

# ■ The Burbank Central Library

Mid Century:

Modernist New Formalism.

Architect:

Eugene Weldon Fickes, Jr.

Fickes and Fickes, Architects

Construction began in 1961

Dedicated in November of 1963.



# new formalism

New Formalism evolved during the 1960s which places our library at the dawn of this critical reaction to the sterility of Modernism.

Characteristics include colonnades, entablatures and symmetrical forms such as the two distinct patterned grills we find above and behind the colonnades on our library.



# design elements

New Formalism revived the use of classical ornamentation but in a way that updated design elements using new technology.

Innovation in concrete design gives the exterior a rich look of power and dominance.



# classical ornamentation

Emphasis is placed on the organization and structure of the building with concrete compositions and patterns of protruding brick and geometrical cast stone.



# rich importance

The use of tiles on the colonnades and entryways creates a shimmering richness announcing an important monument.



# power and dominance

The roof dominates the structure with a heavy slab of simple geometric squares protruding from the roof line.

The grand symmetry adds a sense of monumentality and importance to our library.



# Landmark The Burbank Central Library

The city has an opportunity preserve another important historic resource that provides a rare architectural example for its residents. We landmark these examples of rare architecture today so they may become Burbank's defining historic resources tomorrow.

Preserving the existing library as a historic resource does not prohibit changing its function and could be repurposed to suit the library's and the city's needs.

The City has Streamlined the Landmarking Process

Only Original Design of Exterior to be Maintained

Interior Improvements Can Be Made

The Library May Be Repurposed