



## CASE STUDY



# ALIEF-HENINGTON REGIONAL LIBRARY, HOUSTON, TEXAS

## CHALLENGE

During the planning stage for a new public library in Houston, the local residents sought a community destination. The goal was to create a space that was visually impressive and offered state-of-the-art amenities.

The result is a facility that has quickly become a model for other communities to emulate.

It's the centerpiece of the Alief Community Center, which also houses a health clinic and senior center. Surrounding the building is a 38-acre park with a huge playground, public pool, skate park and athletic fields and courts.

Because libraries are extremely high-touch spaces, library staff wanted to offer multiple opportunities for people to clean their hands. For such a sophisticated space, it was frustrating that the options for sanitizer dispensers were so inadequate.

"We started making hand sanitizer readily available since the swine flu pandemic over a decade ago," said Jason Stephens, Houston Public Library systems services manager. "Keeping them full and operational was a huge challenge."

## SOLUTION

When Stephens came across Vaask's hand sanitizing fixture at the NeoCon trade show, he could hardly contain his excitement.

"I immediately grabbed my colleagues and told them, 'You have got to come see this!'" Stephens said. "I was really impressed with how clean and professional it looked, and how intuitive it was to use."

The 70,000-square-foot steel and glass structure is visually striking, dominating the surrounding landscape. Inside, patrons enjoy stunning views of the grounds from floor-to-ceiling windows.

Both Stephens and Raiset Ruben Valiente, a Houston Public Library project manager, believed it was important for every detail to match the space.

Six white freestanding fixtures with brushed chrome "sink and faucet" are installed throughout the library.

"Vaask is very much in line with the design of the entire space," Valiente said.

But appearance was only part of the equation; exceptional functionality and ease of maintenance were equally important.

"One of the things we were trying to solve was having to constantly deal with broken dispensers," Stephens said.

Backed by a 5-year warranty, Vaask's award-winning fixtures are constructed of cast aluminum and built to last. The 2-liter sanitizer cartridge goes longer between refills. The units also run on A/C power, freeing staff from replacing batteries and ensuring they are always operating.

"Vaask is superior in every way," Stephens said. They've worked so well, he plans to include recessed units in future Houston library projects, including two branches scheduled to be completed this year.