

Build renovate or detonate

The future of public library buildings

As part of Australian Library Week 2000, on 15 May a landmark seminar entitled *Build, renovate or detonate: a seminar on the future of public library buildings*, will be opened by Bob Cameron, Victorian Minister for Local Government, at the Theatre, Department of Infrastructure in Melbourne.

This day-long seminar for councillors, local government CEOs, town planners, library managers, architects and consultants will stimulate discussion on the libraries of the future in the context of information technology developments, community needs and interests in the 21st Century.

The topics to be discussed at the workshop include:

- *The public building* — the meaning and impact of public buildings and libraries in society — what is the social value of public libraries?

- *Books, bytes and reading* — the future of books as digital information and the internet, including: is reading a 'special' experience or will the computer take over?
- *The public libraries as an evolving architectural space* — a range of views will be presented on how the library has changed — will digital information change the nature of public buildings and what does this mean for society? Are libraries symbols of community values or are they functional spaces that evolve and adapt?
- *The bottom line* — the options and financial implications facing a council providing a library will be examined including building, leasing, renovating and sharing. Should the library be part of a shopping centre or should it stand alone?
- *Who decides what and where* — this



practical session on decision making looks at what should happen and what actually happens in the decision to build and locate a library. What place does politics have and how are all interests considered?

- *Design: the big picture* — three leaders in design, space and planning will present ideas and issues in achieving style, function and flexibility in a public library.

The speakers include publishers, planners, architects and local government CEOs.

For more information about the seminar, phone 03 9669 9081. The cost is \$95.00. ■

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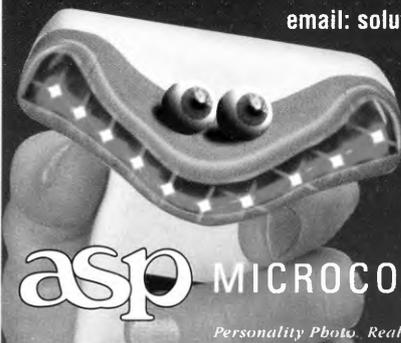
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