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NEWSPAPER DISPENSER BACK FROM THE DEAD!!!

The Little Free Library

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it!" the newspaper boys would call.

Later on, the boys waving papers on the street corner were replaced by newspaper dispensers.

Today, newspapers struggle to survive in the digital age. In 2012, *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer* moved to online-only, leaving behind all of their old newspaper dispensers. They can still be found for sale at reuse centers available to vintage enthusiasts around Seattle. A group from Bassetti Architects has adapted one for a Little Free Library competition called *Libraries on the Loose*.

The team felt the newspaper dispenser was a great starting point and met their design goals. "We came up with multiple design approaches, and picked the newspaper dispenser as a starting point because it is dry, durable, readily available, repurposes existing products, easy to fabricate and most importantly user friendly," says Little Free Library steward, Kristian Kicinski. "There are many other ways one can make the box their own. We felt this design provided the best approach for the neighborhood and budget!" Kicinski added.

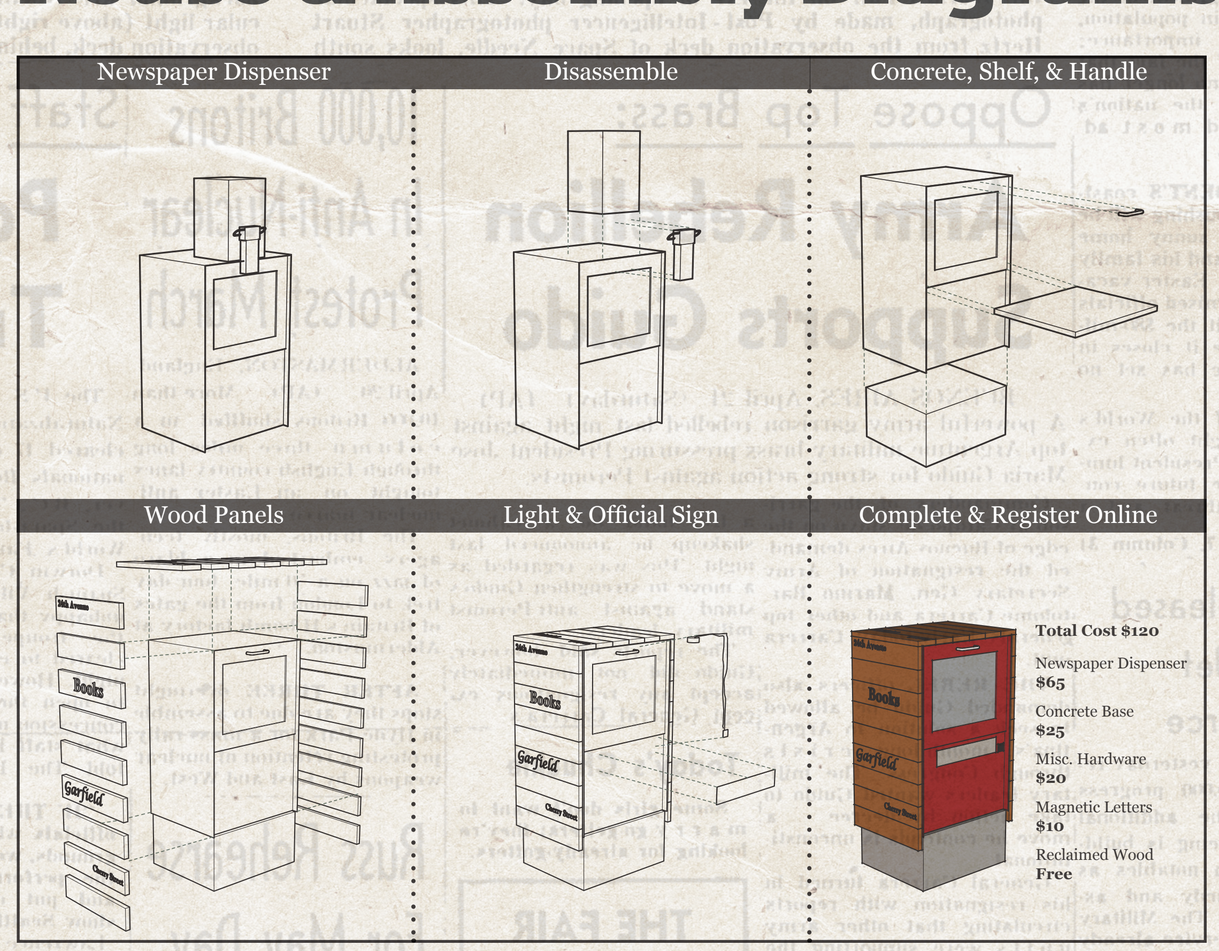
The team of four first poured a concrete slab at the site in the Central District neighborhood. Then they partially dismantled the dispenser and reassembled with exterior panels made from leftover wood. The finished library sits on the concrete base in front of Kicinski's house, complete with laser etched words in the wood panels, magnetic letters and a solar powered LED which illuminates at night.

Kicinski says, "I like to read books when it rains and is dark outside; it only makes sense to put a light inside the library for browsing during the winter afternoons and evenings."

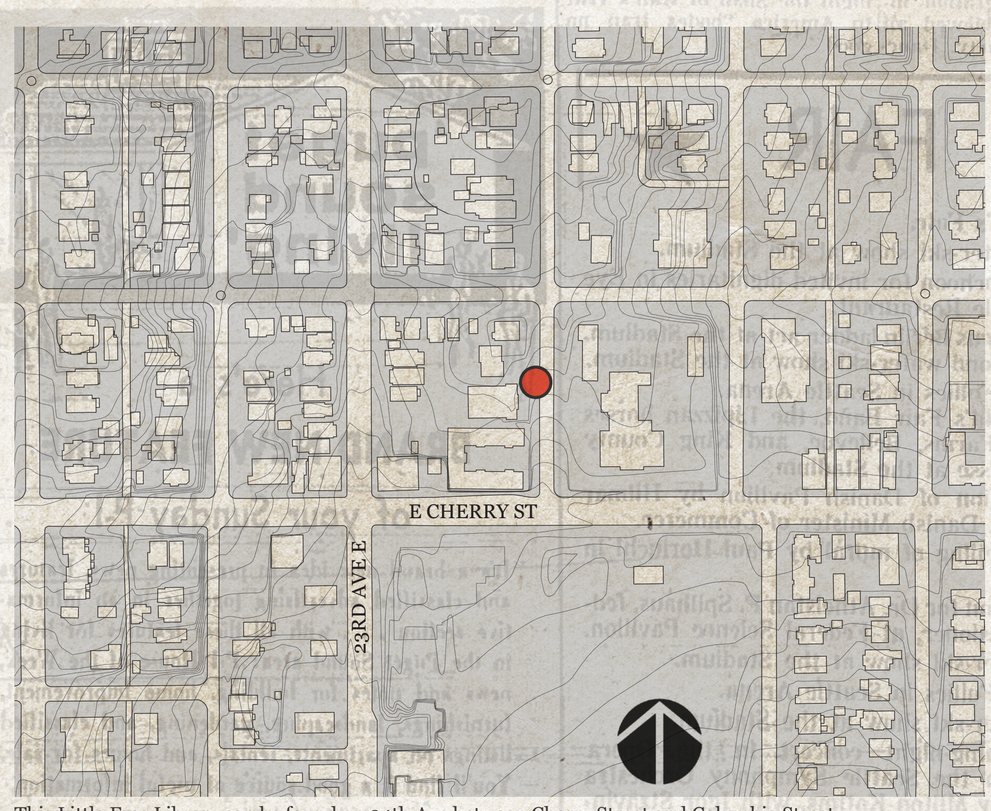
Step by step instructions on how to build the Little Free Library have been made available by the Bassetti Team at Bassetti Architects Facebook page.

Paul Formaine
Staff Writer

Reuse & Assembly Diagrams



Central District Locale



This Little Free Library can be found on 24th Ave between Cherry Street and Columbia Street.

A horde of abandoned dispensers waiting to be brought to life.

Bassetti team members assembling wood panels on the dispenser.

Teamwork is required to install the little free library on site.

Books are placed for neighbors to take one, leave one, and read one.

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