

2012 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Herod Elementary

Houston, Texas

New Construction

Kirksey Architecture

Herod Elementary



Herod Elementary

Community Environment: The design of Herod focused on connections to nature, light, and the community. The plan was laid out to include visual and physical connections to the outdoors through a variety of outdoor areas such as a decks and courtyards, patio s and a community garden, playgrounds and the site itself. Windows create a playful façade and through strategic placement allow visual connections from corridors into classrooms, from administration into corridors, and from the inside to the outside. Finally, the community is connected through the accessible classroom, library, multipurpose room, and garden that are accessible after hours.



Herod Elementary

Connections

Community Environment: The program forms a “L” shape which embraces the site . Public spaces and administration form the length of the “L”, while the two story classroom wing makes up the base. This allows for the classrooms to directly access the site, while providing a secure entrance for visitors. The classrooms are planned so that the youngest students walk the least distance to common areas. Designed into the corridors are display areas and community spaces that allow students to connect with each other show case their work, and engage each other through the exciting activities and learning opportunities that can occur outside the classroom.



Herod Elementary

Indoor and Outdoor Spaces

Learning Environment: It has been said many times, many ways that young students can learn anytime, anywhere. The design of Herod put this into practice by providing as many types of learning environments as the budget would allow, while providing formal classrooms larger than the Texas requirements.

Throughout the planning process HISD emphasized a need to be able to address multiple learning styles and a desire to move beyond the stand and deliver as a sole mechanism for delivering instruction. To respond to these desires the school has been provided with Smart Boards and common areas that teachers can use to conduct learning beyond the classroom.



Herod Elementary

The Library

The Library is one of the centralized places that allows for the multiple learning styles to take root. Available in the library are activities and other educational opportunities for visual, auditory and kinetic learners. The teachers are given freedom to figure out the best place and method for teaching the various State mandated learning units for their students.



Herod Elementary

Interior Design

Physical Environment – Natural light, communal learning spaces and outdoor learning spaces became program blocks with equal status as the standard classrooms and other required programmed elements. Other design features include the circular windows, display casework, large graphics, and bright colorful spaces that engage the students.

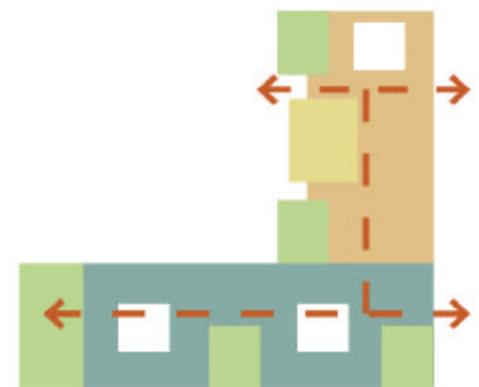
Despite the limited budget of around \$140 a square foot that included sitework and detention requirements the designers were able to use minimalist finishes that were contemporary and durable such as polished concrete to generate the schools aesthetic.



Herod Elementary

Classroom Design

Physical Environment – Classrooms were developed with each age group in mind. Windows were scaled and positioned based on the grade level. The shape of the building, the sizing and location of the classrooms meant a variety of classroom layouts, allowing for creativity and unique classroom environments. The millwork design promotes project based learning, by creating a variety of learning stations around the classroom. Classrooms were grouped around community spaces and vertical light wells that connect the learning communities vertically and horizontally. Sloped ceilings allowed for larger windows at perimeter walls, maximizing natural light into the classroom and therefore minimizing the use of artificial light. Polished concrete floors created a durable environment and again added value in design due to cost savings in maintenance.



COMMUNAL LEARNING INSERTION

Herod Elementary

Community Interaction

Planning Process: Kirksey and HISD worked diligently throughout the planning process to ensure the inclusion of all associated parties. Meetings were held with current faculty and staff to ensure their needs would be exceeded in the new school. In addition, Jerri Nixon the principal was included in all major design meetings. In addition, Jerri served as a link between the staff and community leaders found in the PTO to provide instructions and keep these groups apprised throughout construction.

Formally, the community garden, multipurpose room and library serve the community directly with access available outside of the school's normal hours.



Herod Elementary

Community Meetings

Planning Process: In addition to the work of Mrs. Nixon, the project team held several public meetings to get feedback from parents and students about their new school as well as showing them the design as it was in progress. These meetings were held both at Kirksey and at the original school.

HISD has a large set of standards that have been compiled to ensure parity among schools. Kirksey used the teachers, principal and community feedback to understand the critical issues not addressed by these standards to create the complete design for the school. Issues included design concepts that would improve the efficiency and longevity of the school for maintenance and operation purposes.



Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Kirksey Architecture
Project Role	Architect of Record
Project Contact	Nicola Springer
Title	Vice President, K-12 Team Leader
Address	6909 Portwest
City, State or Province, Country	Houston, Texas, USA
Phone	713.426.7510

Joint Partner Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Other Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Construction Firm:	Anslow Bryant
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Mark Shaw
Title	Chief Estimator
Address	840 North Gessner
City, State or Province, Country	Houston, Texas USA
Phone	713.626.1216

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Details

Project Name	Herod Elementary
City	Houston
State	Texas
District Name	Houston Independent School District
Supt/President	Terry Grier
Occupancy Date	January 10, 2011
Grades Housed	PreK – 5
Capacity(Students)	750 Students
Site Size (acres)	7 Acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	84,000 sq. ft
Per Occupant(pupil)	112 sq. ft. per pupil
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	No
If yes, Total Cost:	11.9 million
Includes:	Site work, detention, building
If no,	
Site Development:	
Building Construction:	
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	
Total:	11.9 Million

Herod Elementary

A School for the 21st Century

Just outside the inner loop of Houston, there is a quiet neighborhood full of ranch style houses and quaint bungalows. The school and its adjoining park have become the hub of this community. The school, Herod Elementary, was built in 1965 and named for local hero, fighter pilot Capt. Gary L. Herod who gave his life to his fellow citizens. While the school remained strong in academics, it had begun to show its age. The school district wanted to bring the school up to date not just in terms of the built environment but also to be able to keep pace with the rapidly changing educational demands. Change is a difficult process for human beings. The project team realized that the school was very important to the community and an important symbol that some even considered it an extension of their homes. A few of the current residents had even attended the school as children. The result was a contemporary, multifaceted school house for the next phase of the communities life.



Educational Appropriateness



ENLIVENING THE SCHOOL'S ANTIQUATED NAMESAKE -
CAPTAIN GARY L. HEROD BECAME THE FIRST CHALLENGE.



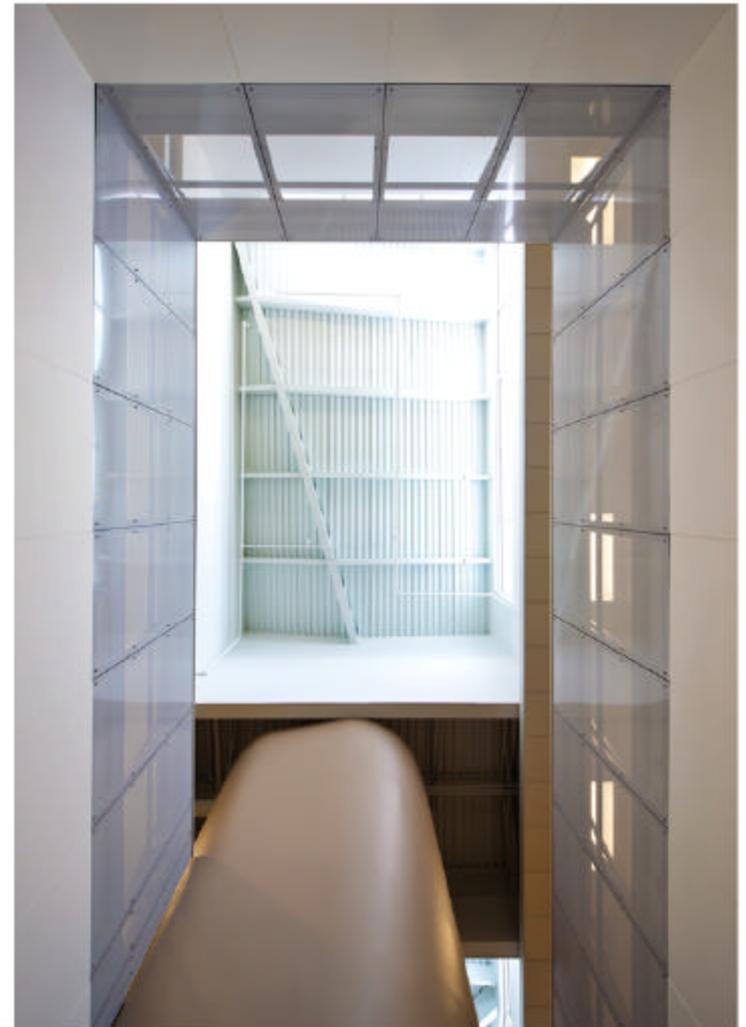
HEROD SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR THE GREATER COMMUNITY
= COMMUNAL LEARNING SPACES



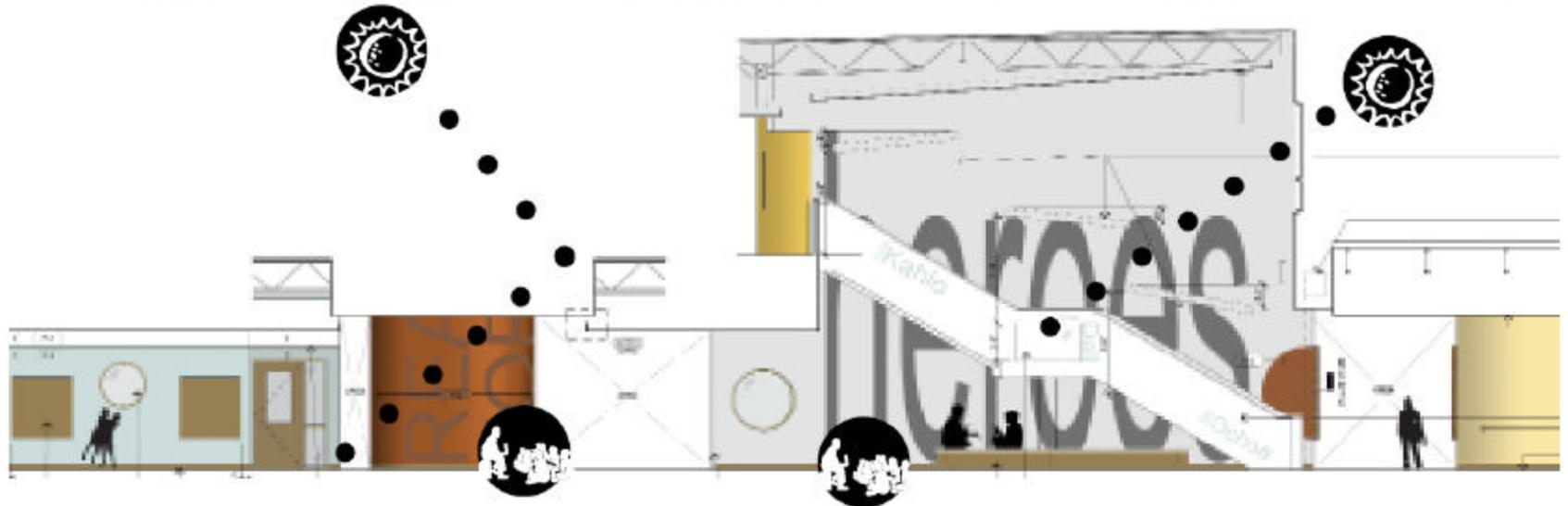
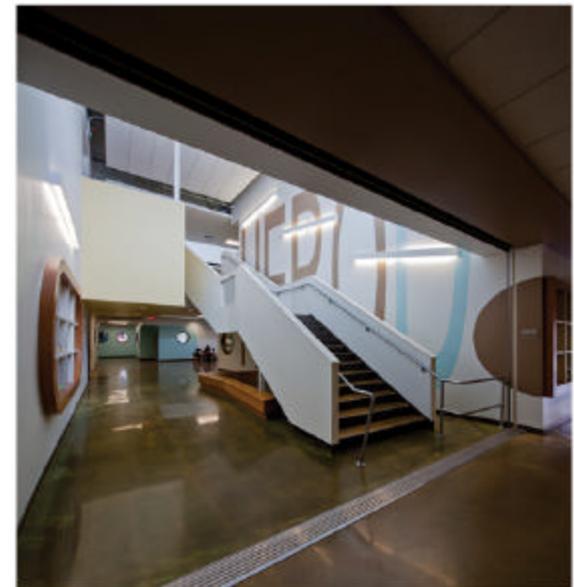
HEROD WAS A TRUE HERO INSPIRING US TO "REACH FOR THE SKY"
= NATURAL LIGHT SHAFTS



HEROD'S SACRIFICE TO HIS COMMUNITY INSPIRED
= CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS

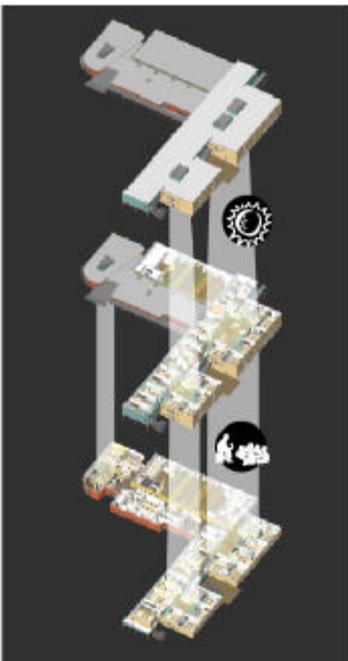
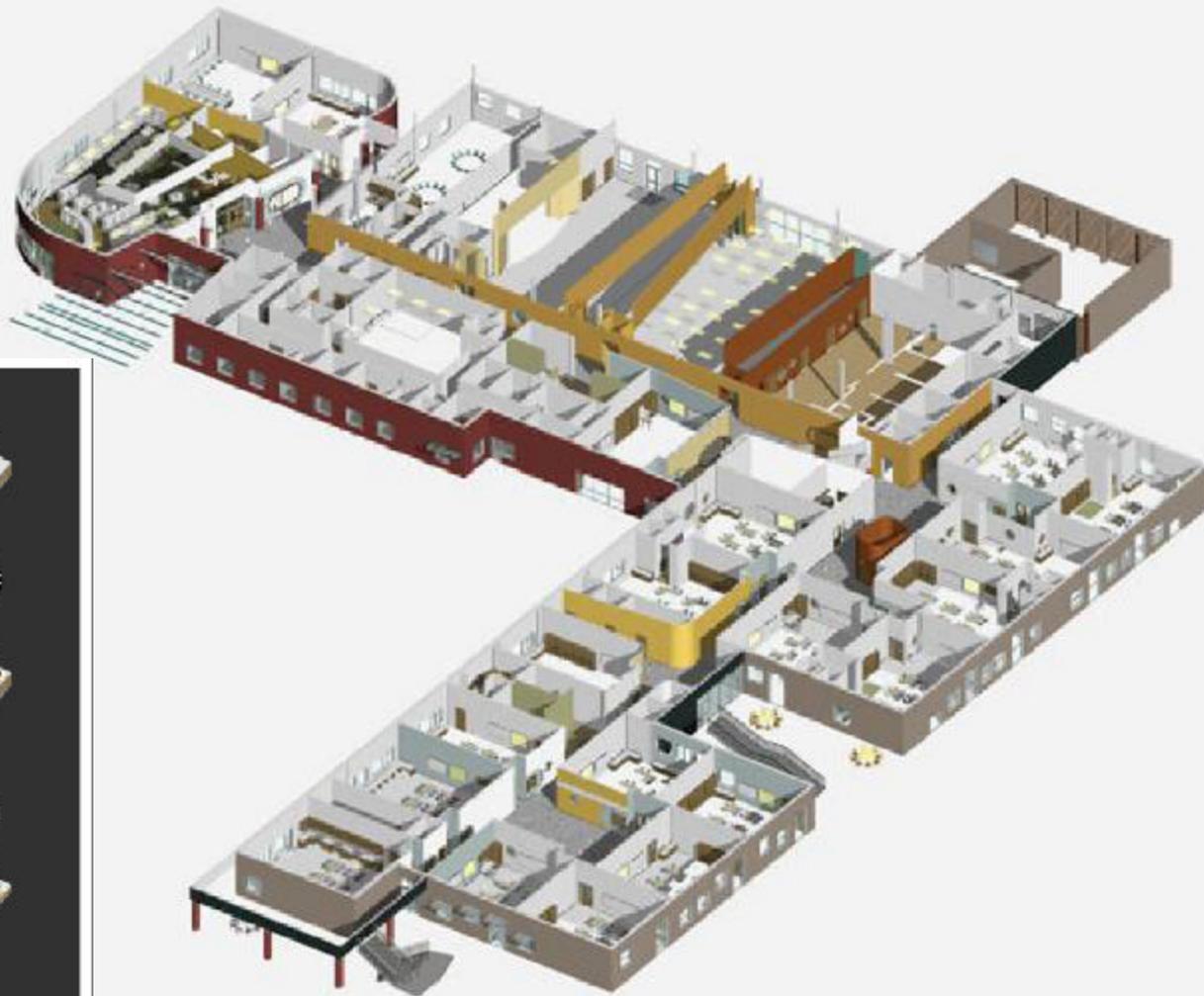


CLASSROOM WING SECTION



Educational Appropriateness:
GRAPHICS REINFORCE THE HERO AND "REACHING FOR THE SKY" THEME
AS STUDENTS CLIMB THE STAIR TO SECOND FLOOR CLASSROOMS





LIGHT/ COMMUNAL SPACES



Sustainability:
THE PROJECT WAS DESIGNED TO BE 23% MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT THAN A CODE BASE LINE SCHOOL DUE TO HIGH EFFICACY LIGHTING, EFFICIENT CHILLERS, AND A QUALITY ENVELOPE



HEROD ELEMENTARY COMBINES A BEAUTIFUL DESIGN WITH WELL PROGRAMMED SPACES AND AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY UNDER BUDGET

