

**The Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science**  
**La Revue canadienne des sciences de l'information et de**  
**bibliothéconomie**



**The Pritzker Architecture Prize and its potential for developing library tourism**

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Volume 47, Number 2, 2024

Bobcatsss 2024 Special Issue  
Numéro spécial Bobcatsss 2024

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1116000ar>  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5206/cjils-rsib.v47i2.17556>

[See table of contents](#)

**Publisher(s)**

Canadian Association for Information Science - Association canadienne des sciences de l'information

**ISSN**

1195-096X (print)  
1920-7239 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

**Cite this article**

Hristov, R. (2024). The Pritzker Architecture Prize and its potential for developing library tourism. *The Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science / La Revue canadienne des sciences de l'information et de bibliothéconomie*, 47(2), 108–119. <https://doi.org/10.5206/cjils-rsib.v47i2.17556>

**Article abstract**

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# The Pritzker Architecture Prize and its potential for developing library tourism

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Star architecture is becoming a popular strategy for urban solutions, and exclusive projects are being constructed to create an image and increase media attention. The term describes buildings designed by famous architects who often capitalize on their popularity for marketing purposes in tourist destinations. The visibility of these sites effectively attracts tourists and capital to specific places. It is common for landmark buildings and their leading architects to be paired with the Pritzker Architecture Prize. This paper reviews all 72 libraries designed by prize winners from the first edition in 1979 to 2023, analyzing their potential for library tourism. The research methodology includes a documentary and content analysis (internal and online desk research) of websites, newsletters, and publications. It can be concluded that these libraries have a vast collection of resources that can entice tourists, and now they are destinations for millions of visitors. On the other hand, the authority of these architects guarantees the more significant popularity of libraries as tourist destinations. However, given the financial resources needed to implement these projects, their tourism potential can mainly benefit large cities in developed countries or traditional academic centers.

*Keywords:* library tourism, star architecture, star architects, pritzker architecture prize

## Introduction

The term "star architecture" describes buildings designed by internationally renowned architects. Often, the aim is not only for functional quality and high aesthetics but also for the destination to benefit from the architects' popularity for marketing purposes. By betting on a specific name, the clients hope for an additional added value for their project or even for the whole city, which usually requires higher costs for its realization (Ponzini & Nastasi, 2016). Star architecture is becoming an increasingly common strategy for urban solutions in the face of fierce competition between cities, encouraging the construction of outstanding architectural projects to create a city's image and increase media attention (Ponzini, Alaily-Mattar & Thierstein, 2020, p. 1). According to L. Strannegård (2016), the potential of architectural objects to attract interest in specific destinations is linked to the role of so-called star architects. These structures are apparent and thus effective in attracting tourists and capital to certain places (p. 48). Among the most famous examples are public buildings that house museums or libraries (Wenner, 2020, p. 228).

Examining the disparity between the tourist development

of central Paris and its suburbs, M. Gravari-Barbas (2020) points out that one of the reasons for this is that all the iconic architectural landmarks of the capital are concentrated mainly in its central part. Drawing comparisons with Rome and London, she notes that the construction in remote areas of architectural sites created by star architects has expanded these cities' tourist potential in recent years. For example, in London, the author argues that the construction of the Tate Modern gallery by architects Herzog and de Meuron has led to a lasting modification of the cultural, economic, and tourist equilibrium there. At the same time, in Rome, the MAXXI - National Museum of 21st Century Art, designed by Zaha Hadid, could represent an attractive element outside the historic city center (pp. 210–213).

Typically, examples of such landmark buildings and the names of their star architects are often associated with the annual Pritzker Architecture Prize – an international award established in 1979 by Jay and Cindy Pritzker through their „Hyatt“ Foundation. The idea was that such an initiative would encourage and stimulate broader public awareness of buildings and inspire greater creativity within the architectural profession. „Pritzker“ is often referred to as the „Nobel Prize for Architecture“ (The Pritzker Architecture Prize, n.d.). Raising the question of libraries' place in the tourism sector, L. Prokopenko (2020) singles out the Pritzker Prize among initiatives with the potential to draw attention to these cultural institutions (p. 21). However, to date, more in-depth research has yet to substantiate this claim, validating the place of the

award in the context of library tourism.

### Literature review

The concept of library tourism is based on recognizing libraries as tourist attractions and their crucial role in choosing a tourist destination. The architecture of the building, the artistic bookshelves, and the valuable collections can be proposed as cultural values defining the library as a tourist attraction. Research in the field of library tourism is still at a very early stage, and the theoretical framework is not sufficiently developed. However, in recent years, several scientific studies have emerged that highlight the successful interrelationship between libraries and the tourism sector, presenting and analyzing different best practices worldwide (Baleiro & Quinteiro, 2018; Karuza, Krajnovic & Volic, 2017; Lainsbury, 2019; Li & Liu, 2019; Modeva - Nankova, 2016; Quinteiro, Carreira & Rodrigues Gonçalves, 2020; Tokić & Kranjčević, 2018; Tosic & Lazarevic, 2010; Yankova & Stoykova, 2016).

According to M. Roque & D. Guerreiro (2021), research on the topic is fragmented at this point, referring to limited research areas, and is not able to fill the gap in the systematic review of the role of libraries in the provision of tourism services, but offers a vision for the evolution of the mission of libraries in this field. Based on the resources accumulated to date, the authors formulate a definition of library tourism as "a tourist activity centered on the library, in cases where the tourist itinerary includes it as a key and defining element, but also when the visit to the library is an integral part of the trip because of the information it provides, the activities it promotes, and the services it offers, contributing to the objectives of the trip" (p. 53).

Libraries, alongside museums, with their unique collections of valuable cultural artifacts, represent a significant part of the heritage of the communities they serve, K. Loach, J. Rowley & J. Griffiths (2017) note. They add that not only the collections but also the museums and libraries themselves, including their history and buildings, are cultural assets that can enrich local communities and contribute to tourism associated with a city or region (p. 186). The trend towards integration also enables libraries to receive more investment, guaranteeing sustainable development. Today, some libraries attract more visitors than traditional tourist destinations - especially in the US and Europe. For example, with 34 million visitors in 2014, public libraries in New York City enjoyed more interest than all sports and cultural events, museums, and zoos combined (Adegbilero-Iwari et al., 2019, p. 58). The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is a tourist symbol of Egypt and an attraction with a ticket revenue of about €1.4 million annually, of which 40-60% comes from foreign tourists. Its impact also affects the city's overall tourism business. While in 2000, the occupancy rate of the tourist capacity was 64% three years after the library's opening, there has been an increase in the tourist capacity by 30% (Jelinčić & Zović, 2012,

p. 38).

### Research Methods and objectives

Documentary and content analysis (internal and online research) of websites, newsletters, publications, and other information materials, as well as synthesis, were used as the leading work methods. The meaning of the terms "star architecture" and "library tourism" is explained, and the different aspects characterizing this new segment of cultural tourism are presented. Seventy-two libraries whose architects have won the Pritzker Prize are traced. The official personal web pages of the prize winners, the web pages of libraries, and specialized but also popular publications on architecture were studied. The data was collected between August 2022 and November 2023. From the first edition of the Pritzker Prize in 1979 to 2023, the winners and their library projects are reviewed chronologically. The paper aims to explore the forms through which these libraries enter the hypothesis of sites of tourist interest, highlighting the importance of star architecture in promoting a place. The analysis is based on the characteristics of library tourism that can be attributed to the projects designed by the Pritzker Prize winners. This includes architecture, valuable library collections, importance to the local community, connection to a famous personality, and surrounding landscape. The different types of libraries (national, public, university, school) are identified. The data shows many Pritzker Prize winners' projects are for university libraries. These libraries have not traditionally been considered as the object of library tourism. However, the analysis of the information presented reveals numerous ways in which they can be part of it. In addition, the popularity of the star architects is examined as a factor in drawing the public's attention to these library projects. Also, the geographical location of these libraries is addressed. As a result, conclusions are drawn about the possibilities for developing library tourism in the light of the Pritzker Prize winners' projects.

### Findings

Forty-six awards have been given since the first edition of the Pritzker Prize in 1979 until 2023, and 52 world-famous architects have been chosen as winners. Taking a more in-depth look at each of their portfolios reveals a substantial number of library-building projects. Among them is the Boston Public Library's Johnson Building, designed by Philip Johnson, the first Pritzker Prize winner in 1979, which opened in 1972. Designed to be a "Palace for the People", it is one of the largest libraries in the world. Thousands of free public events are held annually (Boston Public Library, n.d.). The completed designs for two university libraries are part of the portfolio of James Stirling, the third winner of the Pritzker Prize in 1981. The Seeley Historical Library at the University of Cambridge opened in 1968, including a 300-seat reading room, seminar room, and standard rooms (Banham, 1968). The Biological

Sciences Library at the University of California, Irvine, is part of a series of projects by James Stirling in collaboration with Michael Wilford. Its construction was completed in 1994. The building was designed to be a landmark on the university campus, striving to generate urbanism and attract the attention of passersby (Arquitectura Viva, n.d.-b).

Among the iconic designs of the 1983 Pritzker Prize-winning Chinese architect Ieoh Ming Pei is the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, which today is a draw for over a million tourists a year. It was officially opened on October 20, 1979. The library consists of a nine-story white concrete tower next to a memorial glass and steel building (JFK Library, n.d.). The building, which houses the City Hall and the Central City Library of The Hague, The Netherlands, is among the many world-famous designs by Richard Meier, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Architecture in 1984. Opened in 1995, the library today houses an extensive collection. As a place for free access to information, The Hague Library inspires its inhabitants to continue to develop (The Hague International Centre, n.d.).

The new city library in Ulm, Germany, opened in May 2004, is among the architectural attractions for visitors to Albert Einstein's hometown. Designed by Gottfried Böhm, who won the Pritzker Prize in 1986, the library is shaped like an imposing pyramid. A remarkable feature of the library is that its outer facade of 4994 square meters is made of glass (Ulm/Neu-Ulm Touristik, n.d.). Gottfried Böhm also designed the University Library in Mannheim. The building was completed in 1988. The library has more than 2,000 individual and group workstations and a collection of more than 2.7 million library items (Universität Mannheim, n.d.). Three remarkable library projects are part of the work of Kenzo Tange, winner of the Pritzker Prize in 1987. In 1953, Tange designed the Children's Library in Hiroshima. The following year, another project was completed in his home country - for the Tsudajuku University Library and, in 2013, for the modern library of the American School in Japan (ASIJ) (Tange Associates, n.d.).

The following year, 1988, the Pritzker Prize was awarded to two iconic architects, one of them being the Brazilian Oscar Niemeyer. His design was for the Leonel Brizola National Library (part of the Cultural Complex of the Republic) in Brasilia, Brazil, which opened in 2008. Its collection has over 300,000 library items and receives over 100,000 visitors annually (Google Arts & Culture, n.d.-b). In 2015, a new modern library was named after Niemeyer and opened in the architect-designed The Volcano Cultural Centre in Le Havre, France. Today, the library is the hub of cultural life in the French city, offering its visitors a wide range of opportunities (Le Havre Etretat Normandie Tourisme, 2021). The other Pritzker Prize winner in 1988, Gordon Bunshaft, designed the building for Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Opened in 1963, it houses more than

one million books, manuscript pages, papyri, photographs, maps, posters, and paintings. Annually, the library receives over 200,000 visitors (Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, n.d.).

In 1989, the Pritzker Prize was awarded to Frank Gehry, who designed the Frances Howard Goldwyn - Hollywood Regional Branch Library (1985), which has an extensive collection related to the history of film, television, performing arts, and community in Hollywood (Los Angeles Public Library, n.d.), and for the Lewis Library of Princeton University in New Jersey (2008). The library houses much of the university's research collections (Princeton University, 2008). The winner of the Pritzker Prize in 1991, Robert Venturi, we owe the contemporary appearance of several library buildings - the Stevenson Library at Bard College in New York City (1994), the Rauner Special Collections Library (2000) and the Baker Memorial Library (2002) at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, and that of the new Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection at Harvard University in Washington, D.C. (2005). Dumbarton Oaks is a research institute, library, and museum that is now home to unique collections of pre-Columbian and Byzantine art and a center of attraction for scholars worldwide (Dumbarton Oaks, n.d.).

Alvaro Siza, who won the Pritzker Prize in 1992, left two library buildings in his native Portugal for posterity. The University of Aveiro Library (1995) has space for 1,000 readers spread over three floors and rooms for individual, group, and audiovisual study (Universidade de Aveiro, n.d.). The modern building of the Municipal Library of Viana do Castelo (2008) is today a cultural center for the inhabitants, where everyone can find something for themselves (Biblioteca Municipal de Viana do Castelo, n.d.). The Keio University Library in Japan is among the famous buildings designed by Fumihiko Maki, a Pritzker Prize winner in 1993. Completed in 1981, the library is among Japan's humanities and social sciences leaders, holding over 2.7 million library items (Keio University Library, n.d.). In 1993, Maki's project for the Nakatsu Obata Memorial Library was realized, which organizes various events for the residents in addition to its extensive collection (Nakatsu City Library, n.d.). Ten years later, another library he designed, the Fukui Prefectural Library and Archives, opened its doors, impressing with the unique natural views that open from its windows (Architecture History, n.d.). To the Pritzker Prize winner of the following year, 1994, Christian de Portzamparc, we owe the futuristic building of the Les Champs Libres cultural center in Rennes, France (2006), which houses the Municipal Library. It is an attraction mainly for the younger inhabitants of Rennes with its extensive collection of books of novels and stories, films on DVD, and albums (Bibliothèque des Champs Libres, n.d.).

Tadao Ando, who won the award in 1995, is extremely popular for his work on children's libraries. In 2002, his project to renovate the International Library of Children's Literature

was realized. Designated as a building of historical value, the library is well known among architecture lovers worldwide to see how Ando has blended the past and the present (Google Arts & Culture, n.d.-a). Another of his projects is that of the Museum of Picture Books in Iwaki, Japan. In 2005, Ando designed this library mainly to serve three preschools. Today, however, visitors flock to the library on open access days to see Ando's design and enjoy the collection of children's books worldwide. The library is listed among the "25 most modern libraries in the world" (Architectuur, n.d.). The Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest, which opened to visitors in 2021, is a project donated by the architect to the children of his hometown. It is a building based on two main concepts: growth linked to childhood and the belief that books are food for the developing mind (Arquitectura Viva, n.d.-a). Tadao Ando is also the author of the Memorial Museum Library, named after the writer and journalist Ryotaro Shiba, also located in Osaka. The building opened in 2001 and was designed to house the famous author's extensive library of over 60,000 books (Greyscape, 2020). In 2015, another library designed by the Pritzker Prize winner, the Towada City Library, was opened. Conceived as a library and as an educational space, it allows people from the local community to meet and interact with each other (Towada City Library, n.d.).

Two university libraries are part of the rich portfolio of Rafael Moneo, who won the Pritzker Prize in 1996. In 2002, the Arenberg Library of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, was opened. The library stands on the ruins of a convent of the Order of Celestine, and its exciting architecture is a bridge between the past and the present (Rafael Moneo, n.d.). Moneo also designed the new library of the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain, which opened in 2009. It is a resource center for learning, teaching, and research. Today, the library holds over 1,000,000 print publications in its collection (Universidad de Deusto, n.d.). The author of a library project is also the Norwegian Sverre Fehn, winner of the Pritzker Prize in 1997. The building he designed for the Bøler Library in Oslo, opened in 1976, attracts tourists and architecture students alike. In addition to having an extensive collection of over 1,000,000 books, the library organizes events suitable for all ages (Deichman, n.d.).

Among the more than 100 projects completed by Renzo Piano, who became a Pritzker Prize winner in 1998, is that of the reconstruction and expansion of the Morgan Library and Museum in Manhattan, New York (2006) (RPBW Architects - Renzo Piano Building Workshop, n.d.-b). Another of his projects is for the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre in Athens. The complex, completed in 2016, includes new facilities for the National Library of Greece and the Greek National Opera. The library, with a capacity for 1,000,000 books, was conceived not only as a place for the study and preservation of culture but also as a public resource, a space where culture is available for sharing and enjoyment (RPBW

Architects - Renzo Piano Building Workshop, n.d.-c). Piano also designed a new library for the University of Trento, Italy, which opened in 2016. The building houses a collection of 480,000 library items and has reading rooms for up to 500 readers (RPBW Architects - Renzo Piano Building Workshop, n.d.-a).

The British Norman Foster, who received the Pritzker Prize in 1999, authorizes the designs for five libraries. In 1993 one of his projects was realized - for the King's Norton Library of Cranfield University, UK. The library is open to students, faculty, and outside visitors (Cranfield Library Services, n.d.). The Carré d'Art Museum of Contemporary Art in Nîmes, France, which also houses the municipal library, opened the same year. It regularly hosts meetings with world-renowned writers and artists, enriching the cultural life of the French city (Carré d'Art, n.d.). In 2001, Foster's project completed the renovation of the British Library of Political and Economic Studies. It is one of the largest libraries in the world profiled in this field. The library welcomes around 6500 people daily (London School of Economics and Political Science, n.d.). Norman Foster also designed the Philological Library of the Free University of Berlin, which opened in 2005. It is one of the architectural highlights of the university complex and is popularly known as the "Berlin Brain" because of its shape (Freie Universität Berlin, 2016). The fifth library designed by Foster is the John Spoor Broome Library of California State University Channel Islands, completed in 2008. The library has a collection of over 100,000 items, more than 400,000 e-books, and 70,000 films (CSU Channel Islands, n.d.).

Among Rem Koolhaas's (winner of the Pritzker Prize in 2000) best-known projects is that for the Seattle Public Library-Central Library (2004). Part of it are the innovative "Books Spiral", a 275-seat auditorium and open spaces where visitors can meet, study, or read (The Seattle Public Library, n.d.). Also notable is Koolhaas' design for the Qatar National Library (2017), comprising the Doha National Library, the Public Library, and the University Library. It preserves a collection of valuable texts and manuscripts related to Arab-Islamic civilization (OMA, n.d.). The new Alexis de Tocqueville Public Library in Cannes was inaugurated in the same year and was designed by Rem Koolhaas. The library's main public space is its elevated panoramic reading room, from which the urban landscape of Cannes enters the world of books (OMA, 2017).

In 2001, the most prestigious architectural prize was awarded to the Swiss Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron. They have three library projects, the earliest of which was completed in 1999 for the new library of the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, Germany. The motifs for the facade prints were based on photographs found by the artist Thomas Ruff in magazines, which he collected over the years (Herzog & De Meuron, n.d.-a). In 2002, Herzog & de Meuron's project to extend the library in Aarau, Switzerland,

was also completed. Its extensive collection holds fiction and scientific literature, feature films, documentaries on DVD, and historical collections (Kanton Aargau, n.d.). The Swiss are also the authors of the design for the new National Library of Israel building, which was opened in October 2023 (Herzog & De Meuron n.d.-b). Zaha Hadid was the first woman awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2004. Her work is the design for the library and study center of the Vienna University of Economics and Business, which was realized in 2013. With over 1,000,000 visitors per year and a collection of approximately 650,000 volumes of literature, it is Austria's most extensive specialized library for business and economics (Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, n.d.).

Among the most popular projects of 2008 Pritzker Prize winner Jean Nouvel is the Arab World Institute in Paris, which opened in 1987. Emblematic of the library is the 32-meter Tower of Books, on whose walls are arranged collections of literature. It was inspired by the Tower of Samara in Iraq, erected in the 9th century (Institut du Monde Arabe, 2019). Because of its unique design in the shape of an artificial hill, Nouvel's 2018 project for a library and resource center for the University of Nicosia, Cyprus, also became an attraction. The library houses 620,000 print publications, over 190,000 e-books, and over 12,000 electronic and print journals (University of Cyprus, n.d.).

The Japanese Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa were the Pritzker Prize winners in 2010. Sejima is the author of the Japan Women's University Library project in Tokyo, which opened in 2019. Today, it has a collection of over 900,000 library items and 650 places for readers (Japan Women's University Library, n.d.). The auditorium and children's section of the Porto Public Library in Porto, Portugal, are among the many projects of the winner of the most prestigious architectural prize, Eduardo Souto de Moura, who was awarded the prize in 2011. The auditorium is a multifunctional space in which different initiatives take place. Visitors can also enjoy various activities in the children's section (Bibliotecas Municipais do Porto, n.d.). Chinese architect Wang Shu is the 2012 Pritzker Prize winner. His design for the library of Wenzheng College at Suzhou University, which was realized in 2000, is in the spirit of a traditional Chinese garden. In symbiosis with the surrounding mountains and lake, its main body seems to float on the water's surface, and the reading room for poetry and philosophy is literally in the water itself (World-Architects, n.d.).

Another Japanese architect who won the Pritzker Prize was Toyo Ito, who was a winner in 2013. Among his projects is the one for the Sendai Mediatheque in Tokyo (2001). The public institution provides a base for various cultural events. It is also home to four libraries - the Sendai Shimin Library, an audio-visual materials library, a library for the visually and hearing impaired, and an educational audio-visual materials library (Sendai Mediatheque, n.d.). His project for the Ha-

chioji Library building at Tama Art University in the Japanese capital was completed in 2007. It holds about 77,000 books in Japanese and 47,000 books in other languages. In addition to spacious reading rooms, the library has space for various events and exhibitions and a theater area with a large screen (Tama Art University, n.d.). In the year that Ito received the Pritzker Prize, the building he designed for the Koo Chen-Fu Memorial Library of the College of Social Sciences at the National Taiwan University was also inaugurated. The unique 4,645-square-meter building impresses with its transparent reading room of exquisite design, with 88 columns in the shape of stylized trees (Koo Chen-Fu Memorial Library, n.d.).

The Pritzker Prize also went to a Japanese architect in 2014 when it was awarded to Shigeru Ban, famous for his recycled cardboard tube projects. A case in point is the extensive private "Library of a Poet" in Kanagawa, built in 1991 (Shigeru Ban Architects, n.d.). Ban is also the author of another library project - that of Seikei University in Tokyo (2006). It is a draw for the community and the new symbol of Seikei University and holds about 550,000 books (Seikei University, n.d.). The RCR Arquitectes team of Rafael Aranda, Carme Pigem, and Ramon Vilalta is the 2017 Pritzker winner. In 2007, the building they designed for a library and senior center in Barcelona was inaugurated, with reading rooms, a small assembly hall, and a gallery (Arquitectura Viva, 2021). Ten years later, RCR Arquitectes' project for the De Krook library in Ghent, Belgium, was successfully realized. In its first opening year, it recorded 1,893,735 visits and hosted 750 events (Visit Gent, n.d.). In 2018, the award was given to Balkrishna Doshi, whose more than 100 projects include the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore Library and Information Centre (1983) (Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, n.d.).

Japanese architect Arata Isozaki, the 2019 Pritzker Prize-winning architect, has several notable library projects. The first of them, completed in 1966, was for the Oita Prefectural Library, which was transformed - again to Isozaki's design - into an art space (Vivarium, n.d.) in 1996. In 1974, his design for the Kitakyushu City Central Library, Fukuoka Prefecture, was completed, which holds a collection of over 500,000 library items. The library has also been used for filming (Kitakyushu City Tourist Information Website, n.d.). Fifteen years later, Isozaki's Bond University Library project in Queensland, Australia, became a reality, storing over 90,000 library items and providing access to more than 350,000 e-books and 80,000 e-journals by 2021 (Bond University Library, n.d.). In 1995, Arata Isozaki's design for the Toyonokuni Information Library building in Oita Prefecture was also realized, which houses the prefecture's digitized archives from 1968 to the present (Prefectural Library, n.d.). The Japanese architect also designed the Shenzhen Cultural Centre in China (2007), of which the

City Library is a part. Its stock is 4,000,000 items, and the library has 2,500 reading places and can accommodate 8,000 readers per day. Since its opening, it has enjoyed colossal interest and serves almost 2,500,000 readers annually (Shenzhen Library, n.d.). Isozaki's most recent library project, which Andrea Maffei carried out, was for the new City Library building in Maranello, Italy (2011). Together with the wind tunnel and the Ferrari Citadel, it is part of a permanent exhibition dedicated to contemporary architecture, attracting visitors worldwide (Comune di Maranello, n.d.).

Two ladies, Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, won the 2020 Pritzker Prize. Theirs is the design for Kingston University Town House building, completed in 2019, which houses one of the university's four libraries, a formal events space, dance studios, and music rooms. More than 330,000 library items are available to readers, who can use more than 275,000 e-books and 78,000 online journals (Kingston University London, n.d.). Farrell and McNamara's project for the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter in Dublin, Ireland, which will house the city library, is also underway (Grafton Architects, n.d.). In 2021, the award was again given to two architects - the French Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal. They designed a new building for the University of Arts and Humanities in Grenoble, France, which was finalized in 2001 and housed the university library. It offers an extensive collection of specialized literature that can be used on-site in a large work area with over a hundred seats, a rest area, and a media library (UFR Arts et Sciences humaines - Université Grenoble Alpes, 2017).

Burkina Faso-born Francis Kéré received the Nobel Prize in Architecture in 2022. Among his exciting projects is the primary school library in the village of Gando in his home country (2001). In addition to providing educational infrastructure for the children, the library was also designed as a resource center for the villagers. The ceiling of the building was made using clay pots embedded in the concrete slab. These circular openings allow natural light to penetrate the space (Kéré Architecture, n.d.). British architect Sir David Alan Chipperfield won the 2023 Pritzker Prize. Part of his rich portfolio is the completed design for a new public library building in Des Moines, Iowa, USA, which cost over \$32 million. The library opened in 2006 and houses a colored children's library, meeting rooms, individual study rooms, and a teen area (Des Moines Public Library, n.d.).

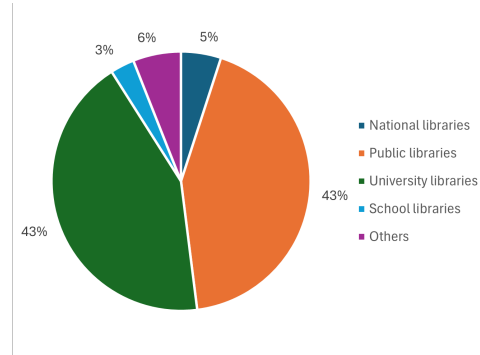
### Discussion

Out of 46 prizes from 1979 to 2023, 34 have gone to architects whose library building projects have been realized (Table 1). Seventy-two libraries are the work of these star architects, including four national, 31 public, 31 university, two school, and four other libraries (Figure 1). A survey of these libraries demonstrates the wide variety of ways in which they can be active participants in the tourist market, making them

not just expensive repositories of books but also destinations of choice to visit. Some of them are extremely popular, and sites such as the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, the Museum of Picture Books in Iwaki, Japan, and the City Library in Maranello, Italy, are among the tourist symbols of the cities in which they were built.

**Figure 1**

*Percentage distribution of library types designed by Pritzker Architecture Prize winners*

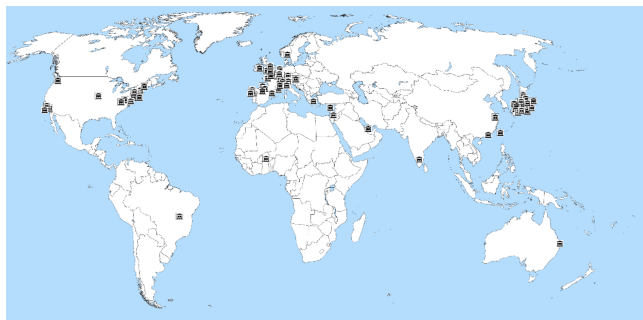


The vast number of university library projects, both centers of knowledge and often seen as attractions due to their architecture, is impressive. Examples of such libraries include the Biological Sciences Library at the University of California at Irvine, USA, the Keio University Library in Japan, and the Arenberg Library of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Their star architects' creativity has attracted the attention of many more than just academics. Many of the university libraries are impressive in appearance and have collections that can easily compete with those of some of the world's wealthiest museums. Today, the names of Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library and Harvard University's Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington stand for scholarly excellence and draw admirers of ancient art and culture. The exceptional specimens held there attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. The numerous educational initiatives that have become an essential feature of booming modern library tourism are another reason for their popularity. The most popular locations for Pritzker Prize-winning libraries are Europe, the East and West coasts of the United States, and Japan, no doubt due to the large number of architects from the island nation (Figure 2). Major cities or established academic centers are prioritized for library projects by star architects. Examples include the International Library of Children's Literature in Tokyo, the Bøler Library in Oslo, and the Morgan Library and Museum in Manhattan, New York, as well as the Seeley Historical Library at the University of Cambridge, the Biological Sciences Library at the University of California, Irvine, and the University Library in Mannheim. A review of the libraries presented concludes that stellar architecture is a

prerequisite for developing library tourism, mainly because the principals have solid financial resources. In many cases, this is necessary not only to secure the services of a star architect but also to construct impressive spaces tailored to the library's needs. Exceptions to these cases are the private "Library of a Poet" in Kanagawa, Japan, and the primary school library in Gando, Burkina Faso. They may encourage library tourists to visit less popular destinations.

## Figure 2

*Geographical location of libraries designed by Pritzker Architecture Prize winners*



Due to their significance to the local community, several libraries have morphed into cultural centers in their towns. These include the new city library in Ulm, Germany, the Municipal Library of Viana do Castelo in Portugal, and the Carré d'Art Museum of Contemporary Art in Nîmes, France, which houses the municipal library. The libraries establish themselves as modern educational and informative cultural institutes by hosting various events. In tracing the tourism opportunities that libraries designed by Pritzker Prize winners can offer, those bearing the names of their architects – like the Boston Public Library's Johnson Building and the Oscar Niemeyer Library – also deserve attention. The name of a star architect is a significant factor in determining interest in a site, and even this is a prerequisite for successfully including these libraries on tourist routes. When discussing the names of celebrities and their connection to library tourism, the memory of these people can serve as the primary reason for visiting a library at a specific location. This form of library tourism finds a projection in the face of the Memorial Museum Library „Ryotaro Shiba“ in Osaka. Today, the tribute to the life and work of one of the most influential figures in Japanese literature since the Second World War attracts crowds worldwide to this location.

## Conclusion

Libraries designed by Pritzker Prize winners range from school libraries to those on university campuses, from town centers to remarkable architectural masterpieces, and from literature museums to modern research facilities. They demon-

strate their designers' creativity and creed in how a building can serve people effectively while attracting casual passersby. These libraries, which have become an inspiration to many and have a wide range of resources that can be useful to tourists, are now centers of attraction for millions of visitors, whether for their architectural specificity, the priceless collections that are held there, the opportunity to be a kind of community center, the memory of a famous personality, or even the surrounding landscape. On the other hand, the unquestionable authority of the architects who have scaled their professional Everest in the form of the Pritzker Prize is a sure guarantee of the libraries' increased recognition and popularity, as well as their attraction not only as a window to knowledge but also as a promising tourist segment. To summarize, regardless of the type of libraries presented, the ideas of the winners of the top architectural award have all the features that make them fit within the concept of library tourism. Given the financial means needed to actualize them, it should be underlined that their tourist potential can primarily help large cities in wealthy countries or those with a tradition of academic education. The preceding, although acknowledging only a fraction of what Pritzker Prize winners have left for future generations, lends credence to the view that star architecture, for all its benefits, remains an elite undertaking related to regional economic development.

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### Appendix A. Winners of the Pritzker Architecture Prize and their library projects

Award year	Architect	Realized projects for libraries (opening year)
1979	Philip Johnson	Boston Public Library's Johnson Building, USA (1972)
1981	James Stirling	The Seeley Historical Library at the University of Cambridge, UK (1968) The Biological Sciences Library at the University of California, Irvine, USA – a collaborative project with Michael Wilford (1994)
1983	Ieoh Ming Pei	John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston, USA (1979)
1984	Richard Meier	The Central City Library of The Hague, The Netherlands (1995)
1986	Gottfried Böhm	The University Library in Mannheim, Germany (1988) Ulm City Library, Germany (2004)
1987	Kenzo Tange	Children's Library, Hiroshima, Japan (1953) Tsudajuku University Library, Tokyo, Japan (1954) ASIJ Library, Tokyo, Japan (2013)
1988	Oscar Niemeyer	Leonel Brizola National Library, Brasilia, Brazil (2008) Oscar Niemeyer Library, Le Havre, France (2015)
1988	Gordon Bunshaft	Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, USA (1963)
1989	Frank Gehry	Frances Howard Goldwyn - Hollywood Regional Branch Library, USA (1985) Lewis Library of Princeton University, New Jersey, USA (2008)
1991	Robert Venturi	Stevenson Library at Bard College, New York City, USA (1994) Rauner Special Collections Library at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, USA (2000) Baker Memorial Library at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, USA (2002) Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection at Harvard University, Washington, D.C., USA (2005)
1992	Alvaro Siza	The University of Aveiro Library, Portugal (1995) Municipal Library of Viana do Castelo, Portugal (2008)
1993	Fumihiko Maki	Keio University Library, Tokyo, Japan (1981) Nakatsu Obata Memorial Library, Japan (1993) Fukui Prefectural Library and Archives, Japan (2003)
1994	Christian de Portzamparc	Municipal Library, Rennes, France (2006)
1995	Tadao Ando	Shiba Ryotaro Memorial Museum Library, Osaka, Japan (2001) International Library of Children's Literature, Tokyo, Japan (2002) Museum of Picture Books, Iwaki, Japan (2005) Towada City Library, Japan (2015) Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest, Osaka, Japan (2021)
1996	Rafael Moneo	The Arenberg Library of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium (2002) The University of Deusto Library, Bilbao, Spain (2009)
1997	Sverre Fehn	Bøler Library, Oslo, Norway (1976)
1998	Renzo Piano	The Morgan Library and Museum, New York, USA (2006) National Library of Greece, Athens (2016) The University of Trento Library, Italy (2016)
1999	Norman Foster	The Cranfield University's Kings Norton Library, UK (1993) Municipal library, Nîmes, France (1993) British Library of Political and Economic Studies, London, UK (2001) The Philological Library of the Free University of Berlin, Germany (2005) The John Spoor Broome Library of California State University Channel Islands, USA (2008)
2000	Rem Koolhaas	Seattle Public Library-Central Library, USA (2004) Qatar National Library, Doha (2017) Alexis de Tocqueville Public Library, Cannes, France (2017)

Award year	Architect	Realized projects for libraries (opening year)
2001	Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron	The Library of the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, Germany (1999) Aarau City Library, Switzerland (2002) National Library of Israel (2023)
2004	Zaha Hadid	The Library and Study Center of the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria (2013)
2008	Jean Nouvel	The Library of the Arab World Institute, Paris, France (1987) The Library and Resource Center of the University of Nicosia, Cyprus (2018)
2010	Kazuyo Sejima	Japan Women's University Library, Tokyo (2019)
2011	Eduardo Souto de Moura	The Auditorium and Children's section of the Porto Public Library, Portugal (1994)
2012	Wang Shu	The Library of Wenzheng College at the Suzhou University, China (2000)
2013	Toyo Ito	Sendai Mediatheque, Tokyo, Japan (2001) The Hachioji Library of the Tama Art University, Tokyo, Japan (2007) The Koo Chen-Fu Memorial Library of the College of Social Sciences at the National Taiwan University, Taipei City, Taiwan (2013)
2014	Shigeru Ban	The Library of a Poet, Kanagawa, Japan (1991) The Library of the Seikei University, Tokyo, Japan (2006)
2017	Rafael Aranda, Carme Pigem and Ramon Vilalta	Library and Senior Center, Barcelona, Spain (2007) De Krook Library, Ghent, Belgium (2017)
2018	Balkrishna Doshi	Library and Information Centre of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India (1983)
2019	Arata Isozaki	Oita Prefectural Library, Japan (1966) Kitakyushu City Central Library, Japan (1974) Bond University Library, Queensland, Australia (1989) Toyonokuni Information Library, Japan (1995) City Library, Shenzhen, China (2007) City Library, Maranello, Italy – a collaborative project with Andrea Maffei (2011)
2020	Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara	Kingston University Town House, London, UK (2019) Parnell Square Cultural Quarter, Dublin, Ireland (the project is planned to be completed in 2027)
2021	Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal	The Library of the University of Arts and Humanities, Grenoble, France (2001)
2022	Francis Kéré	The Library of the Primary School in the Village of Gando, Burkina Faso (2001)
2023	David Alan Chipperfield	Public Library, Des Moines, Iowa, USA (2006)