



The Reynolda Cinema, a triple theater in Forsyth County, closed in January 1997 because it was no longer able to compete with newer multiplexes in the area. At the same time, the **Reynolda Manor Branch Library** had become inadequate to serve the needs of its growing clientele. An innovative public/private partnership allowed the cinema to be renovated into a new branch library that opened in May 1998. The building, which belongs to the owners of a nearby shopping center, is leased to the county on a long-term basis.

The cinema's marquee and drop-off canopy were removed and replaced with a new "library marquee." The display cases for coming attractions were retained; the library staff uses them to promote new materials and services. Renovating the theater involved some special challenges, however, such as requiring 14 tons of rock to level the slanted floors.



Large windows were added to the exterior walls to bring light and views to the interior. Vaulted ceilings were used to take advantage of the volume of space. Heavy timbers above the partition walls provide visual support and help create a warm environment.



Thanks to Don Dwiggins of the Forsyth County Public Library for the above photographs. If you have suggestions for photographs of library buildings or activities that could be shared through this column, please contact Joline Ezzell at (919) 660-5925 or <joline.ezzell@duke.edu>.

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