

Addition to the Timothy Dwight Elementary School, New Haven, CT

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This project is a model for design and community collaboration and illustrates how significant works of architecture can be generated from a bottom-up collaborative planning process. The project originated at a community design charrette organized by the Yale Urban Design Workshop in 1995 and developed as a unique collaboration between the Yale School of Architecture with students from other Schools, GDDC, HUD, and the City of New Haven.

The added value of the involvement of Yale graduate students from various Schools is clearly evident. The wayfinding signs include sketches done by Dwight kids in the Arts classes coordinated by students in the Graphic Design Department. Students from the Law School worked on the funding process and were involved with access and security issues. These informed the building design to make it open as much as possible to the community and to keep the school secure.

The 10,000 square-foot addition will serve the School and the community with a multi-purpose room and meeting rooms for the school and neighborhood-based Dwight Central Management Team. The design of the addition references the existing 1963 Eliot Noyes-designed School but adds windows and a variety of contextual



materials assembled with a modern sensibility. An elliptical lobby provides a civic space, like those found in New Haven's great buildings, such as the Free Public Library. The addition has a strong presence with its own identity, but one that still sits quietly next to the School and within the neighborhood context.

INTERIOR

An elliptical lobby provides a civic space, like those found in New Haven's great buildings, such as the Free Public Library and Courthouse.

The design of the addition references the existing 1963 Eliot Noyes-designed School but adds windows and a variety of contextual materials assembled with a modern sensibility.

The lighting of the lobby makes it glow and sparkle at all times of the day was designed by students at the Yale Drama School.

EXTERIOR

Large letters on the front and back of the building spell “DWIGHT” and say boldly, we are proud of our school, of this neighborhood and this community.

Economical brick is used in a way that is lively, fresh and modern. The green references the serenity of natural landscape, and the white the precast concrete of the existing school.

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DESIGN TEAM

Owner:

City of New Haven, Board of Education

Project Designer:

Michael Haverland, Yale Urban Design Workshop

With students from the Yale Schools of Architecture, Art (Signage), Drama (Lighting), Environmental Studies (Landscape), and Law (Access/security):

Paul Arougheti, Ben deRubertis, Al Dasher, Dominique Davison, Marcos Diaz-Gonzalez, Thomas Dunn, Joe Fong,



Billy Forrest, Mark Gage, Kristina Lamour, Jen Lau, Michael Lee Poy, Tom Morbitzer, Joe Piekiewicz, David Reinfurt, Paul Whittaker, Jim Woodworth, Belinda Young

Architects of Record:

TAMS Consultants, Inc.

Landscape Design:

Balmori Associates

Owner's Representative:

Daniel S. Haim

Construction Managers:

A. Prete Construction

Design Committee of the Greater Dwight Development Corporation:

Paul Ruchinskas, Executive Director, GDDC

Curlena McDonald, Co-Chair

Ruby White, Co-Chair

Bernadette Strode, Principal

Lillian Aguilar, Cynthia Farrar, Jim Govang, Willie Freeman, Winston Ireland, Peggy Moore, Marion Murray, Sheila Shanklin, Bob Solomon, Bea Dozier-Taylor

Exhibition Designer:

Jen Lau

All building photographs by Andrew Bordwin Studio

