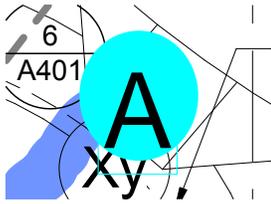


# Green Building Tour Talking Points

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A

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**Subject:** Front Door

**Sequence:** A

**Talking Points:** All exterior lighting is Night Sky Friendly which means light stays on the property and does not pollute the night sky.

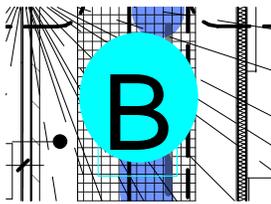
Light pollution is known to have negative effects on migratory routes of birds.

A staff carpooling parking spot is provided, as well as bike racks for employees and visitors alike.

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B

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**Subject:** Main Entrance

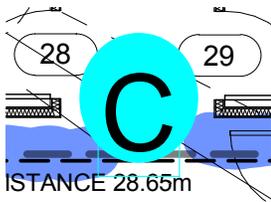
**Sequence:** B

**Talking Points:** At main entrances, permanent entry grates are provided which reduces the amount of dirt that is tracked into the building. This improves the Indoor Air Quality, and reduces the need for cleaning.

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C

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**Subject:** Washrooms

**Sequence:** C

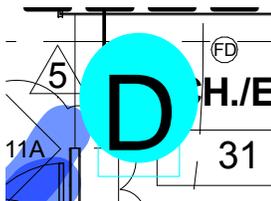
**Talking Points:** All washrooms have low-flow fixtures. As a result, the building has water use savings of more than 40% compared to a code-built building.

All washroom exhaust goes through a heat recovery unit. In the winter, this unit extracts heat energy from the exhaust and uses it to preheat the incoming ventilation air. In the summer, heat is taken out of the incoming air and transferred to the exhaust air-stream, thereby "pre-cooling" the incoming air. This strategy means that less money is spent on heating and cooling by "harvesting" the available energy before it leaves the building.

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D

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**Subject:** Mechanical Room

**Sequence:** D

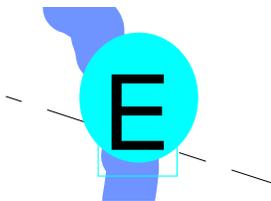
**Talking Points:** The piping and pumping equipment in this room is connected to a ground source loop under the parking lot. This system takes low grade heat from the ground, and uses it to heat the building in the winter. In summer months, heat from the building is transferred to the ground, thereby cooling the building.

Compared to a typical municipal library, the Acton Branch uses more than 50% less energy per square meter. For this, the project was awarded more than 6 energy points for LEED.

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E

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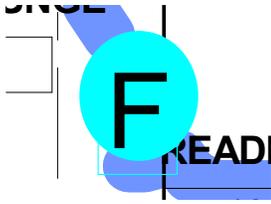
**Subject:** Occupant Controls

**Sequence:** E

**Talking Points:** The building was designed to provide controls to the occupants. In this room, you can see operators for the windows and an occupancy sensor for lights near the south door. In addition, a daylight sensor at the ceiling allows the lights to turn off if there is enough natural light coming in through the windows.

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F



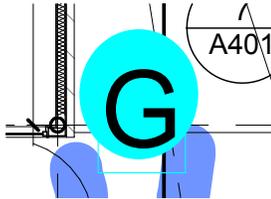
**Subject:** Main Stacks

**Sequence:** F

**Talking Points:** Extensive use of natural light allows users a connection with the outdoors, and also decreases the need for artificial light.

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G



**Subject:** Circulation Desk

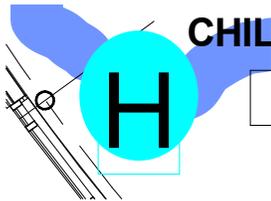
**Sequence:** G

**Talking Points:** Note the open feel of the space provided by the clerestory windows. This provides a better working environment for Library staff.

On the West foyer wall, you will see wood accents. This lumber was milled from a tree that was taken down on this site to make room for the new Library.

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H



**Subject:** Window View

**Sequence:** H

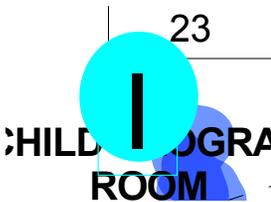
**Talking Points:** Looking out the window, you can see naturalized areas as well as a small stream.

During construction, extensive measures were employed to ensure no soil left the site into the stream. Erosion from worksites can be a major concern since silt can suffocate fish eggs and eliminate gravel habitats.

The landscape design incorporates native species of plants and does not require supplemental irrigation. The lawn is a low maintenance variety; most sod grown today does not require irrigation once established. It is natural for it to go dormant (brown) in the summer, and then reinvigorate in the fall.

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I



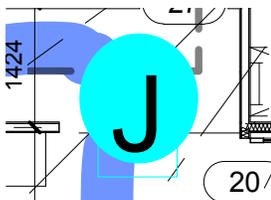
**Subject:** Low Emitting Materials

**Sequence:** I

**Talking Points:** Special attention was paid when selecting finishes for the library. All paints, flooring, and adhesives contain a minimal amount of VOCs. Carpet has been certified by the Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label Plus program. All paints and adhesives have VOC contents well below the limits established by the South Coast Air Quality Management District of California.

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J



**Subject:** Recycling Area

**Sequence:** J

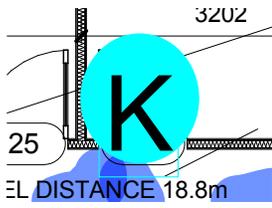
**Talking Points:** Offices also have occupancy sensors. The lighting design is more efficient than required by code and helps the project achieve its energy efficiency targets.

All recyclables are collected throughout the building and stored in this room for pick-up by the Town.

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K

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**Subject:** Individual Offices

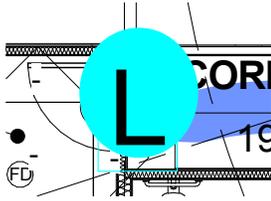
**Sequence:** K

**Talking Points:** Where possible, individual offices have been provided with views to the outside.

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L

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**Subject:** Staff Shower

**Sequence:** L

**Talking Points:** The staff area comes complete with a shower so that if they choose to bike to work, there is a place to clean up before their shift begins. Even though space was at a premium, the design team was able to find a location for the shower.