

REVITALIZING HISTORIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS FOR MODERN LEARNING AND COMMUNITY VISION

A4LE LEARNINGSCAPES 2024

Revitalizing Historic School Buildings for Modern Learning and Community Vision



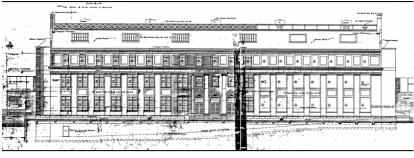


Figure 5: Original facade (east) elevation. Department of General Services



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PRESENTERS





Sasha Petersen STUDIO MB

Associate AIA



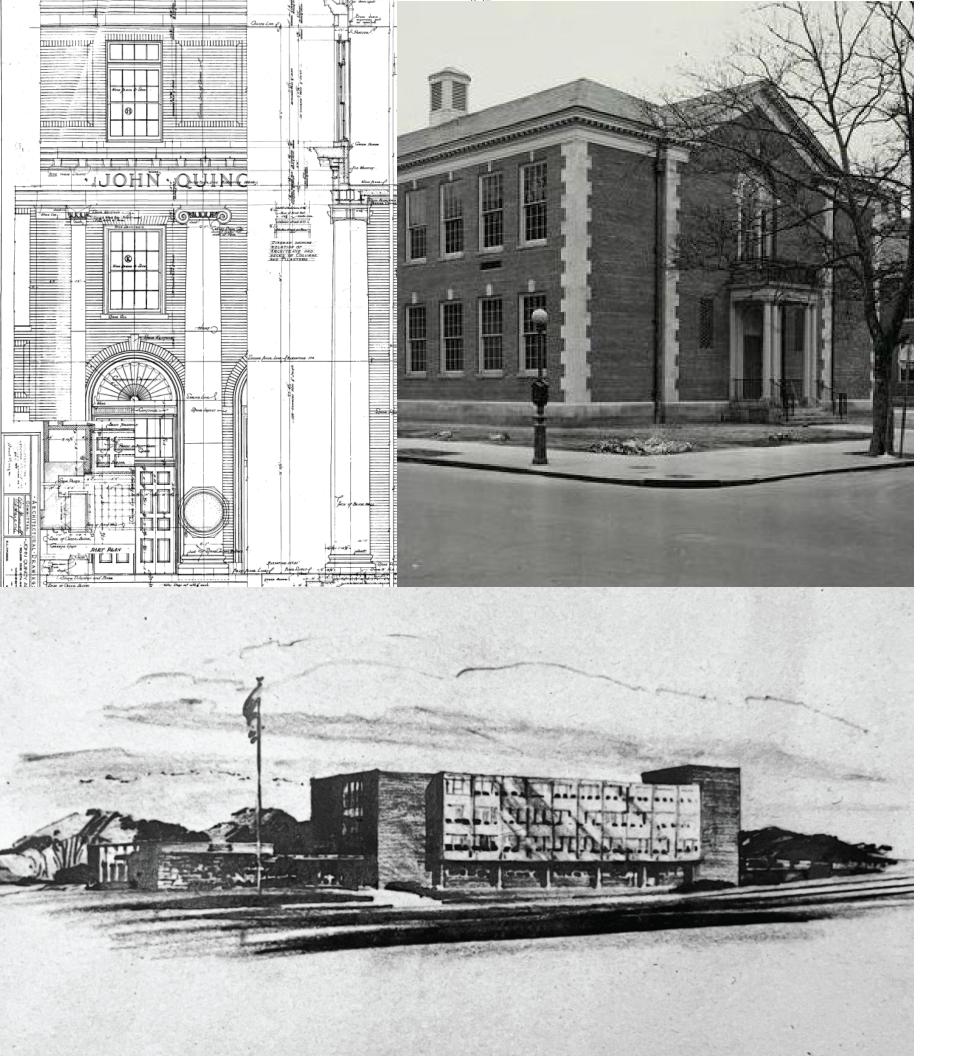
- 2 ADAMS EDUCATION CAMPUS
- 3 **KENILWORTH SWING SPACE**
- CAPITOL HILL MONTESSORI AT LOGAN 4
- WHITLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 5



Marquisha Powell STUDIO MB

AIA, LEED AP BD+C Associate





EXAMINING THE FLUCTUATIONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL **DESIGN: A HISTORIC OVERVIEW**

1930s - 1940s

1930

- Rectangular red brick typified 1930s
- The economic restraint of the Great Depression and programmatic demands altered the design of schools.
- Schools followed the redbrick limestone design yet incorporated modern design elements

1940

- Post-war baby boom led to increased school construction and a shift from colonial design towards functional modernism to accommodate increased enrollments.
- Increase in one story buildings for easier evacuation





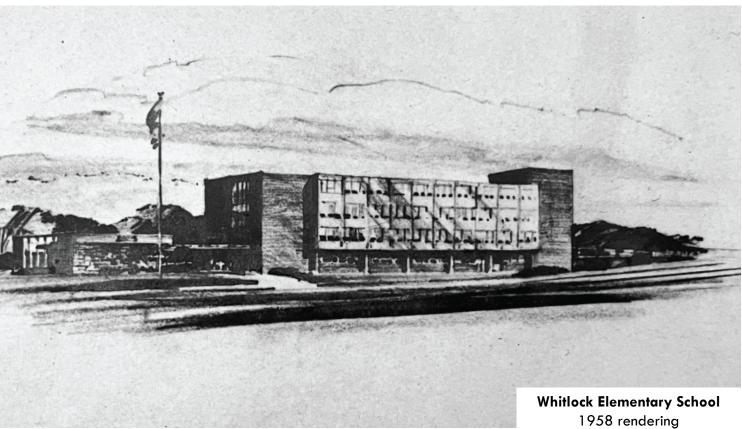
1950s - 60s

1950

- Office of Municipal Architects dissolved in 1954 and designs were outsourced to private architects, resulting in a lack of uniform school design
- Increased construction of new buildings and additions to historic buildings were employed to relieve overcrowding

1960

- The urban renewal plans of the 1950s alongside the riots of the 1960s left the city in disarray. White-flight contributed to declining enrollments
- Neighborhoods were physically cut off from resources and jobs. Sub-par school construction that expedited deterioration.





Built 1960 by Ronald S. Senseman



1980s - 2000s

1980-1990

- Aging facilities from the 1940s and 1950s needed renovations but little investment was available due to declining enrollment
- New school construction slowed dramatically.
- Washington DC's crack epidemic of the late 1980s and 1990s, the city's bankruptcy, and increased crime and poverty rates exacerbated the physical decline of educational structures

2000-NOW

- Historic Neighborhoods Schools Initiative is created and community members advocate to modernize historic schools since they are communal pillars that provided a sense of place for the neighborhoods
- In 2007, Mayor Adrian Fenty took office and focused on educational reform. The mayor invested \$3.35 billion into renovating and constructing new schools





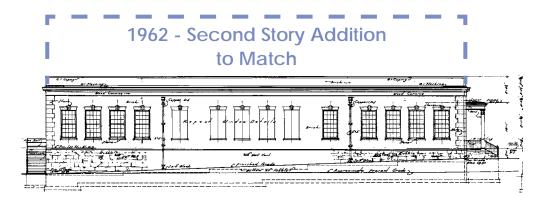


Kenilworth Swingspace, 1930s - 2000s

A Storied History of Additions

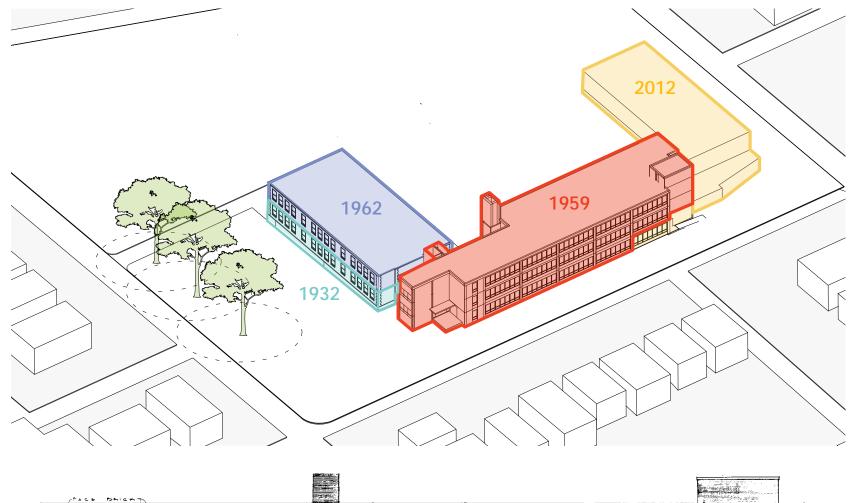


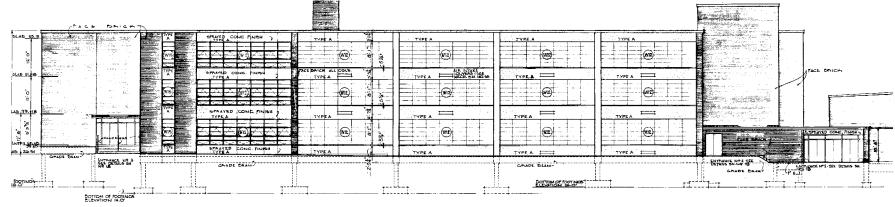
- Original Kenilworth Elementary School is built • 1932
- Three-story structure added to the north, • 1959 called annex building
- Second story added on top of 1932 building • 1962
- The school was decommisioned and portion • 2012 of 1st floor annex given to DPR Parks & Rec
- Bubble installed and school used for swing • 2020 space for Ward 7





1932 - Original 1 Story Building





ELEVATION I



1959 - Addition Along 44th Street



Kenilworth Swingspace, 2024 Addition





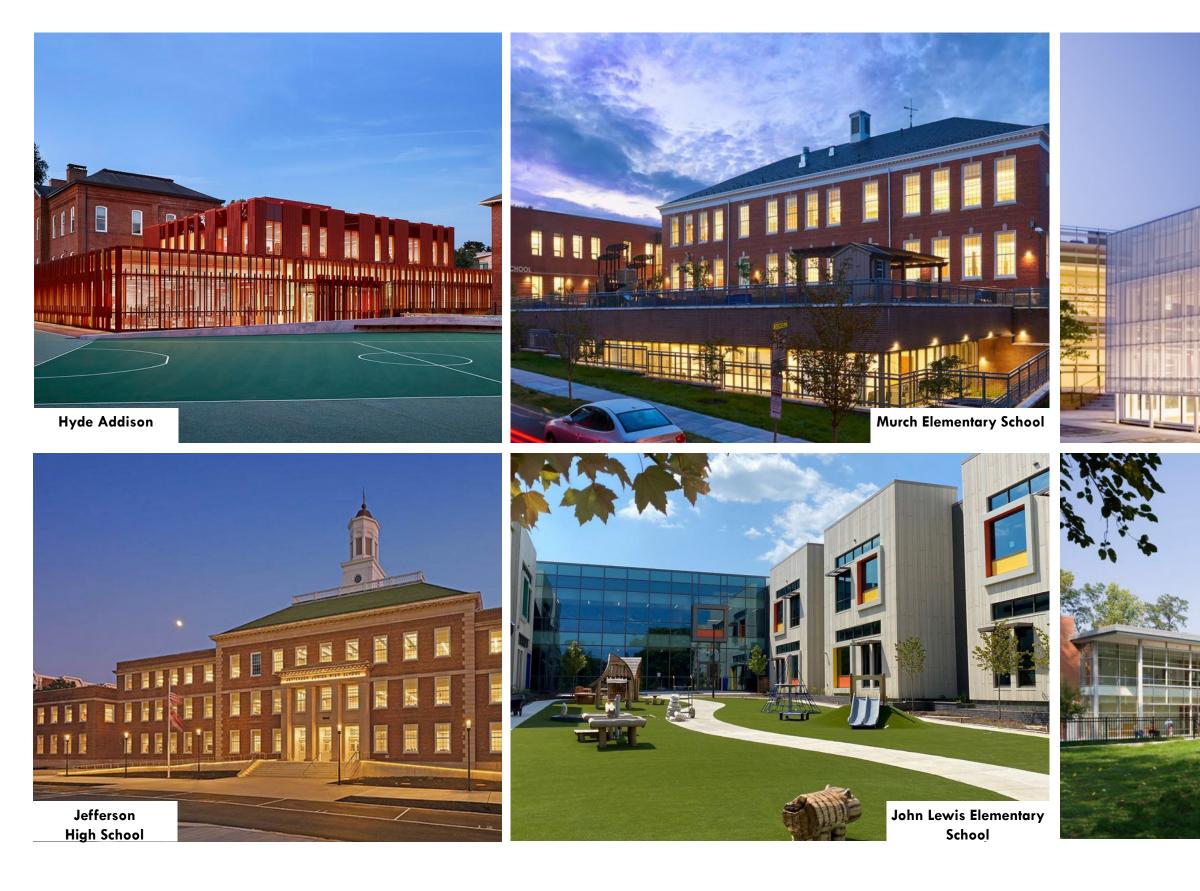


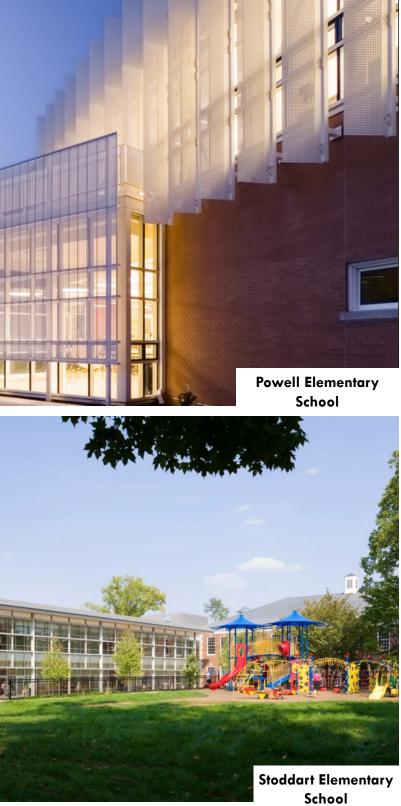






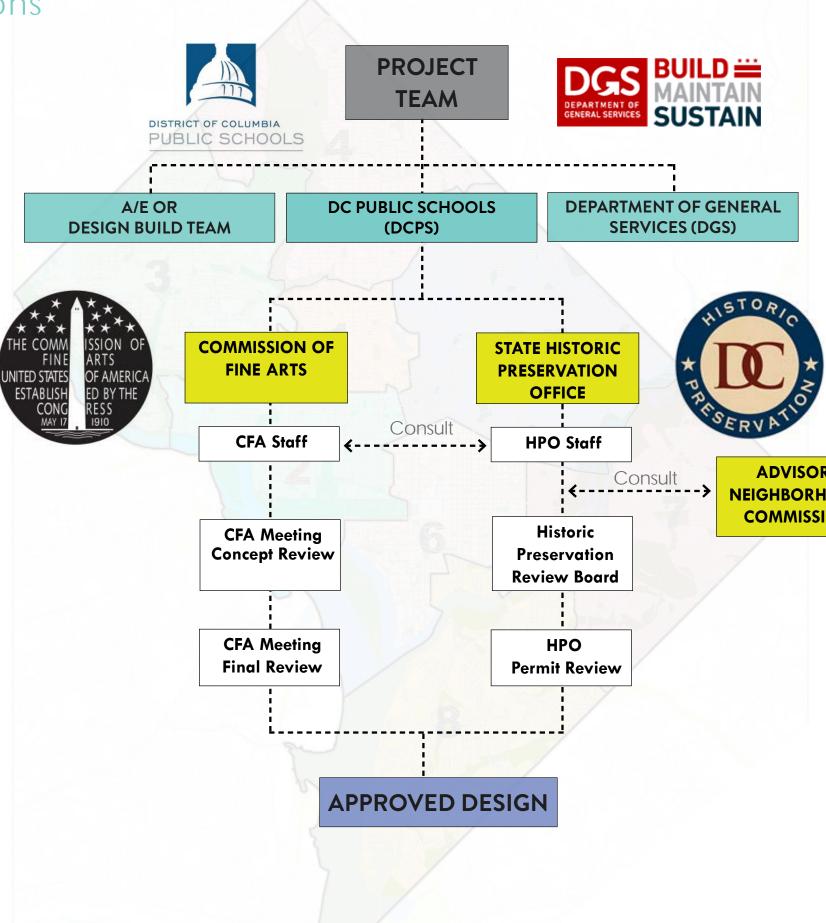
Completed DCPS Modernization Projects





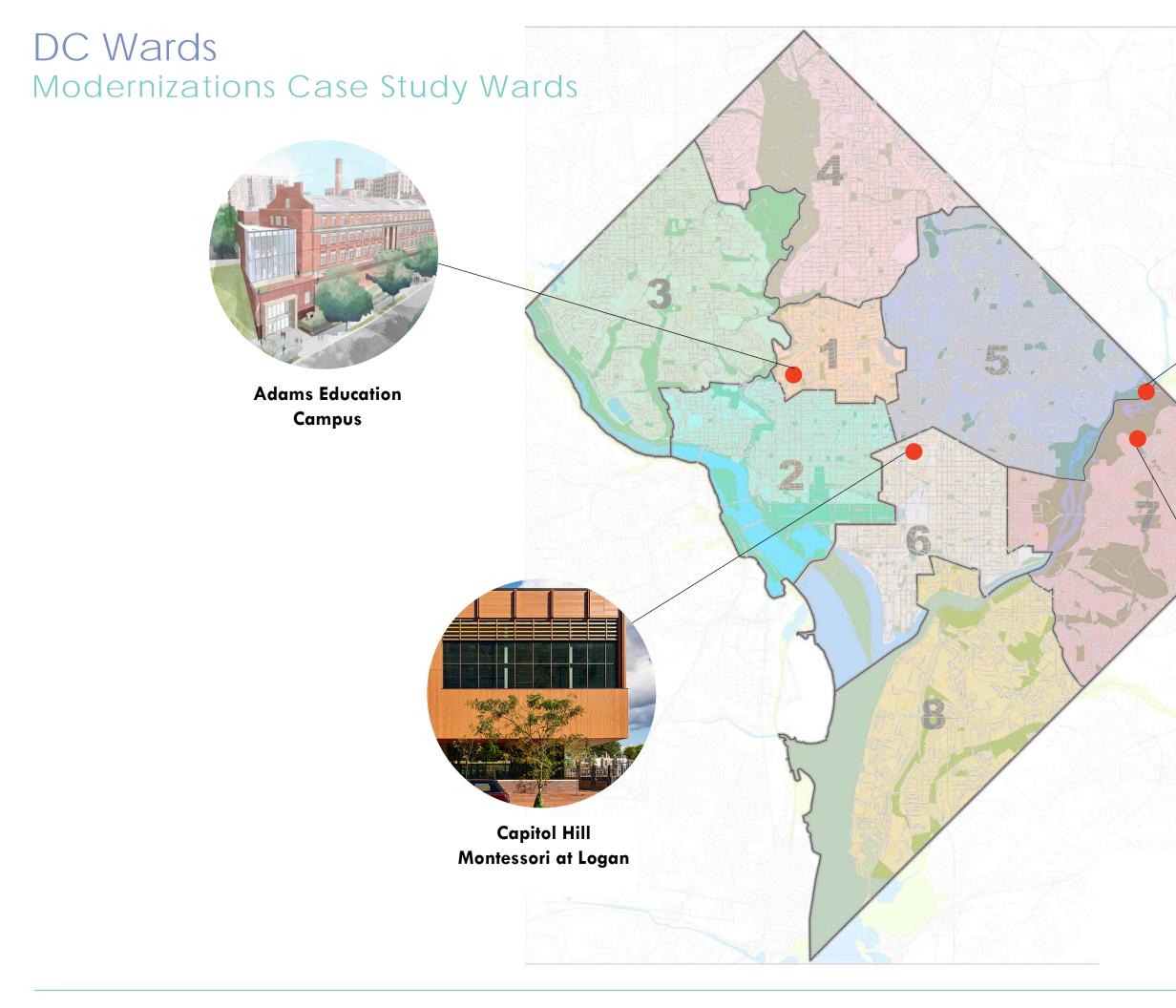


DC Historic Public Buildings Approval Process **DCPS School Modernizations**



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION







Kenilworth Swing Space



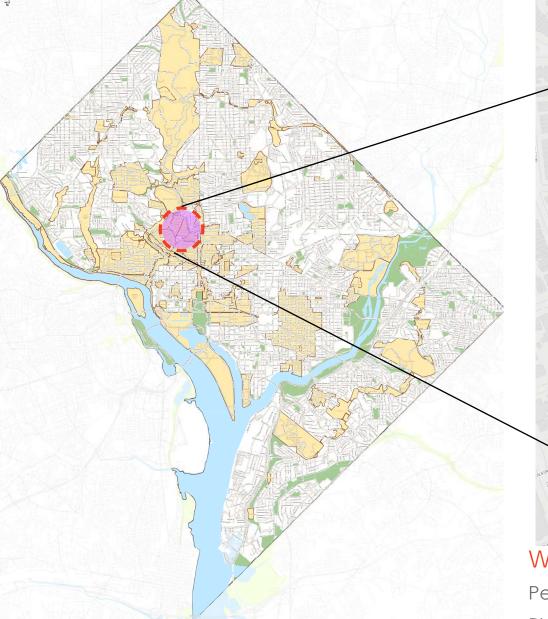
Whitlock Elementary School





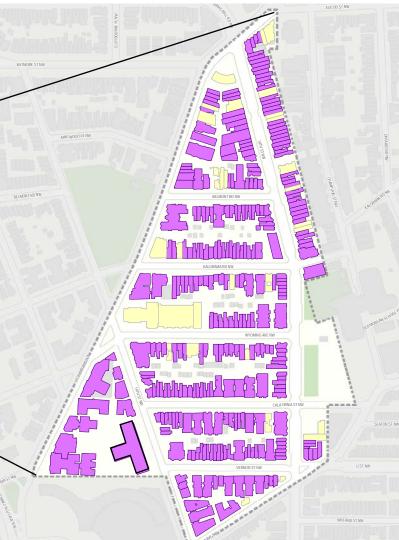
2 OYSTER-ADAMS EDUCATION CAMPUS

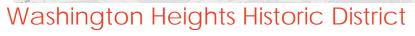
Washington Heights Historic District + Adams Morgan Neighborhood











Period of significance that spans 1891-1950 Platted in 1888, the neighborhood features:

- Intact groups of late 19th-century row houses
- Early-20th century luxury apartments framing larger avenues, and
- Eclectic mix of commercial structures (both purpose built and modified) along both sides of 18th Street









NATIONAL HISTORIC PLACE

On March 30, 1981, President Ronald Reagan marked the 100th visit to Washington Hilton by a sitting U.S. President. Reagan had been invited to speak in the International Balliroom at a meeting of the North America's Building Trades Unions. Upon exiting the hotel along T Strett at 2:27 pm, Reagan was struck and wounded by a gunshot fired from John Hinckley, Jr., who had been waiting outside. Gunshots also wounded Reagan's Press Secretary James Brady. D.C. police officer Thomas Delahanty, and Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy, Reagan recovered from the incident and visited the hotel several times afterwards.





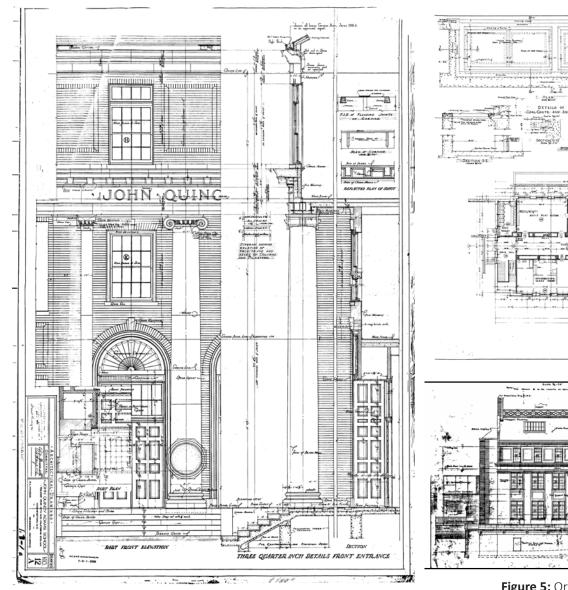


Adams Education Campus, History



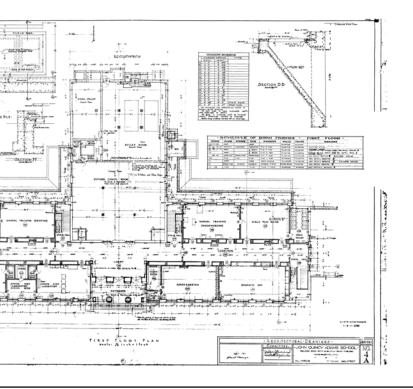
HISTORY

- 1929: Original construction, designed by municipal architect Albert L. Harris in the Classical Revival Style The three-story brick building was large compared to other existing school buildings in the city and marked a new era of school design as new amenities and more classrooms became an integral part of the DC Public School program.
- 1931: Addition of a ground floor cafeteria
- 1958: Interior modifications for fire hazards
- 1970: Modernization of building interior
- 1988: Original windows replaced with vinyl replacement
- 2023: Contract awarded to bring school to parity, aligned with
 DCPS Education Specification
- Fall 2025: Modernized building to reopen









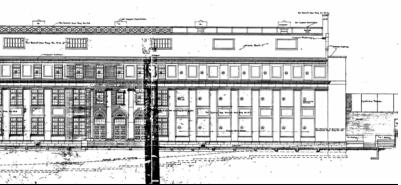


Figure 5: Original facade (east) elevation. Department of General Services





The Culture



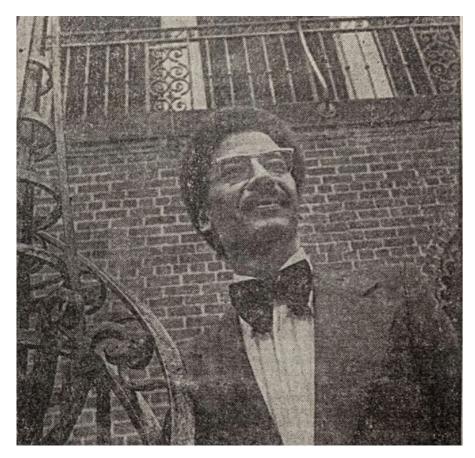
SIGHT & HEARING CONSERVATION (1930s - 1940s)

• In the 1930s Adams introduced tools to aid students with hearing loss or visual impairments.

 Rather than home school, students from all over the District came to Adams to continue learning "in a normal surrounding"

• The school was outfitted with equipment such as braille devices, large mirrors in hearing conservation classes (to practice lip reading).

• In 1948, disability activist Helen Keller made a special visit to the school.



NEIGHBORHOOD INTEGRATION (1955 - 1973)

• In1955, DC Public Schools became racially integrated.

•The PTA began meeting to ease the transition. •The name 'Adams Morgan' is derived from a partnership between two previously segregated schools the older, all black Thomas P. Morgan, and the all white John Quincy Adams school.



children.

• In 2007 Oyster Bilingual School merged with John Quincy Adams School and added a middle school program. • 2018-19 they added Chinese to 4th-grade classes.

Classes at Adams are taught in 50% Spanish and in 50% English.

•Oyster-Adams encourages cultural diversity and the intermingling of students from all backgrounds.

BILINGUAL PROGRAM (1970 - PRESENT)

• From 1970 - 1971 the Oyster School implemented an experimental program to help Spanish-speaking

• By the 1980s, it was one of the only bilingual schools in the country.



Approvals Process

HPO / CFA PRIORITIES

(Historic Preservation Office / Commission of Fine Arts)

- No modernized interventions at the 19th St facade
- Do not exceed the existing roof ridge line
- The Lobby and Auditorium are highest priority
- All corridors to retain flat terrazzo flooring
- 3rd floor corridors to maintain walls
- Two 3rd floor classrooms to retain the interior detailing including re-opening of their laylight with associated skylights above
- New tile on 1st and 3rd floors to be similar

SIT / ANC

(School Improvement Team / Advisory Neighborhood Commission)

- Maintain outdoor soccer field and active play space
- Integrate sustainability, in particular with Greenroofs
- Ample parking for teachers

CHALLENGES (Yikes!)

- Tight Urban Site
- 43' grade change from one corner of the site to the other
- Limited construction staging area and access roads.

OPPORTUNITIES (Yay!)

- Generous floor-to-floor, L1 = 16.5', L2 = 13.5', L3 = 12.75'
- ~900sf existing classroom footprints
- Large Windows
- Beautifully detailed and preserved spaces









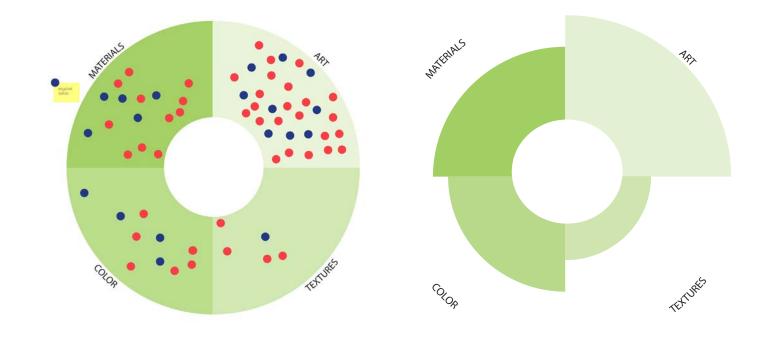
School Improvement Team (SIT) Feedback Session Analysis

LOCATIONS FOR COMMISSIONED ART - 87 VOTES $\operatorname{\mathsf{Mark}}\nolimits$ with a dot the two most important locations for commissioned art

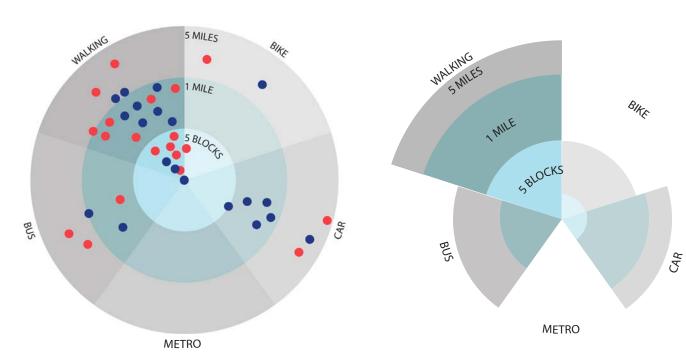
VERANDA / ENTRE VERANDAWALLS



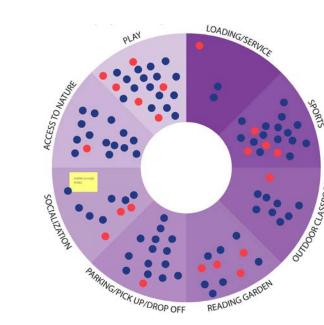


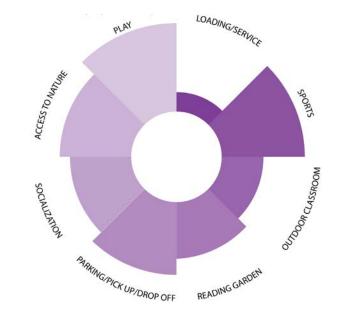


TRAVEL DISTANCE - 38 VOTES Mark with a dot how your child gets to school and how far they travel



PRIORITIZATION OF OUTDOOR SPACES - 89 VOTES Mark with a dot the two most important potential uses of outdoor spaces

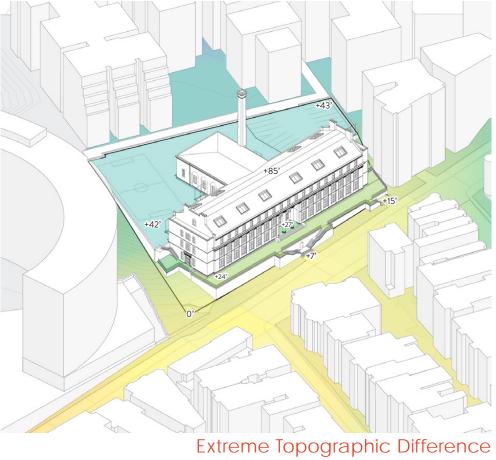


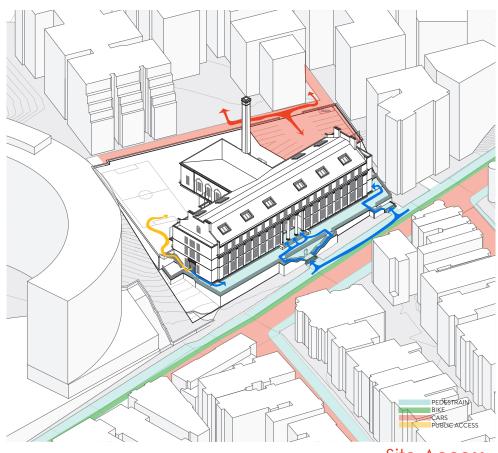


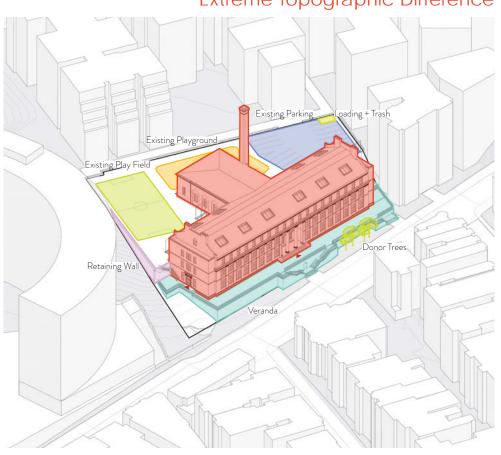


Existing Site Analysis: Topography & Access











Site Elements

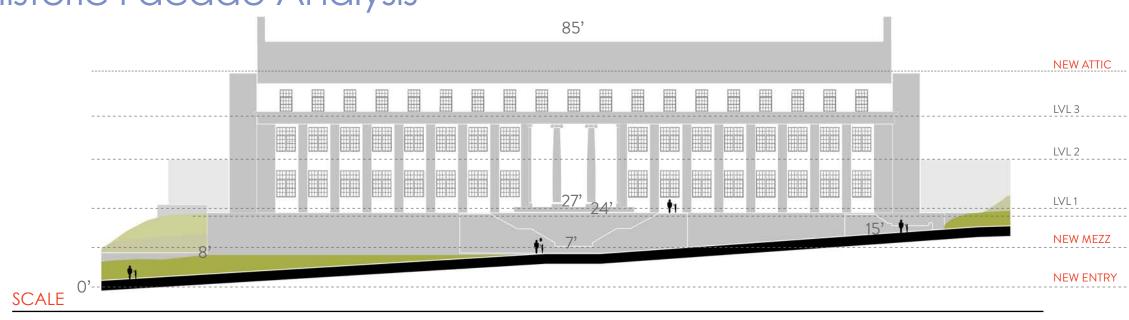
Historic Context Massing Analysis



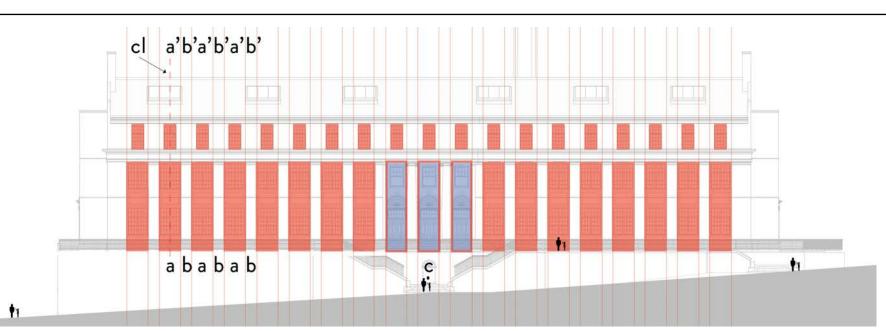


Existing Site Analysis: Historic Facade Analysis

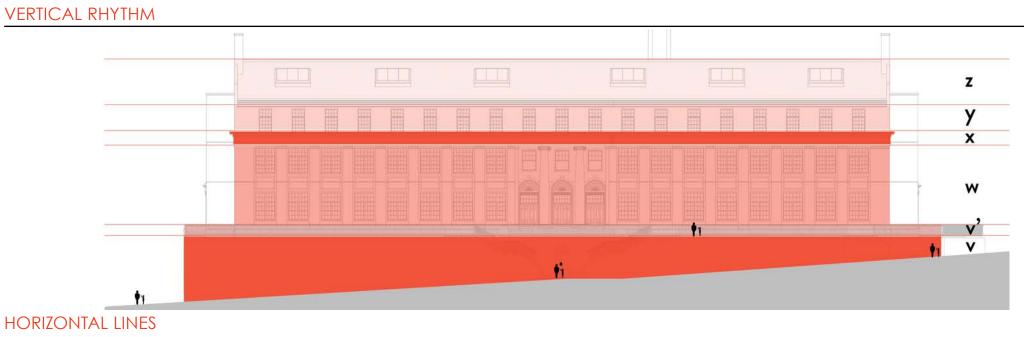










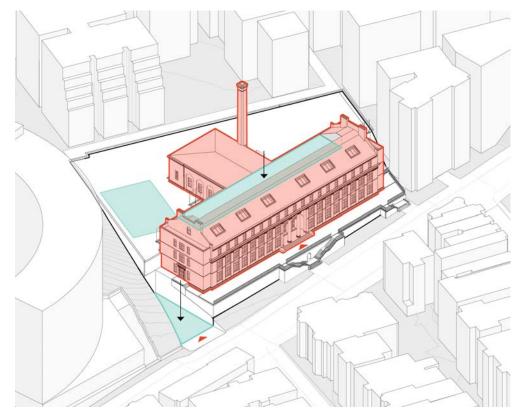




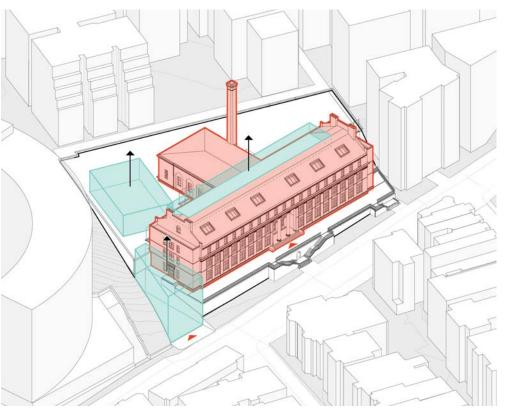
Program Arrangement, DCPS Building Program of Spaces



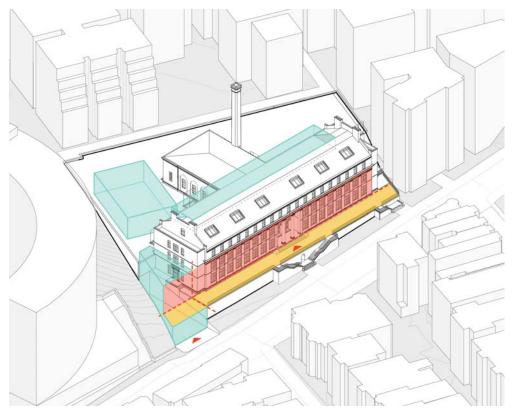
Program Arrangement, Massing Developments PROPOSED ADDITION MASSING



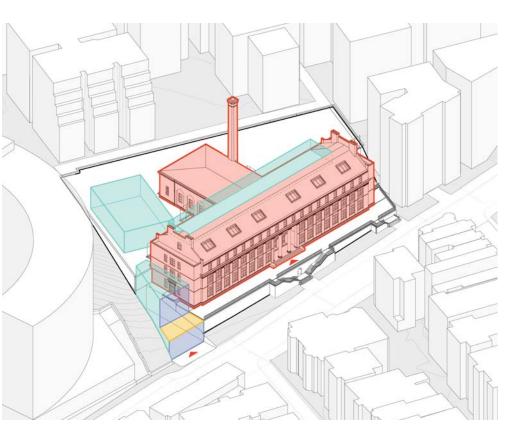
Step 1: Maximize Open Space and Create Accessible Entry



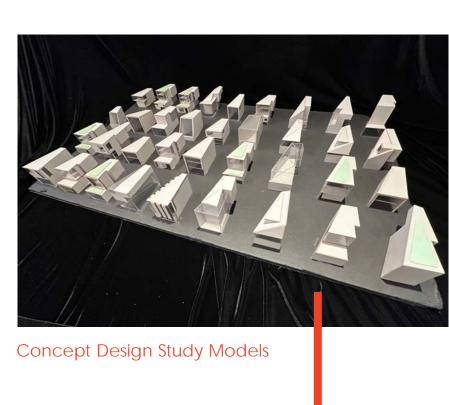
Step 2: Incorporate Modernized Program



Step 3: Align with Historic Elements



Step 4: Create Active Entry and Library at New Pavilion

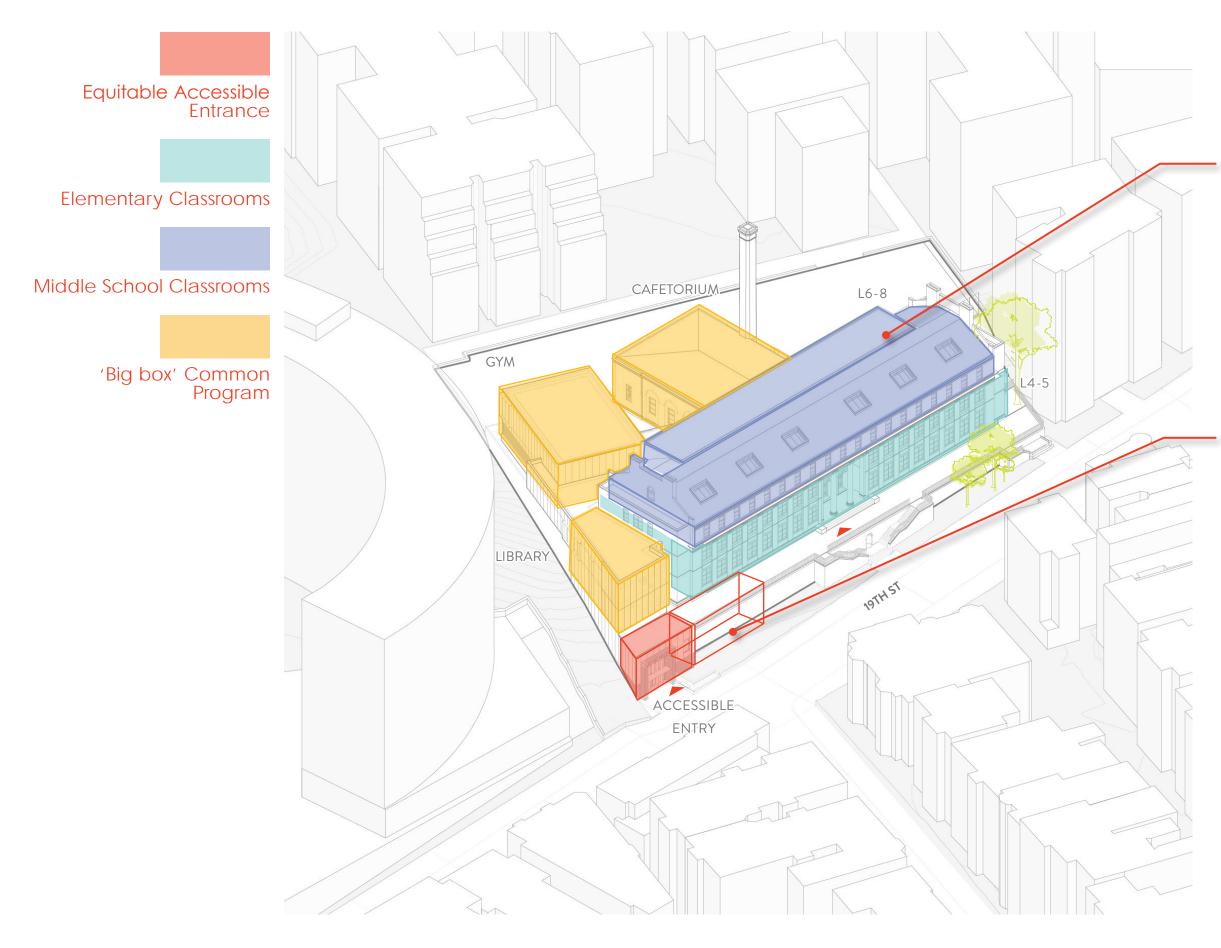




Schematic Design Facade Study Model



Program Arrangement



PRIORITIES

• Capture Under-utilized Floor Area



Former Attic

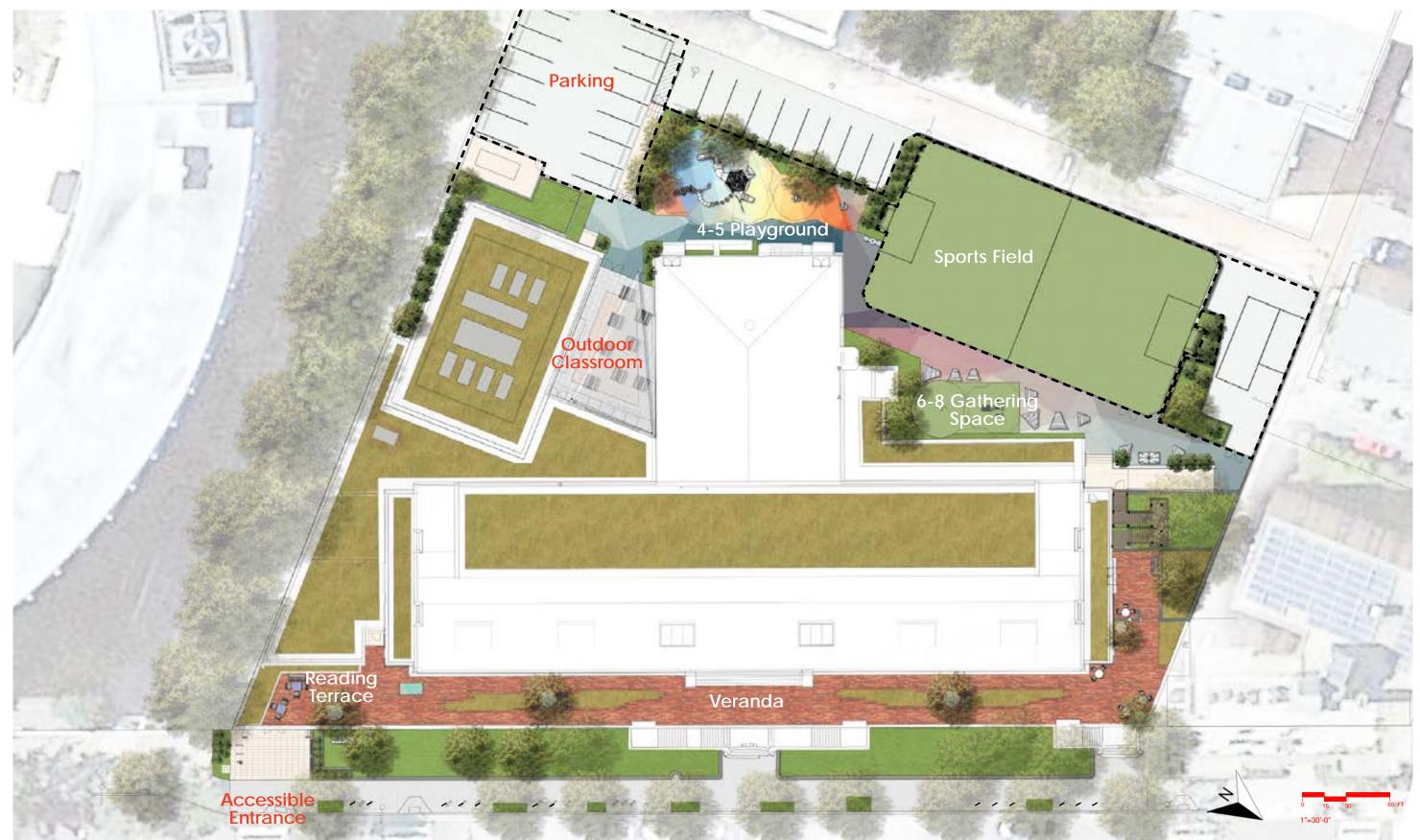


Former 'Crawl Space'

- Provide accessible entrance
- Library located in prominent location
- Separate Elementary & Middle school classrooms
- Reuse existing classroom footprints as much as possible



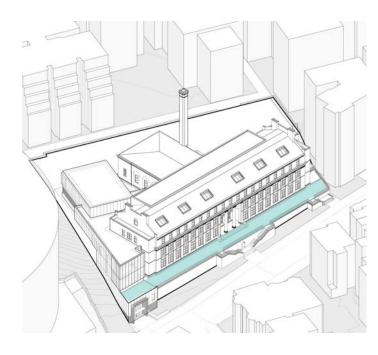
Program Arrangement, Landscape Design



Site Plan



Program Arrangement, Veranda







Central Stairs leading to the Veranda

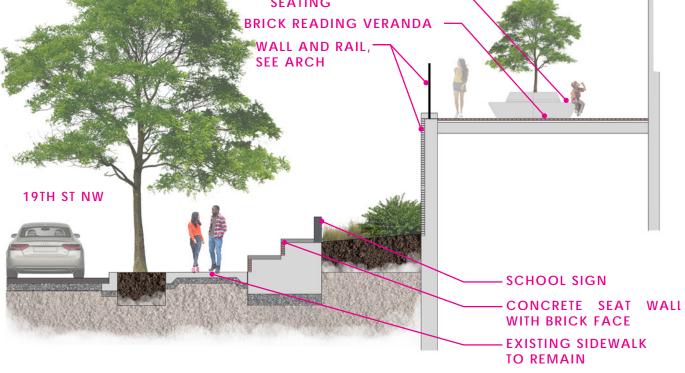


Existing Veranda



Program Arrangement, Revitalized Veranda

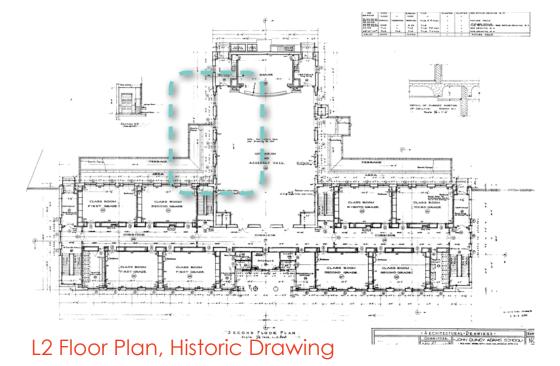


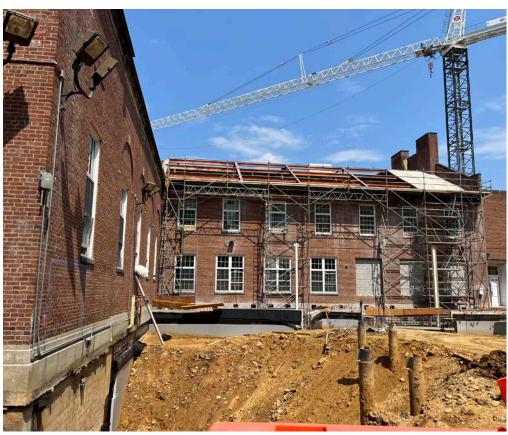


Section at 19th Street & Veranda



Program Arrangement, Existing Rear Yard





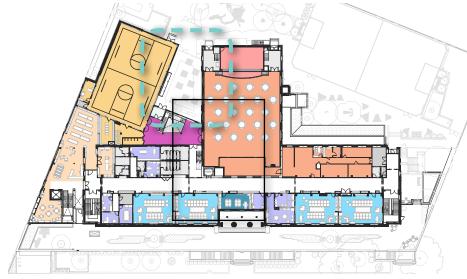
CA Photo



Previous Rear Facade



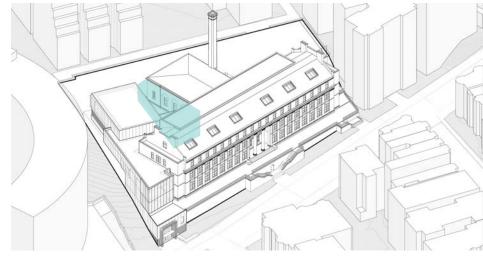
Program Arrangement, Outdoor Classroom



L2 Floor Plan



Precedent



Outdoor Classroom Location



'Functional Art' at Outdoor Classroom





Program Arrangement, Library

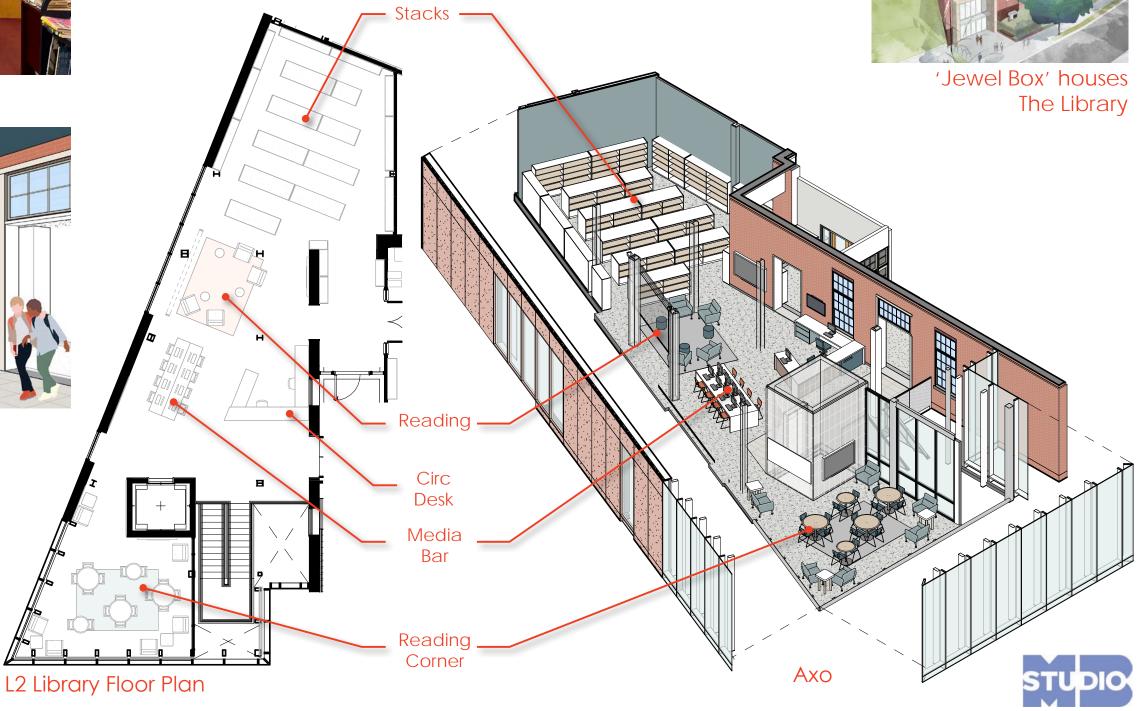


Existing Library Located in a Classroom



L1 Library Stacks, Media Bar & Circ Desk

- Existing library size = 1000 sf
- Required library size = **3950 sf**





Program Arrangement, Library

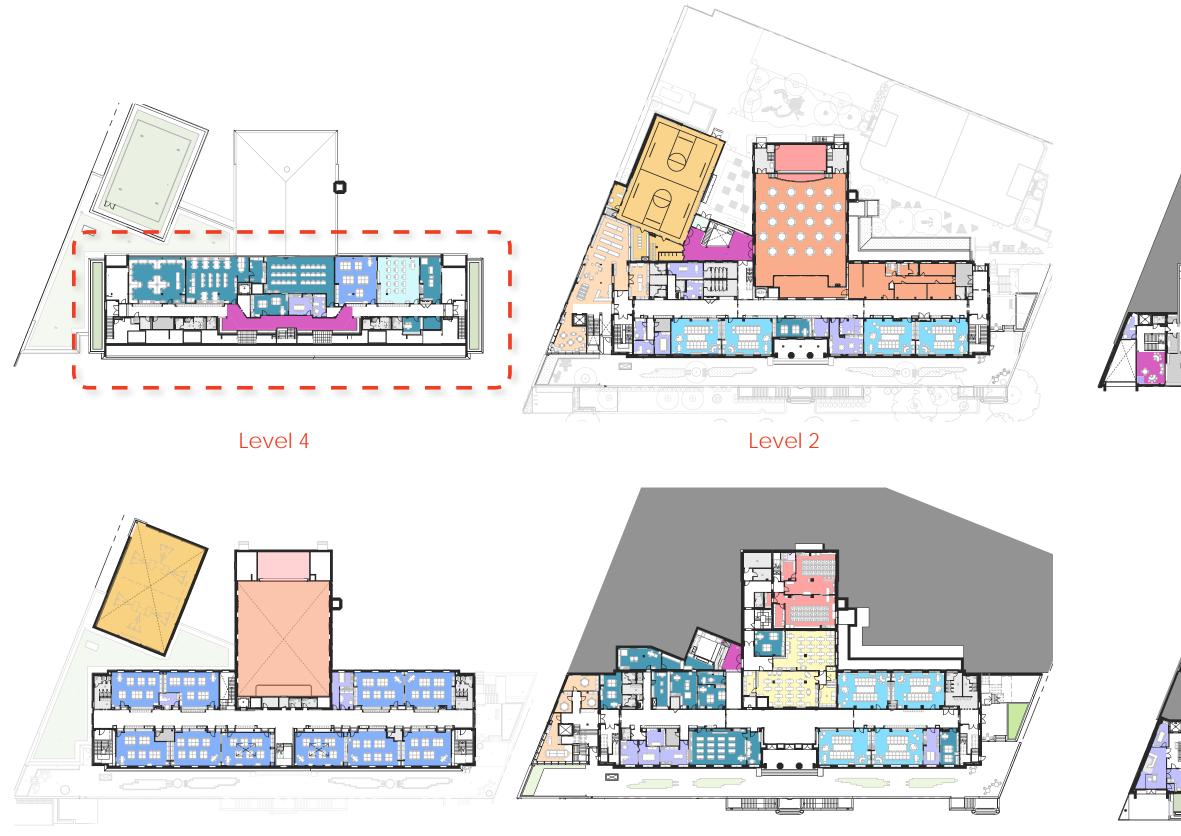




The 'Mezzanine' DC

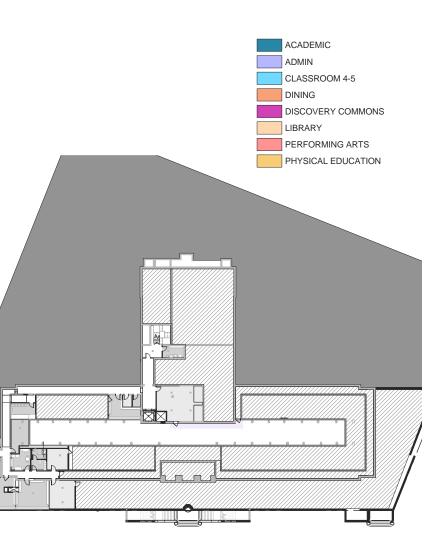


Architectural Integration, Floor Plans

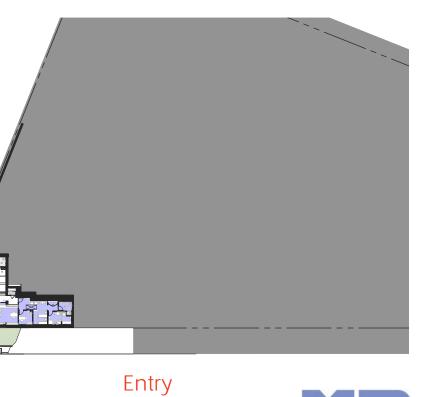


Level 3

Level 1

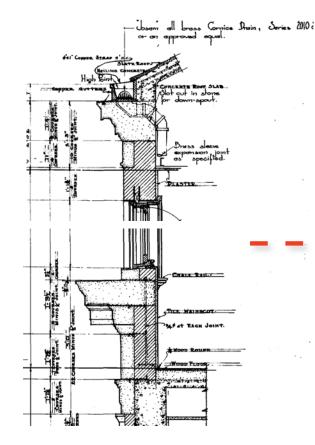


Basement

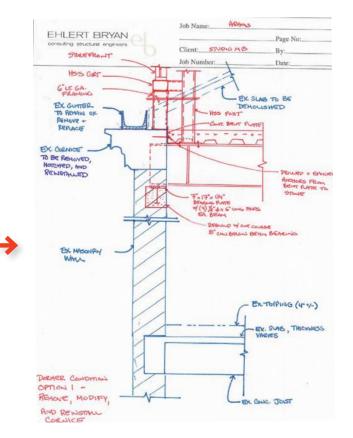




Architectural Integration, Existing Attic to Classroom Dormer



1928 Historic Building & Wall Section



DD Sketch of New L4 Floor Beam Tied into Existing



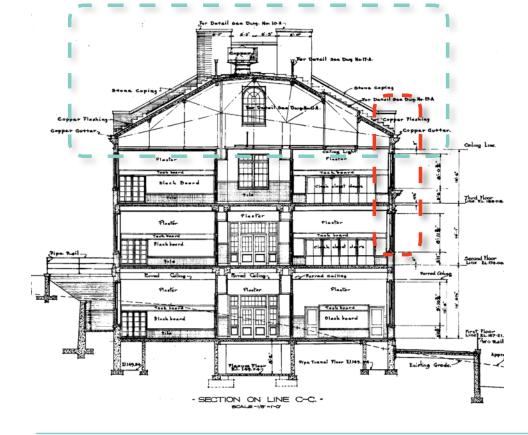
March 2023 Original Attic



May 2024 Demo of existing roof starts for new dormer



August 2024 South framing erected & floor decking installed







March 2024 Catch deck installation



August 2024 North framing erected & floor decking



September 2024 New dormer roof decking installed





Architectural Integration, Old + New, Existing Attic to Dormer



Rear, Before Roof Demo



Rear, During Installation of Dormer





Architectural Integration, Access to Art















Tactile Art at the Historic Corridor

High Tech Interactive Installation









Architectural Integration, Exterior Palette

Precedent



Proposed



Existing









Textured Brick



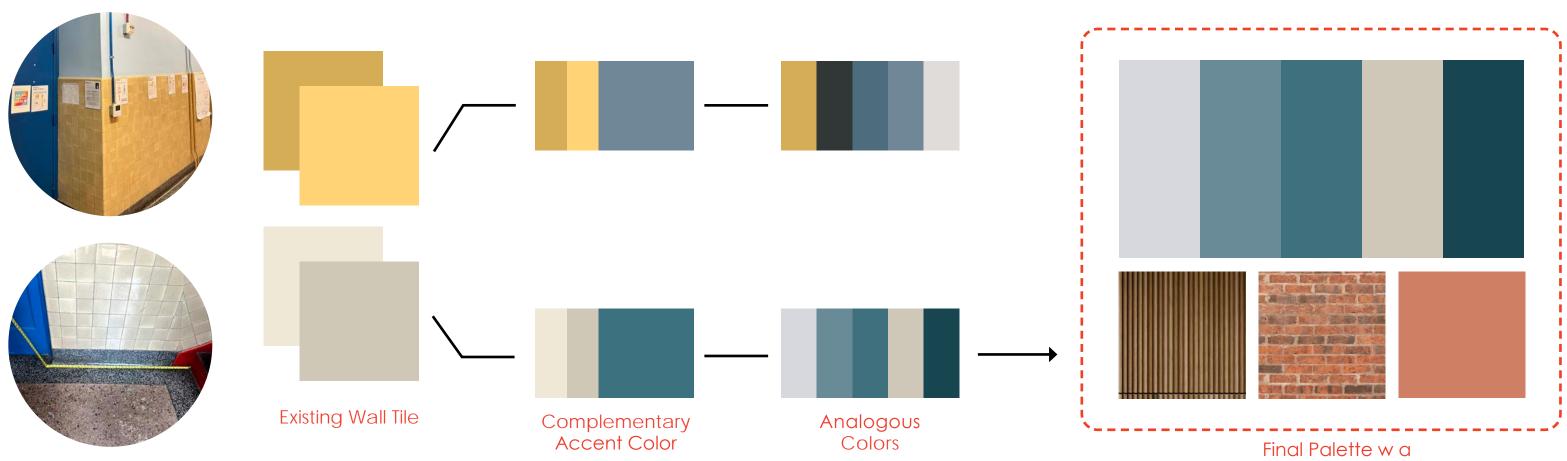
Glass



Architectural Integration, Attitude Towards Exterior & Interiors



Precedent

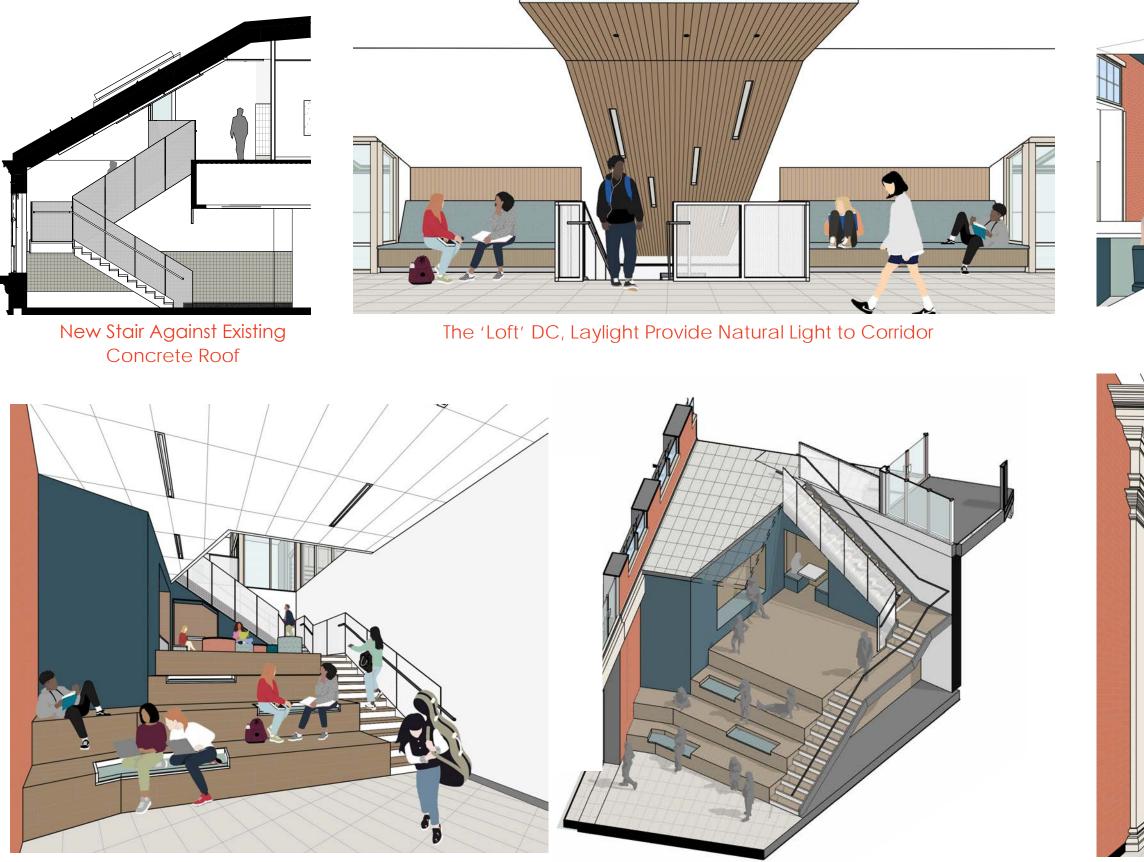


Interior Material Palette, Historic to Modern

Pop of Color



Architectural Integration, Old + New



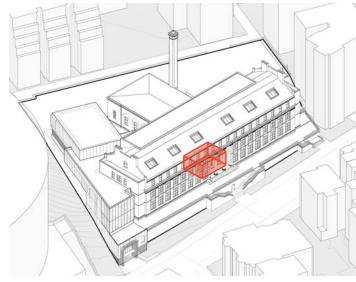
The 'Heart' DC



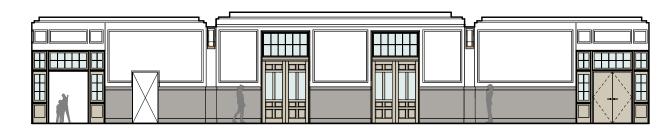
L2 Library, circulation desk & Media Bar



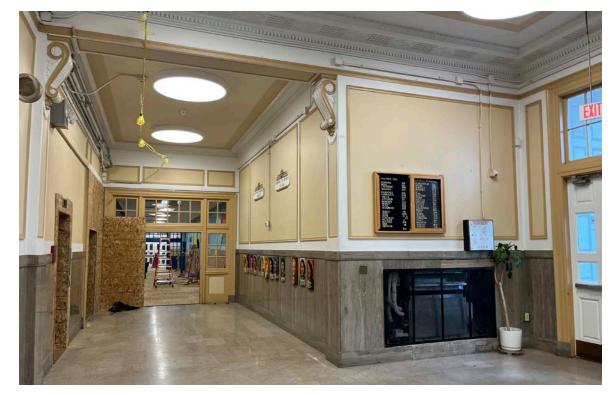
Architectural Integration, Historic Lobby



HPO (Historic Preservation Office)The Lobby and Auditorium deemed the highest interior preservation priority, ensure maximum preservation of historic details and minimal visibility for all necessary modern interventions.





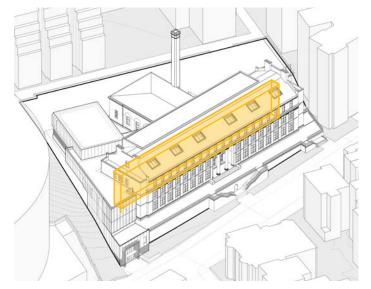






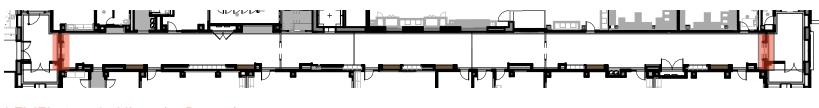


Architectural Integration, Corridors



HPO (Historic Preservation Office) Priorities

- All corridors to retain flat terrazzo flooring and location of corridor walls.
- L3 corridors to retain location of corridor walls, terrazzo base, and current openings into rooms.
- New tile on L1 & L2 to be similar to the historic tile in size, scale, general color, and height to retain some historic integrity, relate to the terrazzo floors, and the historic lobby.









Former Corridors



LEVEL 1 & 2, Historic Portals



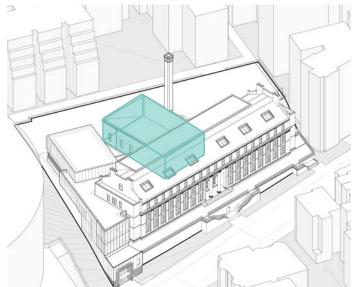
LEVEL 3, Middle School



LEVEL 2, Elementary School



Architectural Integration, Historic Auditorium



HPO (Historic Preservation Office) Priorities The Lobby and Auditorium deemed the highest interior preservation priority, ensure maximum preservation of historic details and minimal visibility for all necessary modern interventions.

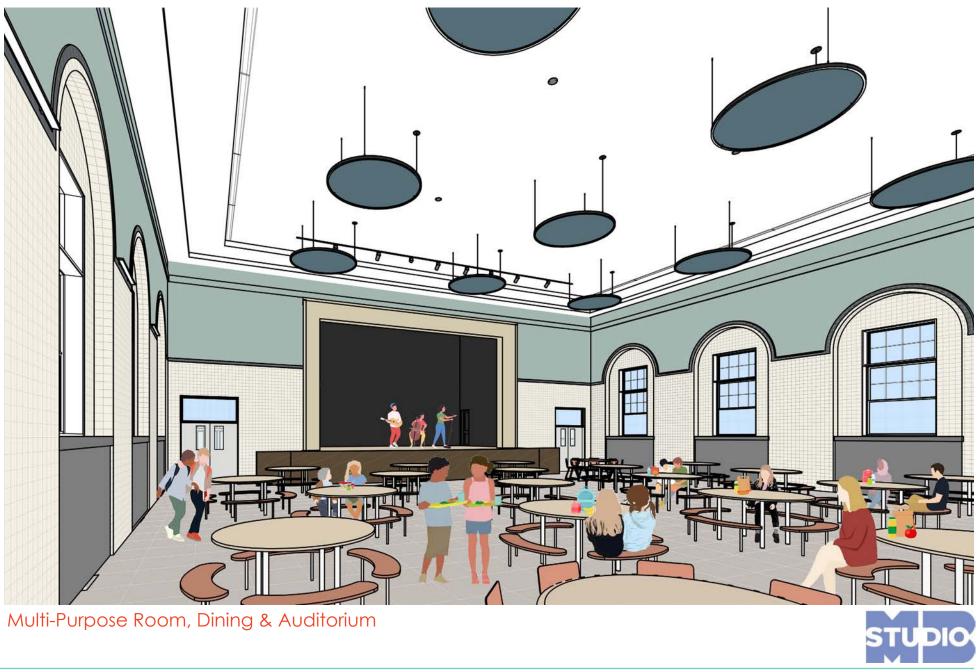




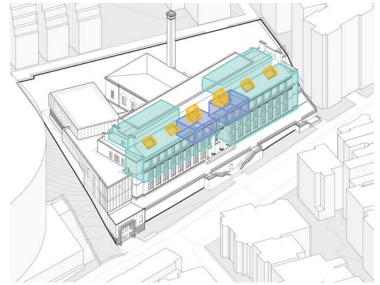








Architectural Integration, Historic & Modernized Classrooms & Laylights



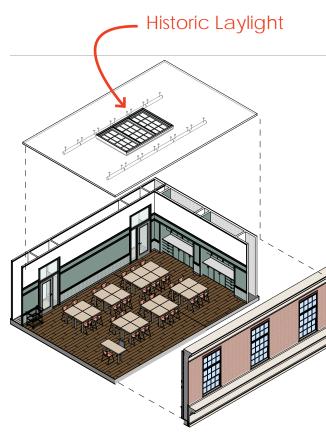
HPO (Historic Preservation Office)

Two L3 classrooms to retain the interior detailing including re-opening theirs laylight with associated skylights above.





L3, Historic Classroom

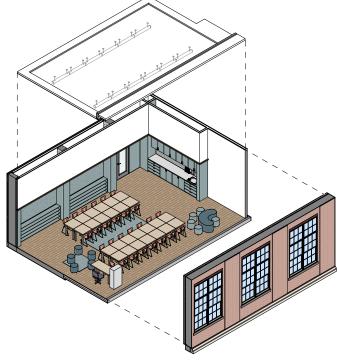






Modernized classroom







Sustainable Design



Storm Water Management Measures



Sustainable Design Highlights

- LEED Gold
- 92% of the Existing Exterior Envelope Maintained

NW Corner

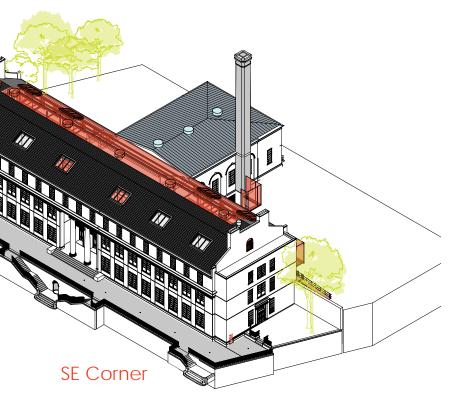
- Net Zero ready with an Energy Use Intensity of 21
- Energy Use Reduction of 32.4% with the use of efficient water source heat pumps, high performing building envelope, LED lighting
- 100% of Storm Water Management Retention with greenroofs and bio-retention ponds
- Biophilic Design with access to ample natural light and views

Sustainability Dashboard

"The most sustainable building is the one that is already built".

Carl Elefante





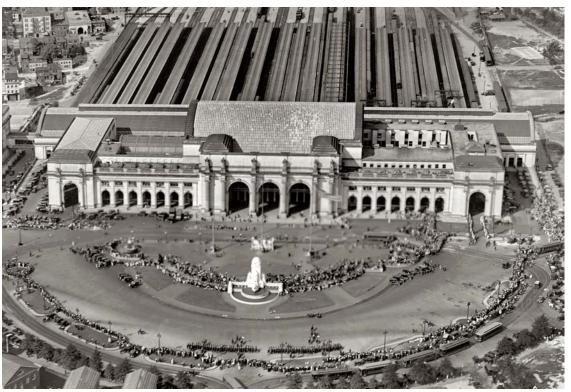




CAPITOL HILL **MONTESSORIAT** LOGAN

CHML - Capitol Hill Community





- and their families lived
- In 1799 Navy Yard was established and Capitol Hill became home to many craftsmen and shipbuilders Construction of Union Station in 1907 displaced Irish
- immigrants and freed slaves living in the 'swampoodle' neighborhood

• Historically a neighborhood where members of congress

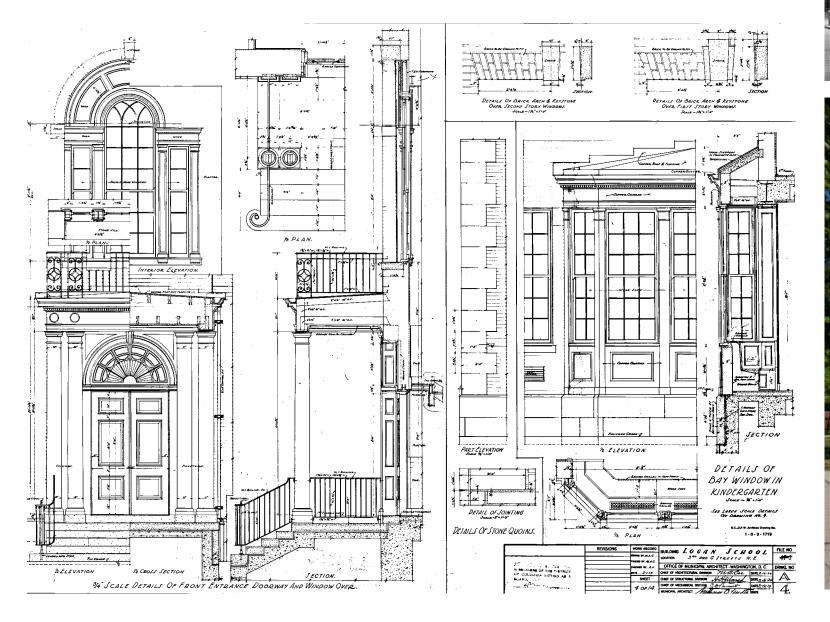
• Capitol Hill Historic District is one of the largest in the entire county, added to the National Register in 1976



Capitol Hill Montessori at Logan

HISTORY

- 1891 The original Logan School serving black students is built
- 1935 The Annex is built across the street due to overcrowding
- 1949 Two new wings were added to the annex
- 2011 CHML becomes the first dedicated Montessori School within DC Public Schools, serving all wards











Capitol Hill Montessori at Logan











Community Engagement & Challenges





HPO/CFA

- Must maintain historic entry
- Must keep existing auditorium visible from exterior
- Must use materials and colors that are similar to the existing brick and stone

SIT/ANC

- CHML is a hybrid between Montessori and public school pedagogies
- High importance of active play and field space
- Technology is essential for modern education but a distraction at the early childhood level

CHALLENGES

- To meet Modernization requirements 100% SF increase needed on a tight urban site
- Existing window sills too high for direct connection to outdoors
- No elevator and an elevated first floor that hinders access to outside grade directly
- Middle School in a poorly equipped annex at the rear of the parking lot

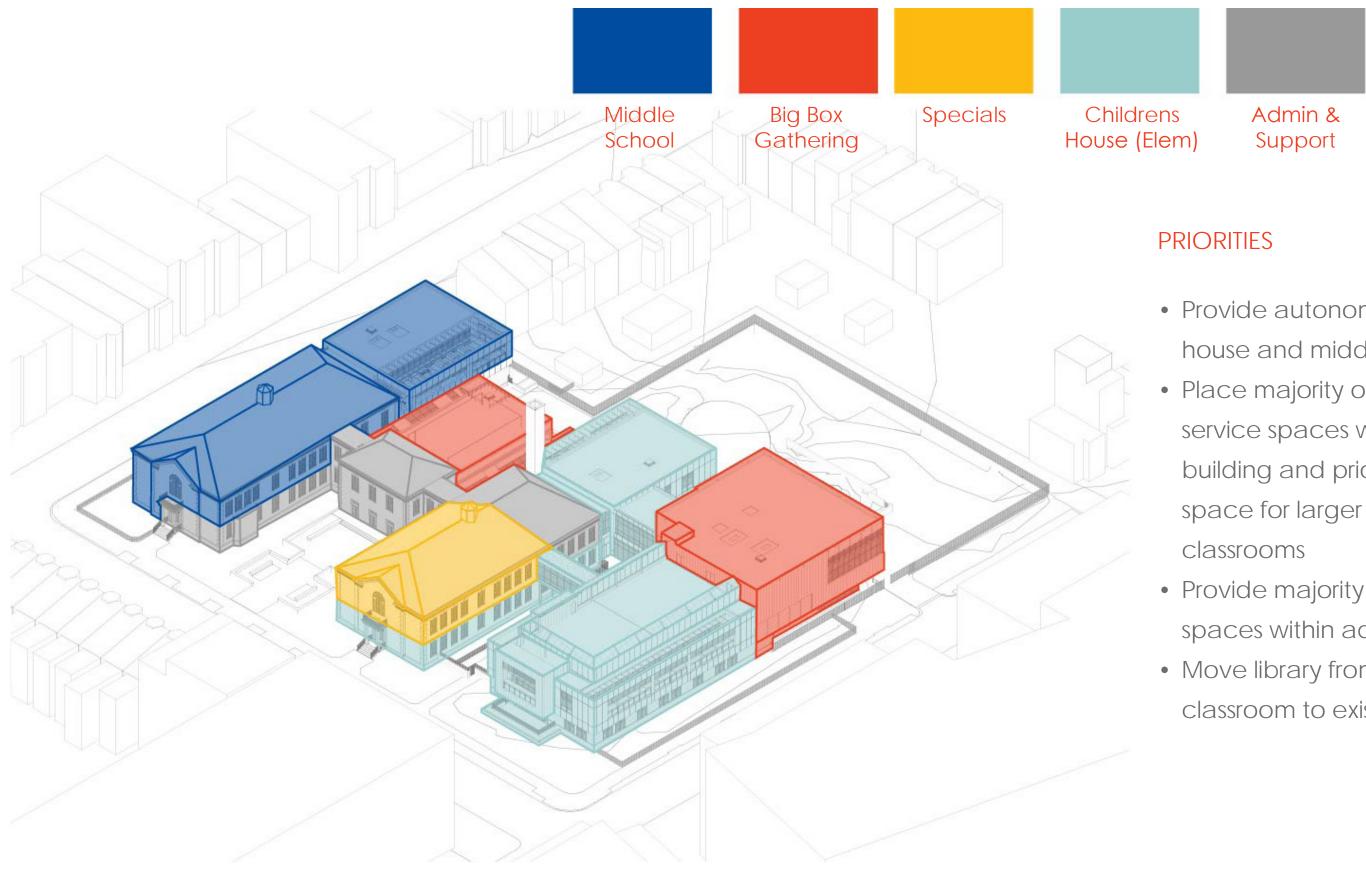








Program Arrangement



• Provide autonomy for childrens house and middle school • Place majority of admin and service spaces within existing building and prioritize addition space for larger childrens house • Provide majority of shared big box spaces within addition • Move library from undersized to classroom to existing auditorium



Program Arrangement

















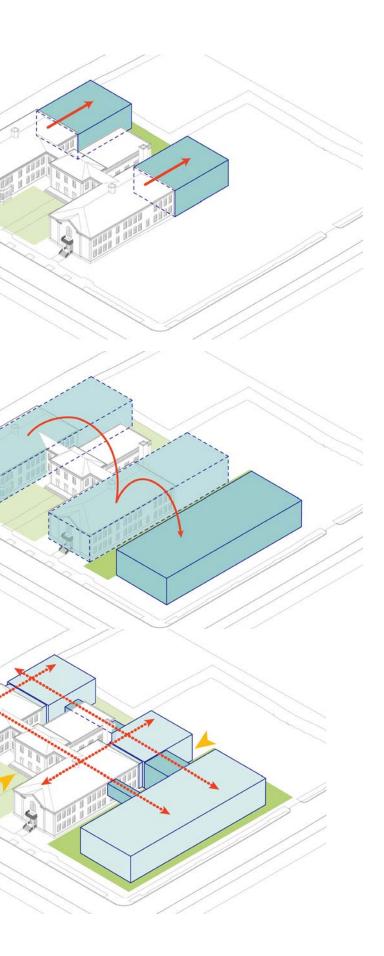


CONTINUING A LONG HISTORY OF EXPANSION

 Extend the two existing wings south towards the alley, creating an H shape

Create a third wing with the same proportions along the street edge to address the urban condition and provide adequate light and green space between

3. Connect these spaces with lobbies and bridges to allow efficient circulation and provide nodes of gathering throughout

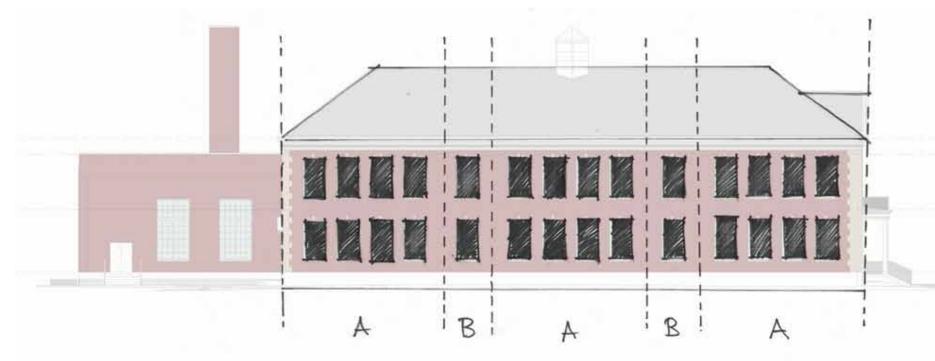




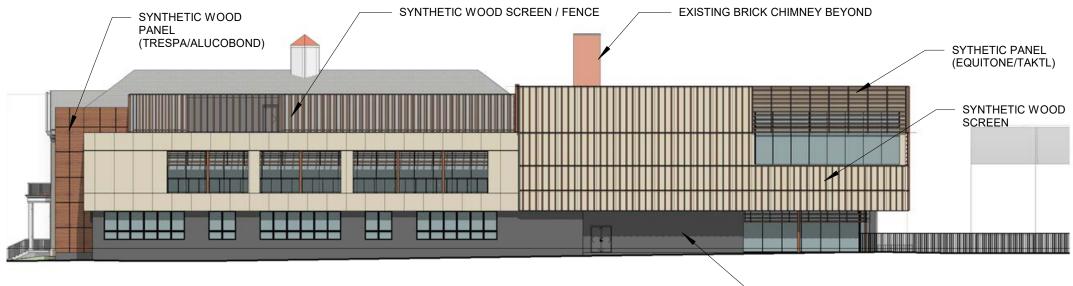




NEW CURTAIN WALL CONNECTOR BEYOND



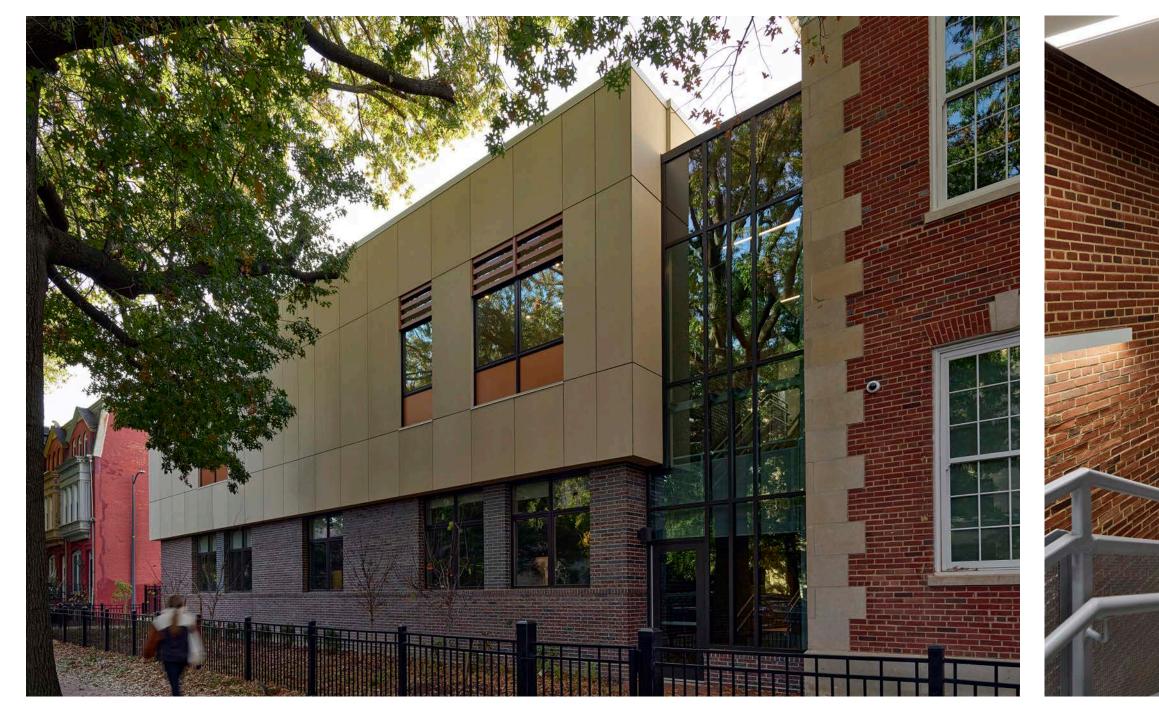
EAST ELEVATION FENESTRATION RHYTHM



MASONRY

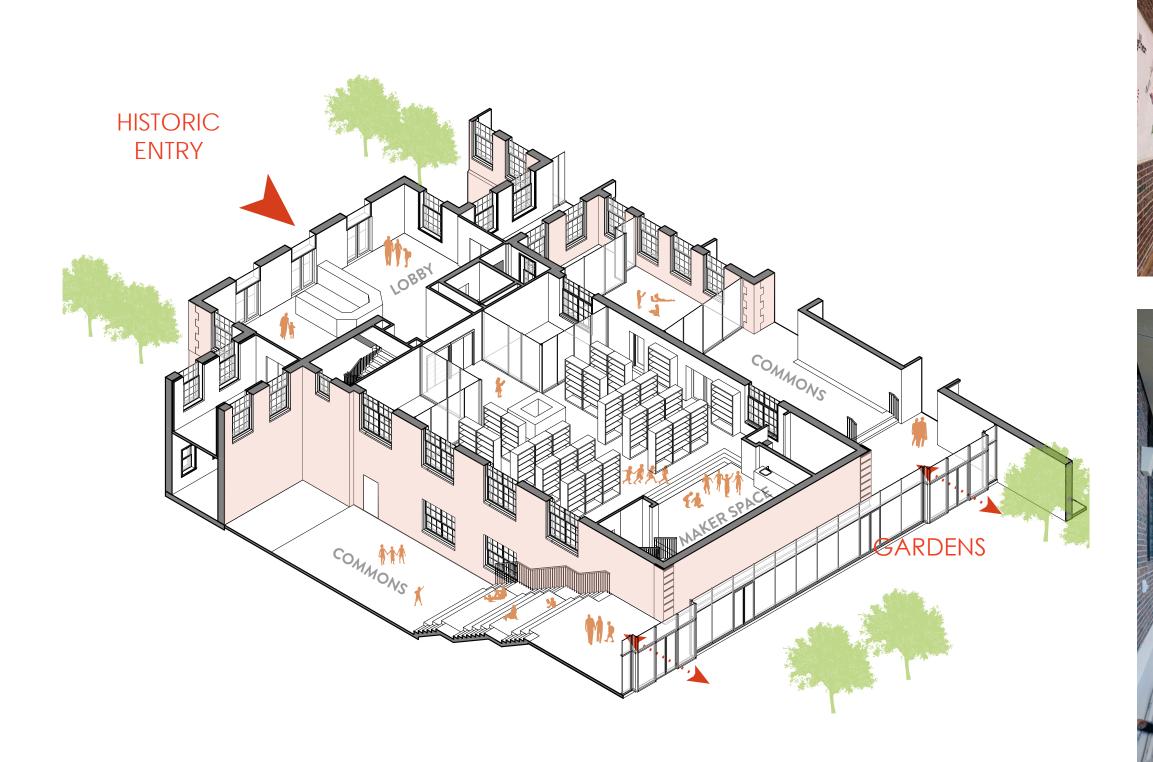


A LIGHT TOUCH TO HIGHLIGHT HISTORIC FEATURES





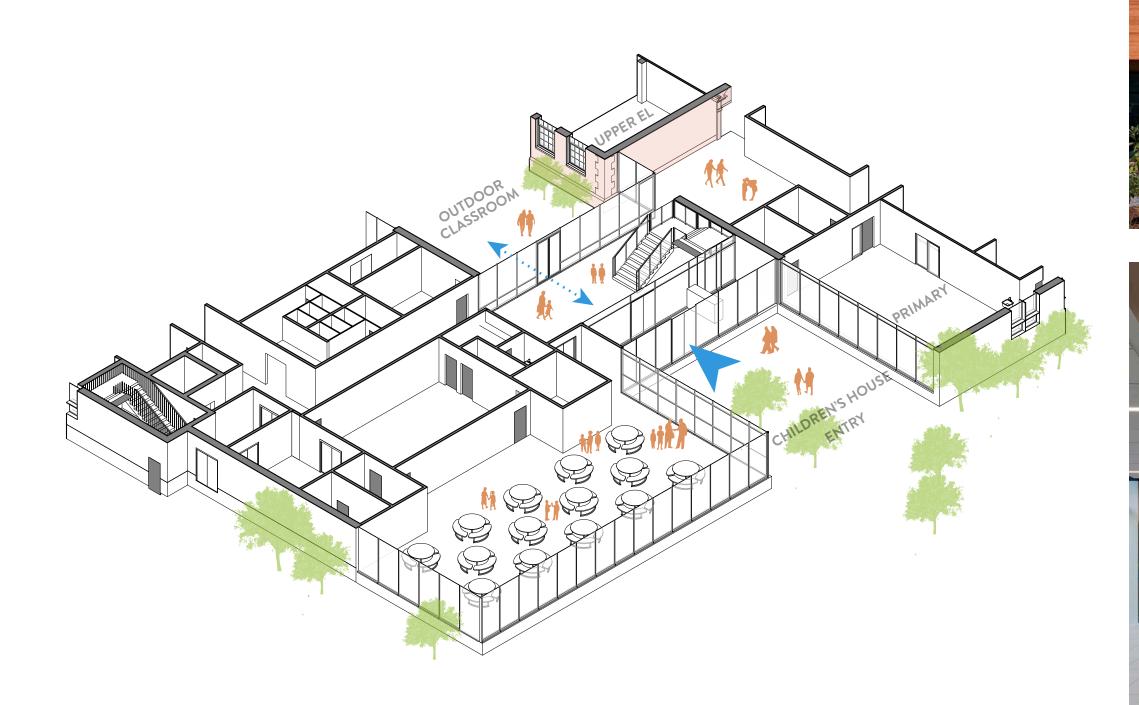


















Pantries







Lobby

Breakout Space





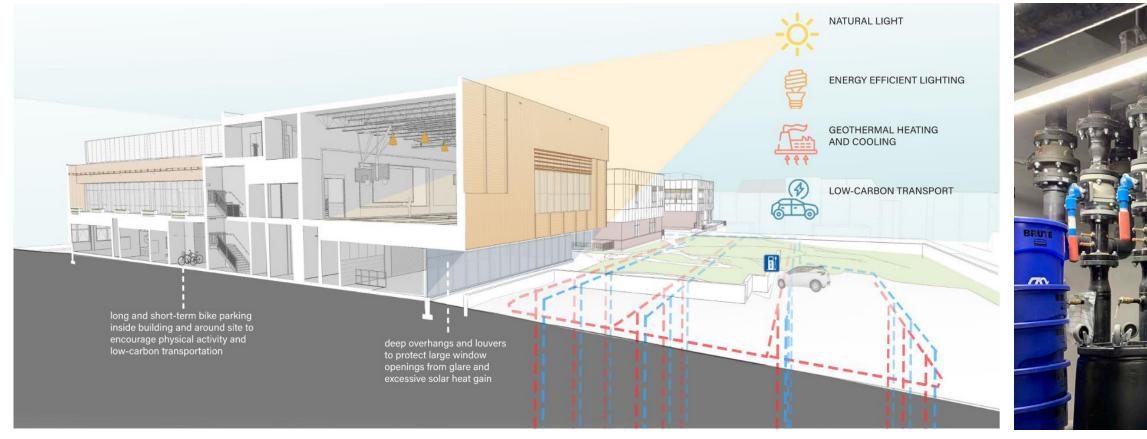
Middle School Commons





Sustainability

PROMOTING HEALTH AND EQUITABLE ACCESS THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY











Sustainability

MAKING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOTH A DESIGN AND TEACHING ELEMENT



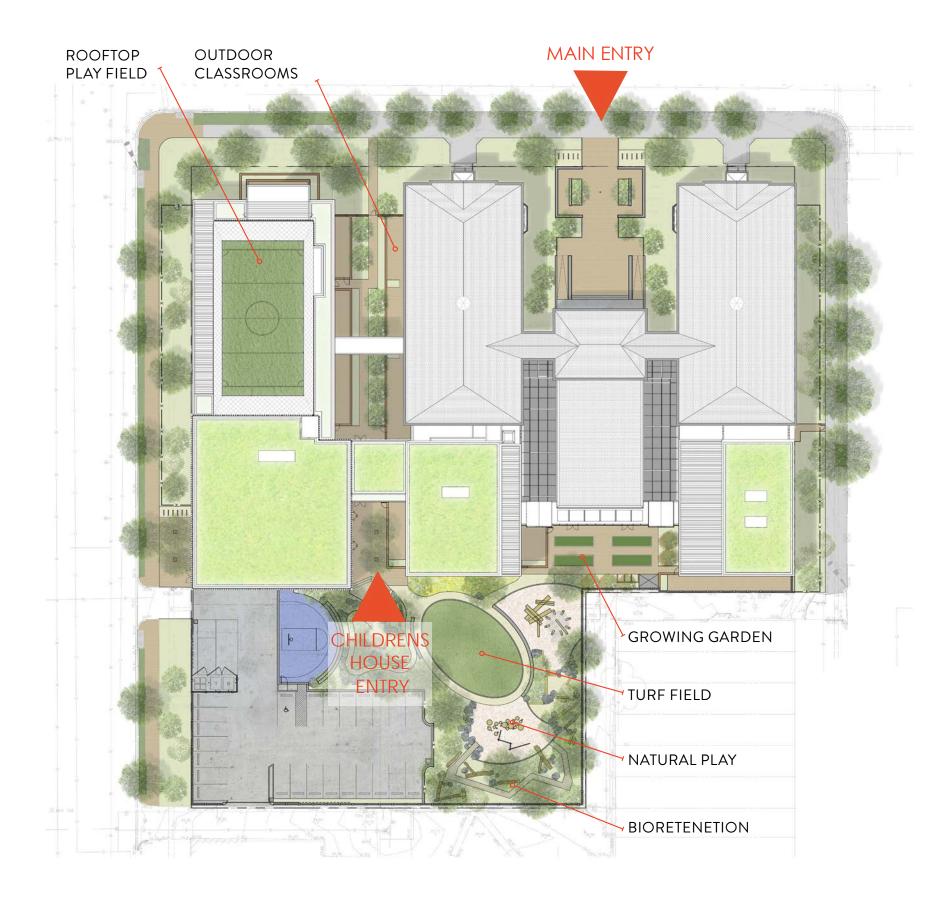








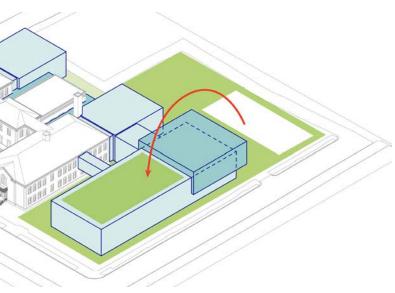
Landscape

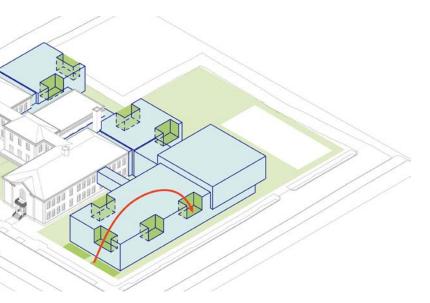


FINDING GREEN SPACE ON A TIGHT URBAN SITE

- Replacing green space lost to parking at grade on roof of addition with turf play field
- Utilizing 'natural play' elements to integrate playground seamlessly with landscape and stormwater management
- Creating out door classrooms both at grade and at second floor
- Transforming historic en gathering space

• Transforming historic entry court into a more accessible



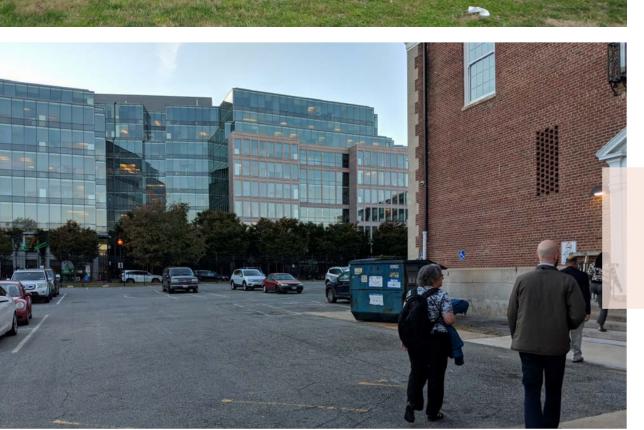




Landscape



REACTIVATING HISTORIC SPACE



RECLAIMING PARKING FOR NATURAL PLAY









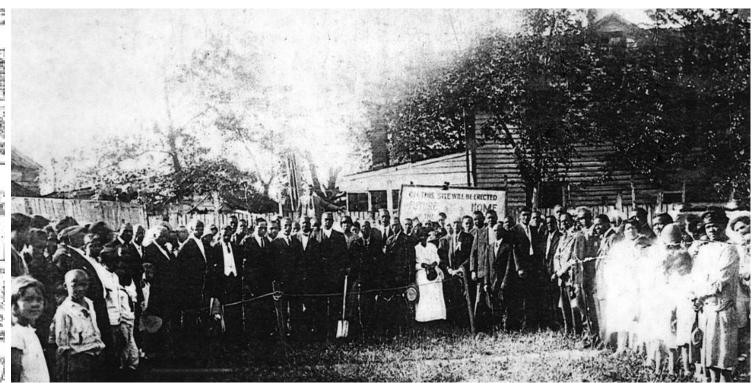
5 WHITLOCK ELEMENTARY



Lorraine H. Whitlock Elementary







HISTORY

Deanwood was established when Levi Sheriff, a white landowner, divided the land into three sections for his daughters. The areas, known as Whittingham, Lincoln Heights, and Burrville became Deanwood.

Deanwood is one of DC's oldest African American Suburbs and was known as a self-reliant, relatively rural neighborhood home to skilled blue-and-white collar laborers and craftsmen.

Civic improvements throughout the 40s and 50s contributed to the growing population and the need for additional educational structures increased.

Robert Senseman was hired to design Aiton Elementary School and the \$1.5 million dollar school relieved crowding at auxilary schools.



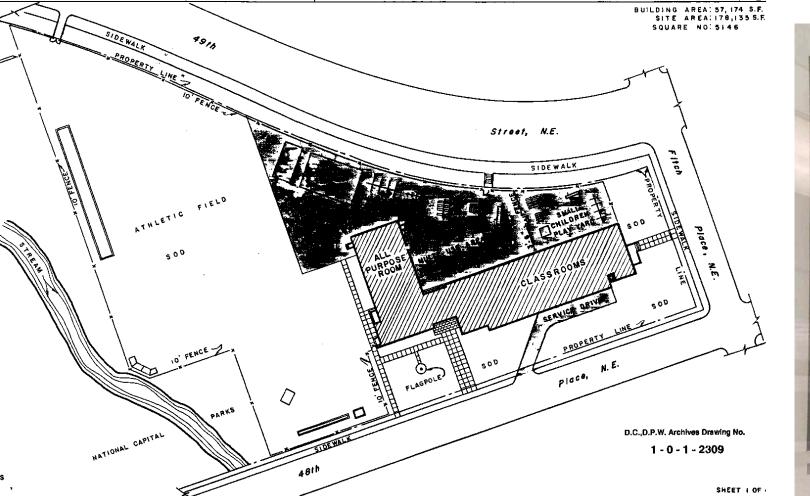
Lorraine H. Whitlock Elementary

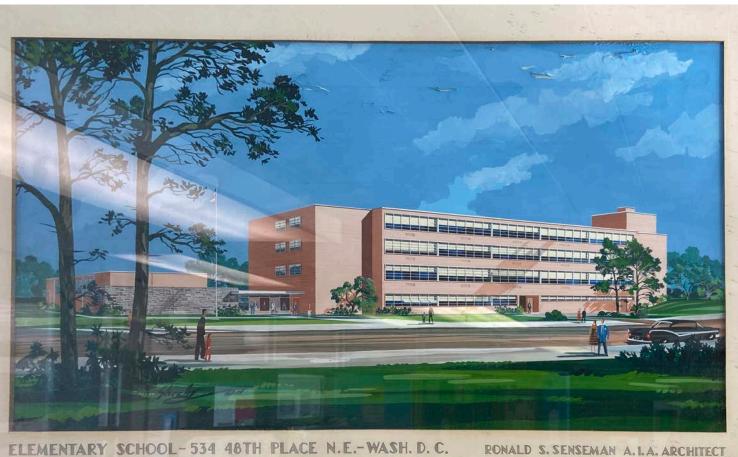
HISTORY

- 1960 Maude Aiton Elementary School is built
- 2016 CFA approves the window replacement project
- 2019 Minor upgrades to the play areas and bathrooms were completed













Lorraine H. Whitlock Elementary (Formerly Aiton)





Lorraine H. Whitlock Elementary (Formerly Aiton)







Community Engagement & Challenges





HPO/CFA

- Must maintain existing 4 story wing as an example of moderne/ international style
- Must maintain lobby and stone wall on west facade originally recommended to soften the design
- Use only brick and define form with texture and subtle articulation

SIT/ANC

- Importance of safe play areas that are dispersed and easy to monitor
- Excitement about public art as a way to convey community aspirations and history, emphasis on interactivity

CHALLENGES

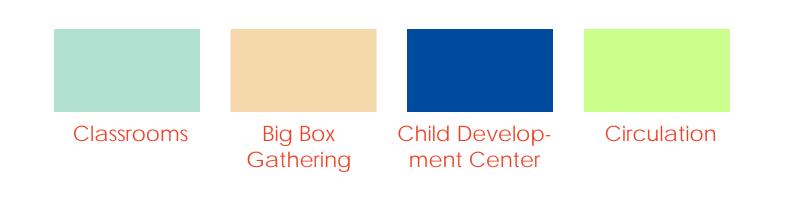
- 4 levels not ideal for young children and CDC must be on first level
- Low floor to floor heights an obstacle to installation of new ductwork
- Maintaining existing single story lobby presents accessibility issues
- Existing multipurpose room turns back on landscape





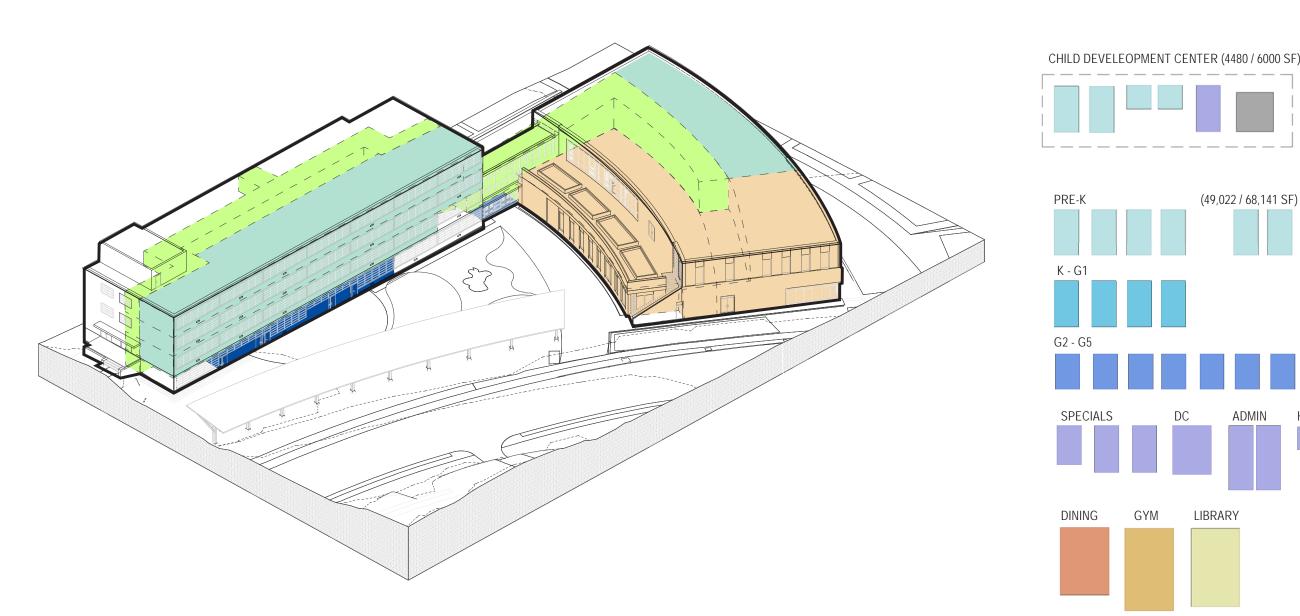


Program Arrangement

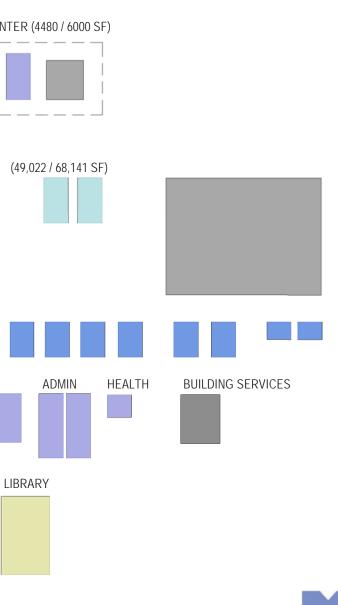


PRIORITIES

- specials

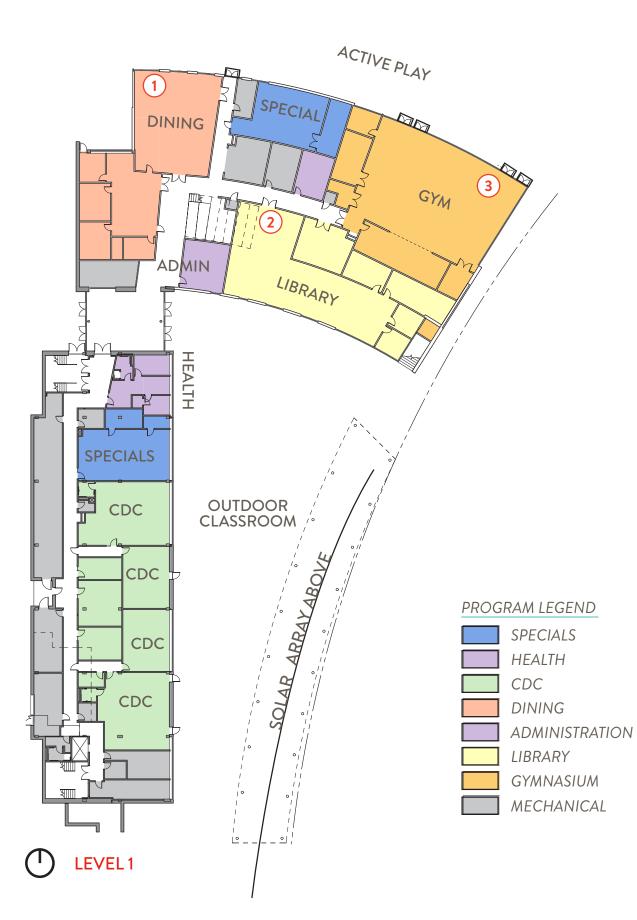


• Provide shared gathering spaces such as gym, Library, commons, and dining area in addition • Place youngest children at lowest floor and provide autonomy for daycare component • Reconfigure corridor to rightsize classrooms and





Program Arrangement



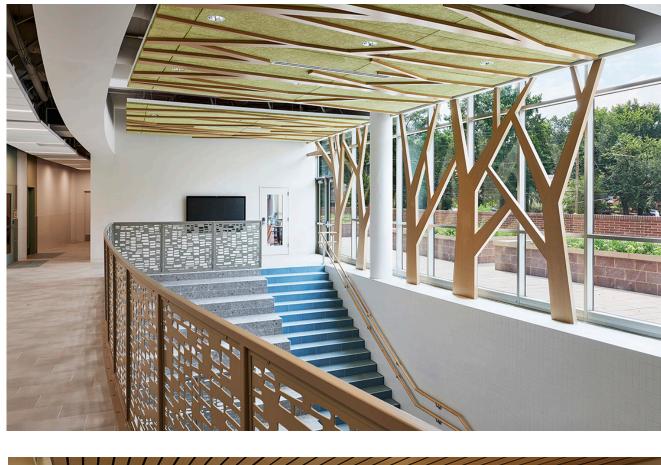






Program Arrangement









Architectural Integration



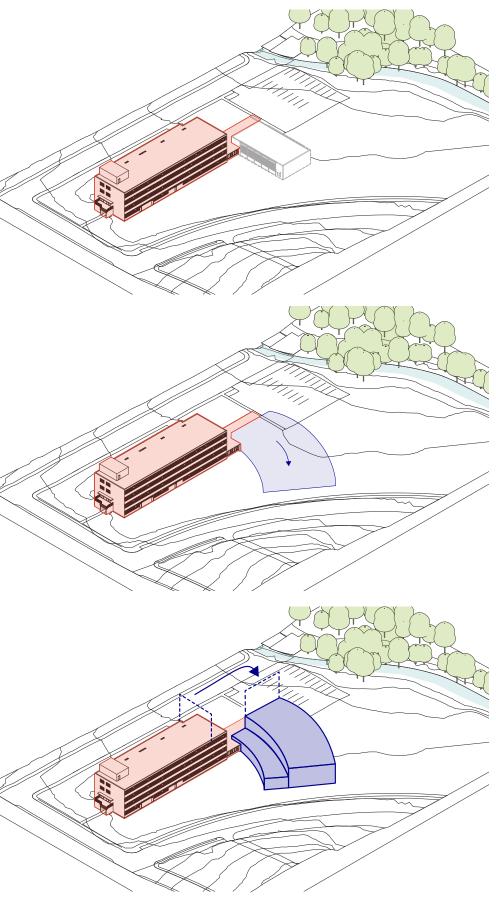


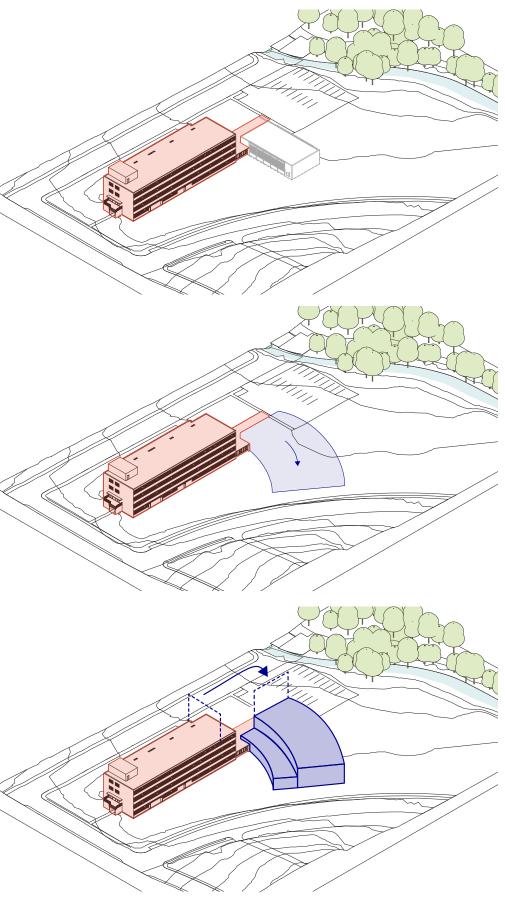
HISTORIC LOBBY AS THE ACHORING HINGEPOINT

1. Remove the existing undersized multipurpose room to allow for new rightsized gathering spaces

2. Create a new footprint which rotates from the lobby and opens wide views across the site, joining up with 49th street to the east

3. Extrude as needed for the program and subdivide the massing to create volumes that are proportionate to the main wing and a terrace facing the shared court



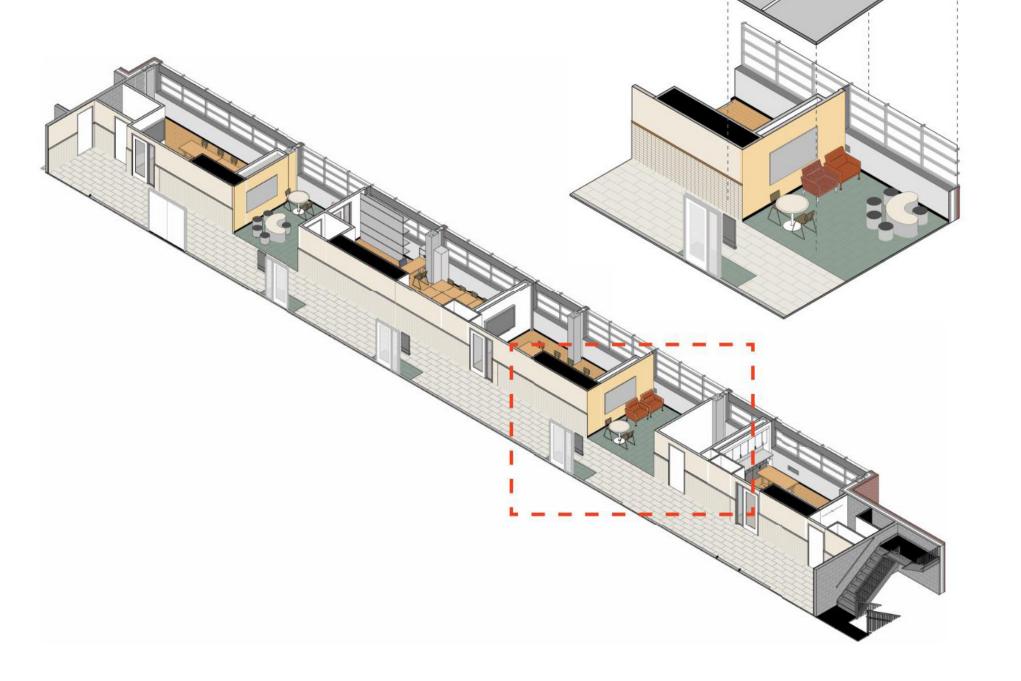


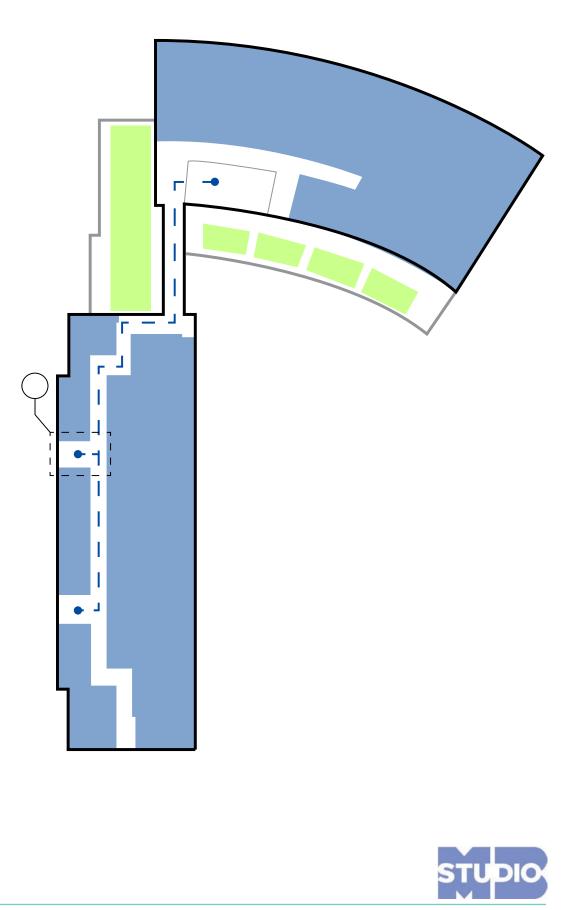


Architectural Integration

ACTIVATING THE CORRIDOR

To create a greater sense of community and bring natural light to the corridors, breakout spaces were distributed throughout. These are linked visually to the main discovery commons by materials.

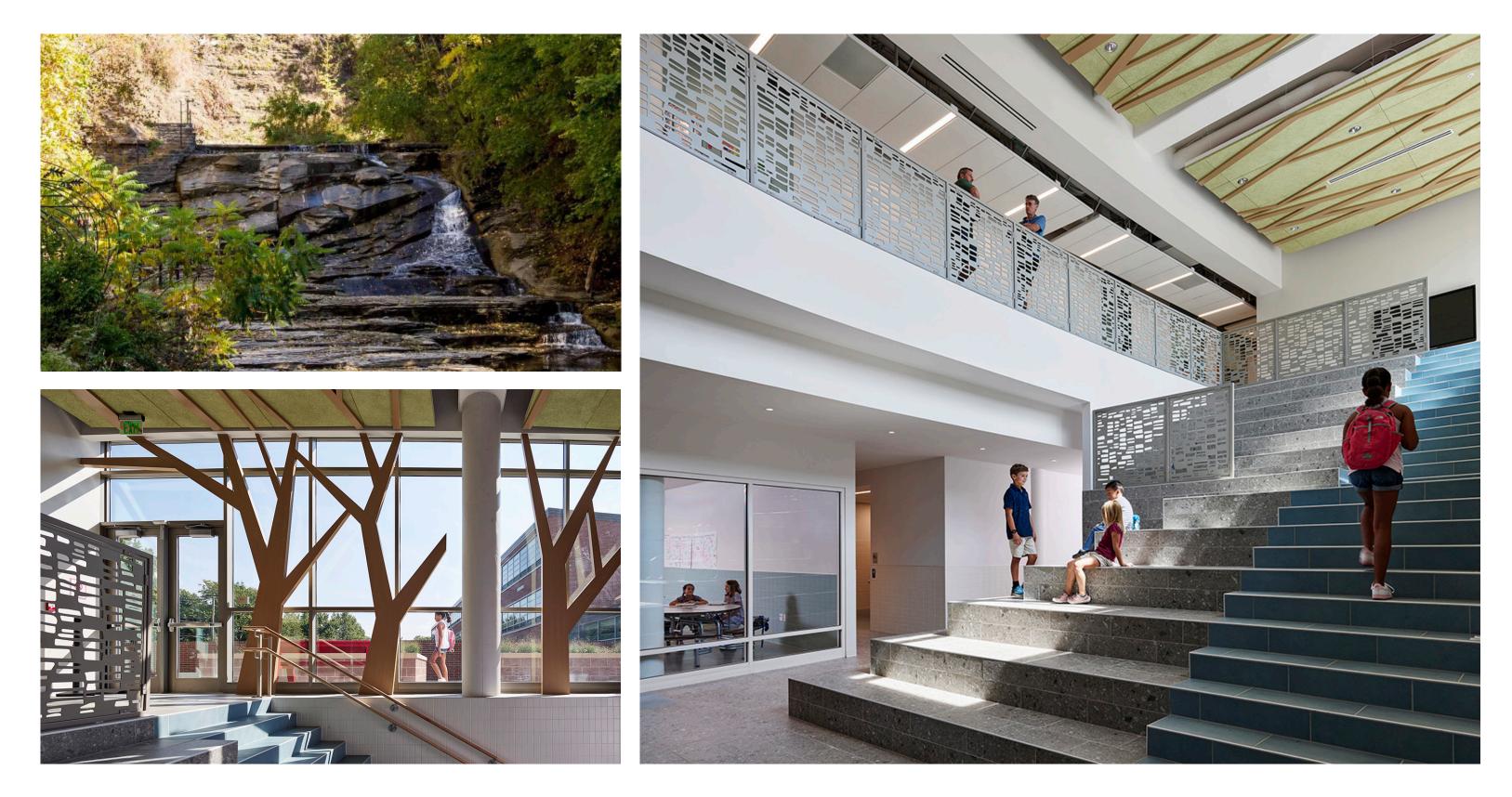








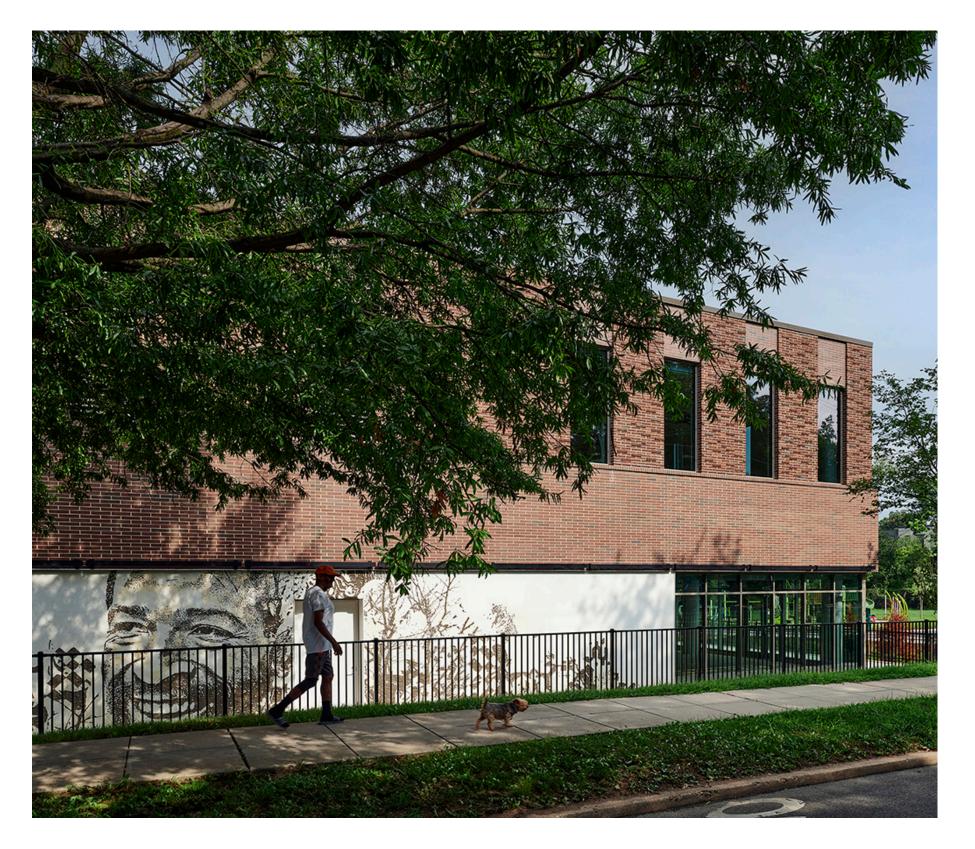
Architectural Integration CREATING A NEW HEART AT THE HINGEPOINT

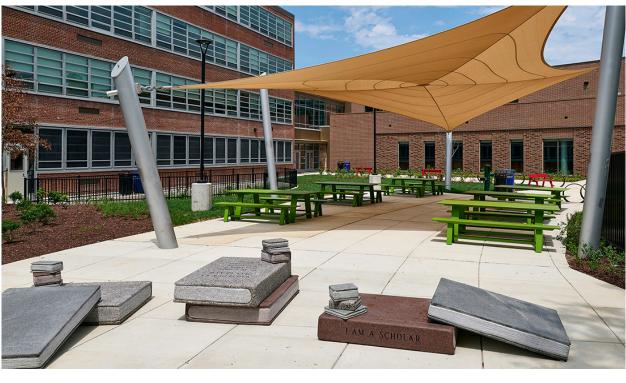




Architectural Integration

TYING HISTORY AND ASPIRATIONS TOGETHER WITH ART

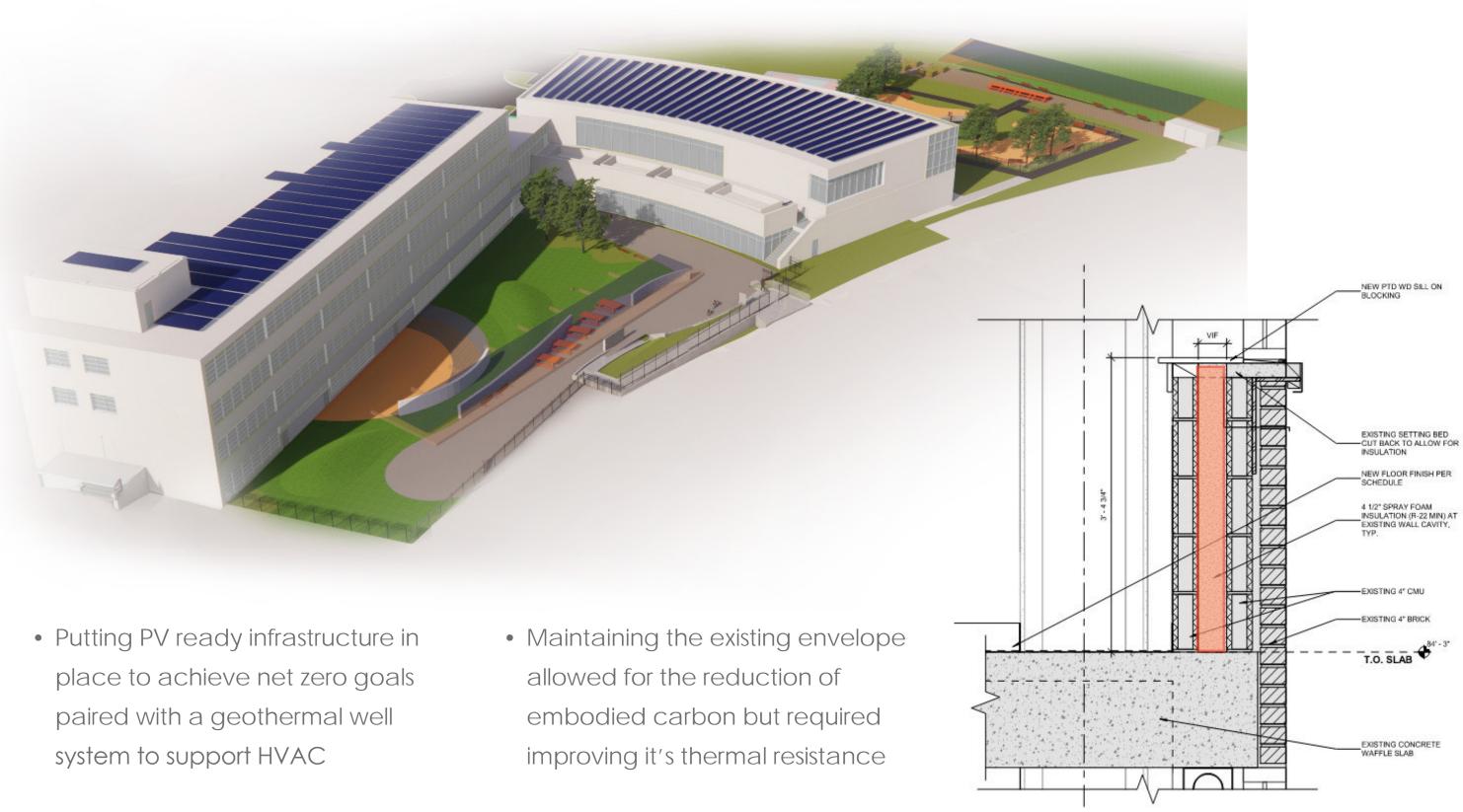








Sustainability A LEED GOLD AND NET ZERO READY SCHOOL

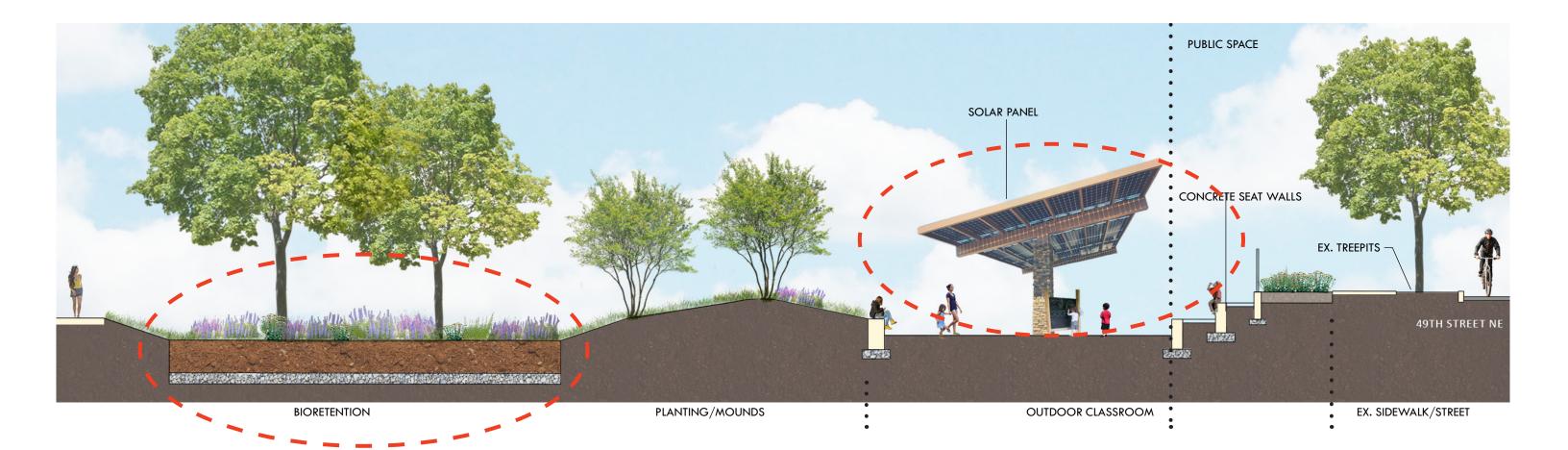




Sustainability INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY AND LANDSCAPE

• Bioretention areas serve the dual purpose of stormwater management and introducing native plants and beauty to the landscape

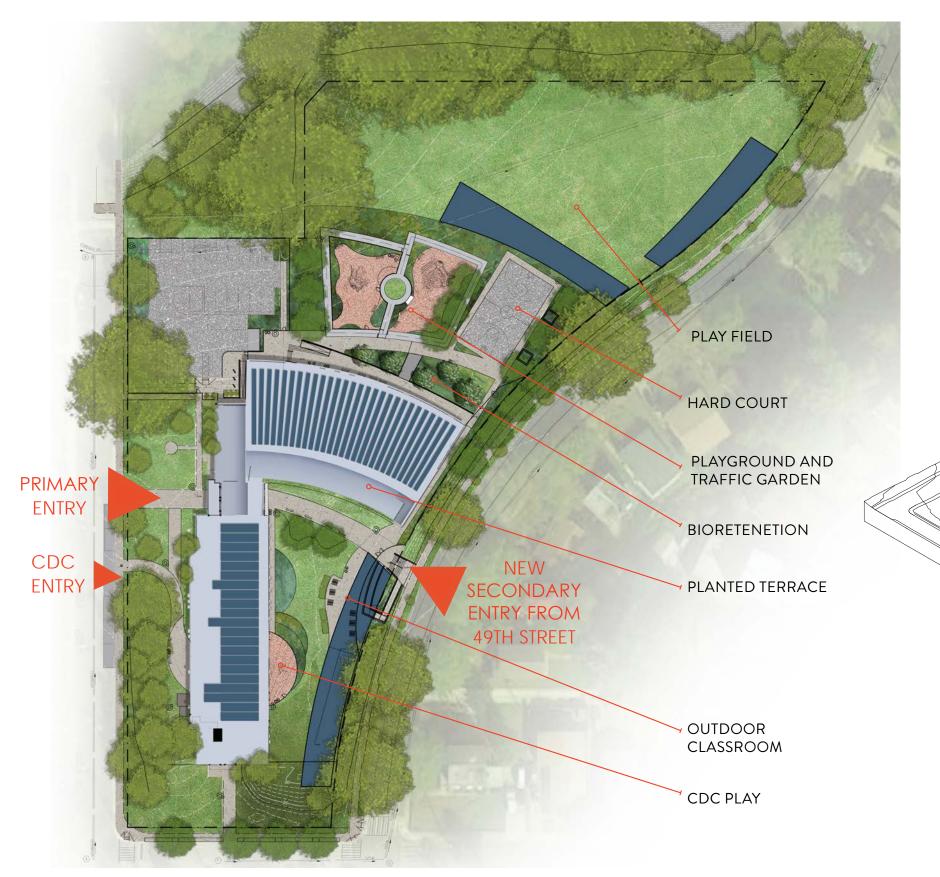
• Solar panel structures provide the dual purpose of generating energy and providing shade at the outdoor classroom and play areas







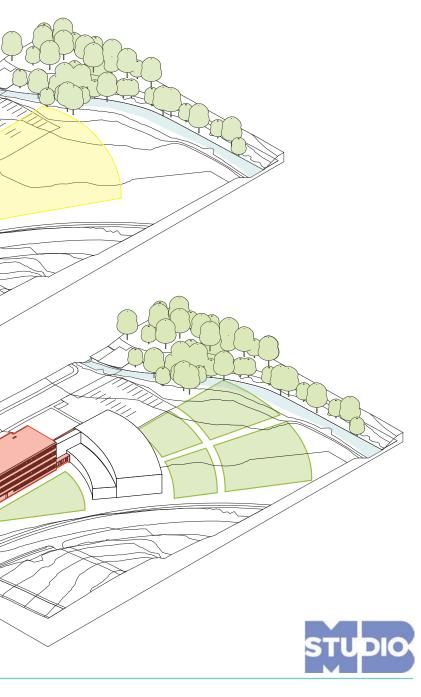
Landscape



TURNING OUTWARDS - REORIENTING TOWARDS THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND LANDSCAPE

- onto green space

• Important to preserve the existing entry landscape and heritage/special trees on the west side of the building • Take advantage of views and shape of site to fan play areas out to the north and increase interaction with natural landscape • Replace blacktop with planted outdoor classroom, secondary site entry, and bioretention area so that classrooms look out



Landscape

BIOPHILIC DESIGN

Natural light and access to green space is well documented to reduce stress and improve academic performance by creating more calming, inviting environments. The landscape to the north and east was transformed to create more learning spaces in the outdoors such as the garden terrace and outdoor classroom. Direct access from the gym as well as outdoor dining areas create a seamless transition to thelandscape from the school's main gathering spaces



























