

to "grow from the earth." The interior emphasizes high ceilings and abundant natural light, integrating the original building structure to create an open, multi-layered reading environment.

The interior layout is thoughtfully curated with distinct regional themes: the "Rift Valley Collection Area" utilizes a staggered spatial design to evoke the landscapes of East Rift Valley, with floor-to-ceiling windows inviting natural light to create a focal point for readers. The multimedia center incorporates oceanic elements, offering a rich audiovisual experience. Spanning 11,400 square meters after expansion, the facility adopts an all-age design approach. The children's reading room features grassy motifs and a shimmering starry ceiling—symbolizing the boundless extension of knowledge—while the youth section includes a dedicated manga area to meet diverse community needs. This library seamlessly blends architectural aesthetics with public art, harmonizing local natural scenery with a refined cultural atmosphere.

■ **Groundbreaking of the Taipei Music and Library Center: Taiwan's First Integrated Cultural Landmark for Literature and Music**

Construction has officially commenced on the

"New Main Branch of the Taipei Public Library and the Taipei Concert Hall." As the first dual-structure complex in Taiwan to integrate reading and musical functions, the project occupies a 2.6-hectare site and will feature nine stories above ground and three below, with a total floor area exceeding 90,000 square meters. The architectural exterior is masterfully designed, weaving the imagery of ancient "Bamboo Slips" with Western "Musical Staves" to symbolize the cross-disciplinary fusion of literature and music. Upon completion, it is poised to become a signature cultural landmark for Taipei City.

In terms of library functionality, the new main branch will serve as the core of the city's library system, housing over 700,000 volumes and providing more than 3,000 reading seats. It specifically includes a 2,000-square-meter dedicated space for children to accommodate readers of all ages. The concert hall is being built to world-class specifications, featuring a 1,500-seat symphony hall with a "vineyard-style" seating arrangement modeled after the Berliner Philharmonie. Additionally, the facility will provide a 600-seat multimedia rehearsal space as a permanent home for the Taipei Symphony Orchestra and the Taipei Chinese Orchestra. This development addresses the long-standing demand for professional music venues in Taipei, further enriching the city's profound cultural heritage.



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