



John D. Runkle School

Façade redesign and reconstruction gives new excitement to a public school's image in the community

This project for the Town of Brookline, MA involves the complete removal and replacement of a 1962 curtain wall elevation. The project undertook to give the elementary school building a new, less industrial, appearance while solving a variety of functional and programmatic problems.

Features

- Variation using limited, typical modules
- Multi-function openings
- Integration of mechanical

Recognition

- 2000 Award for Design Excellence – Special Citation, AIA/ Boston Society of Architects
- *Harvard Design Magazine*, Winter/Spring 2001
- "The Year in Review Issue", *ArchitectureBoston*, 2000



Program

Reaching the end of its service life this public school's exterior enclosure needed replacement. JLA worked with a complex group of public school administrators, school faculty, parents and community representatives to craft a new image for the school. The new image initiative was subject to intense budget scrutiny with funding similar to an ordinary service replacement. Precise functional and maintenance concerns had to be addressed as well. Due to fiscal timing, the project had to begin coincident with the school year and was phased to allow small phases of construction to coordinate with moving classes to limited swing space.

Solution

Jonathan Levi Architects approached the project through careful research of the way the window wall is used by teachers and students including ventilation, view, and shelf storage. A new system was devised which integrated new metal panel wall, exterior louver units and operable and fixed glazing into one modularly designed installation. At the same time costs were minimized by leaving existing window and minor structural elements in place.

JLA Role

Lead Design Architect, Architect of Record

Personnel Jonathan Levi FAIA, *Project Designer/Partner-in-Charge*; Matthew LaRue AIA, *Project Architect*

Client John D. Runkle School

Location Brookline, MA

Size 30,000 sf

Construction Cost \$510,000

Construction Complete 2000



The new glazing system uses only two typical window configurations. However, through mirroring and combinations of these two units a unique appearance was obtained for each individual classroom reducing the sense of uniformity in the existing repetitive building layout.