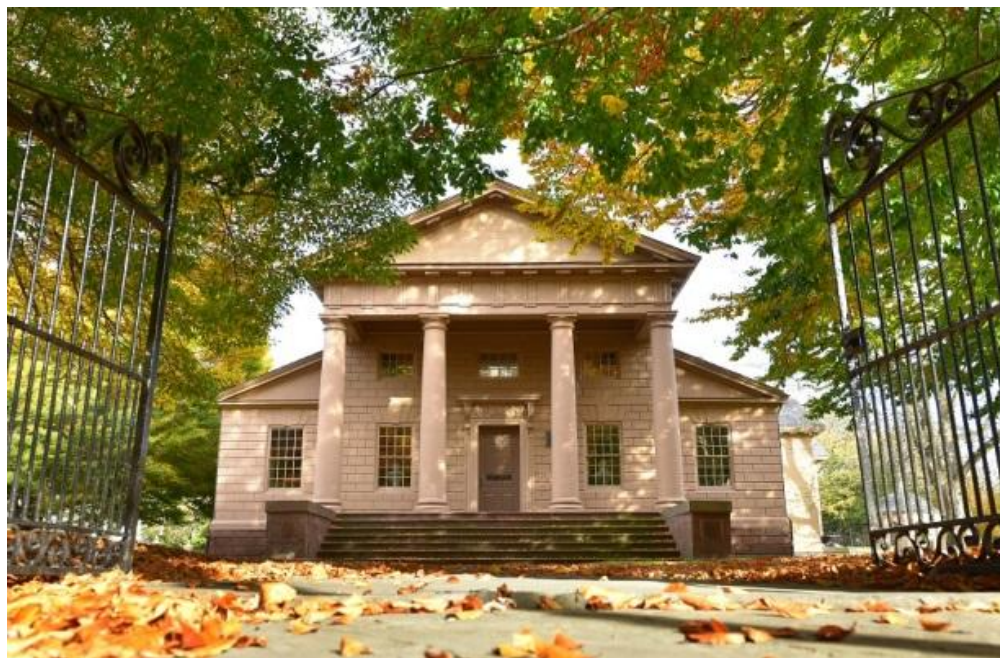


Back to the Future: An Athenaeum for the Digital Age

Benedict Leca

Executive Director at the Redwood Library & Athenaeum



Reinvention: Thriving in the 21st Century
Mechanics' Institute Library
November 5, 2016

Reinvention and tradition at the margins



Acropolis, Athens

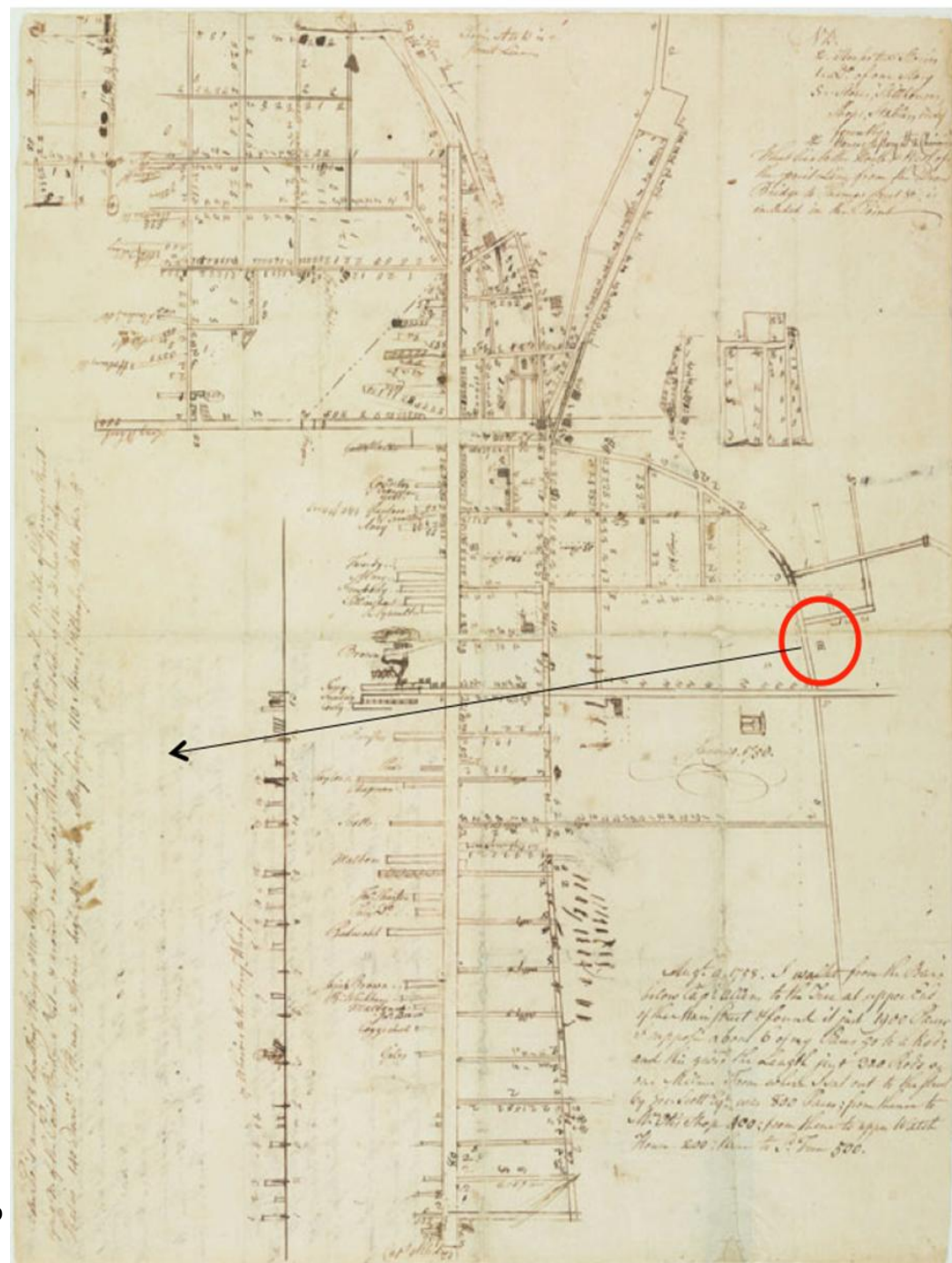


Redwood Library &
Athenaeum



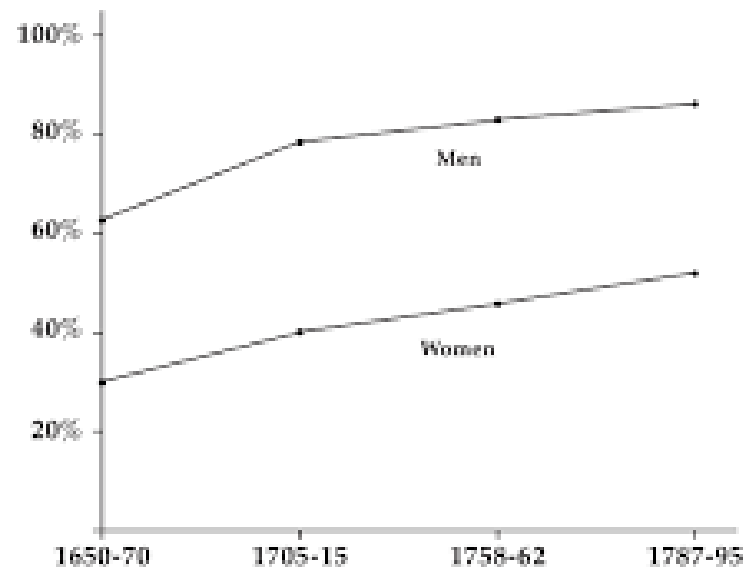
Today one can only catch a very narrow glimpse of Narragansett Bay from some of the east-west oriented streets

Temple of knowledge prominently located on top of a hill to be seen from the banks of Narragansett Bay





Abraham Redwood (1709-1788)



Literacy rates in early America



Benjamin Franklin by John Trumbull
ca. 1776
Yale University Art Gallery



Joseph Marie Terray by Alexander Roslin
1774

What Will Become of the Library?

How it will evolve as the world goes digital.

By Michael Agresta



What's missing from these four pictures of library interiors?

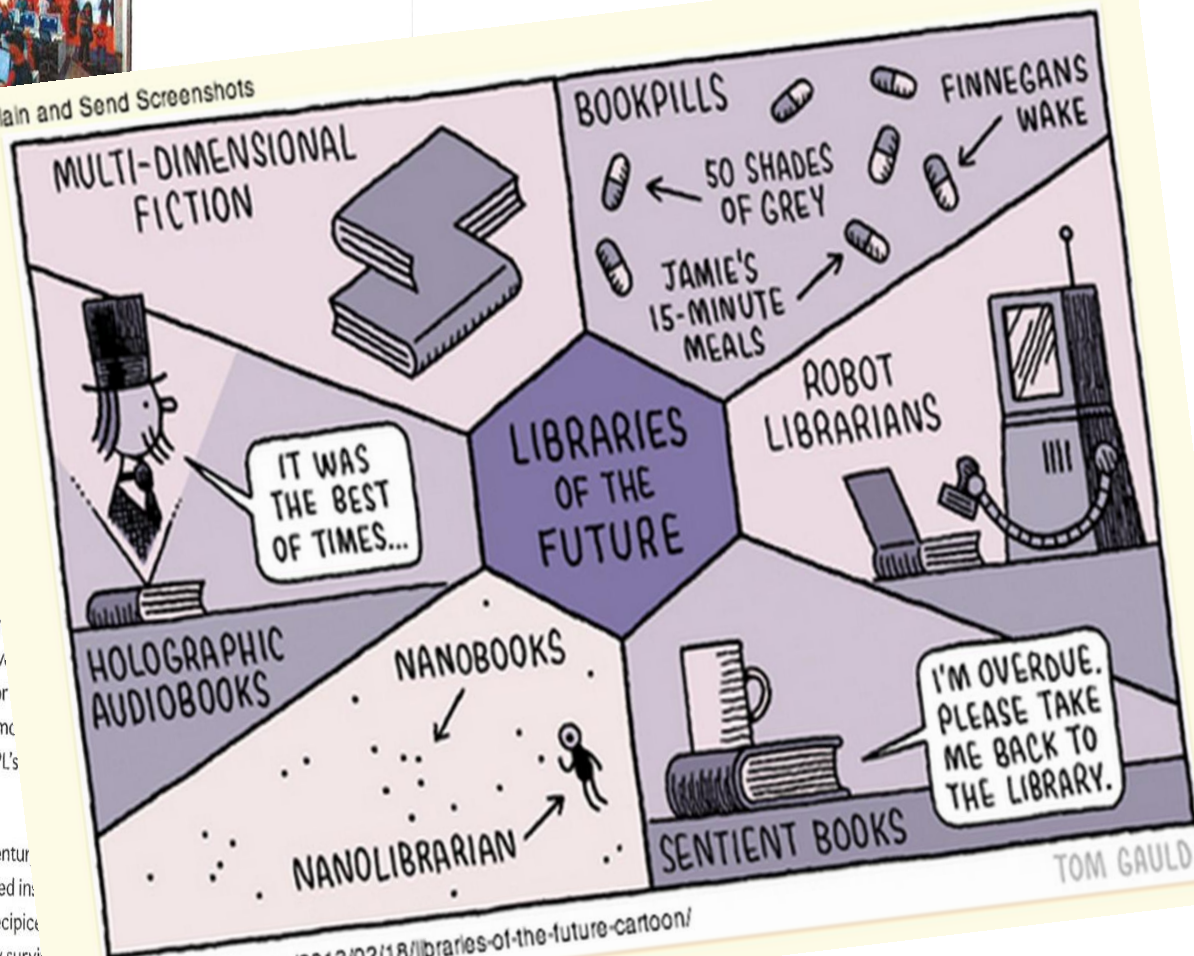
Photo by Tom Reiser from the book *Building Ideas: An Architectural Guide to the Un*
Bibliotheca/Facebook; Photo courtesy Mitch Altman/Flickr; Photo

Around the turn of the 20th century—a golden age for libraries in America—the Snea new system for large-stack library shelving. Snea's multistoried stack systems can still be found for instance at Harvard, Columbia, the Vatican, and at Bryant Park in New York City. But stacks provided load-bearing structural support to these venerable buildings. To remove

A recent attempt by the New York Public Library to do away with stacks at its main branch in New Jersey invited just this concern. Engineers described the idea of removing the shelving, "the legs off the table while dinner is being served." The plan was to transform the interior into a massive storage space for books with a few reading rooms attached—to a modern library with a few books on-site. An outcry from scholars and preservationists may yet halt the NYPL's plan, which would keep more of the collection on-site, awaits a final verdict later this year.*

That decision will be just one milestone in the rapidly developing identity crisis of 21st-century libraries. Publishing, journalism, and the university, to name a few—the library finds itself on a precipice. What will libraries be for, if not storing and circulating books? With their hearts cut out, how can they survive?

Explain and Send Screenshots



<http://ebookfriendly.com/2013/02/18/libraries-of-the-future-cartoon/>



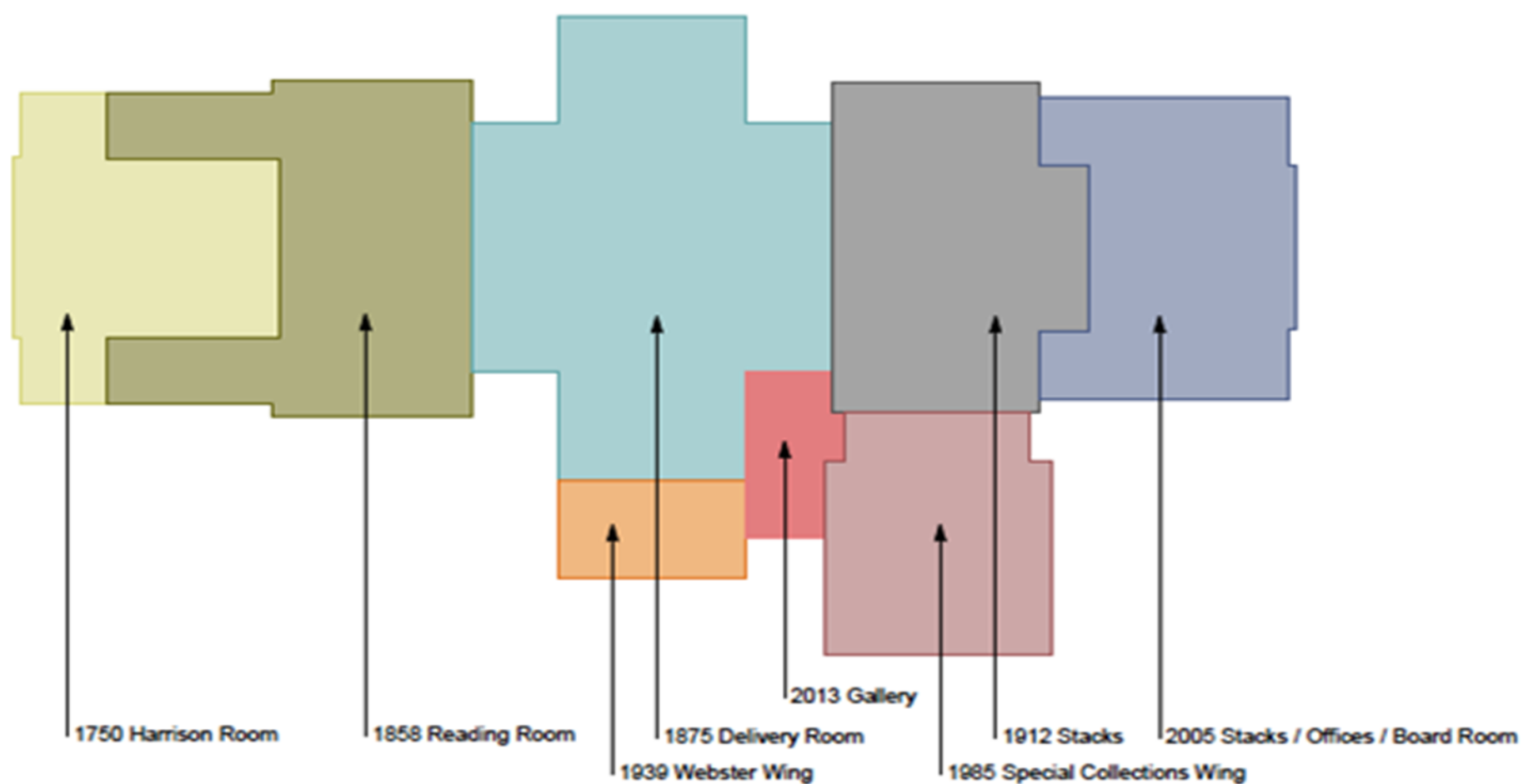
The Waalse Krook library



Utrecht, Netherlands



Czech National Library



ANDREA PALLADIO'S

Architecture.

FOUR BOOKS

*Containing a Dissertation on the Five Orders
of most Pleasant Observations relating to all kinds of*

BUILDING.

as also

The Different Constructions of Public and Private
Houses, Highways, Bridges, Market Places, Nythes,
& Temples, wth their Plans, Sections, & Elevations.

*The Whole Containing 226. Copper Plates
Carefully Revised and Redrawn*

BY

EDWth HOPKIN'S Surveyor to the Corporation of the London Assurance
and Contributor to a large Variety of Charming Places
Collected from the Works of Inigo Jones &c.

LONDON

Printed for Benjth Cole Engraver

at the corner of Kings Head Court near St. Dunstons Church
& John Milner opposite the new Church in the Strand.

MDCCXXXVI

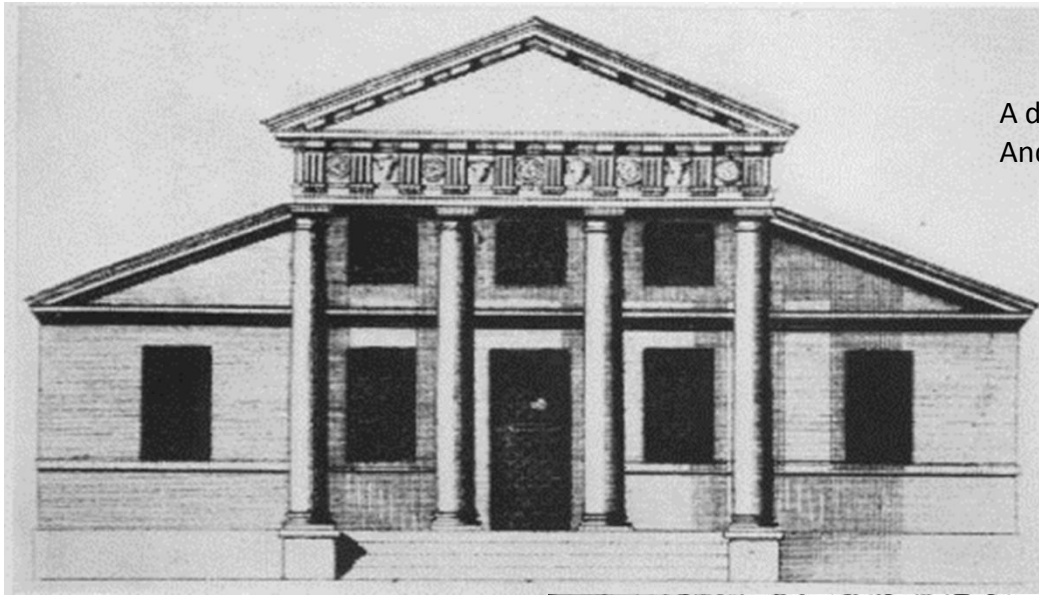
This first small Paper is about 6 1/2 x 9 1/2 the large Paper 10 1/2 x 14 1/2



The Redwood Library in 1767
Watercolor drawing in the notebook of Pierre Eugène du Simitière

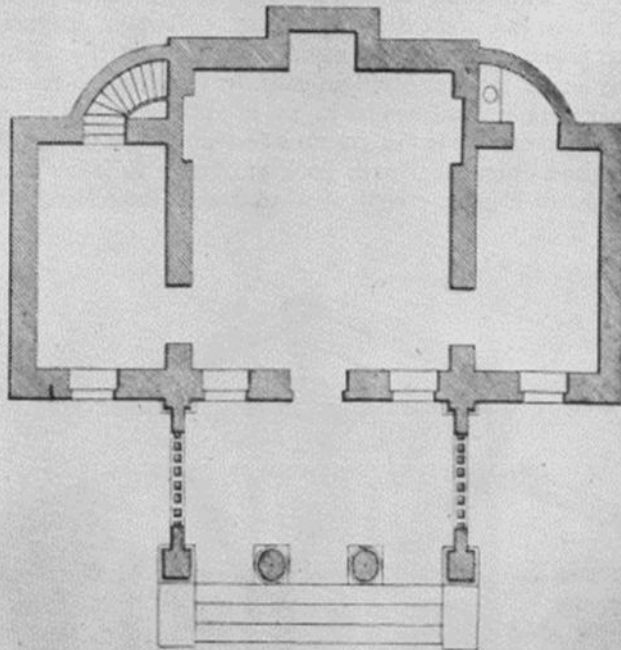
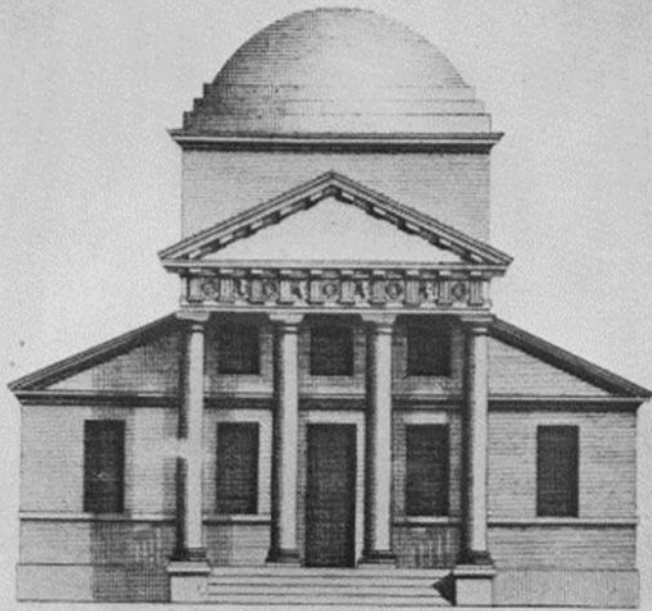
Anglo Palladianism

Inigo Jones
Colen Campell
William Kent
Giacomi Leoni
Earl of Burlington
Edward Hoppus
Isaac Ware
Batty Langley

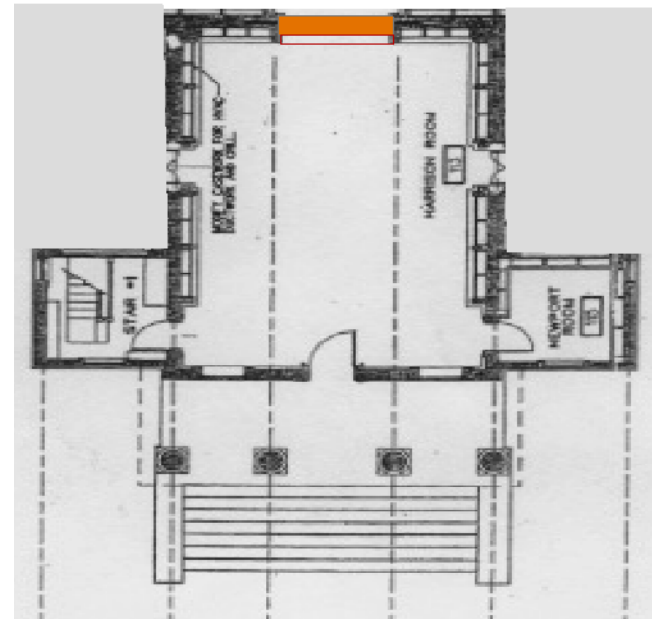


A design in vogue in England and published in the Fourth Book of
Andrea Palladio's Architecture

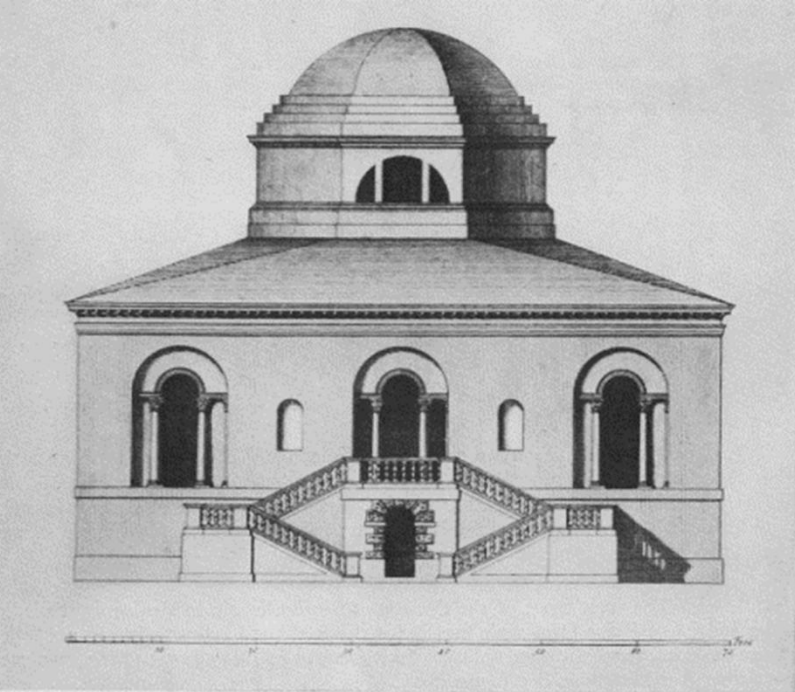




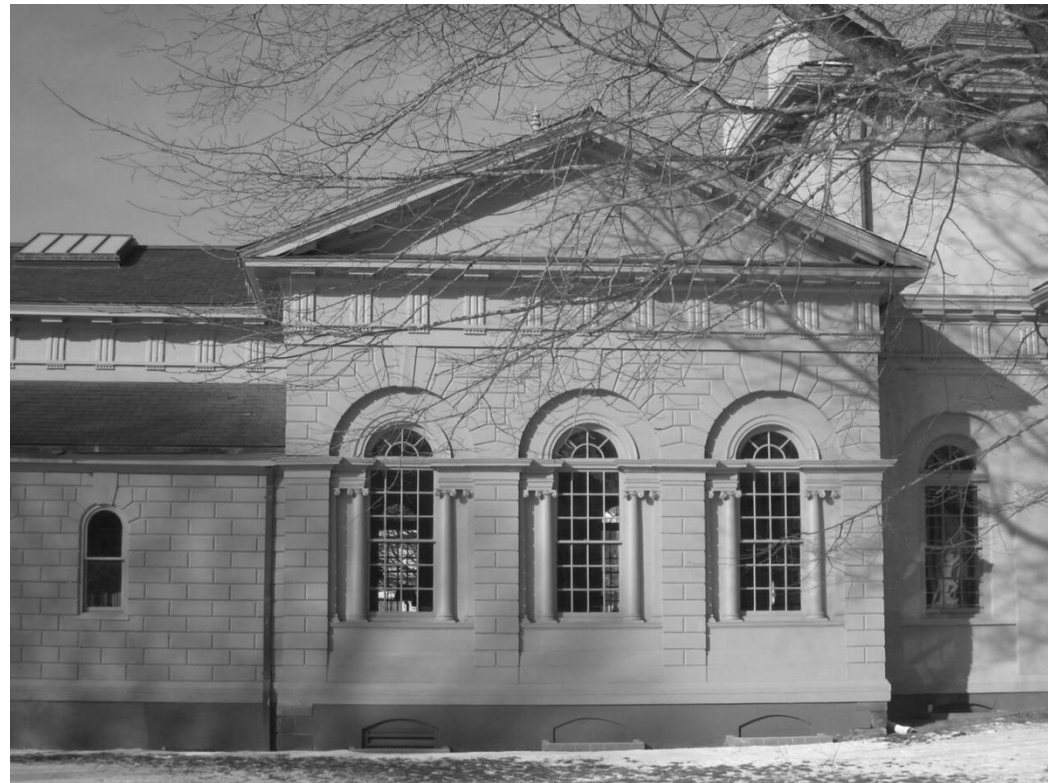
Plan of Harrison Room



Garden Pavillion designed by William Kent for
Sir Charles Hotham
Published by Isaac Ware in Designs of Inigo Jones and others (1735)



Earl of Burlington, House in Chiswick
 Published in William Kent, Design of Inigo Jones (1727)
 Edward Hoppus, Fourth Book, Andrea Palladio's Architecture



South Elevation of the Reading Room
 Translocation of the three Venetian windows

ATHENÆUM, in antiquity, a public place wherein the professors of the liberal arts held their assemblies, the rhetoricians declaimed, and the poets rehearsed their performances.

These places, of which there were a great number at Athens, were built in the manner of amphitheatres, encompassed with seats called *cunei*. The three most celebrated athenæa were those at Athens, at Rome, and at Lyons, the second of which was built by the emperor Adrian.

- A New and Complete Dictionary of Arts and Sciences, Volume 1, 1763

In 1833 its name was changed to the Company of the Redwood Library and Athenaeum **to reflect its growth as an educational and cultural institution."**

- David Stam International Dictionary of Library Histories (2001)



Historic Site



Research
Center



Museum

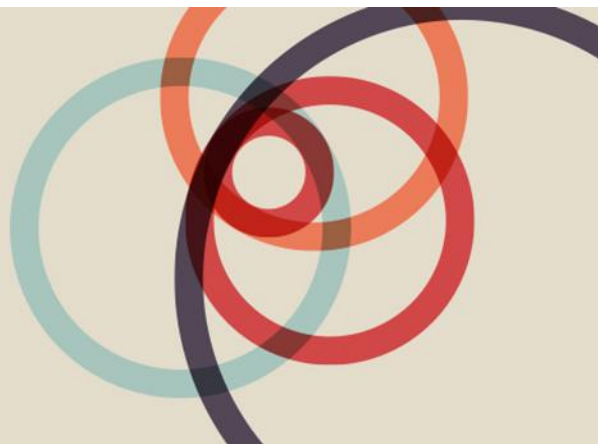


Lending Library and Reading Room



John Nicholas Brown
Center for Public Humanities
and Cultural Heritage

Education, research, and public engagement
initiatives to connect individuals and
communities to art, history, and culture.



PUBLIC HUMANITIES

Public Humanities Symposium 2015

Sat, Apr 11
Presentations by participating
institutions from 9am-1pm at the
Robert L. McNeil, Jr. Lecture Hall
at the Yale Art Gallery:

BARD GRADUATE CENTER,
Decorative Arts, Design
History, Material Culture
(New York, NY) BROWN UNI-
VERSITY, John Nicholas
Brown Center for Public
Humanities & Cultural Heri-
tage (Providence, RI) THE
GRADUATE CENTER, CUNY,
The Futures Initiative and GC
Initiatives (New York, NY)
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
Interdisciplinary Center for
Innovative Theory and Empli-
cs & Columbia Center for
Oral History Research
(INCITE- CCOH) (New York,
NY) LEHIGH UNIVERSITY,
South Side Initiative, Depart-
ments of History and English,
Programs in Africana, Ameri-
can, and Women, Gender and
Sexuality Studies (Bethle-
hem, PA) RUTGERS UNIVER-
SITY- NEWARK, Clement A.
Price Institute on Ethnicity,
Culture, and the Modern
Experience (Newark, NJ)
UNIVERSITY OF MASSA-
CHUSETTS- BOSTON, Pro-
gram in Public History
(Boston, MA) YALE UNIVER-
SITY, Public Humanities at
Yale, American Studies (New
Haven, CT)

Sponsored by
Public Humanities at Yale, American
Studies, Discretionary Fund in the
Yale College Dean's Office, The Pho-
tographic Memory Workshop,
National Performance Network

Public Humanities Project: Boston Middle Passage

By Emily Kugler
on May 25, 2015



21st Century Patrons

| Traditional: | Digital Immigrant: | Digital Native: |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Not a digital immigrant, patrons to whom public libraries have virtually always catered.</p> <p>35 million + Great Generation, Silent Generation (65 and over)</p> | <p>Did not grow up with digital technology, but has learned to use it, and integrate it into their life as necessary.</p> <p>45 million + GenX (46 and under), 60 million + Baby Boomers (64 and under)</p> | <p>Grew up learning digital technology, and has become dependant on it as an integral part of their life.</p> <p>75 million + Millennials (GenY) (28 and under)</p> |



[Search the Catalog](#)

Your Account

About the Library

Membership and Su



Newpor

The Redwood i
pm for a dyna
Prokofiev to th
promises to b

[Read More](#)

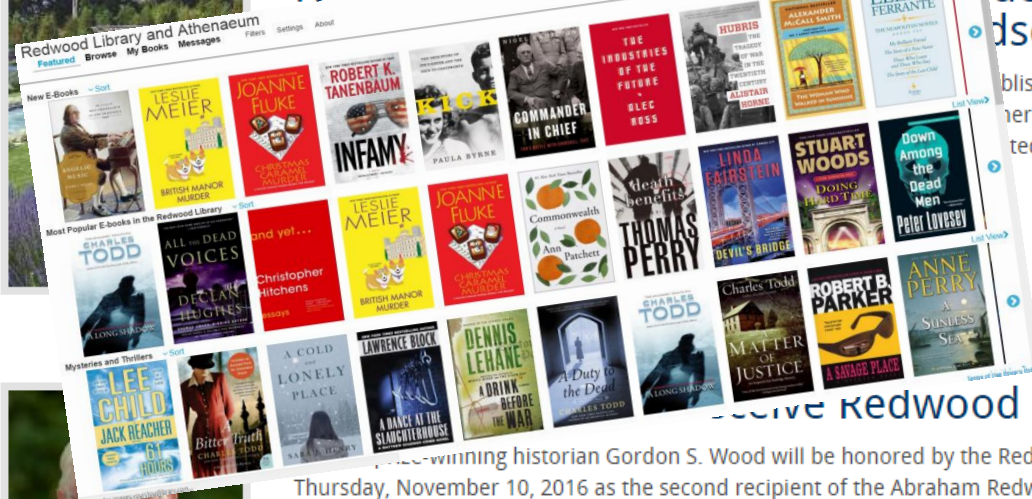
[\[edit \]](#)

Date: Sunday, November 20, 2016 - 3:00pm to 4:00pm

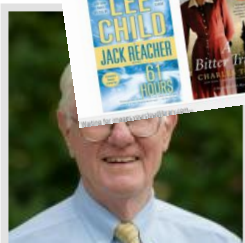
Author: lwhite



Now Available:



Prize-winning historian Gordon S. Wood will be honored by the Redwood Library on Thursday, November 10, 2016 as the second recipient of the Abraham Redwood Memorial Contributions to American History and Culture. The event will take place at 5:30 pm in the Theatre, where Wood will... [Read More](#)

[Read More](#)

Blue Garden: Landscape

Published volume
by Carlo A.
ted book to



Hours & Contact

theredwoodlibrary [Edit Profile](#) ...

267 posts 524 followers 283 following

Redwood Library & Athenaeum Founded in 1747, we are America's oldest lending library. Gordon S. Wood to Receive Redwood Medal buff.ly/2dOlcD9



...having nothing in view but the good of mankind." These words were written by our founder Abraham Redwood at the creation of our library and



August Belmont Memorial Chapel

Do Lord Remember Me
The Black Church

The Way Forward...Athenaeum in its many roles

- Locus of community engagement
- Culture and education as catalyst
- Programmatic Innovation
- Compelling Activation of Public Spaces
- Visitor Experience
- Engagement beyond Buildings
- Financial Stability



Athenaeum as public forum

Newport Entrance Forum

With participation of Newport
Restoration Foundation and
Newport Historical Society
May 22, 2016



Athenaeum as public forum



World Ocean Day

Collaboration with Sailors for the Sea
June 9, 2016



Athenaeum as a cultural & educational center

Rochambeau National Park Service Project
June 17, 2016





Pell School 1st Graders Class Field Trip
June 23, 2016

Athenaeum as a cultural & educational center





Athenaeum as a cultural & educational center



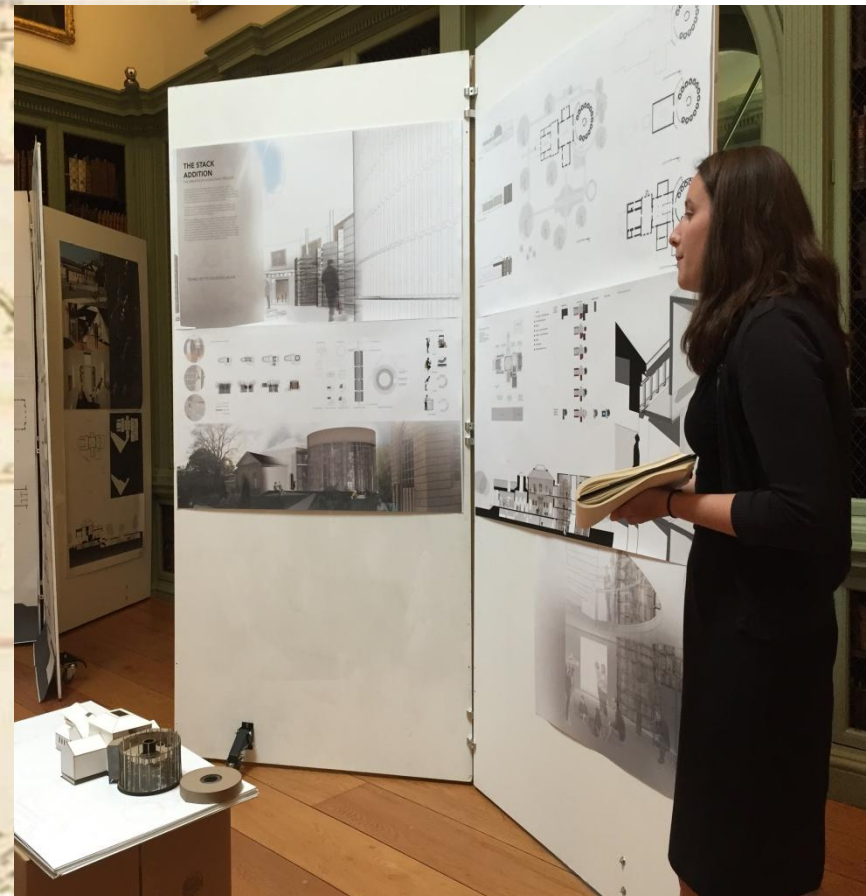
Athenaeum as a cultural & educational center

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

February 25, 2016, 5:30-7pm
The Terry Reading Room

Please join us for a discussion
on extensions in the history of
the Redwood Library.

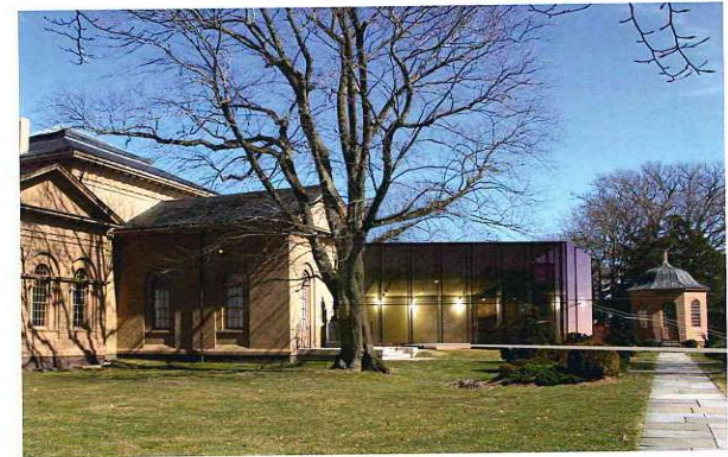
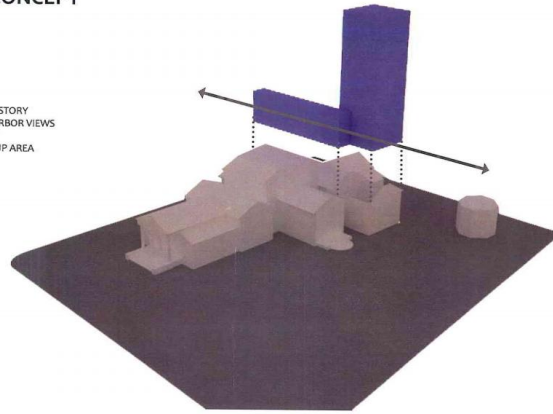
Studio and Event Series Sponsored by The van Beuren Charitable Foundation
in partnership with
The Redwood Library and Athenaeum and
The Department of Interior Architecture, Rhode Island School of Design



DESIGN CONCEPT

Shahid Ali

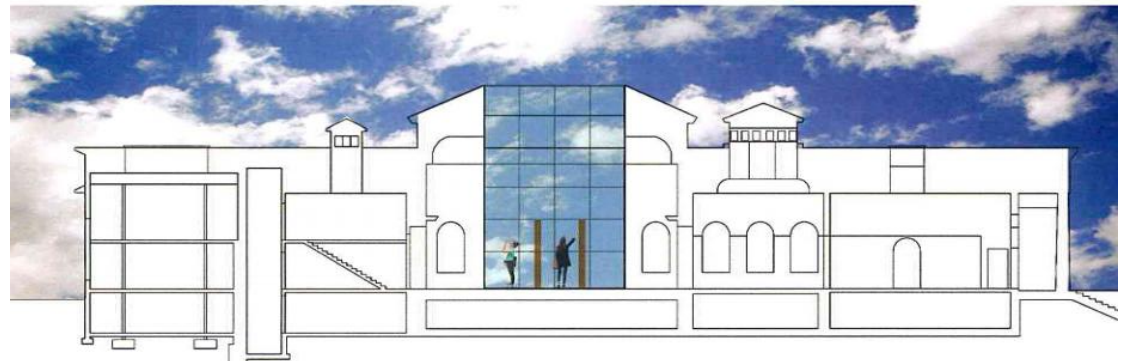
CONNECTION TO HISTORY
BRINGING BACK HARBOR VIEWS
ATTRACTION POINT
INCREASING BUILTUP AREA

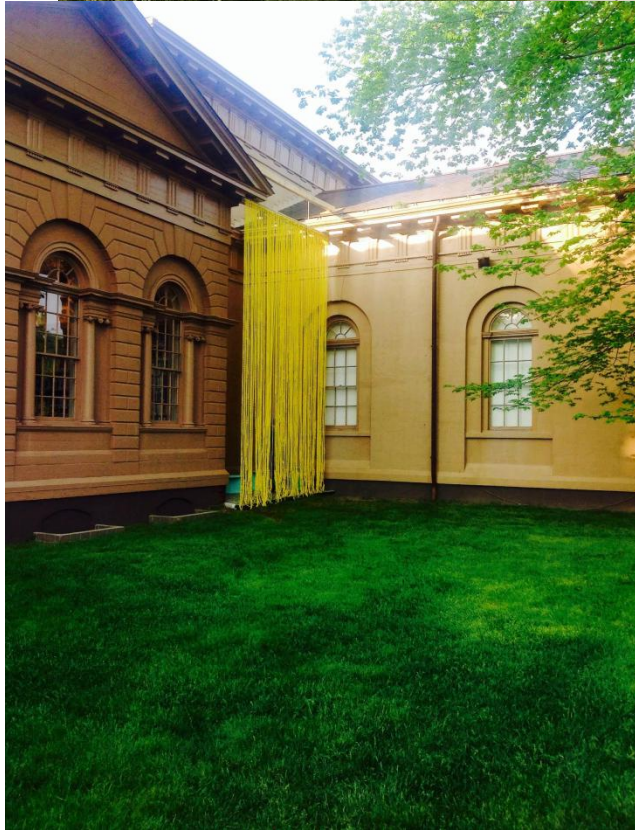


SKY IN THE LIBRARY BUILDING

mediatiqu

Sneha Sridhar | Fractures looking in
Redwood library- Proposal for redesign



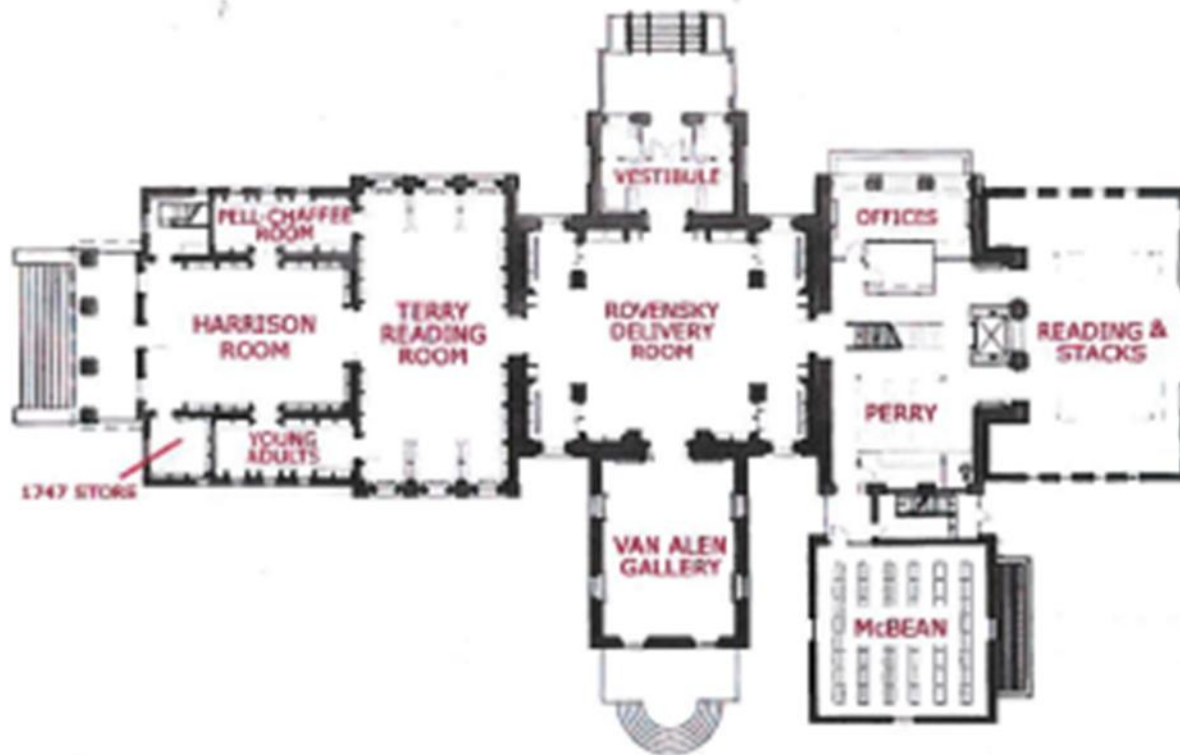




Athenaeum as museum



Facilities Map



Athenaeum as museum



Newport Designs
Opening Reception

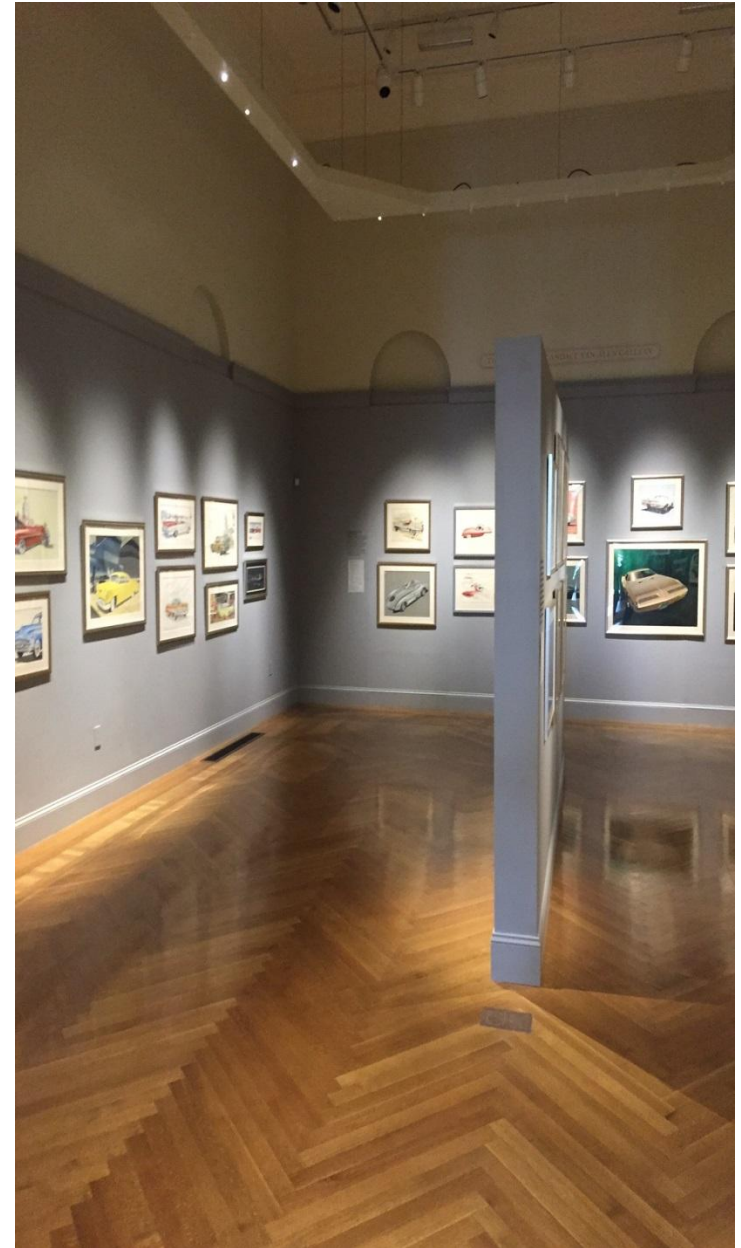
Collaboration with Newport
Architectural Forum
March 10, 2016

Athenaeum as museum



Future Retro: Car Drawings from the Great Age of American Automobiles

Collaboration with Audrain Automobile Museum

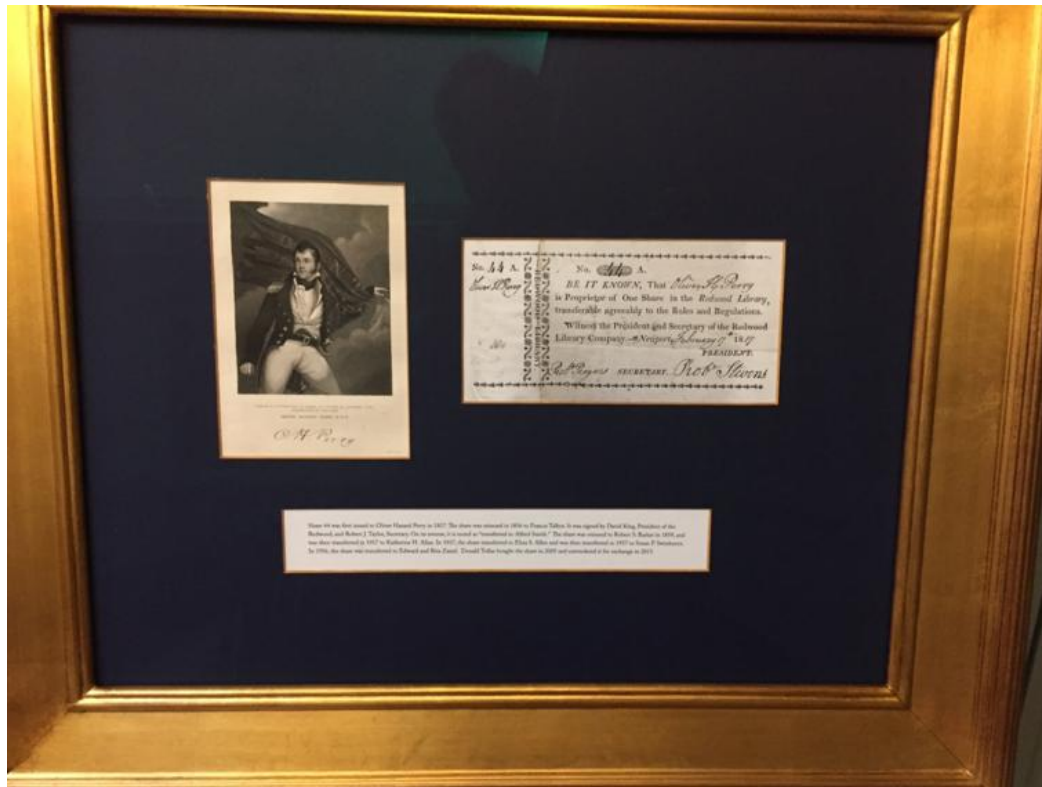


The Way Forward...Compelling Activation of Public Spaces



The Way Forward...

-Financial Stability



REDWOOD LIBRARY & ATHENÆUM

No. A.

BE IT KNOWN, That _____

is Proprietor of One Share in the REDWOOD LIBRARY AND ATHENÆUM transferable agreeably to the Rules, Regulations, and Vote of said Company.

Witness the President and Secretary of the Redwood Library and Athenæum.

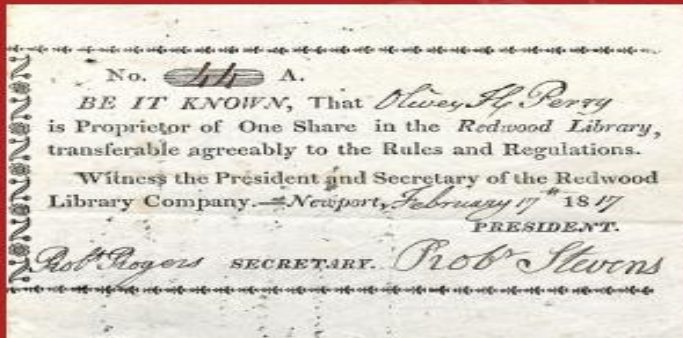
Newport, _____

PRESIDENT.

SECRETARY.

Shares Program for Debt Reduction

SHARES INITIATIVE: FOR NEW AND CURRENT SHAREHOLDERS



There are approximately 450 Redwood Shareholders, each of whom has either purchased or inherited an "Original Share." In some cases, shares have been passed down for generations, representing decades of heartfelt support for the Library. In fact, shares were first made available as a way to raise funds to preserve and maintain this important cultural icon. Throughout its 269 years, the Redwood has twice offered shares to raise funds: first in 1810, when civic-minded citizens sought to save the Redwood following the British occupation during the Revolutionary War; then again in 1857, when the Library planned its first expansion.

Over the years, some Original Shares have become available and the Redwood is now offering them as part of a special Shares

Initiative, with the express purpose of paying off the debt incurred in 2006. Longtime shareholders remember the comprehensive renovation, completed ten years ago, that restored the Redwood's National Historic Landmark structure, installed museum-quality atmospherics, and expanded the Redwood's on-site capacity. Generous members and donors raised nearly \$18 million to achieve these important goals. Unexpected extra costs required a \$2 million bond, which has been reduced to under \$1 million after a decade of annual bond payments and a generous donation of \$400,000 from Mr. Les Ballard. The Library now seeks to retire this debt as the first step of a campaign to secure the Redwood's financial sustainability for years to come.

Some existing Shareholders have participated in this initiative by purchasing additional Shares for family members, friends, or themselves, while others have followed Mr. Ballard's lead by making a one-time donation specifically to this end. A supporter may purchase, for \$2,500, one of a limited number of unassigned historic original shares, or, if the person is already a Shareholder, he or she may join the ranks of those to be remembered as having paid off this debt by upgrading their share with a tax-deductible \$2000 gift to the Library for this purpose. Those who participate will be listed on a plaque to be featured near the entrance of the Library, there to be recognized in perpetuity as having secured the Redwood's physical integrity as well as its financial future. To date, 58 original shares have been purchased since the program began in 2015, and several generous gifts have been made to retire the debt, raising in total over \$550,000 for this purpose.

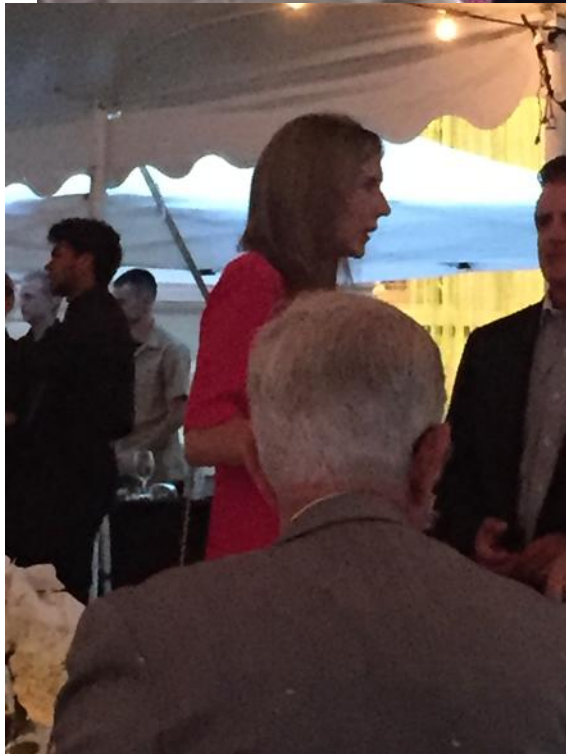
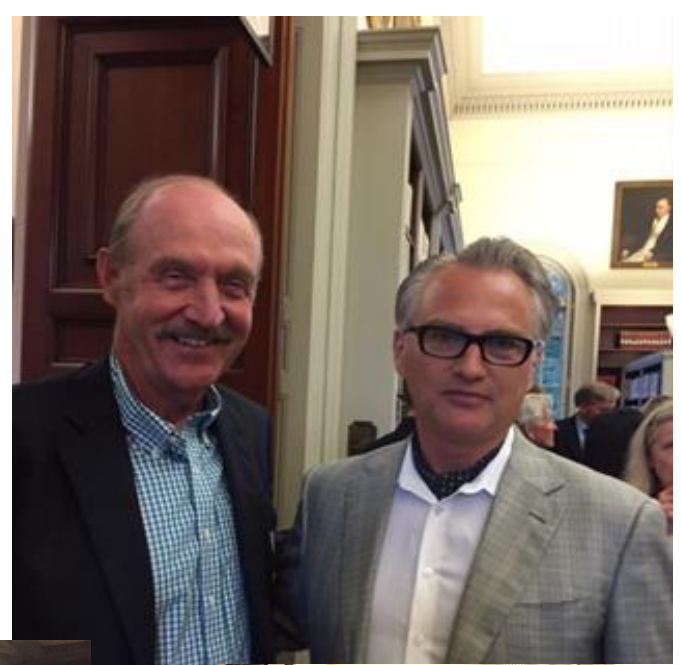
Thank you for considering the purchase of an additional share, or making a contribution to this initiative. Your gift will help us ensure the sustainability of one of Newport's most treasured cultural institutions, and you will continue the long history of past Shareholders, who saw a need and who stepped up to help. Those interested may contact Caroline Considine, at 401-847-0292, ext. 109 (cconsidine@redwoodlibrary.org) or Alyssa Gaudreau at 401-847-0292, ext. 115 (agaudreau@redwoodlibrary.org).



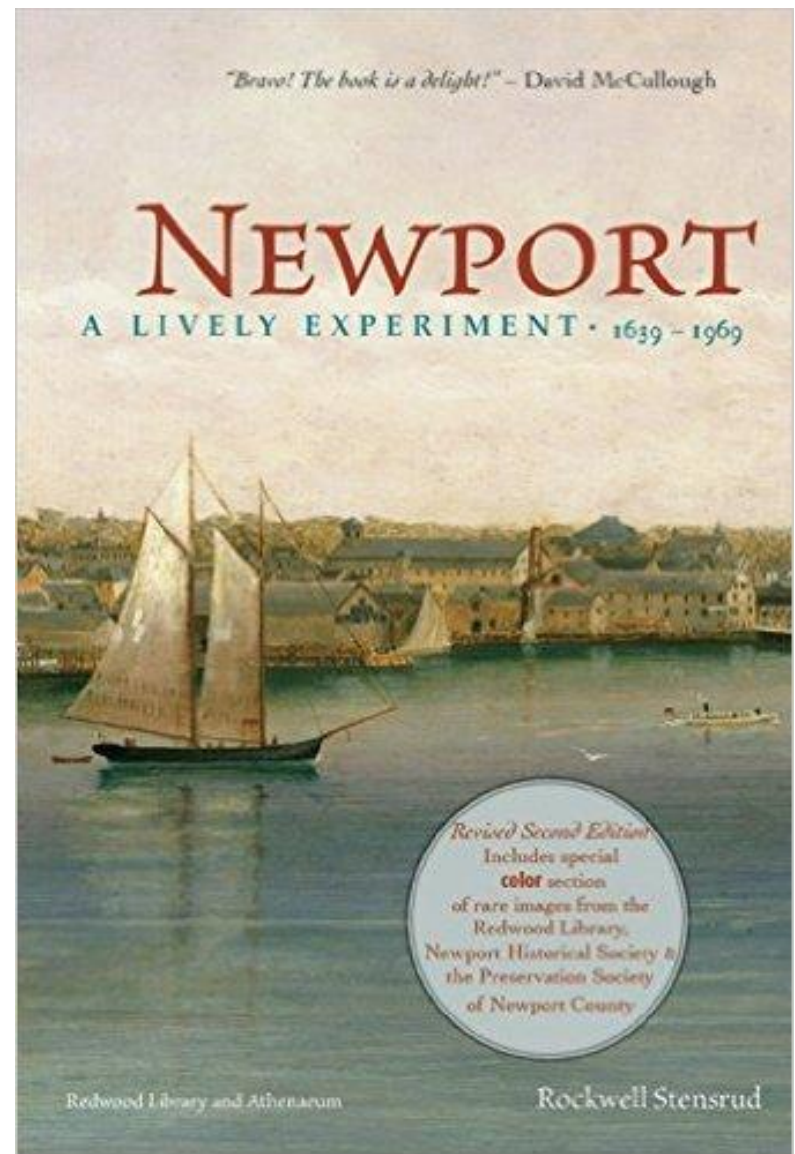
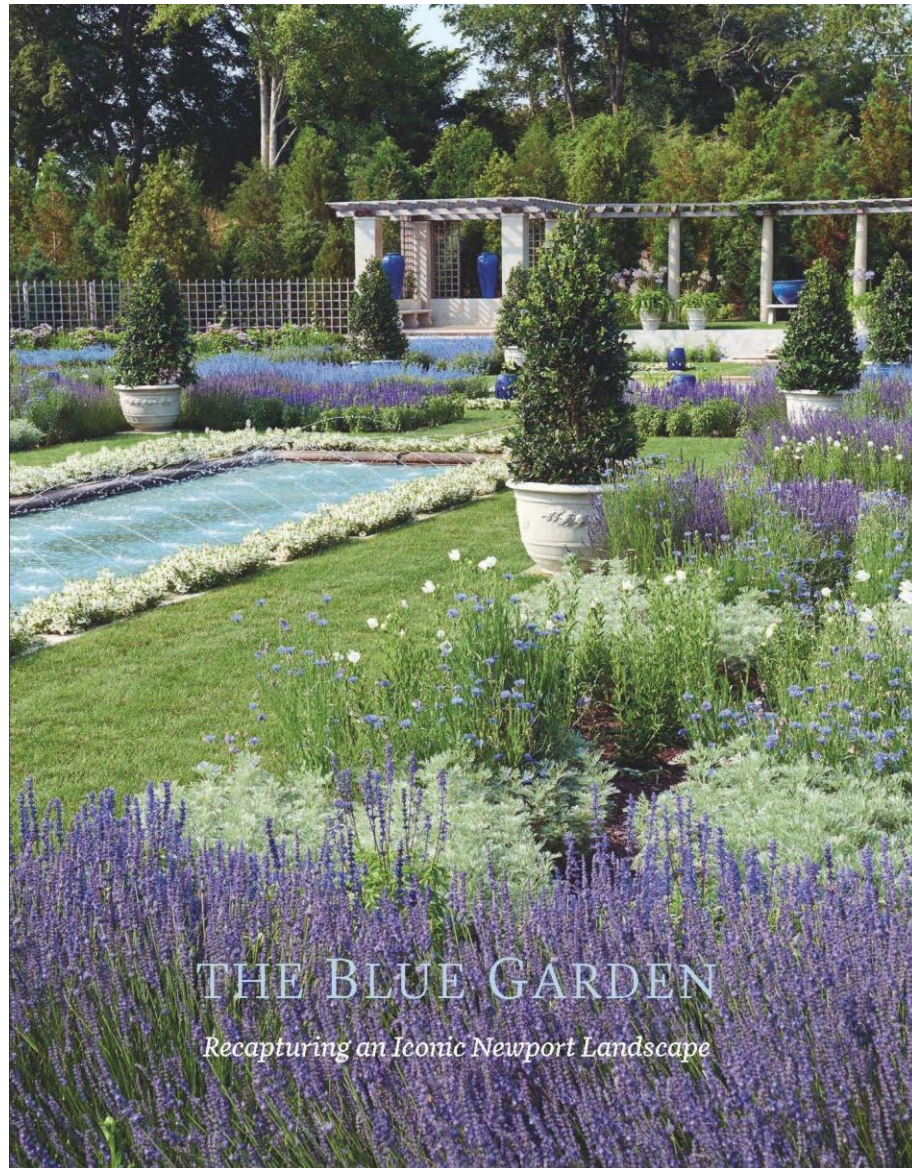
Strategic Partnerships



Tennis in Newport: June 1 – August 30, 2016

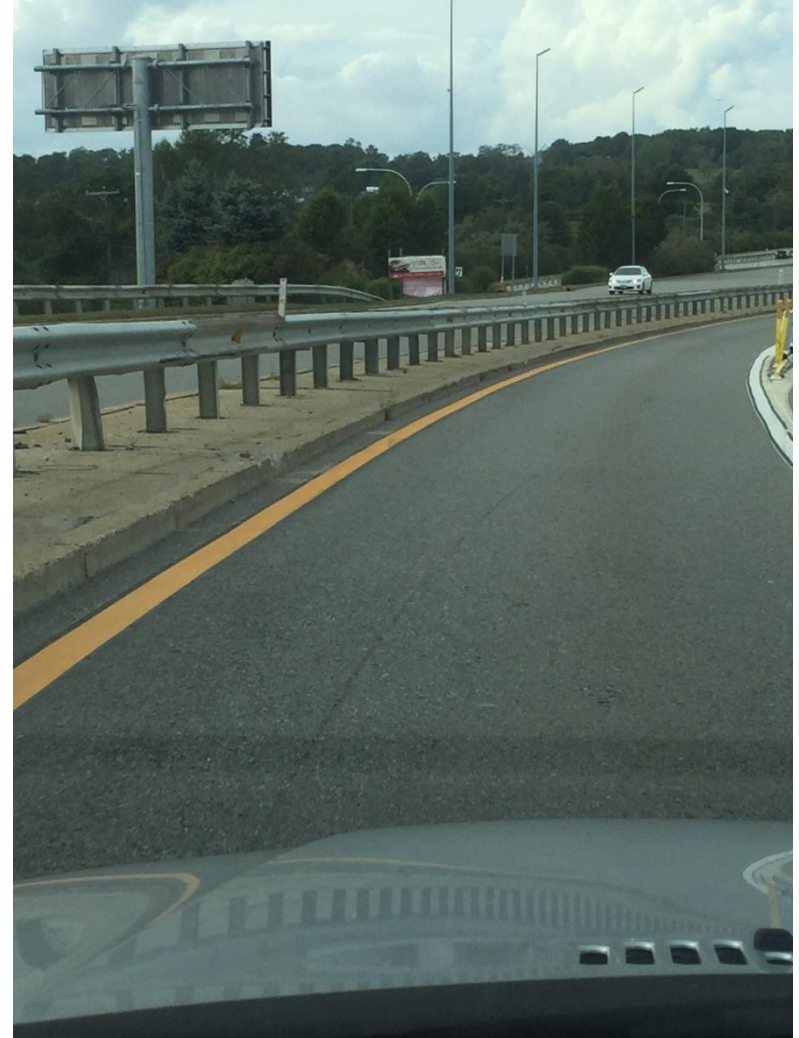


Athenaeum: Generating Knowledge in the “Republic of Letters”



The Way Forward...Financial Stability

Marketing and Outreach



BACK TO THE FUTURE

Twin exhibits celebrate the forward-thinking cars of yesteryear

By JEFF WRIGHT
and ZAK WRIGHT

In the postwar period, the future looks greater than it is.

Chrysler would later illustrate the vehicle, new people — the evolution of the car.

It's a very unusual feeling for the artist. Lane said the local artist's style was "total futurism." In 1950, Chrysler's "Futuristic" Division created the "Futuristic" car. At least two vehicle illustrations at the Redwood, a Tucker Model 48 and a 1957 Cadillac. Redwood City, Calif. also appear in about 1950 in the Auburn City.

"Futuristic" illustration by Arthur Lane, Chrysler's "Futuristic" Division.

Chrysler, right, is shown with some of the "Futuristic" car designs from the 1950s at the Redwood Library and Athenaeum in Redwood City.

FUTURE RETRO: CAR DRAWINGS FROM THE GREAT AGE OF AMERICAN AUTOMOBILES
Redwood Library
50 Bellevue Avenue, Redwood City
(415) 847-0292
redwoodlibrary.org
Mon. & Tues.

Page 12 Newport This Week July 28, 2016

MAINSHEET

Future Retro: Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future

An energetic and appreciative audience danced and sang along with entertainer Chris Norton during his knockout performance at the 2016 Redwood Library gala on July 8. More than 300 Redwood residents enjoyed a lively cocktail hour in the historic library then proceeded to the fabulously decorated tent on the Redwood lawn, where they enjoyed dinner and the music of Norton and his seven-piece band. The two dance floors remained full throughout the evening. A spirited group of "Young Friends" arrived after the dinner for a sing-along.

Looking ahead, future Retro: Car Drawings. The exhibition, presented by the Redwood Library and Athenaeum, is a celebration of the great age of American automotive art. Fifty-five and an additional 11 car designs, a top 10 list remain open through the annual Garden Party, season's most popular event. Many to be a traditional event available and may be viewed at 401-847-0292 x 115.

Planning gala fundraiser average in advance post-event photographs 847-7766, x 105 thisweek.net.



Jennifer Booth and Donald Christ



Heidi, Robert, and Harriet Menace



Leah Virginia



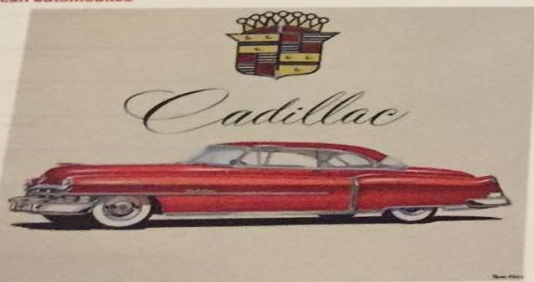
Car design drawings of the 1950s to the 1970s at the Redwood Library and Athenaeum, in collaboration with the Audrain Automobile Museum.

REDWOOD LIBRARY & ATHENAEUM
July 1 – October 31, 2016
Open late Wednesdays until 8:00 | Sundays 1:00 – 5:00
50 Bellevue Avenue | www.redwoodlibrary.org

Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Redwood Library and Athenaeum presents drawings from the great age of American automobiles

Redwood Library and Athenaeum presents drawings from the great age of American automobiles

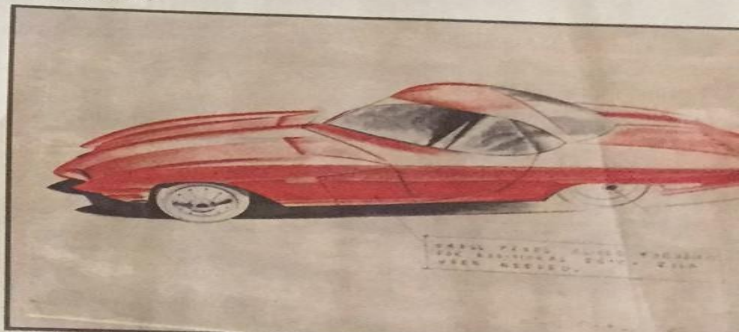


Cadillac Sedan 62 Coupe de Ville Model Year 1955

CARS BestRide

QUESTIONS? Peter Elsworth | 401-227-7493 | pete@providencejournal.com

MUSEUM SHOW



William Porter drew this proposed design for a red GM sports car in 1959. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/STEVE SZYDLARSKI

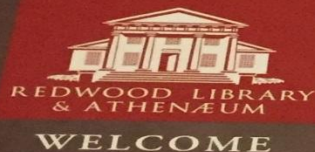
Art of the automobile

Redwood Library displays conceptual sketches, paintings used in ad campaigns from 1950s, '60s

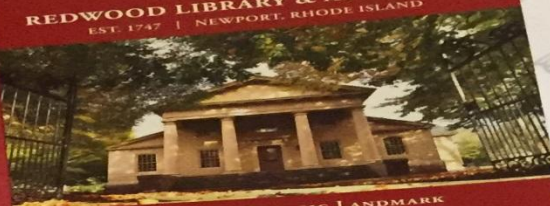
By Peter C.J. Elsworth
Journal Staff Writer

"Future Retro from the Great Age of American Automobiles" is a fascinating display of 1950s American automotive art at the Redwood Library and Athenaeum. The show runs through October.

The 53 works, from the Museum of Fine Arts, range from concept art and drawings made in advertising studios to full-scale



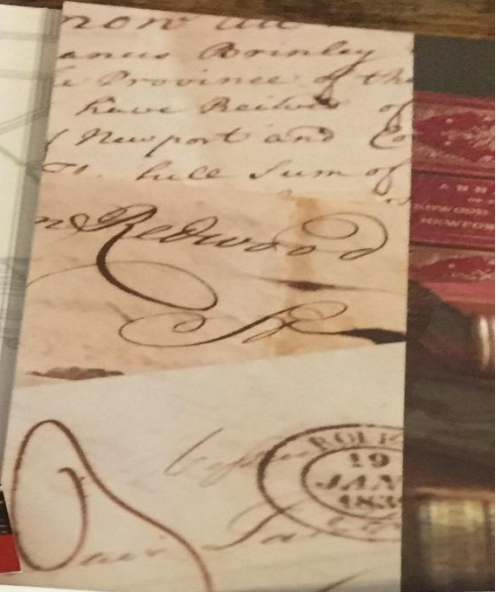
REDWOOD LIBRARY & ATHENÆUM
EST. 1747 | NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND



NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
LIBRARY, PORTRAIT GALLERY, ART MUSEUM
CULTURAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS
Visitors Welcome!



www.redwoodlibrary.org



HARRISON ROOM (continued)

12a



12b



12c



12d

12 Four early Gilbert Stuart paintings

The Library's collection of paintings by Gilbert Stuart includes *John Banister*, c. 1774-75 (12a), *Christian Banister and Son*, c. 1774-75 (12b), *Self-Portrait at 24*, c. 1778 (12c), and *Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse*, c. 1776 (12d). Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828) lived and studied art in Newport. Considered outstanding in his field, he spent his adult career in Newport, Scotland, London, Philadelphia, Boston and Washington, D.C., where he painted many familiar portraits, including the most famous images of George Washington.



13 Claggett Clock by
After more than 1' this tall-case clock Babcock, a descen black Japanned-la the-week slot plac hand corner has a at 47.5 minutes p William Claggett and repairer, auth experimenter in e

Athenaeum: the oldest and the newest



The lure & permanence of the book





As libraries cut budgets for books, patrons fight to keep them on shelves

By Michael S. Rosenwald
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The hallmark of public libraries — the printed book, bound by covers and centuries of page-turning — is being shoved aside by digital doppelgangers.

Around the country, libraries are slashing their print collections in favor of e-books, prompting battles between library systems and print purists, including not only the prepixel generation but digital natives who represent a sizable portion of the 1.5 billion library visits a year and prefer print for serious reading.

Some of the clashes have been heated. In New York, protesters outside the city's main branch have shouted: "Save the stacks! Save the stacks!"

In Northern Virginia, the Fairfax County library system chief recently mused that the Friends of the Library were no longer friends — a feud fueled by outrage over a print collection that has shrunk by more

than 300,000 books since 2009. The drop in Washington is even more dramatic: Nearly 1 million books have vanished since 2009.

"To say Gutenberg's days are over is a terrible mistake," said Dennis Hays, a former US ambassador and chairman of Fairfax Library Advocates, a group of residents at war with library officials. "Nothing can take the place of a book."

Librarians are feeling the heat.

"We're caught between two worlds," said Darrell Batson, director of the Frederick County Public Libraries system in Maryland, where the print collection has fallen 20 percent since 2009. "But libraries have to evolve or die. We're probably the classic example of Darwinism."

The evolution of information flow has forced their hands, librarians say. Just as books advanced from slabs of parchment to paperbacks, they are transforming again, from

paper to pixels. With Plato only a download away, libraries have lost their monopoly on knowledge.

In evolving, librarians are steering tight acquisition budgets to e-books, which are more expensive than print because, among other reasons, publishers fear large databases of free e-books will hurt their business. E-book spending has grown from 1 percent of library budgets to 7 percent, according to a Library Journal survey.

One library in San Antonio went much further, opening a bookless, all-digital branch called BiblioTech.

Meanwhile, print book budgets are slipping fast — from 67 percent of acquisitions in 2008 to 59 percent in 2015 — with reference titles bearing the biggest cuts so far. Asked why, Batson turned to his computer, opened his browser and typed www.google.com. "That's why," he said.

With the newfound physical space, libraries are adding



AMANDA VOISARD FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A boy read a book while other patrons used electronic equipment at Woodrow Wilson Library in Falls Church, Va.

rooms for community meetings, hacker spaces with 3-D printers, and entrepreneur centers to help small businesses.

In the process, centuries-old library traditions have been abandoned. Recent branch renovations in the region have grouped fiction and nonfiction titles together. There is a lot less shushing: Instead of discourag-

ing noise throughout the stacks, libraries now set aside special areas for quiet contemplation. Want to bring your lunch? No problem.

To library futurists, this is progress.

"For a lot of people, libraries represent a certain kind of quiet, a certain kind of place, a certain kind of book in large num-

bers," said Matthew Battles, fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society and author of "Library Beyond the Book." "These are beautiful ideas and ideals. But they demand reinterpretation and cultivation from generation to generation."

To library purists, this is nonsense.

"I get the sense that a lot of people have a feeling that technology has just moved along, that books are these old-fashioned things, that everything is going to be on the Internet, that Kindle and Google is all you need," Hays said. "But getting reliable information is a constant challenge today. Librarians help people find the credible information they need."

The purists say the futurists are pushing budget-busting e-books when large swaths of society still want print, particularly as research emerges showing print provides a more immersive, less distracting reading experience.

That's Edutainment!



