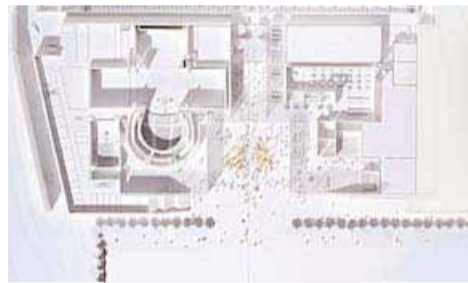
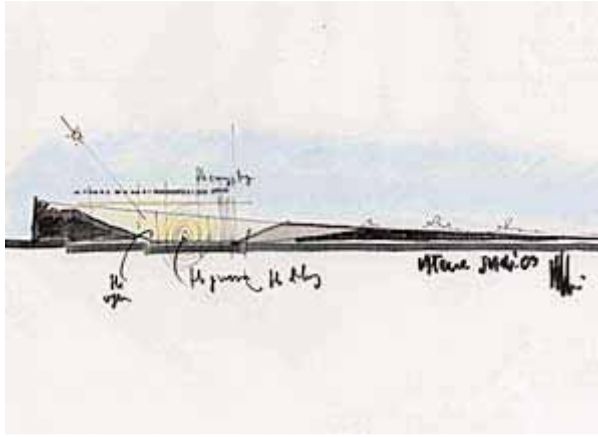


# Piano Designs Green Home for Greek National Library and Opera

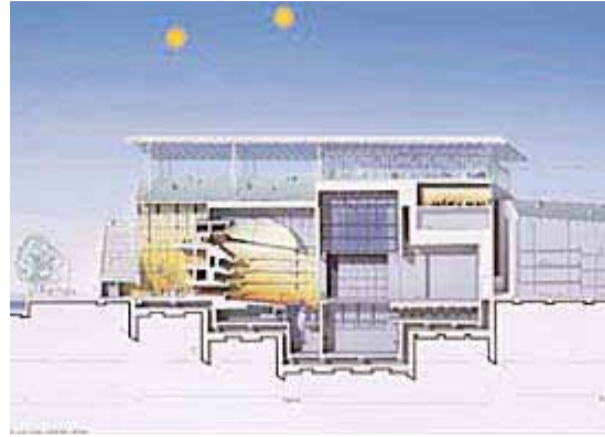
*The Olympic Flame has not sparked in Athens since 2004, yet the city continues to transform itself as a result of the international sporting event.*

Renzo Piano Building Workshop (RPBW) has been hired to design the Stavros Niarchos Foundational Cultural Center (SNFCC), which will be located in the Faliron Delta, the seaside district in south Athens where many Olympic facilities were constructed. SNFCC, a 13-year-old organization that underwrites charitable activities supporting Greek culture, selected RPBW to design the center last year from a three-firm shortlist.

The \$580 million building, which is expected to open in 2015, is the first example of a public-private partnership in the Greek State. Measuring approximately 538,000 square feet, it will house the National Library of Greece and the Greek National Opera, both of



which are currently located in the city center. Those facilities, according to RPBW partner Giorgio Bianchi, are obsolete. "Scholars use the library, but today libraries are centers for commu-



nication and exchange," he says. The opera house is a converted movie theater, he adds, and it does not have all the stage requirements that qualify it for hosting international circuit productions.

The new facility—which will be largely embedded in a hillside and surrounded by parkland—will feature a 1,400-seat main auditorium and a black-box theater. The 235,000-square-foot library component will include stacks as well as classes, meeting rooms, and corollary spaces. On the

top floor, a meeting area and study room will boast views of the Aegean Sea and, in the opposite direction, a vista that includes the Acropolis.

The building's roof will be covered in photovoltaics, which will operate in concert with geothermal heating and cooling and natural ventilation to win the project LEED certification or better. Of the sustainable strategies, Bianchi says, "the building will be independent of the grid during normal functions, and will only need energy for staging [large-scale performances like] La Traviata." The destination should be accessible by eco-friendly public transit, too, as soon as the city makes good on another Olympic Games promise—completing a nearby subway stop.

## Cafe on the menu at Neild Park

A HUMBLE amenities block at Neild Park will be turned into a 60-seat waterfront cafe, but some residents fear it will create chaos and change the personality of the area.

Canada Bay Council put forward a development application earlier this month to demolish the existing amenities building in Rodd Point, which is used by Five Dock soccer club as a canteen.

The application proposes to construct a \$750,000 new amenities building including a cafe with seating for 60 people.

Local resident of 60 years Thelma Dvdzik, who lives opposite the park, said she was not keen on the idea at all.

"The noise and the traffic will spoil the area and destroy the peace," she said.

Mrs Dvdzik said the council initially sent her the wrong letter and she only recently received a letter about the cafe, which she said failed to detail exactly what was going to happen.

However a Canada Bay spokeswoman said letters advising of a DA were sent to residents living near Neild Park, which also invited submissions for comment.



"In regards to impact on views, parking and traffic, this is currently being assessed by an independent external consultant," the spokeswoman said.

But Jim Fitzgibbons who lives on Lyons Rd is concerned that the proposed cafe will affect the positive vibe of the area.

"Putting a 60-seat cafe there would change the personality of the park and a lot of parents like me who push their kids on the play equipment would

currently upgrading a number of amenities buildings in parks around the City and "any revenue generated by the cafe will be used to continue to improve facilities in our community."

A decision by the council will be reached later this year.

Council fees shoot higher

CANADA Bay Council has unveiled its latest plan to raise capital.

And it's the resident who are paying for it.

**"Our budget was prepared with careful consideration of the economic times but with the challenge to plan for the long terms needs of our community,"**  
Mayor Angelo Tsirekas said.

feel uncomfortable using the equipment in front of people at the cafe," Mr Fitzgibbons said.

The spokeswoman said the City of Canada Bay is

In the council's 2009/2010 fees and charges document it is revealed that the council has increased all of its community fees by a min-

imum of \$5 including Ferragosto and Bay Day stall hires.

Passion Art stall hires have gone from no charge in 2008 to a whopping \$125 in 2009 for community groups and \$180 for local businesses.

As of 2009, pensioners who used to obtain replacement permits for Cabarita and Bayview Park for free, will now have to pay \$15.

On-street business parking permits have gone up from \$300 to \$315.

Business Papers have also increased from \$420 to \$440 a year.

The council adopted the Fees and Charges document on June 17.

"Our budget was prepared with careful consideration of the economic times but with the chal-



lenge to plan for the long terms needs of our community," Mayor Angelo Tsirekas said.



## Theophanous quits politics despite successful rape case defence

THEO Theophanous has bowed out of politics quietly, resisting the urge to criticise the woman who accused him of rape and the police who brought the case against him to court. Despite successfully defending the decade-old rape claims levelled against him, the veteran Labor MP and former industry minister said he had decided to end his political career.

His decision follows a one-hour discussion with Premier John Brumby over the weekend, who appears to have counselled him to depart, although Mr Theophanous said he could have stayed if he wanted to.

Speaking at a press conference outside the Premier's office, he paid tribute to his family for their support and said the case had brought he and his wife Rita and their children closer together. A veteran of decades of factional skulduggery and political manoeuvring, Mr Theophanous made no apologies for playing hardball during his career.

"Politics is a tough game and I have always thought that if you want to be in it you have to push the envelope and fight hard," he said.

"I have never known any other way except to fight."

Asked about the lessons to be learnt from the case, which was thrown out by magistrate Peter Reardon at the end of a committal hearing on Friday, he simply said he endorsed the criticisms the magistrate had made of the prosecution case. The Greek-born MP gave no clue as to his future direction except to say he hoped to play a role in either business or public life.

"For all those young people out there who want to become politicians and want to get into politics, don't be afraid of controversy," he said.