VANCOUVER LIBRARY SQUARE (1992-1995)

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Vancouver Library Square is a mixed-use project—the largest capital project ever undertaken by the City of Vancouver—containing Vancouver’s central public library, a federal government office tower, retail and service facilities, and below-grade parking. The Library Square occupies a complete city block and consists of a seven-story rectangular block containing stacks and services. The highlight of the project is a free-standing elliptical wall that contains reading and study areas accessed by bridges from the central pavilion. The roof of the library serves as a large public garden, an example of Safdie’s efforts to introduce garden elements into urban settings. The library design was selected through an international competition and officially opened in May 1995.