THE
BEST OF
WHAT'S
ONBOARD

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virgin atlantic

May 2022

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GOT THE POWER

How Benedict Wong became Marvel's number one wizard



COMEBACK STACKS IN THE USA

Libraries across the country are having major glow-ups. Are people trading e-readers for hardbacks? asks **Jessica Prupas**

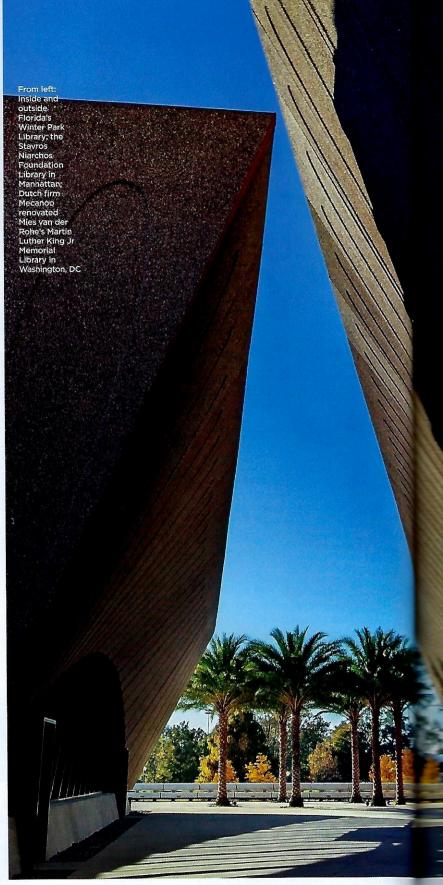


emember the library? It was that place you went to borrow something called a "book". Though the internet has certainly taken a chunk out of the library's raison d'être, it remains a vital

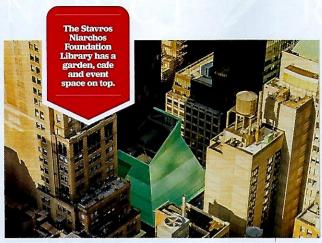
resource for communities - there are more public libraries in the US than there are Starbucks, after all.

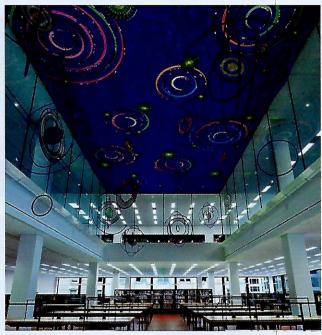
So the library never totally went away. But in the past year, it's made a serious comeback: major renovations and openings across the country signal that people may be keen to log off a bit more. These institutions go beyond their core bookborrowing function, incorporating community spaces and other features that encourage visitors to stick around after they get their reading done.

The brand-new Winter Park Library near Orlando is housed across three pavilions designed









by architect David Adjaye. Perched on the edge of a lake, it features an events space and rooftop terrace that looks out over palm trees.

In New York, the Mid-Manhattan Library has been rebranded – as the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library – and renovated. Its distinctive steel and granite structure is now crowned by a rooftop garden and contains a three-storey "vertical library" within. And the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Library in Washington, DC reopened late last year after a three-year transformation that gave it a theatre and a suite of community studios.

It's all quite heartwarming and a solid sign that we're not totally ready to trade physical spaces for the metaverse just yet. Is the library 2022's buzziest social scene? You read it here first.



DRESS CODE

Unwearable technology is in fashion

It sounds like a digital version of the emperor's new clothes, but believe us: the latest voque is virtual. The fashion world's hottest brands are busy making clothes you can't wear. Lagos-born designer Lola Okuyiga's new line, Wonder, will be releasing every piece in its collection as an NFT, which shoppers can snap up before the physical garment is released IRL (above), Other brands with a digital dress presence include Karl Lagerfeld, Louis Vuitton and Gucci. so this is clearly no passing fad. And the best thing: NFT clobber doesn't take up any room in your wardrobe.