

## NEW HUNTERS POINT COMMUNITY LIBRARY CELEBRATES TOPPING OUT

*The event marks the completion of the steel framing and exterior of the library's first new building in more than 20 years; opening expected in 2017*



**September 29, 2016: Long Island City, N.Y. — The new Hunters Point Community Library in Long Island City celebrated its topping out today. Steven Holl Architects was joined by Queens Library President and CEO Dennis M. Walcott, Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer, and community leaders.**

Located on a prominent site along the East River against the backdrop of recently built skyscraper condominiums, the design for the 22,000 square foot Queens Library at Hunters Point stands as a public building and public park and will bring community-devoted space to the increasingly privatized Long Island City waterfront.

The concrete structure of the building is exposed and aluminum painted, giving the exterior a subtle sparkle. A golden-section upturned rectangle is carved out according to the browsing circuit of movement within the interior of library. Glazed cuts in the façade grant users views toward the city as they move up a series of bookshelf flanked stairs. The main Manhattan view, perpendicular to the internal movement of the library, gives visitors to this small space a dramatic experience. While the plan is compact, the building section of the new library is open and flowing allowing for the most energy-efficient design and the greatest amount of public green space on the site.

As part of the topping out ceremony, held to celebrate the completion of the building's steel framing and exterior, construction workers hung an American flag from the top of its eastern façade, and Library and city officials, elected and community leaders, architects and others signed their names with large magic markers on an interior wall facing the East River.



“This remarkable building has caught the eyes of people on both sides of the East River,” said Queens Library President and CEO Dennis M. Walcott. “We owe it to them, our customers, the community and everyone who helped to bring the project to this point to mark how much progress we’ve made since we broke ground in May 2015.”

“The building topping out clearly shows the curvilinear cuts and subtractions in its simple rectangular volume, revealing the internal circulation and indicating the most important elements of its program such as the Children’s Library on the east and west facades,” said Steven Holl. “The balance between the digital and the book is key to its inner spatial organization. This is a joyful day!”

Other consultants to the project include landscape architecture firm Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; structural engineering firm Robert Silman & Associates; contractor Triton Structural, MEP engineer ICOR Associates and Langan Engineering & Environmental Services is the civil engineer. The building is scheduled to open Summer 2017.



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**Queens Library** is an independent, not-for-profit corporation and is not affiliated with any other library. Queens Library serves a population of 2.3 million in one of the most ethnically diverse counties in the U.S. and has among the highest circulations of any public library system in the world. For more information about programs, services, locations, events and news, visit the Queens Library website at [www.queenslibrary.org](http://www.queenslibrary.org) or phone 718-990-0700.

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**Steven Holl Architects** has realized architectural works nationally and overseas, with extensive experience in the arts (including museum, gallery and exhibition design), campus and educational facilities, residential work and master planning. Steven Holl Architects is a 40-person architecture and urban design office founded in 1976, and working globally as one office from two locations; New York City and Beijing. Steven Holl leads the office with partners Chris McVoy and Noah Yaffe. Most recently completed are the Reid Building at the Glasgow School of Art (Glasgow, UK), which opened in April 2014; Campbell Sports Center at Columbia University (New York, NY), which was completed in March 2013; and the Daeyang Gallery and House (Seoul, Korea) which opened in June 2012. Steven Holl Architects currently has eight projects under construction, including the John F. Kennedy Center Expansion in Washington, D.C.; the Glassell School of Art at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston; the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University; the Visual Arts Building at the University of Iowa; and the Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA.

For more information on Steven Holl Architects, visit [www.stevenholl.com](http://www.stevenholl.com) or contact Julia van den Hout, [julia@originalcopy-nyc.com](mailto:julia@originalcopy-nyc.com)

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