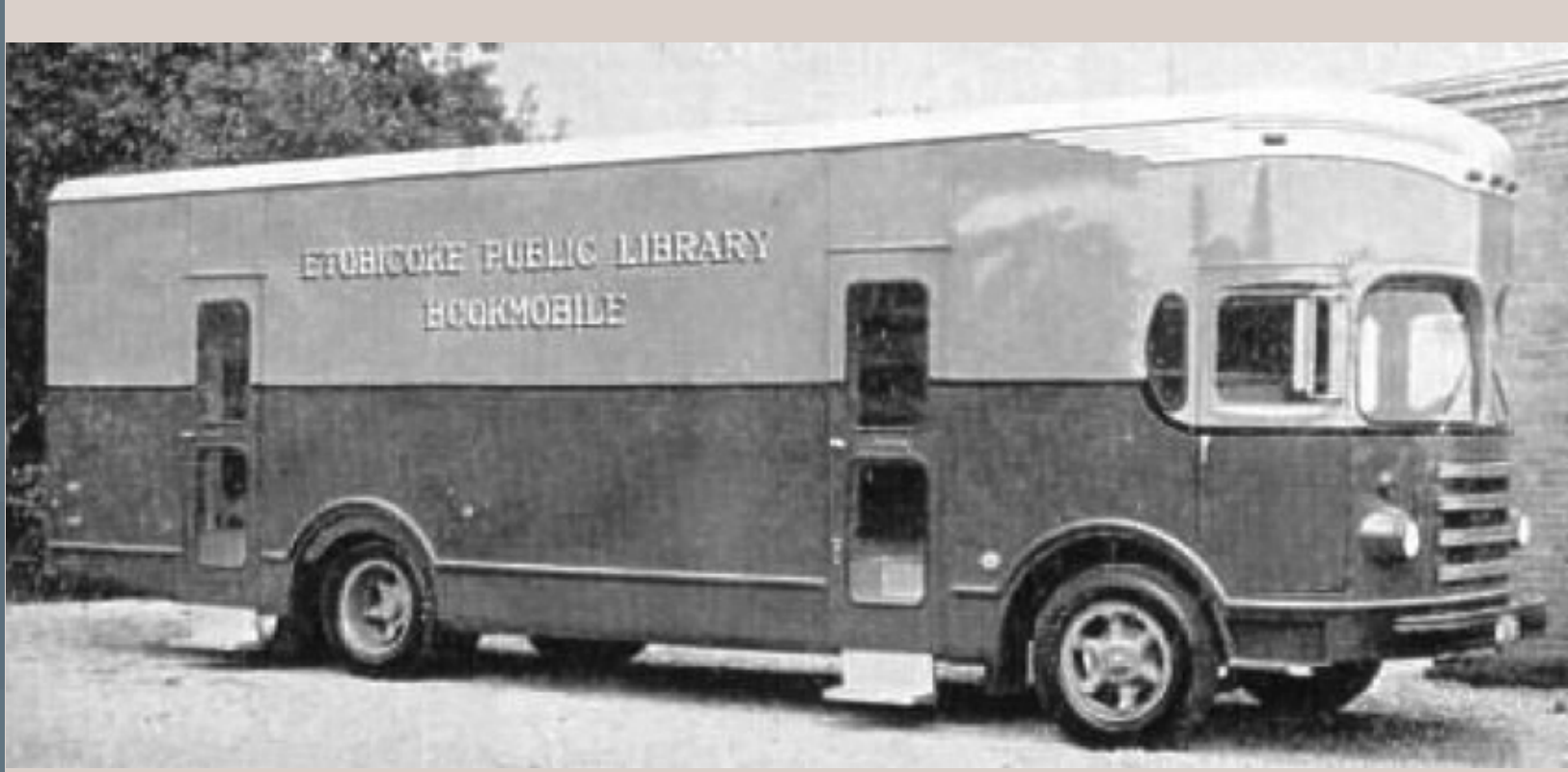




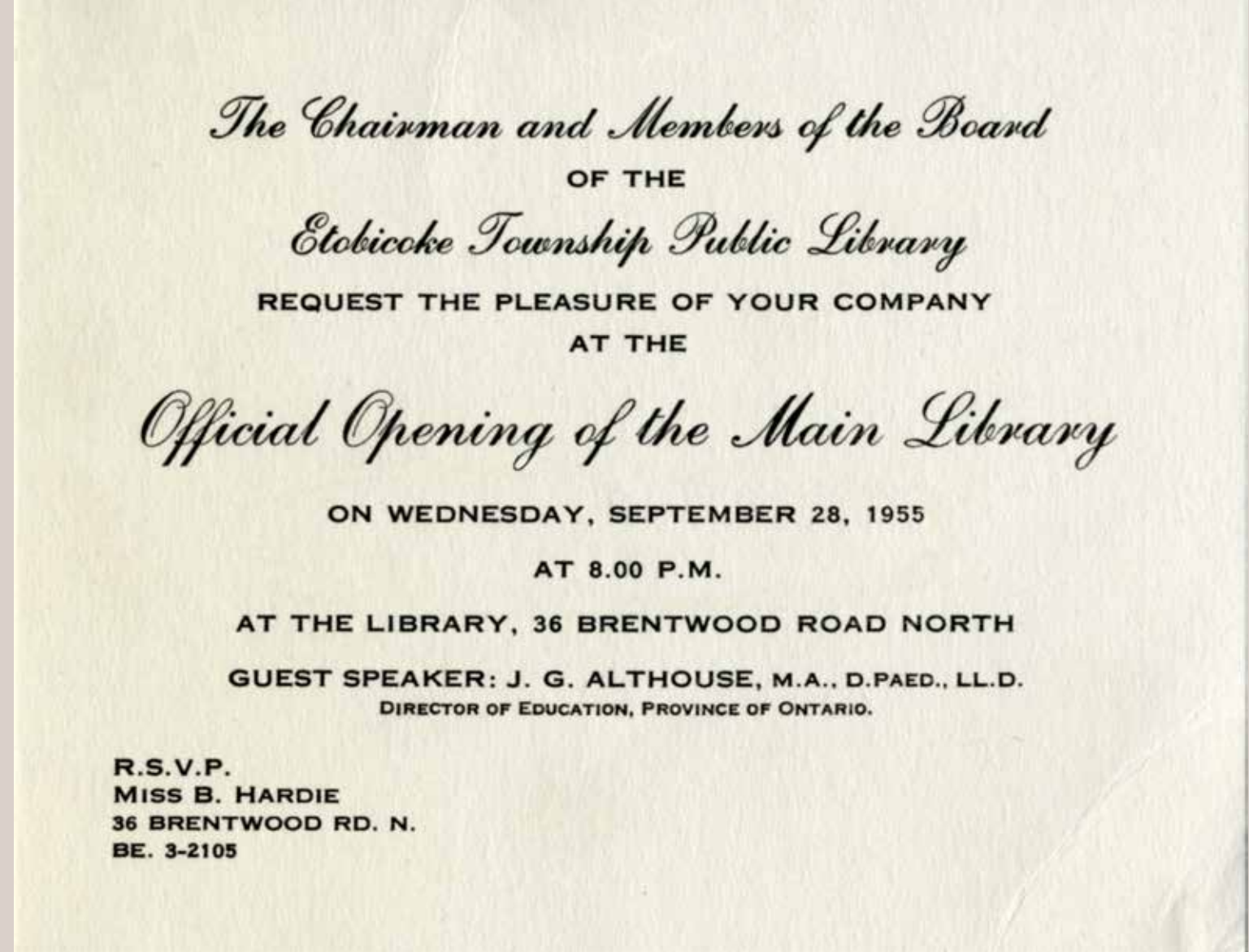
Brentwood Branch History



Planning, building and opening Etobicoke Township's Main Library, 1951-1955. Arthur H. Eadie, Architect



Etobicoke Public Library bookmobile, about 1953
Each Saturday from 2:00 to 4:00 pm starting on 2 April 1951, a bookmobile stopped at the southwest corner of Brentwood Road and Birchview Boulevard. The vacant property soon was owned by the fledgling Township of Etobicoke Public Library Board which had agreed on 1 December 1950 to offer \$7,410 to Kingsway Baptist Church for the 90- by 118-foot (27- by 36-metre) lot as the site for its proposed main library. The sale was completed on 6 July 1951. The bookmobile stop was discontinued once the new Main Library opened on 20 July 1955, but Etobicoke Public Library's bookmobile service was headquartered here until 1961.



Invitation to the official opening, September 28, 1955
The library was built at a cost of \$185,000, excluding furniture. Construction began in early fall 1954, with a week's delay caused by Hurricane Hazel, which hit southern Ontario on 15 October 1954. Betty D. Hardie was Etobicoke Public Library's first chief librarian, serving from 15 August 1950 until her retirement in July 1979.



East and north façades, 1955
The library building included two floors and a basement. The exterior walls were constructed with brick veneer and Mo-Sai (precast concrete) tile trim. The sloping roof and other domestic characteristics were chosen to reflect its residential setting.

Architect Arthur H. Eadie also designed Deer Park Branch (1952) and Parliament Street Branch (1955) for the Toronto Public Library, as well as its George H. Locke Memorial Branch (1949) in the partnership of Beck and Eadie.



Story Hour Room, second floor, 1955
Librarian Margaret Boyd reads to a group of children seated in front of a brick fireplace on hassocks that were upholstered in blue, green, coral, yellow and turquoise plastic.



Adult and Teen Library, ground floor, 1955
Most of this large room was lined with book cases, except for a large, floor-to-ceiling window at the north end and a wood-paneled fireplace at the south end. The circulation desk, visible on the front right, stood in the centre of the room. The ground floor also included a separate reference room, a staff workroom and administrative offices for the Etobicoke Public Library Board, whose technical services and bookmobile office were housed in the basement.



Boys and Girls Room, second floor, 1955
The large children's room featured a laminated-wood beam ceiling (as did the reference room on the ground floor). A separate entrance was provided for the second floor, which also included a story hour room, a staff workroom, and a small office for the children's librarian.

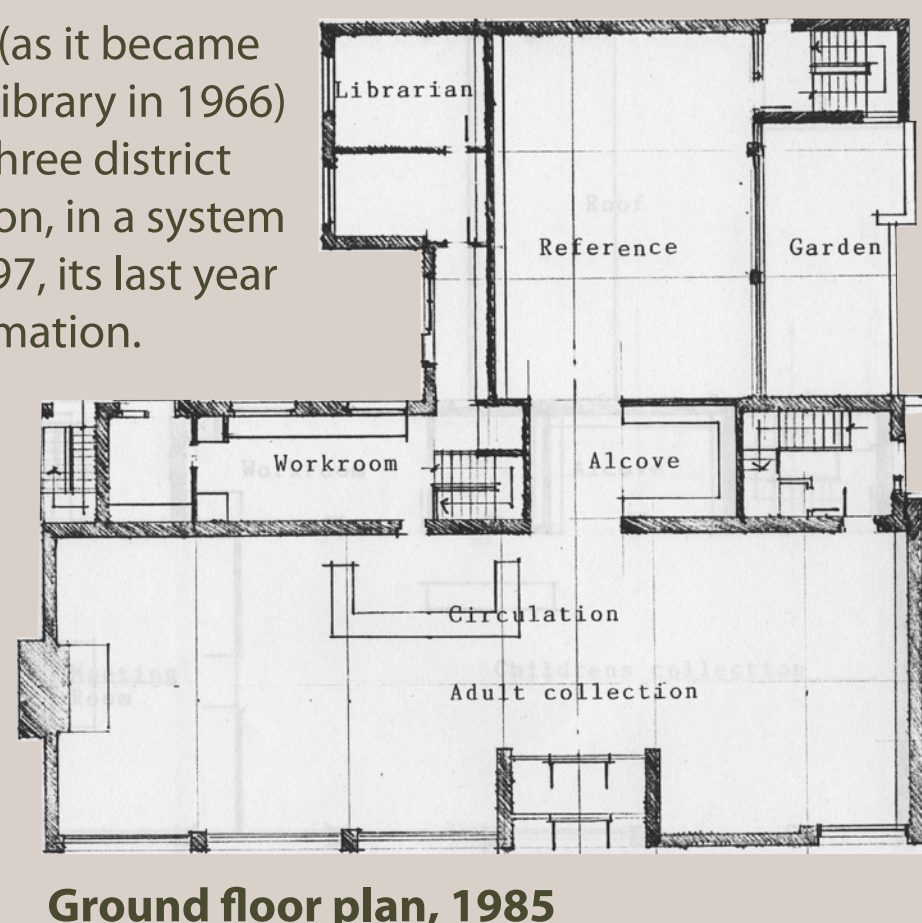
First renovation, Brentwood Branch, 1970. Dunlop, Wardell, Matsui and Aitken, Architects

The relocation of Etobicoke Public Library's support services in the 1960s freed space at Brentwood Branch for other uses. In 1970, part of the basement was converted into an "Arts Room". The \$28,000 alterations also included the addition of a stairwell on the northwest corner of the building to connect the new room with the reference area on the ground floor. Another section of the basement became the first home of Etobicoke Public Library's new Shut-In Service established in 1971. The basement was filled in during the 2010-12 renovation.



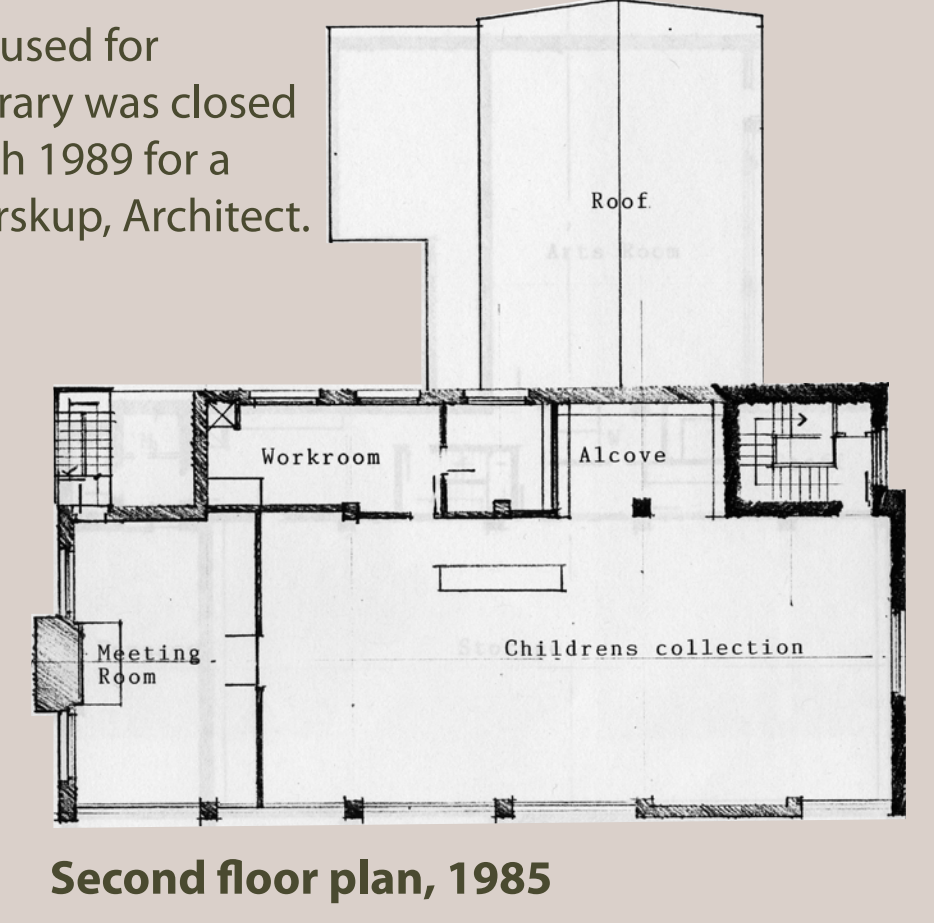
Basement floor plan, 1985

By the early 1970s, Brentwood Branch (as it became known with the opening of Richview Library in 1966) was one of Etobicoke Public Library's three district libraries, along with Richview and Albion, in a system of ten branches, increased to 13 by 1997, its last year of operation before municipal amalgamation.



Ground floor plan, 1985

The story hour room also was used for meetings by this time. The library was closed from 4 July 1988 until 13 March 1989 for a retrofit planned by Joseph Gerskup, Architect.



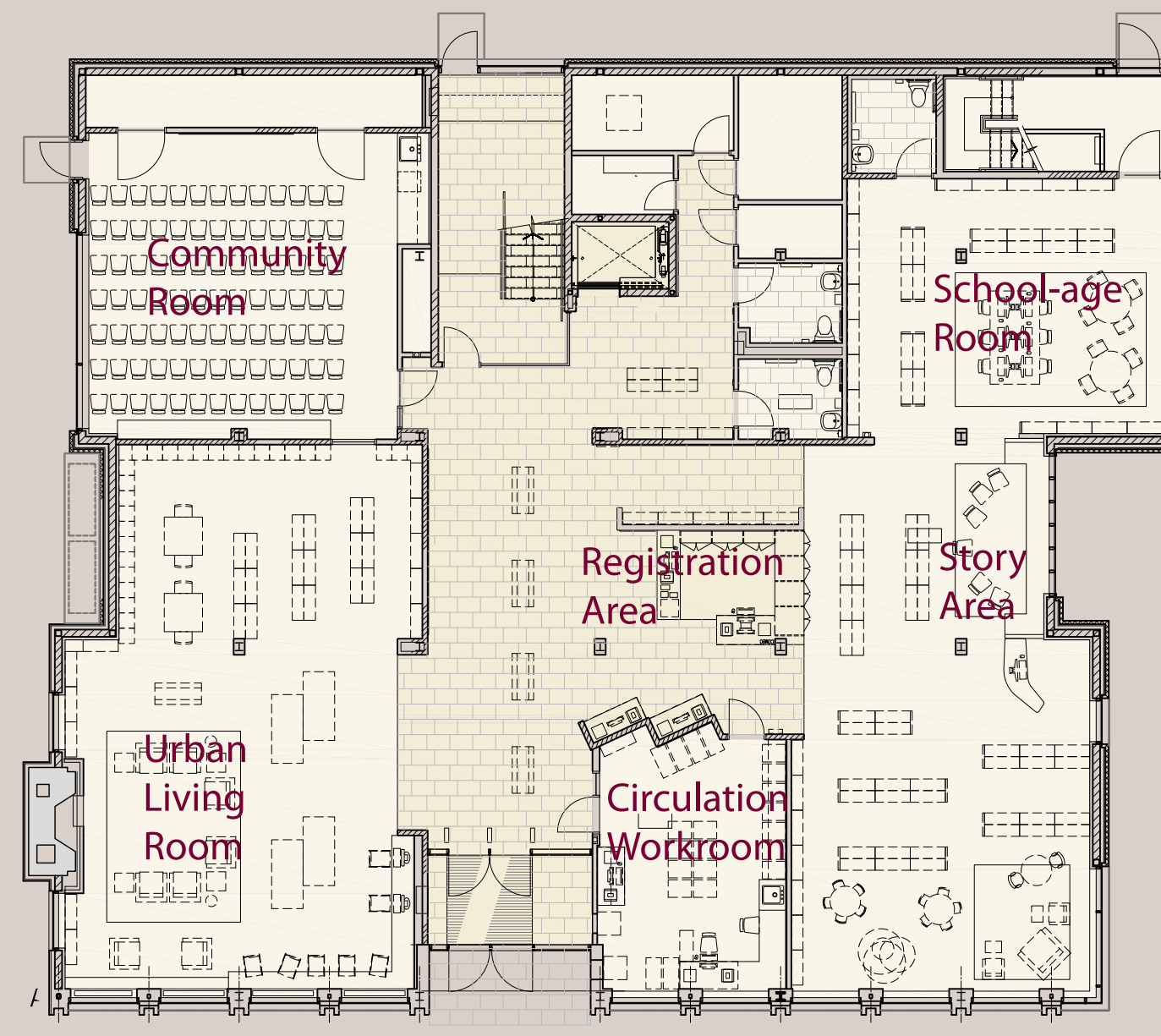
Second floor plan, 1985

Second renovation, 2010-2012. Diamond & Schmitt, Architects

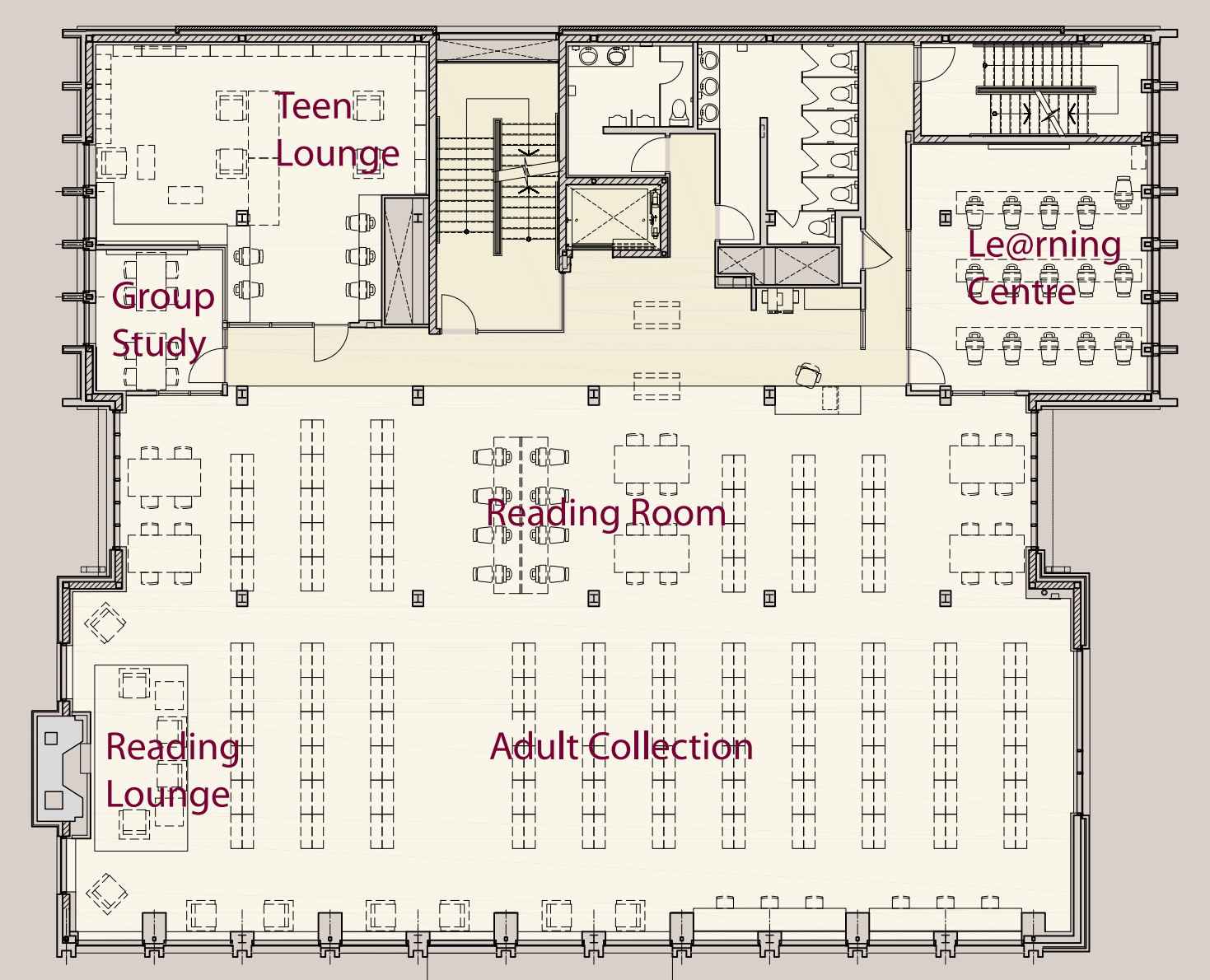
The library closed on 25 September 2010 for a major renovation and expansion that included an urban living room, reading lounges, a KidsStop, a Teen Zone, meeting rooms, a computer learning centre and outdoor reading garden. With additions, public service and collection spaces were expanded almost 30 percent.



KidsStop in the Children's Area, ground floor, 2012



Ground floor plan, 2010



Second floor plan, 2010



Urban Living Room, ground floor, 2012
This comfortable reading lounge features *La Cloche Channel* (c.1949), an oil painting by A. J. Casson, which the Etobicoke Public Library Board purchased in 1956 for display at its Main Library (Brentwood). It was later removed from the branch but was returned in November 2012.



Architectural rendering of the east and north façades, 2011
The renovated library was defined by three distinct shapes: the original 1955 two-storey structure on the east façade, a new central inset link with fully-glazed south and north elevations, stepping up to a new three-storey addition on the north façade. Exterior materials include Hope Bay split-faced limestone, weathered grey zinc panels, black brick and etched green and clear glazing. The original entrance on Brentwood Road North was retained (and enhanced with a glass-roofed entry canopy) and a reading garden was created along Birchview Boulevard.



Reading Lounge, second floor, 2012
Note the wood ceiling, which was retained from the original Boys and Girls and Story Hour rooms.

Created by Toronto Public Library staff for the reopening of Brentwood Branch on 2 November 2012. All materials are from Toronto Public Library collections.