Please do not destroy all the old wood in this building – the rounded arches are a lost art.

The “historic fabric” of the interior will be retained and restored as much as possible, including the rounded arches.  The renovated library will keep its historic feel, with restoration of the original dark wood trim and new trim to match it as necessary.

Why does the library need two conference rooms?  Wouldn’t the space used by the second conference room be better used for library collections?

Conference and meeting space in our libraries meet a remarkably high demand.  The Library offers some of the only free meeting space in the city, and the conference and meeting spaces are also used for library programs.  In this case, the use of the mezzanine as a conference room also works well from a security and staffing perspective, as stacks in the mezzanine often present a security concern because of limitedvisibility into the space.

Will the entire children's room be carpeted to keep down noise levels?  If not, what fraction of the space will have rugs?

Floor finishes will be selected later in the design process after final locations have been determined and the design isfurther developed.  Carpet is a possibility, and other finish options may be considered to manage acoustics.

Will the style of the new circulation desk and information desk be made to match the style in the old photos of Northeast?

The style of the service desks will be explored later in the design process, and will likely relate to the historic millwork.  Feel free to leave us your input in the mean time.

Will all of the lighting fixtures in the circulation areas and reading rooms on the first and second floor be period reproductions (as in the Georgetown library) or will there be a mix of period and modern fixtures (as in the Petworth Library)?

The exact lighting fixtures will be explored later in the design process, with aesthetics, proper lighting of spaces, energy efficiency and ease of maintenance as high priorities.

Which pieces, if any, of the existing historical furniture will be restored?  Will the new furniture be made to match?  Will the new furniture match that in the old photos of Northeast?

Currently there are very few pieces of original furniture left at the Northeast Library.  Those will likely be restored and incorporated into the design.  Once the furniture plans are furtherdeveloped, the designers will determine what types and sizes of new furniture are necessary.  It is possible that new furniture in the adult areas would stylistically match the original furniture, as it does at the Georgetown and Petworth Libraries.

How much shelf space (in square feet or linear feet) is currently available in Northeast, and how much there be after the renovation?

Once the design is further developed, we’ll have a better idea of the exact linear footage comparison.  We do know, however, that there will be increased space for both the children and adult collections.

The plans call for removing the stairways to the mezzanine – will that woodwork be reused in Northeast or removed?

Some of the woodwork may be reused or salvaged.

Will the marble from the existing staircase to the 2nd floor be reused in Northeast or removed?

The marble may be reused or salvaged.

Will the existing period reproduction lighting fixtures over the circulation desk be reused or removed?

The reproduction lights currently over the circulation desk were installed several years ago as a gift from the Friends of the Northeast Library to improve the appearance of the entry space.  The Library greatly appreciates this gift.  While it is possible that these fixtures may be reused, the lighting designer must ensure that 1) optimal light levels are achieved, 2) the fixtures are easy for the Library to maintain and 3) energy efficiency is optimized.  Along the lines of maintenance, the Library requires that the number of differentlight bulb types used in the building post-renovation be kept to a minimum (four types or less).  The Library must give the designer the greatest flexibility to select aesthetically appropriate lighting that also meets these other requirements.

To the extent that DCPL plans on removing and not reusing materials such as stairways, lighting fixtures, bookshelves, etc., is it willing to direct Whiting-Turner to work with a local organization such as Community Forklift ([www.CommunityForklift.com](http://www.communityforklift.com/)) to salvage and recycle useable material that is removed from the building, rather than landfilling it?

Recycling and salvage of unused materials from the project will be exercised where possible.

How many square feet of staff space will be dedicated to housing materials and supplies for the children's room (currently housed in the second floor office)?

The exact square footage for this purpose may change depending on the location of the children’s room (first or second floor).  Ideally there should beapproximately 100-120SF of storage space and enough staff space for three full-time employees dedicated to the children’s area.

The two bike racks in front of Northeast are insufficient, and bicyclists often have to lock up to trees, utility poles, the fence, etc.  Can DCPL put in additional bike racks?

Yes, additional bike racks will be installed as part of this project.

Will DCPL keep the old black and white photos on the wall of Northeast when it first opened?  What about the neighborhood association plaques for Neighbor of the Year?

These items will be retained.  An appropriate place in the renovated space can be determined.

What will the process be for determining whether additional artwork will be added (e.g., old black and white photos of other Capitol Hill landmarks such as Union Station, Eastern Market, the Capitol, Supreme Court, etc).

While the budget for this project does not include the acquisition of art, the Library has a process in place for reviewing and receiving potential art donations.  For more information, contact…

The Friends will store donated books in the room in the basement, but the public will not have access to that room.  Where exactly will patrons be able to drop off book donations, which the Friends will then have to move to their storage room?

The designs currently plan on the entire lower level being renovated so that the much of it may be available for public use, such as a new 100-person meeting room and a conference room.  The lower level will also contain the main restrooms for the building as well as most of the buildings staff space, allowing these functions to take up less space on the first and second floors where the adult and children’s spaces are.

What space will be available for a bookshelf on the first floor for the Friends to sell donated books on an ongoing basis?

While shelf space for public library materials is always at a premium, some space for this purpose can likely be found.  A book cart / mobile shelf is often used for this purpose at several Library locations.

Which set of drawings are we working from?

As the design develops and additional input is received, updated designs will be created on a continuing basis.  Feel free to check the library’s website ([www.dclibrary.org/NortheastRenovation](http://www.dclibrary.org/NortheastRenovation)) for information on the latest designs.

Are these drawings being offered as design plans or are other drawings being prepared?

Designs will be further developed once a final determination is made regarding the location of the adult and children’s libraries.

The plans indicate a southwest of the property corner contains notation “planting area.”  Please explain.

This is in response to a request from the ANC6C to create green space in this location.

Southwest corner references a “walk” accessible from alley.  Please explain

This walk is necessary to provide required emergency egress from the Lower Level.

The east side of the building references a single entrance.  Will the current front door be blocked or accessible for emergency purposes?

The current main entrance will be retained and used for emergency egress only.

Does the drawing assume a single roof leak or is the repair more inclusive?

A comprehensive assessment of the roof will be completed, with all necessary repairs made during the renovation.

What are RTU’s [as noted in the plans?]  Are they situated on the roof?

Those are rooftop mechanical units.  The flat roof of the addition is a potential location for the new air conditioning equipment.  This roof is significantly lower than the pitched roof of the historic building, and would be surrounded by screening to block the view of the units.  The new equipment will also be much quieter and have less visual impact than the current unit that sits on top of the garage.

Are the southwest stairs intended for public usage or limited to staff?

The new southwest stairs will be for emergency egress only and are required to meet current building codes.

What is the design of the conference room east wall?  Is it open, partially glassed, etc.?

The design has not yet been developed to this level of detail, but the appearance of the historic millwork from the area below will be preserved as much as possible.

What is the design of the “low wall (new opening).”   What type of connective wall is contemplated from the wall of the east conference room?

The design has not yet been developed to this level of detail.

What happened to the alternative plan of putting children’s room on second floor?

Both options are being considered and are posted for public review at [dclibrary.org/NortheastRenovation](http://dclibrary.org/NortheastRenovation).  Both options were not included in the concept submissions to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) because the HPRB does not review these functions.  The Library hopes to receive enough input at the April 23 presentation to finalize the location of the children’s room.

The other (alternate) design places the children’s bathroom directly over the front door.   Do you really want to extend the plumbing all the way to the east side of the building?

New plumbing must be installed throughout the building as part of this renovation.  That gives us an opportunity to place restrooms where they will function best in the plan, as was done at the Georgetown and Petworth Libraries.

Would full-time staff be dedicated to [the second] floor?

Yes.

Many shelves are being eliminated.  What are the plans for free-standing shelves?

As many of the original perimeter shelves will be retained and restored as possible.  Some free-standing shelves will likely also be necessary.  The location and quantities of these will be determined once the design can be further developed.  It is certain that the overall number of shelf space will increase as a result of this renovation.

Will three sets of stairs open to the exterior?  Will they be locked on or on emergency switches?

The current plans only contain two sets of stairs.  Both will allow egress from the building, however, at any location other than the main entrances, the egress points will be locked to prevent unauthorized entry.

What is the composition of the west wall of the addition (containing the stairs)?

The current design shows the west wall of the addition as brick to closely relate to the historic building.

Are the [new main] stairs indoors or outdoors?

The new main stairs will be inside the rear addition, as proposed.

What is the composition of the north and south walls of the [addition]?

The current design shows the north and south walls of the addition as mostly glass. The intent is to create an open, transparent and welcoming entry experience at this location.  Some options for the glass treatment of the north and south walls are posted at [dclibrary.org/NortheastRenovation](http://www.dclibrary.org/NortheastRenovation) with an opportunity for comments.  These potential options will also be presented at the April 23 meeting.

What is the interaction with the walk and planting area to the south of the building?

The planting area is in response to request from the ANC6C to create green space in this location and the walk is necessary to provide required emergency egress from the Lower Level.  The details of both will be further developed in the near future.

Do the plans continue to permit a single parking place in the basement?

No, the existing garage is no longer needed by the Library and will become the lower portion of the main staircase for thebuilding.

Where do we go from here (and when)?

Keep up-to-date on progress, meetings, etc. at [dclibrary.org/NortheastRenovation](http://www.dclibrary.org/NortheastRenovation)