

New Building, New Space Creating a Teen Friendly YA Area

Goal

My goal is to design and create a YA area for the new Miller Branch. My hope is to create a space that is modern and cool, a space in which teens will want to come and hang out, do homework, or read a book. Ultimately the new YA area must be a space that teens will want to use, a space that might even ignite a life long love of reading and inspire a love libraries within those teens who use it.

Results

The results of my project will be the creation of a YA area within the new Miller Branch. The project will not be completed until 2011, but here is a list of what I have done so far:

- I met with the architects of Grimm & Parker to discuss the need for a YA area within the new Miller.
- I met with Kimberly Bolan, author of *Teens Spaces & Technology Made Simple*
- I met with teens to discuss their ideas for the new YA area.
- I participated in focus groups with Susan Stonesifer, Miller Branch Manager, Katie George, Teen Programs Coordinator, Cari Gast, Head of Children's & Teen Curriculum, Cindy Jones, Head of Materials Management and other HCL staff members associated with YA services.
- I traveled to other libraries to look at and gather ideas from their YA areas.
- I read newspaper and magazine articles which discussed new YA areas in other library systems.

Options

I gathered teen input during monthly Teen Advisory Board meetings and through a survey created by Kimberly Bolan. Other resources for this project include:

- www.indielibrarian.blogspot.com/
- *Voya Magazine*
- *The Washington Post*

What I learned

I have never planned a new library, therefore everything I did during this project was a learning experience. It was amazing to witness the transformation of the new building. The building started as a written list of desired areas and has now morphed into an actual floor plan with details of chairs and bookcases. Being able to look at dozens of YA areas in other library systems was also a learning experience. The different kinds of furniture, electronics, table designs, even floor tiles that are available for teen spaces is just amazing.

THrive

It is hard to rate myself on this project at this time, since the project itself is far from over. For now I would give myself a 10. I have worked and fought very hard for my teens and their new space. I have tried my hardest to meet their current needs and to plan for what their future needs might be. Only time will tell if I have fully succeeded in these and all my other goals for the new YA area.

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