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PROJECTS / NEWS



## MDSA Designs for Learning

Learning is no longer confined to classrooms. The traditional classroom remains an important element in school design, but is also a multi-task space for teachers and children, and must be adaptable. Collaborative learning and one-on-one instruction happens simultaneously in multiple arrangements, and now extends beyond the classroom walls. Every space in a school – corridors, stairwells, niches – can be part of the environment of learning and an extension of the classroom.

Our designs link spaces together – interconnect and interrelate – and do not leave them independent and isolated. Visual connections and physical relationships and innovative program planning encourage this, and our buildings and interiors compose spaces with this in mind.

We create invigorating environments throughout the building – inviting and fun places to explore and learn.

## “Demanding Sites of Two Schools Call for Innovative Designs”

Two new schools designed by MDSzerbaty Associates Architecture (MDSA) demonstrate creative responses to demanding sites in New York City while supporting the school’s mission and pedagogy. The Sixth Avenue Elementary School (PS340) and the Richard Rogers School (PS96) illustrate how thoughtful design can translate into open and supportive learning environments.

The Sixth Avenue Elementary School (PS340), is located on a bustling corner of 6th Ave., and 17th St. The 95,000 sf project involved converting the lower six floors and cellar of a former hospital located in a 14-story high rise.

The Richard Rogers School (PS96) is a five-story, 50,000 sf addition to an existing historic school building in the Bronx.

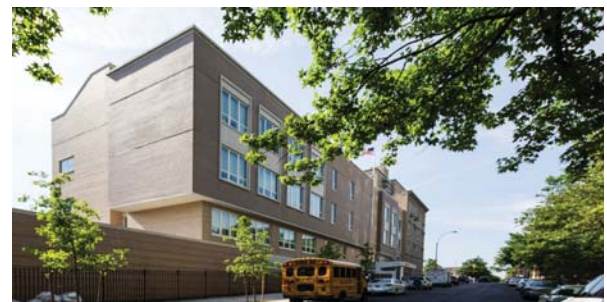


PS340 lobby with stair and glass enclosed cafeteria, double-height ceiling and large glass surfaces bring in natural light

*“We designed many spaces for assembly and gathering of small groups allowing observation of student projects by all grade levels and encouraging all age groups to learn from each other...”*

Both schools have a mission to promote intellectual curiosity, inclusivity, collaboration, and reflect on the real world as a means to promote growth. The functional planning deliberately encourages interactions among all students while transparent, light filled spaces allow visual connection to the city outside.

*“We’ve received enthusiastic reviews from the staff, students and parents alike for both facilities,” says Szerbaty. “They appreciate the quality of the spaces and what MDSA could realize under challenging conditions.”*



Exterior view of new addition to PS96



Lobby entrance of PS96 with wide “amphitheatre” stair leading to cafeteria below