

## School #16 - a place to SOAR

Originally constructed in 1910, John Walton Spencer School #16 functioned as a safe, welcoming and walkable elementary school in the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward community for over 100 years. The modest, yet detailed façade along Post Avenue exemplifies the multitude of additions that were made throughout its history. Additions made to accommodate the changing environment. Increases in student population, advancements in data & infrastructure, and the standardization of teaching methods had contributed to the need for change for this building in the past. With the last renovation being in 2010 and the building being vacant since 2014; John Walton Spencer School #16 was in need of a renovation that would revitalize its presence, and its inclusion in the community.

As the school sat vacant, its already fatigued building infrastructure systems continued to lag behind schools with active enrollment. The structural systems slowly became inadequate, and persistent maintenance issues needed to be addressed. The Modernization Project warranted a full gut and rehabilitation of the existing building. All utility systems and infrastructure would be removed and replaced, while significant programming exercises would evaluate spatial arrangements for the now enlarged student population.

The design team was challenged to rehabilitate close to 70,000 SF of existing building, and also include (2) additions. One of which was a 2 Classroom addition to house the growing population of pre-k students, while the other was a Gymnasium that could house an additional teaching station, host large group assemblies, and serve as an opportunity for community engagement after hours.

The modernization of the existing school was done in a way that preserved significant, character defining historical features, while the additions emphasize advancements in technology and education. Returning staff have a building they can be proud of, and students have a place that allows them SOAR (be Safe, Organized, Accountable, Respectful).

Building Area: (sf)  
**88,424 SF**

Cost per Square Foot:  
**\$352 / SF**

Construction Cost  
**31.2M**

Date of Substantial Completion:  
**September 2018**

Location of Project:  
**321 Post Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14619**

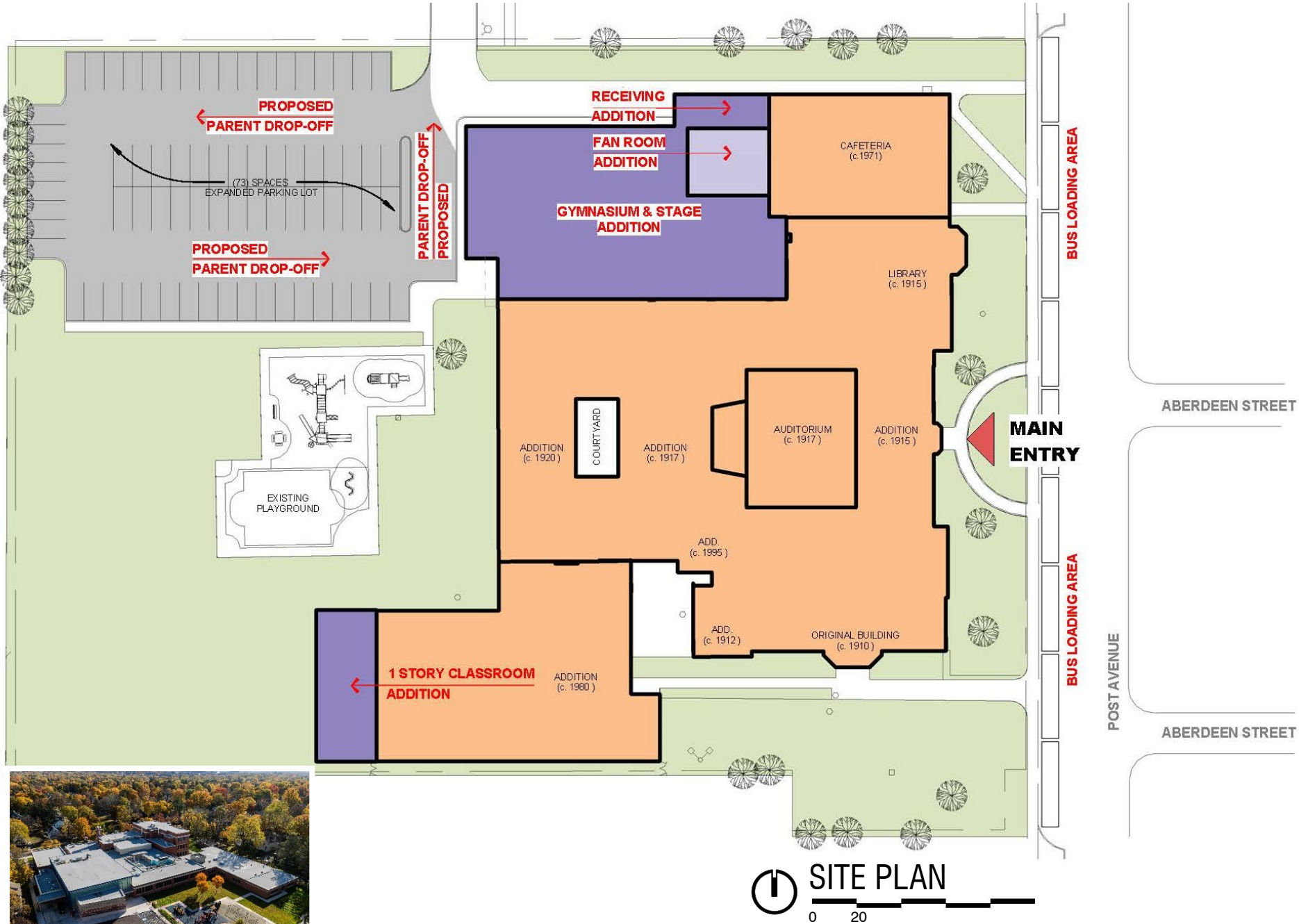
Type of Project (check one):

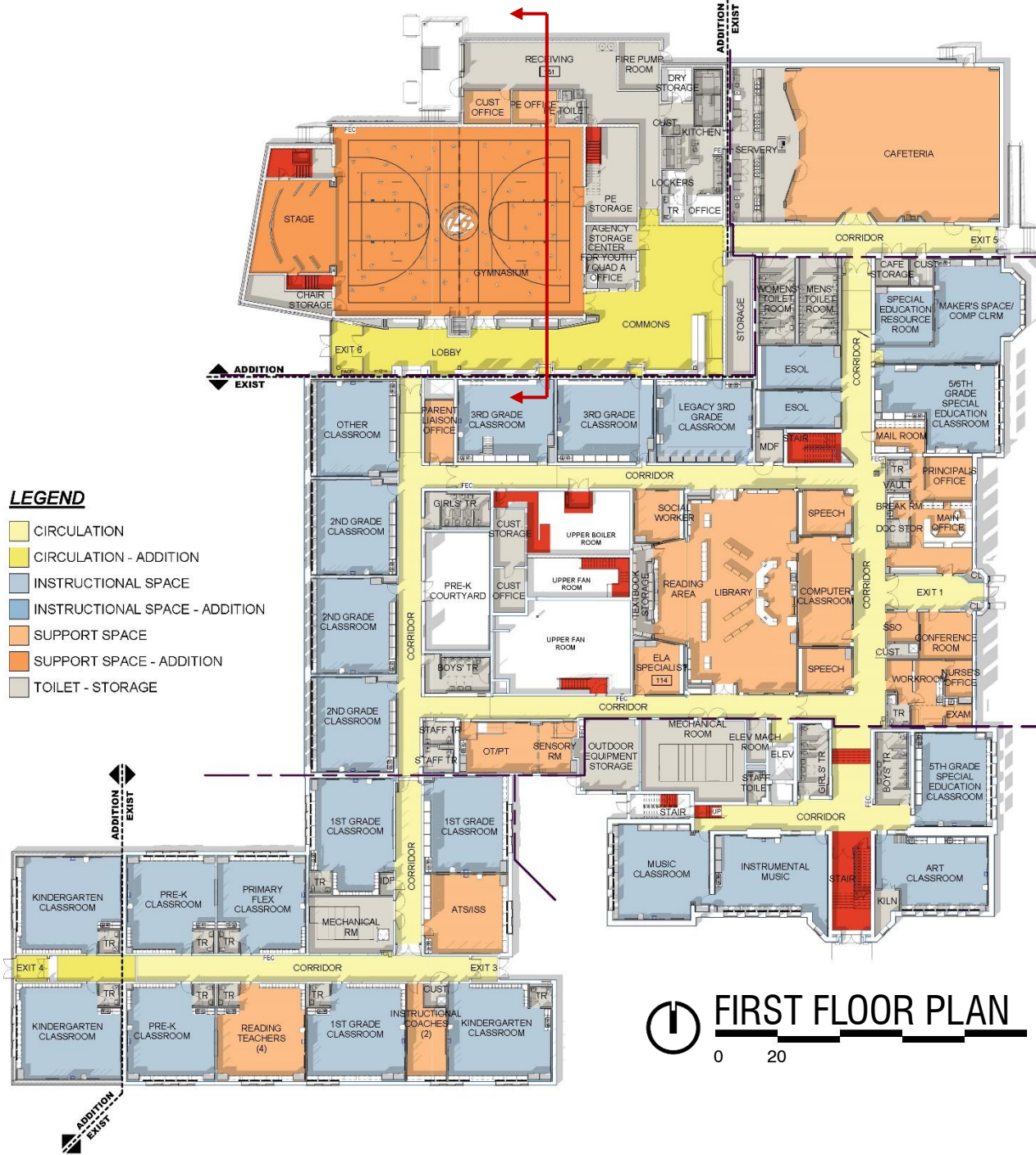
Residential  
☐ Single Family  
☐ Multi-Family

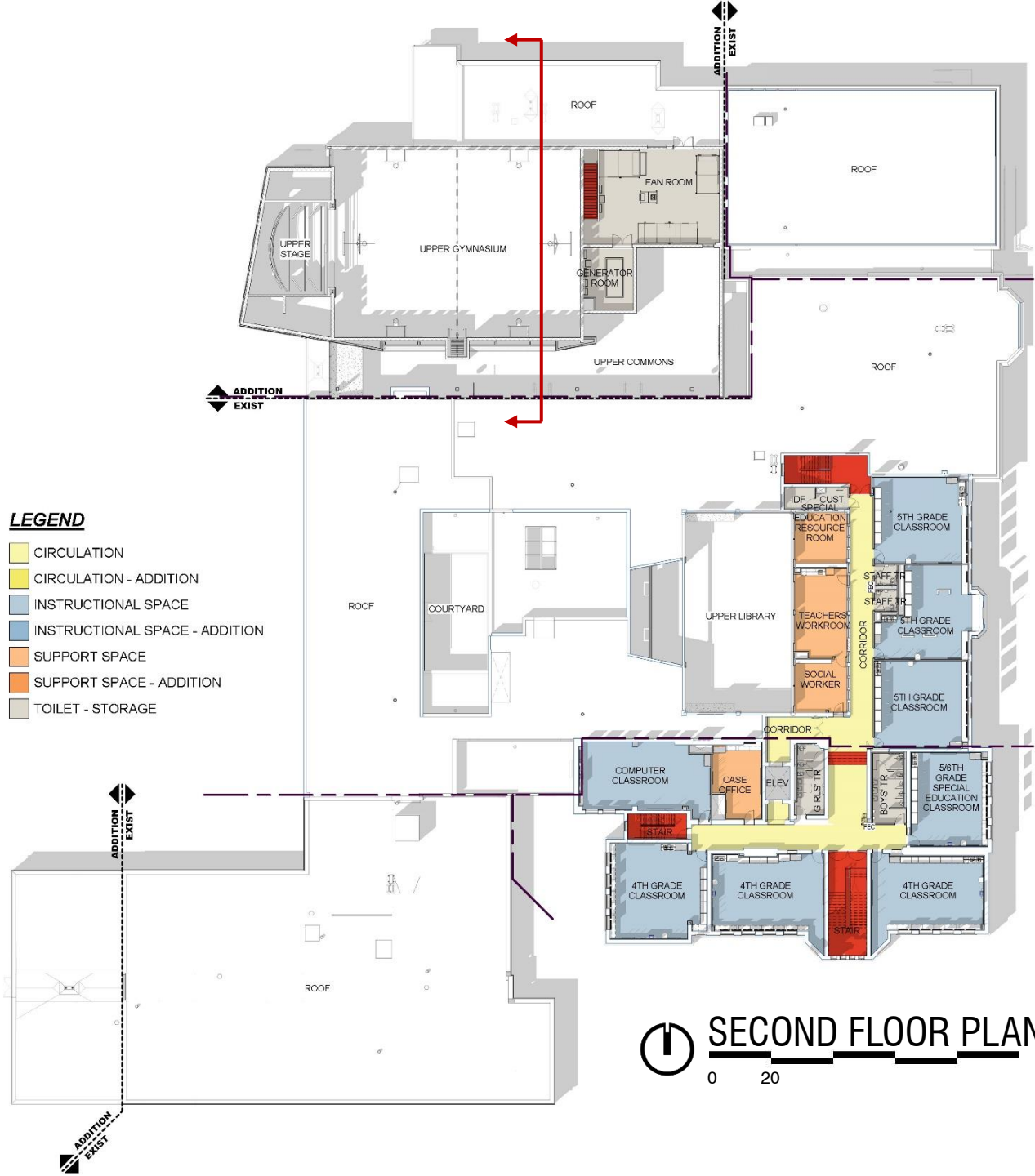
Commercial/Industrial  
☐ Small Project – <\$2 Million  
☐ Large Project – >\$2 Million

Institutional  
☐ Small Project – <\$2 Million  
☒ Large Project – >\$2 Million

Interior Design and Environment  
☐ Education  
☐ Healthcare  
☐ General  
  
☐ Urban Design

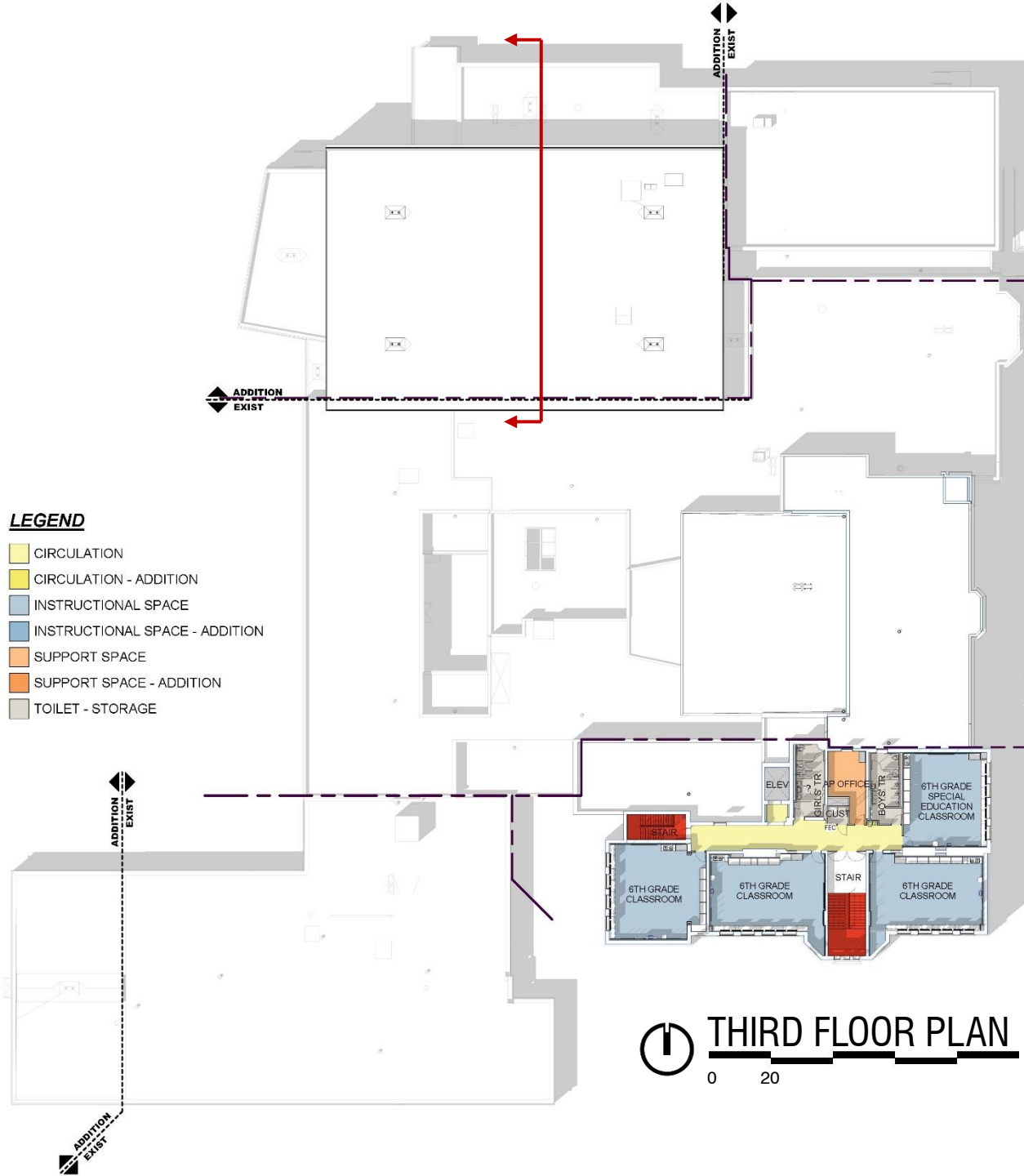


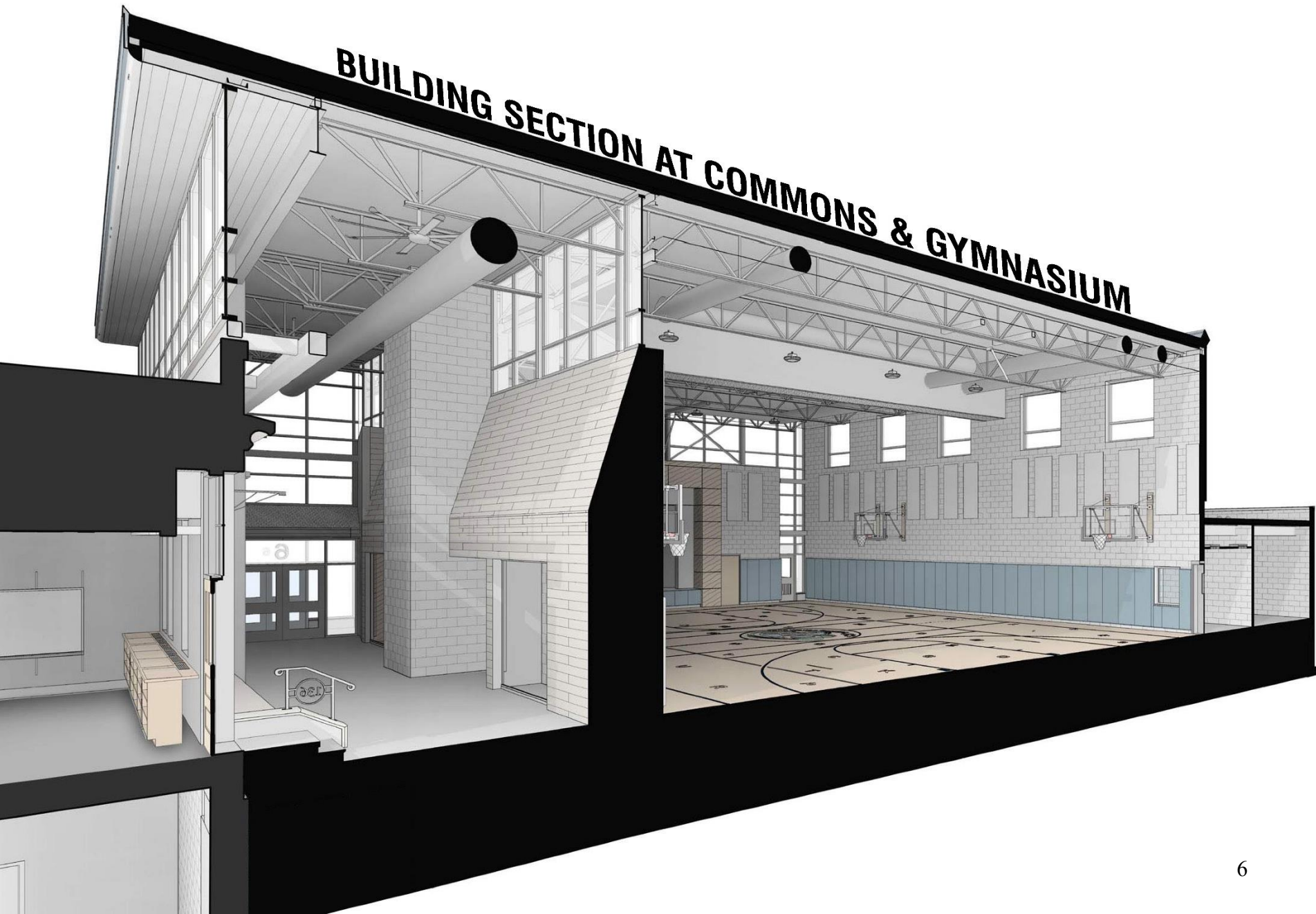




 **SECOND FLOOR PLAN**  
0 20









*The Gymnasium volume is wrapped in a high-rib insulated metal panel & translucent glass that allows light to penetrate the space without glare, as the Stage façade is activated by a concrete rainscreen system that emulates the motion & energy taking place within the building.*









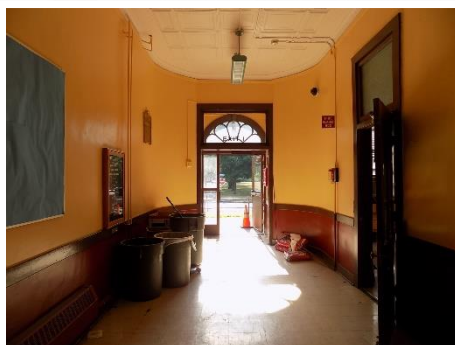
*The South portion of the building, which was the original 1910 Schoolhouse, was revitalized. The façade, like many others throughout the building, had the masonry restored, replacement double-hung windows installed & an upgraded entry system.*





*The North-South elevation maintains a prominent presence along Post Avenue. The original transom at the main entrance was restored, the cast stone building identification & signage was preserved, and the bell tower structure was re-constructed to ensure that the renovations continued the timeless features of the original building.*





*The main entrance was restored to the unique elegance it once had in 1917. Original wood trim was re-finished, and the tin ceiling was restored.*





*The inclusion of “of the era” fixtures & finishes is a common design concept that the team carried throughout the project. Schoolhouse light fixtures, hexagon tile, custom millwork & door panels are displayed to visitors here, in the Main Office.*





*A “Legacy Corridor” within the original 1920 building was created by restoring original hardwood floors, wood trim, decorative column enclosures & providing Schoolhouse light fixtures*





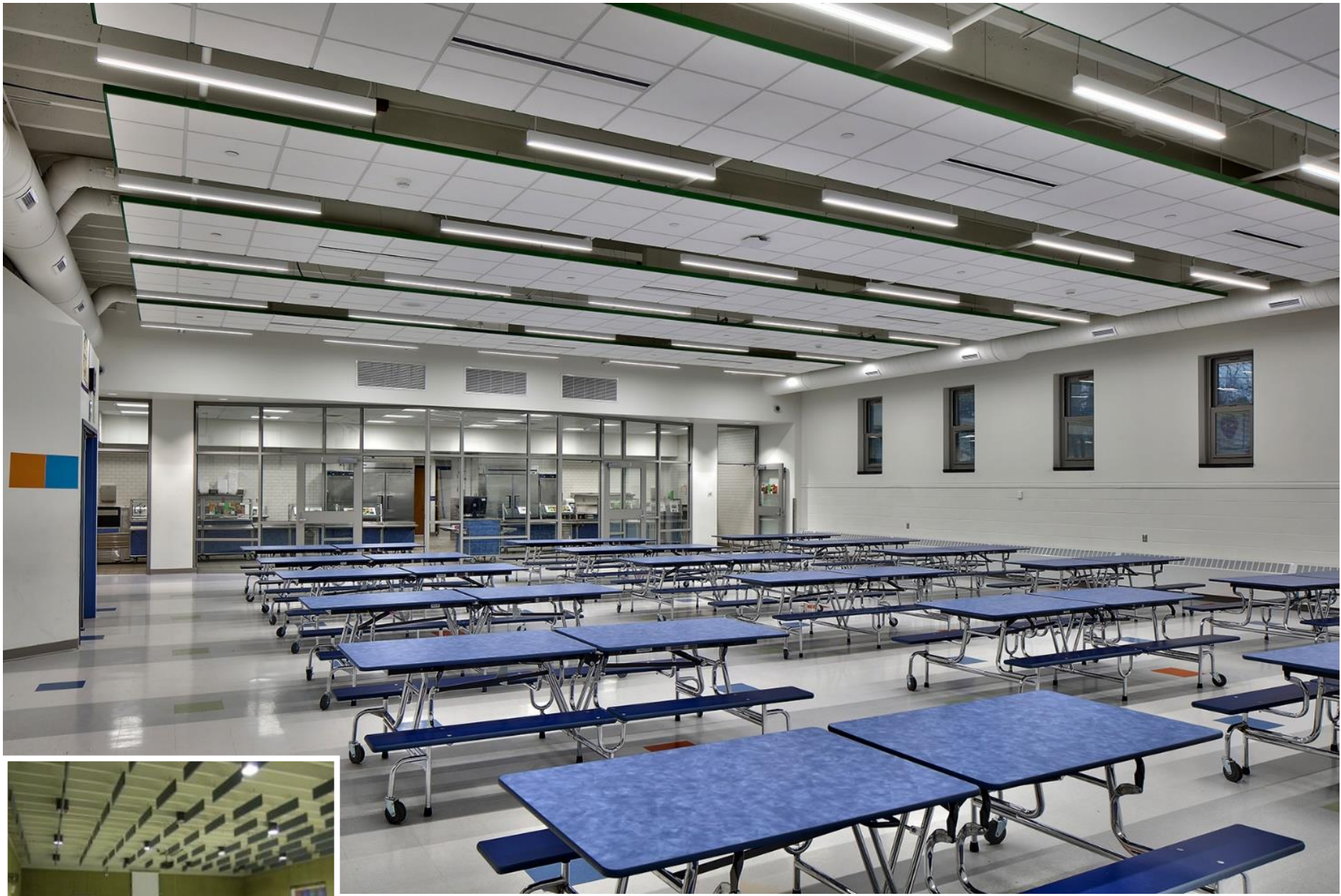
*The former Gymnasium/ Auditorium was re-purposed. This significant, highly visible, programmable space in the middle of the building became the Library. The original proscenium & wood trim was re-finished, and the leaded-glass clerestory windows were restored to provide daylighting.*





*A "Legacy Classroom" is included in the renovation project, which embraces restored chair-rails, picture-rails, teaching-wall casework, and counter-balanced coat cubbie doors. This classroom highlights the historical significance of the period of the original building, while integrating the benefits of modern technology.*





*Daylighting is introduced to the Cafeteria, as penetrations were created in the once windowless space to take advantage of the Northern exposure.*

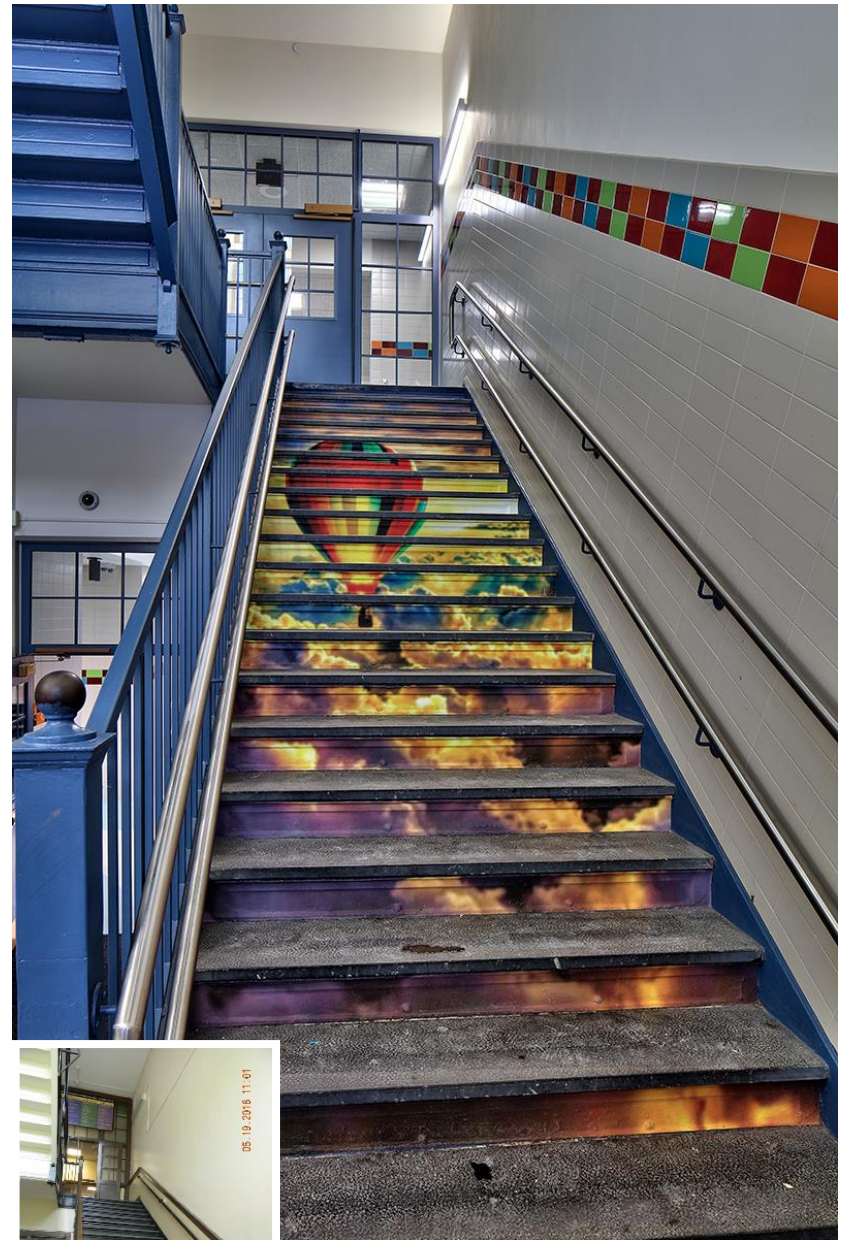


*Clerestory windows extend daylight into the corridor on the Second Floor, as well as highlight the re-stored tin ceilings.*





*An original wood bench on the landing in the main stairwell was restored, as well as the slate stair treads. The bench design was also replicated for the waiting bench in the Main Office.*



*Manufactured stair risers & a custom high-low handrail were incorporated into the stair to make them fun & functional for children using them.*





*The exterior of the original building became the new interior elevation for the space created between the Gymnasium Addition & the original building. Named the Commons Area, this space creates a lively indoor experience where children are encouraged to explore the stoop-like entrances to their classrooms, and interact with the streetscape before Physical Education class or field-trips.*





*The proscenium of the new stage modernizes and simplifies the details of the proscenium in the original building, while the 2-station Gymnasium offers expanded opportunities for instruction, or for community use via after-school programs.*