

San Diego Central Library

Construction Facts

Location 330 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101

About the Building 497,652 square feet (9 stories including a 76,000 square foot charter high school on 2 floors, 2 levels of parking with 250 spaces, an adjacent 350 seat Auditorium and an outdoor Café)

Architects Rob Wellington Quigley, FAIA and Tucker Sadler & Associates

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Construction Award

The *Central Library* won the 2013 “Best in Show” by the *Decorative Concrete Council*, a specialty council of the *American Society of Concrete Contractors*. An independent panel of industry professionals, who recognize decorative concrete projects around the world, based this award on the project’s aesthetics, craftsmanship, functionality, and creativity.



Concrete Facts

- 43,000 total cubic yards of concrete (enough to pour a 3 foot wide sidewalk from the Library to Disneyland and back)
- The 46 foot tall by 70 foot wide exposed structural concrete gravity arch in the main lobby serves as a focal point of the building’s interior, and functionally provides stability for the six floors above
- 328 concrete columns, 356 concrete “wallumns”
- 850 miles of steel rebar weighing 12 million pounds is embedded in the columns providing extra strength and flexibility for the weight of the building and books
- The “waffle” decks above are both an aesthetic feature and provide extra structural strength for the building

Facts



About the Dome

At 143 feet in diameter, the Central Library dome is larger in size than the U.S. Capital (135 ft), comparable to the Pantheon in Rome (142 ft) and the Doma in Florence (149 ft), and under the size of the St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican (195 ft).



The sunshades, which cover the sails and provide shade for the glass enclosed Helen Price Reading Room below, are made up of 1,500 perforated aluminum panels weighing 32,000 pounds.



Domes have long symbolized enlightenment and democracy in our culture. The specific dome design was inspired by buildings in Balboa Park. The dome anchors the nighttime cityscape with a soft and welcoming glow.

Architect Rob Wellington Quigley described the significance of the dome, "This dome stands as an icon, a symbol of the city's commitment to literacy and learning. Like the human spirit nurtured within, the dome is designed to be in the perpetual act of becoming. It doesn't look finished and it never will. It will always be becoming. It is intended to stand as a paradox, grand yet accessible, familiar yet unique, comforting yet provocative. It is permanent yet kinetic and ever changing to the sun and the sky and clouds."

