

\$78m Boston Public Library renovation nears completion

By **Dan Adams** Globe Staff, March 24, 2016, 8:38 p.m.



A rendering of planned improvements to the Boston Public Library's Johnson building near Copley Square. (WILLIAM RAWN ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS, INC.)

Even Philip Johnson had to admit it: The lobby of his Boston Public Library building didn't turn out quite right.

The renowned architect, who designed the 1972 addition to the library's Central Branch in Copley Square, confessed his regrets in a 1994 book, writing that last-minute changes by others had undermined his original vision of the library as a grand civic space.

“We never did get the entrance straight. The requirements for security changed exactly at that moment, and I had none of those details as part of my design,” Johnson wrote. “Another company did it. I kept fighting, but I kept losing.”

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