

PROVIDED BY
STEVE GLASSMAN

PH-3
JAN 22, 2014

Steve Glassman

From: Steve Glassman <randesteve@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 12:52 PM
To: Jack Seiler (Jack.Seiler@Fortlauderdale.Gov); broberts@fortlauderdale.gov; bdubose@fortlauderdale.gov; dtrantalis@fortlauderdale.gov; 'Romney Rogers' lfeldman@fortlauderdale.gov; Linda Franco (LFranco@fortlauderdale.gov); 'David Kyner'
Cc:
Subject: Main Library Landmark Designation
Attachments: Main Library Designation Narrative.pdf; Main Library Designation 11-06-2013.pdf

Good afternoon, Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners and City Manager,

The landmark designation for the Main Library will soon be on your agenda and I wanted to bring forth some information that is vital to the discussion.

When I spoke on behalf of the Broward Trust for Historic Preservation at the Historic Preservation Board meeting on November 4, 2013, I testified to the importance of certain interior portions of the Main Library and why they, too, should be designated along with the exterior of the building. Attached is the original application prepared by the Broward County Historical Commission. Please note on Page 5, under "Designation Rationale of the Building and Site" the references to the interior. Also on that page at the bottom, Criteria (f) addresses the interiors. Appendix A – photographs – are shown on Pages 9-10 and 12,14. Lastly, Appendix B – plans- demonstrate the interior areas that are worthy of designation.

The HPB unanimously designated only the exterior because that is what the County Commission/Administration presented in the final application; that was shortsighted. However, the HPB requested that Merrilyn Rathbun review the interiors and that the two County staffers present, Steve Hammond and Dave Baber return with an application for designating portions of the interior. (I don't believe that any of that happened.) Both Mr. Baber and Mr. Hammond testified to the importance of the interiors, and the attached letter of November 6, 2013 from the Broward County Historical Commission to the County Commission addresses this issue.

You, as the City Commission, have the authority to designate the interior portions as well as the exterior and it only makes sense to do so. Anyone who has ever been inside the Main Library understands the importance of the interior. I'm writing now because you need to have all of the facts and, hopefully, there is time for Ms. Rathbun to do the requested research and report back to you regarding the interiors. Designating the exterior without the portions of the interior makes no sense; please designate both. If staff is not yet ready to present to you the interior analysis, then please defer this item until such time as all of the information is available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven Glassman, Vice President
On behalf of the Broward Trust for Historic Preservation

DESIGNATION RATIONALE OF THE BUILDING AND SITE

Through this application the following aspects of the Broward County Main Library, located at 100 South Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale Florida are included in its designation as a Landmark and Landmark Site:

- The entire site
- The entire exterior of the building including the pedestrian bridge connecting to the adjacent parking garage.
- The following aspects of the interior as identified on the floor plans in Appendix B:
 - The interior pedestrian "street" including the water feature, garden area, escalators and glass elevator between the first and second floors and the area at the top of the escalators and glass elevator.
 - The open atrium area on the first through seventh floors including the associated open staircases.

Criteria Related to this Designation

(d) Its identification as the work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, state, or nation:

Marcel Breuer had a dramatic and profound impact on the quality and nature of architecture nationally and throughout the world both through his body of work as well as his teaching at the Bauhaus and Harvard University. Robert T. Gatge, the design architect of the Main Library, was a protégé of Breuer and was profoundly influenced by him as a result of his long term professional relationship as an associate and partner in Breuer's firm.

(e) Its value as a building recognized for the quality of its architecture, and sufficient elements showing its architectural significance:

The Main Library is an exceptional example of modern architecture possessing many of the attributes that are the foundation of the concepts promoted at the Bauhaus, including its integrity of design and honesty of materials.

(f) Its distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials:

Some of the distinguishing features of this building are the open welcoming and flowing spaces vertically connecting the seven public floors through atrium open conveyances such as the escalators, glass elevator and atrium staircases, the exposed post and beam concrete structural system, the use of keystone, an indigenous material, and the interconnection of interior and exterior space through the use of terraced balconies and the glass wall on the north elevation.

APPENDIX A – MAIN LIBRARY DESIGNATION PHOTOGRAPHS

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ABOVE: Interior “pedestrian street” looking toward two-story greenhouse showing interior landscaping and pool, glass elevator and escalators
BELOW: Escalators with staircase located under the two-story greenhouse

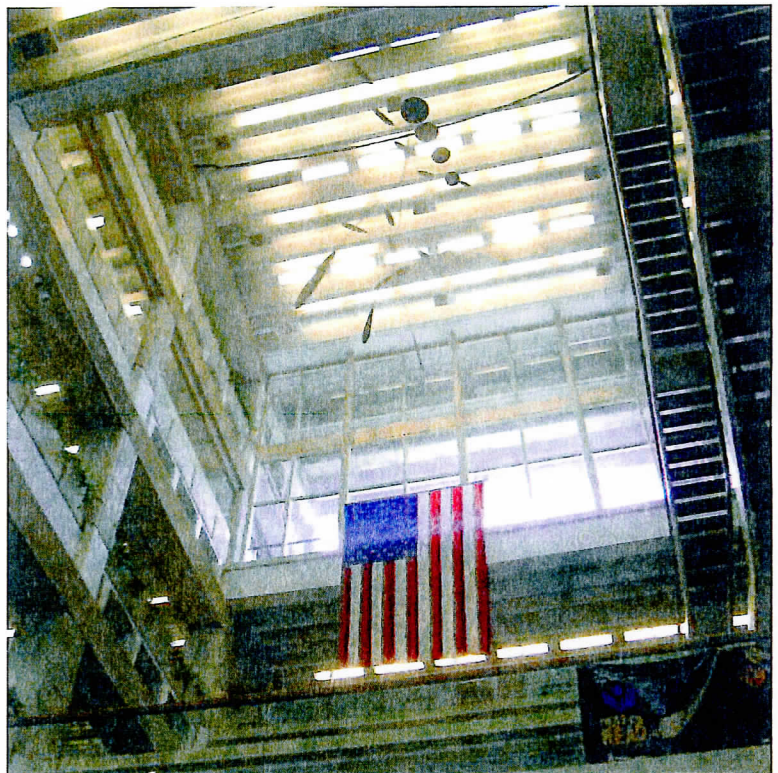


APPENDIX A – MAIN LIBRARY DESIGNATION PHOTOGRAPHS

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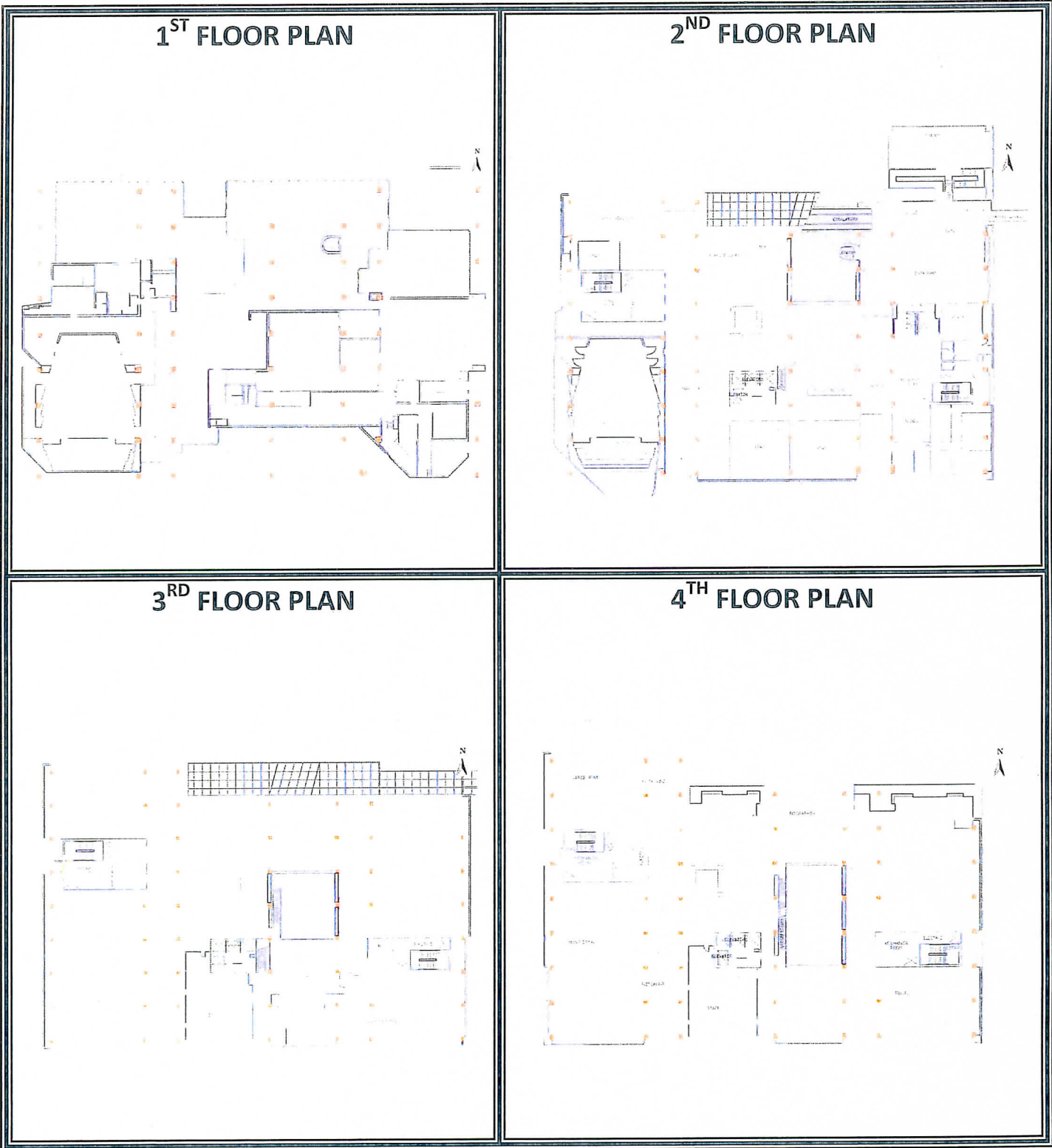
ABOVE: View looking down from the fifth floor into the atrium showing the integrated staircases.
RIGHT: View looking up from the second floor into the atrium showing the sculptural mobile entitled *Spatial Aberration* by artist William c. Gaterman II which is suspended from the seventh floor ceiling



APPENDIX B – MAIN LIBRARY PLANS

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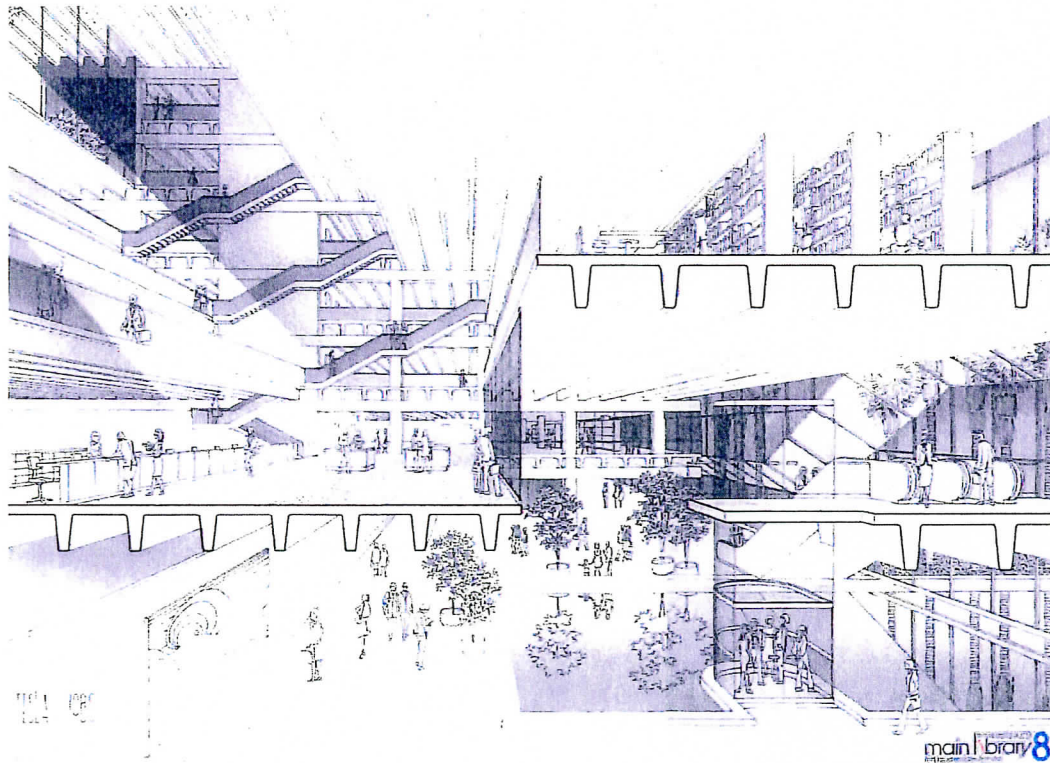
Areas of the interior to be designated are shaded in grey on the floor plans



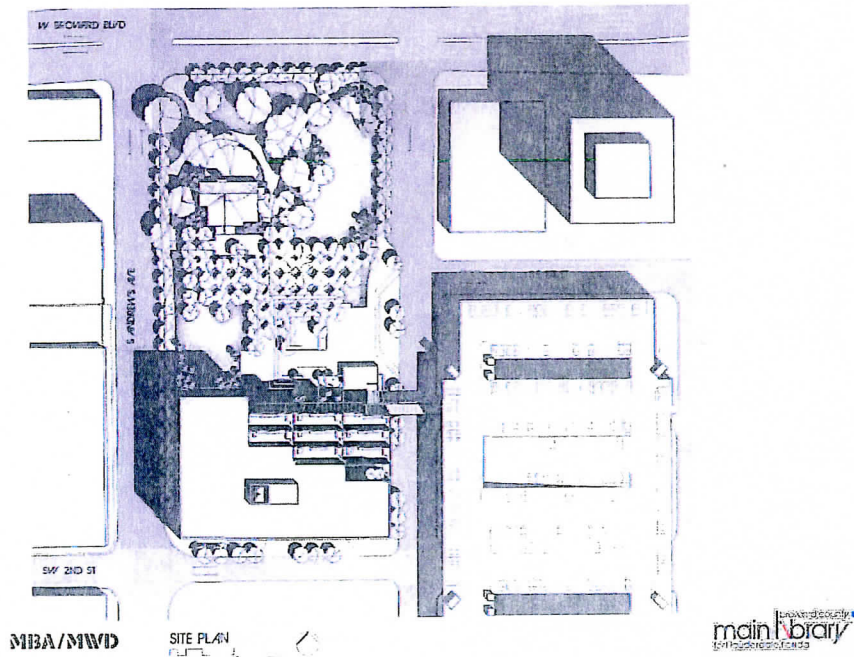
APPENDIX B – MAIN LIBRARY PLANS

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SECTION VIEW FROM ORIGINAL PRESENTATION SHOWING ATRIUM



SITE PLAN FROM ORIGINAL PRESENTATION





Our Best.
Nothing Less.

LIBRARIES DIVISION • Historical Commission
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November 6, 2013

The Honorable Kristin Jacobs, Mayor
and Members of the
Broward County Board of County Commissioners
115 South Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Mayor and County Commissioners:

At the November 4, 2013, City of Fort Lauderdale Historic Preservation Board (HPB) meeting, a motion to recommend that the City Commission grant landmark designation to the County's Main Library site and building exterior was approved by a unanimous vote. Also at that meeting, the HPB requested that their consultant Merrilyn Rathbun research the criteria of designating the interior as well. In addition, the HPB requested that the two County staffers present, Steve Hammond and Dave Baber, report this information to the County Commission and return to the Board with an application for designating portions of the interior as well.

The Broward County Historical Commission at its November 5, 2013, meeting, unanimously passed a motion requesting that the Board of County Commissioners ask the City of Fort Lauderdale to designate portions of the interior as outlined in the original designation application. It was agreed that certain interior portions are integral to the design of the building and the flow between the exterior and interior. Specifically, the stairways, the first floor reflecting pool, the soaring atrium and the first floor open corridor linking the entrances must be protected, as these elements were critical to the Architect's vision.

As always, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roberto Fernández III, Vice Chair
Broward County Historical Commission

RF/PD/MM

- c. Bertha Henry, County Administrator
- Rob Hernandez, Deputy County Administrator
- Skye Patrick, Director, Libraries Division
- Peggy D. Davis, Libraries Manager, Libraries Division
- Historical Commission Board Members