

2012 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Father F. X. O'Reilly Catholic School Addition & Renovation

Tottenham, Town of Tecumseh, Ontario

Lee J Brockway Award - Renovation
Elementary School

Kingsland? Architects Inc.

Father FX O'Reilly Catholic School Addition & Renovation



Main Exterior Image

Community Environment

The small hamlet of Tottenham, which is part of the Town of Tecumseth has an overall population of 30, 300. Father F. X. O'Reilly is the only catholic elementary school in Tottenham. This project consisted of two additions, and multiple interior and exterior renovations to the existing building originally built in 1988.

Rob Samson, the Principal of the school quoted in The Times, "Our entire school community is extremely excited about the renovations and addition...our new entrance and chapel demonstrate our Catholic identity and this is very important to our students, staff and parents." (2011-10-13, A New School Building for F. X. O'Reilly)



Main Entrance for Father F.X. O'Reilly

Community Environment

Reporter, Kristi McLenaghan attended the school's blessing ceremony May 9th 2012 and wrote, "Walking into the school on Wednesday night for the blessing made you want to peek around the corner for a new baby. It was a very happy family atmosphere, and everyone as they came in had to peek around the corner into the new chapel. The chapel is beautiful inside and out with its lovely blue and white stain glass windows." (The Times, 2012-05-17, Chapel Blessing at Father F. X. O'Reilly Catholic School)

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board clearly identify faith, hope, love, family, compassion, service, truth, justice and forgiveness as being the values that articulate the strength of the Catholic identity. At a time when Catholic education continues to be challenged, these listed values give Catholic school communities in the Simcoe Muskoka area – the students, families, and staff – the opportunity to clearly express their faith in an environment that has been designed specifically for the values they live in their daily lives.



Before



View of Front Entrance at Chapel

Learning Environment

The Catholic identity of Father F. X. O'Reilly is very important to the community and the learning environment. The design of the new chapel with a very large cross leaning over the building designed by **Kingsland?** provides a religious experience from outside and inside that promotes an atmosphere of respect and caring, which are virtues and values shared by members of the Catholic community that will grow and develop everyday.

The major addition to Father F. X. O'Reilly Catholic School incorporates two new full-day kindergarten classrooms complete with a new exterior kindergarten play area, six regular classrooms with natural light filtering within, as well as, a new custodial office and storage space to promote positive learning and working experiences by bringing the learning environment together under one roof. As a result daily activities are now executed with efficiency, functionality and practicality. The East wing addition to the building represents a strengthened sense of community, promotes healthy and open communication, and builds on the schools wonderful dedication to academic excellence, which in turn nurtures the development of the whole student and the joy of learning, is enhanced.



Chapel at Entrance



Inside of Chapel



Exterior Detail



Kindergarten

Physical Environment



Interior Detail of Stain Glass at Chapel



Before



After

The main feature of this project was the addition of a new chapel. The light, translucent stained glass crystal-like corner of the Chapel appears to bear the weight of a heavy precast concrete cross. The overbearing juxtaposition is a deliberate attempt at catching the attention of approaching visitors or passers-by, to create a tension that the visitor interacts with as the cross angles away appearing to be supported by the fragile, glass façade.

This Chapel intervention brings new life and meaning to the existing main entrance of the school.

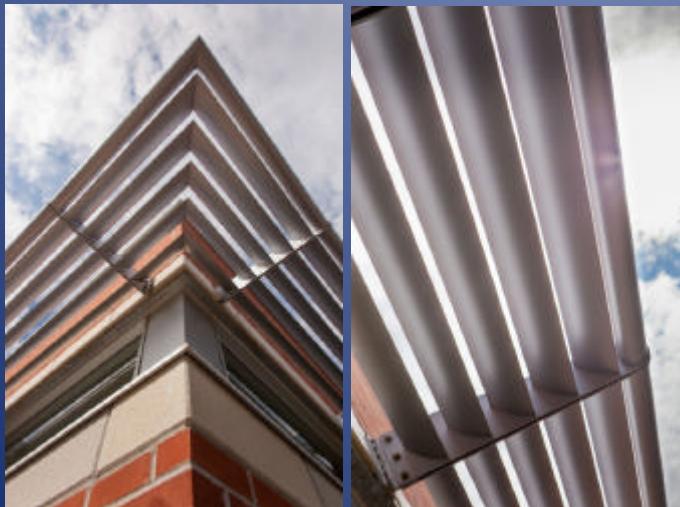
A new Administration facelift helps to integrate the Chapel and Main Entrance to more of the building and makes a connection with the rear addition. This special feature also creates a much improved street presence, which the community has openly and enthusiastically appreciated.

Physical Environment

The new classrooms along the perimeter of the East facing addition have windows that are located lower than typical classroom windows to embrace the indoor-outdoor connection of the learners and faculty. One of the many sustainability initiatives implemented was the use of sun shades at the top of the exterior windows to block some of the intense, high summer sun. Environmentally conscious finish materials such as flooring, laminate and paint finishes have been selected to further contribute to sustainability considerations.



Kindergarten Play Yard



Sun Shade Details



Kindergarten Play Yard

Full-day kindergarten classrooms have secondary egress, coat and cubby areas, and a private washroom incorporated into the design. These are standards that have been implemented to accommodate new government mandates to offer full-day kindergarten programs to the community.

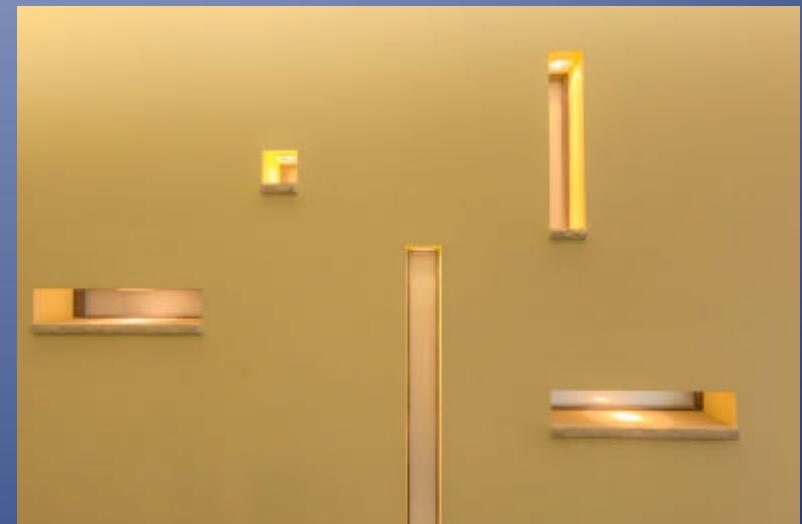
Planning Process

The overall project **Kingsland?** was commissioned to provide consisted of an addition to house two full-day kindergarten classrooms with a new outdoor play area, six new regular classrooms complete with an art sink in each of the two corridors, an second addition incorporating a new main entrance, new chapel, a facelift to the existing administration area, the conversion of three existing classrooms into four, as well as, a new stand-alone daycare HVAC system. Parking modifications increased the number of parking spaces to accommodate community and parents.

To achieve the goal of creating a high performance 'green' school for the Simcoe County District School Board, the **holistic** design approach was taken – a process that was inclusive, multi-disciplinary and consensus-building, where all participants had to think in terms of '**systems**'!



Interior of New Main Entrance



Window Details from Chapel

Planning Process



Main Lobby looking at Chapel



Interior of Chapel

This holistic view extended to the entire project team through the '**integrated design process**' and included client/stakeholders by way of project managers, project coordinators, the chief custodian and plant staff, **Kingsland?** Architects Inc. and their engineering and landscape consultants, specialists and authorities having jurisdiction. The core team, which included the client, the architects, the structural, electrical and mechanical consultants, the civil and landscape consultants, and the general contractor, maintained the continuity of the design through all stages of the project, from concept through to final completion and occupancy, with other participants involved at the appropriate stages.

Within the process mentioned above we have a strong belief in the value of the **charrette** format in fostering team creativity and innovation. These 'brain storming sessions' brought together a range of expertise for brief, intense periods of work allowing unfettered exploration and evaluation, 'casting the net widely'. With the total team 'in the loop', opportunities arose for the 'bright idea' to come forward from any participant.

A design presentation was made before the Director of Education, the Controller of Plant and School Board Trustees, where questions were answered and thoughts and comments were aired.

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Data

Submitting Firm:	Kingsland ? Architects Inc.
Project Role	Project Manager
Project Contact	Robert MacNaughton
Title	Partner
Address	219 Dufferin Street, Suite 308b
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Phone	416-203-7799 ext.103
Joint Partner Firm:	N/A
Project Role	
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Other Firm:	N/A
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Construction Firm:	Tasis Contractors Inc.
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Tony Taus
Title	President
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Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Data

Project Name	Father F. X. O'Reilly Catholic School Addition & Renovation
City	Tottenham, Town of Tecumseth
State	Ontario
District Name	Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
Supt/President	Stephen Charbonneau
Occupancy Date	September 2011
Grades Housed	JK to Grade 8
Capacity(Students)	330
Site Size (acres)	6.03
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	New Addition – 9,150 Total Area of Work – 13,509
Per Occupant(pupil)	106
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	No.
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	Included in overall construction costs
Building Construction:	\$ 3,406,000.00
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	
Total:	\$ 3,416,785.00

Supporting/Supplemental files/Images



- 1 - North Elevation
- 2 - East Elevation
- 3 - South Elevation
- 4 - West Elevation

Supporting/Supplemental files/Images



Crucifix Detail at Dusk