

Sidwell Friends Middle School

Location: Washington DC Architect: KieranTimberlake Associates LLP

Overview

The master plan for the Sidwell Friends School, a pre-K through 12th-grade Quaker independent school, focuses on meeting programmatic needs for its two campuses in Washington, D.C., and Bethesda, Maryland, including the unification of the campuses through coherent landscapes and enhanced pedestrian circulation.

The renovation and addition to the middle school transforms a 55-year-old facility into a school that teaches environmental responsibility by example. The 39,000 ft² addition more than doubled the size of the existing building, providing modern spaces for music and art, science and computer labs, counseling, and a library while retaining and enhancing the value of the existing structure.

SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT

- Percent of total building area that is daylight: **88**
- Percent of building that can be ventilated or cooled with operable windows: **61**
- Precipitation managed on site: **100**
- EPA Energy Reduction: **100**
- Percent total energy savings: **60**
- Lighting Load after Controls (W/sf): **0.2**

Jury Comments:

"This project is really comprehensive. They have a great attitude about water. They were very careful with light. It is beautiful. It is a really 'aggressive' kind of renovation." – **John Quale, Assistant Professor / University of Virginia School of Architecture / Charlottesville, VA**

"This is a tremendous example of being responsible. And it's beautiful." – **Anne Schopf, FAIA / Mahlum Architects / Seattle, WA**

"The building itself is a teacher. It tells the students where they are. It helps them be conscious of the water and light. There are all these cues connecting them to the natural world. This is so important at that level of teaching. The school itself could be a science project." – **Susan Szenasy / Metropolis / New York, NY**



Sustainable Design Intent & Innovation

Designed to foster an ethic of social and environmental responsibility in each student, the facility demonstrates a responsible relationship between the natural and the built environment.

Bicycle storage and showers are available, and the building is located within walking distance of a subway stop and several bus stops. Parking is available in an underground lot. A green roof and constructed wetland reduce stormwater runoff, improve the quality of infiltrated runoff, and reduce municipal water use. The wetland treats wastewater for reuse in the toilets and cooling towers.

The building was sited to take advantage of passive solar design. Together with high-efficiency electric lighting, photosensors, and occupancy sensors, daylighting minimizes lighting energy use. Solar-ventilation chimneys, operable windows, and ceiling fans minimize the need for mechanical cooling. Rather than develop a utility plant for this building alone, a central plant was created to serve the entire campus. A photovoltaic array generates about 5% of the building's electricity needs.

Reclaimed materials include exterior cladding, flooring and decking, and the stone used for landscaping. Interior finishes were selected for their high levels of recycled content, low chemical emissions, and use of rapidly renewable materials.

Primary Design Team Members

Sidwell Friends School	Interior Design Resource
KieranTimberlake Associates, LLP	Hitt Contracting, Inc.
Andropogon Associates, Ltd.	Sean O'Connor Associates Lighting Consultants, LLC
VIKA, Inc.	Benya Lighting Design
Bruce E. Brooks & Associates	Engineering Economics, Inc.
CVM Structural Engineers	JFW Project Management
GreenShape, LLC	

Full project profile:

www.aiatopen.org/hpb/overview.cfm?ProjectID=775

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