

Reimagine Libraries and Media Centers

Books and More!



RESPOND to ever-changing community needs by thinking about how your local library could become a hub of resources as a reimagined community media center. Start by looking at who is using the community library now and asking library staff how they predict needs and demographics will evolve. Examine trends and population shifts that could predict the needs and number of young children, students, adults and elderly living in the area five years from now. Use that information to help you envision how the physical space might be used in the future, what programs might be offered, and how libraries could further inspire creativity.



Rosie B.—Visitors enjoy life-like virtual adventures.



CREATE a floor plan or sketch of a library that is redesigned to meet future needs. Beyond a place where books, videos, and other resources are shared, imagine a variety of other experiences people might have in this community media center. Consider the phrase *form influences function* and *function influences form*. How does the design of a space affect how it is used? How does the use of a space impact its physical design and aesthetic appearance? How can a facility create flexible spaces to accommodate different sized groups and a variety of uses?

DESIGN A REIMAGINED COMMUNITY LIBRARY OR MEDIA CENTER.



Azul G.—This library will offer creative experiences and learning stations.



Isaac M.—Shaped like a tree, this library blends into the nearby forest.



PRESENT your sketch to librarians and members of your community and ask for their input. What aspects of the design are they most excited about? Which do they suggest you reconsider? What insights can they offer to broaden your understanding of needs and options?



CONNECT your newly imagined space with your predictions for how technology will be used in this facility. How can architects and building designers plan for technology that has not yet been developed? How could a community space evolve as technology changes, keeping it from becoming obsolete or ineffective? Ask technology experts or futurist designers for advice on facilities that are flexible and can adapt easily.



Gabi D.—Ever-changing wall scenes immerse visitors in different environments.