

Visit to newly renovated New York Public Library branch

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On Thursday, July 21, I visited the newly renovated branch library of the New York Public Library. Formerly known as the Mid-Manhattan Library the newly renovated building is called the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL). The renovation was 180,000 SF at a cost of \$200 million. Obviously this is completely outside our range in terms of cost and scope, but nevertheless I noted a number of points where we might gain some ideas. My thoughts and photos are below.

For a more detailed description of the renovation visit the website below. It includes many photos, including some quite interesting before and after pictures as well as several informative videos.

<https://www.nypl.org/spotlight/snfl>

This building is located diagonally across 5th Avenue from the main NYPL building, slightly to the east on the southeast corner of 40th and 5th Ave. If the main branch is more of a museum, this is the real, working public library building.



Main Branch, New York Public Library



Exterior of newly renovated Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL). It was formerly the Mid-Manhattan branch and prior to that, a department store. Adaptive re-use!

An



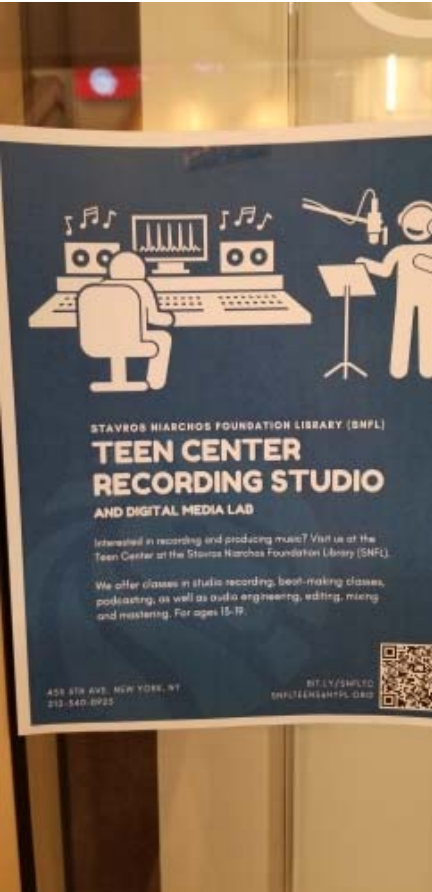
interior wall displays a cutaway diagram showing the entire 8 floors of the building.



Long tables echo the feel of the main branch. Note the artwork on the walls.



Signage is very strong throughout the building. Not only is the building named for the lead gift of \$55 million; the collections, the business center, and the learning center are also named for major donors.





Content on electronic signs rotates through various messages.



They are making the most of their 125th anniversary.



Programming is prominently featured. They work hard at marketing what they have to offer.





Technology is a big deal.



Left: mini-recording studio



Right: locker contains video-game consoles with earphones for teen video-game play.

N.B. not pictured – an enormous collection of graphic novels for adults.



Stroller parking for story time.



Comfy seating in the children's area.



Café on top floor



near rooftop garden space







Lots of artwork enlivens the space – especially the windowless downstairs.



Strong and repetitive graphic design throughout the building in all of the signage, brochures, and literature.



No adults in the teen area, please !



Drinking fountain with water-bottle filling.



Meeting room / flexible event space has curtains that can be opened to let in more light or closed for privacy/film screenings.