

San Diego Central Library

San Diego, CA

Elegant auditorium that is constantly in use, equipped with large loose chairs with tip-up seats

The recently opened San Diego Central Library was long awaited by residents of the California city. The project began after several meetings in which they explained to the architects their needs and expectations for the new library. The final structure is the fruit of more than 10 years of design, and reflects a passion for art, environmental awareness and civic participation.



Technical details:

Name: San Diego Central Library

Ubication: San Diego, CA

Architect: Rob Wellington Quigley, FAIA and Tucker Sadler & Associates

Year: 2013

Total surface area: 40,870 m²

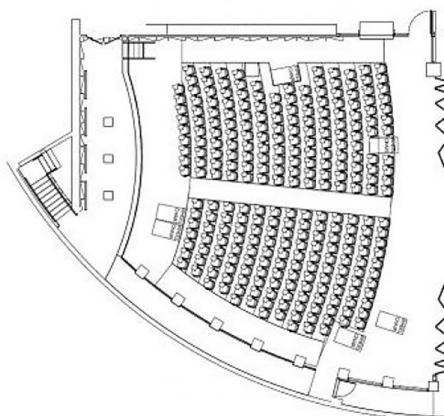
Owner: City of San Diego

Capacity: 350 seats

Product: Delta 433

For Rob Quigley, its architect, “a building like this should work emotionally. If it doesn’t work emotionally or poetically, the building will be a disaster, no matter how many books it contains.”

The facade boasts a huge dome that protects the building from the Sun and wind and that always appears unfinished and perpetually changing. It has become the new icon of the City’s skyline. The Dome is constructed from a network of 8 steel ribs and 8 steel-mesh sails (17 tons each with the tallest 113 feet), tied together by cable and pipe grids. According to the architect, Rob Quigley, “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”. 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 aluminium panels weighing 32,000 pounds.





Challenge and solutions

The interior is built around open and adaptable areas, outdoor spaces, terraces with views and comfortable study rooms. The San Diego Central Library includes a 330-seat auditorium located at the base of a garden. On sunny days, the façade between the garden and the auditorium can be opened to increase the capacity or for different activities. The seat to equip the auditorium had to enable optimization of the space by being easily transportable. It also had to be adaptable to the changeable room configuration. But at the same time, it had to be a seat that performed as an auditorium seat in terms of comfort and security.

Product supplied

The seat model chosen, Delta, allows for a high degree of flexibility in the room. The Delta chair is a Modular Seating product by Figueras. This modular seating has the same characteristic features of safety, design and comfort as the Figueras fixed seating. Its tip-up system provides ample space between rows. Thanks to an incorporated lectern, the seats convert into comfortable workstations. Economical and flexible solution for an interactive space.

In addition, it will give the space the necessary multi-functionality to make it profitable within a short time. These seats are folding, can be locked together and can also be numbered. For more convenient handling they are easily stackable and can be transported on special trolleys. That is why the new San Diego Central Library has chosen them.

