

'your dream library'

COMPETITION

ENTRY FORM

To enter the competition, fill in your name and contact details and using the space below, tell us what your dream library would be like. What would it look like? What would it have in it? What could you do in it? The competition is open to all ages. **Kids you can even draw us your 'dream library'.....**

My vision of a dream library begins with my ideals about where books can take us. A great fiction book has us temporarily removed from daily realities and transported into its world. Such a book is a friend that you establish a bond with. Sometimes you only have minutes together, other times you while away the hours. My special library would be an incredible environment. Let me take you there, follow me if you will.....

The first thing you'll notice is the shape, "A fern," I hear you remark. The structure is made of polished stone, with green stained glass windows. The stem of the fern is the covered walkway into the library. Dark green bike racks are angled either side. The community are encouraged to arrive by 'green' means. You'll notice there are no cars to be seen, they are parked beneath the building.

Beautiful sliding fern-etched glass doors greet us as we move inside the library. You stand still, amazed at what you see. You've obviously never been in a library like mine before. Although the library is indoors, you feel like you are in the most incredible outdoor environment. There are trees and ferns all around, flowers too. The wooden bookshelves are shaped like different creatures - frogs, birds, butterflies - all ingeniously carved to hold the books. Children love this aspect of my library.

Now where to sit when you have found the perfect book? Try the lavish couches in shades of green, the deckchairs or even the hammocks suspended between the trees. In amongst the trees and ferns people acquaint themselves with their books, their chosen friends. Perhaps select some headphones resting on the bark of a tree and listen to a CD.

Hear that? At intervals the soft sounds of nature can be heard, a native bird, the washing of water over river stones. All non-intrusive, but creating an atmosphere far removed from the bustle of life in 2005. I'm all for the wonders of the computer age but you won't find computers in my library. Let the soul breathe and the imagination soar.

The central feature is a wooden staircase, shaped like a koru. I knew you'd like it. "Climb it, discover where it leads," I say. As you reach the doorway at the top you find yourself on the roof. The roof has solar power panels, explaining the delicious warmth inside. "This is beautiful," you remark, and I have to proudly agree. See the beautiful grasses sown on the roof sway in nor'west breeze. There is a central area on the roof space that is made of polished stone, dotted with greenstone, covered by a green shading sail. Maybe you'll sit here, upon a soft cushion, and listen to an author, a tale read aloud, or to a talented musical ensemble.

We climb back down the koru staircase, you are still fondly clutching a book found earlier. I leave you swaying gently in a hammock. Enjoy.