

2013 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

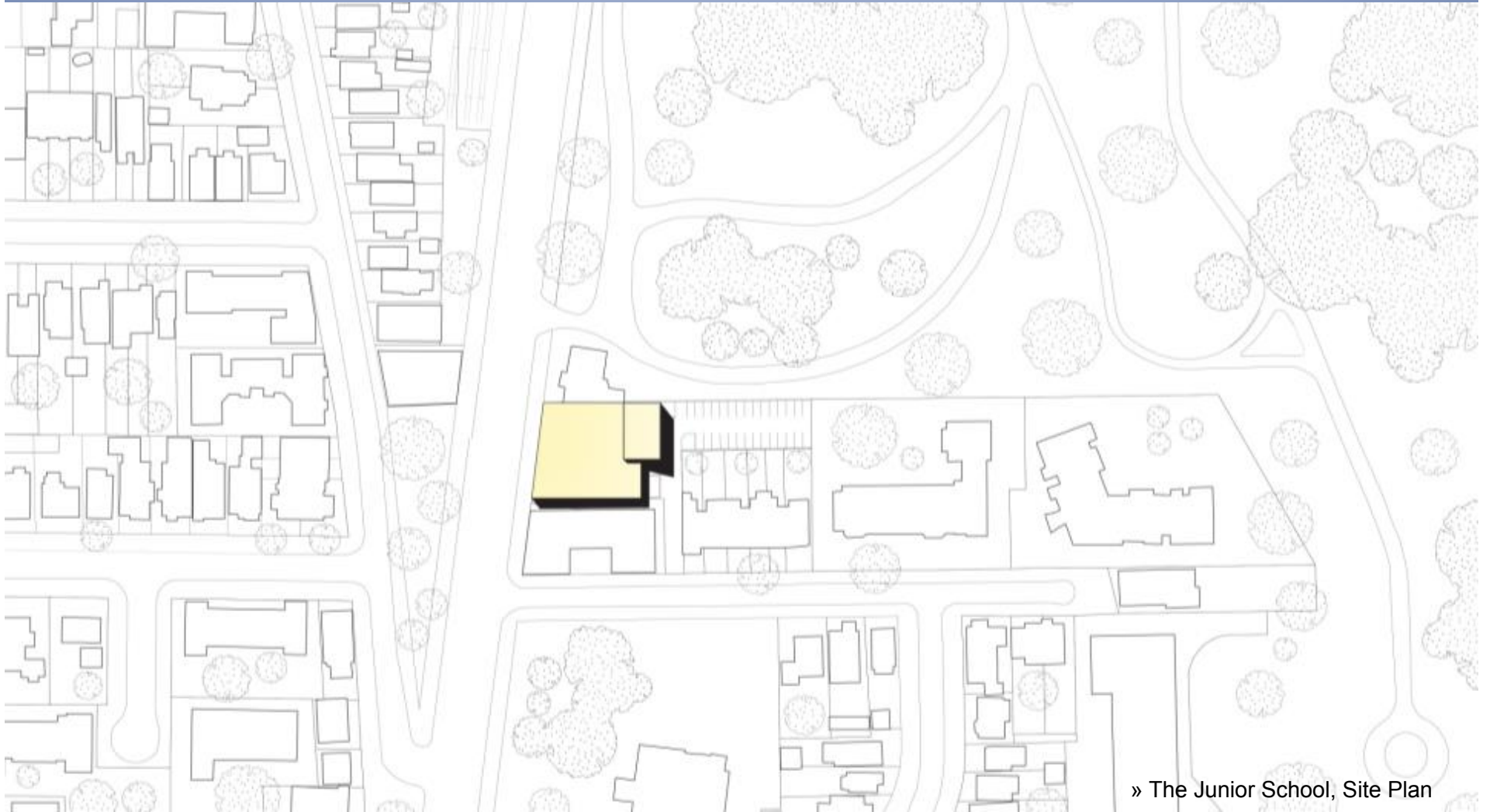
The York School

Toronto, Canada

The York School



The York School



» The Junior School, Site Plan

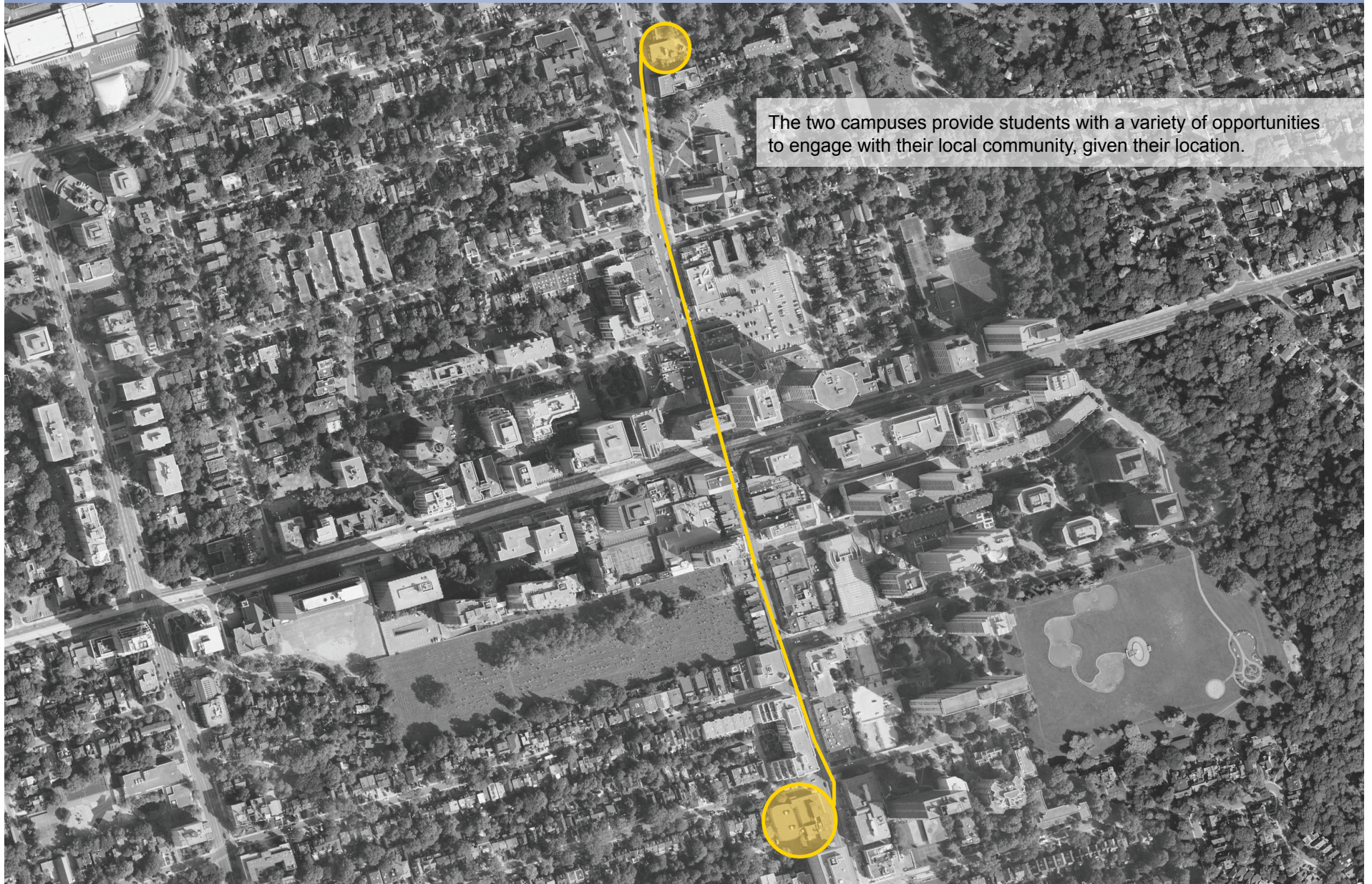
Community Environment: *Campus as Part of City*

Founded in 1965 by Barbara Goodwin-Zeibots, The York School is a not-for-profit, coeducational, independent, fully accredited International Baccalaureate school with two campuses in a high-density urban neighbourhood of Toronto. In 1987, The York School purchased an existing office building at 1320 Yonge Street and converted it into a school for students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12. Since 2010, when The York School purchased another existing office building at 1639 Yonge Street, the student body has been divided between the two properties. The Junior School (1639 Yonge Street), houses students from JK to Grade 5, while the Middle and Senior School (maintaining its current design at 1320 Yonge Street), is now home to students from Grade 6 to Grade 12.

» The Junior School, 1639 Yonge Street



Community Environment: *Campus as Part of City*



Community Environment: *Continued...*

Montgomery Sisam Architects was engaged to complete phased alterations and additions to both buildings, in order to update the facilities to meet The York School's standards of excellence. The newly developed Junior School provides students with more green space to learn and play, as well as develop stronger connections within their community. The new gymnasium in the Junior School acts as a shared space for social and sporting events for students, staff, parents and community members at large. Designs for a renewed senior school are currently in the planning stages.

Both Junior and Senior Schools create a strong campus presence on Yonge Street, north and south of St. Clair. Restaurants and cafés in the surrounding area provide alternative spaces for students and faculty to meet and discuss school-related projects. Students also engage with local senior centres and churches in social and charitable events, further enhancing their educational experience outside the school boundaries. The renovated building serves a dual purpose to promote a means of higher education in an engaging space, as well as to allow students to foster unique relationships inside and outside of the classroom.



» The Junior School, Gymnasium

Learning Environment: *Spaces in Between*

A new Junior School has allowed The York School to offer high quality education in a state-of-the-art building, further raising the school's standards of excellence. Alterations to the 1639 Yonge St. location provide break-out space in hallways and corridors with large windows to provide a variety of unique views, natural light and fresh air. Innovative planning has allowed the non-programmed space of the building to dramatically increase in the amount and quality of educational space.

The design reflects a desired learning program, and supports a variety of learning styles and methods for delivering instruction. A "School Living Room" with a fireplace provides an informal gathering space for parents, teachers and students. The Library acts as a 'Learning Commons', complete with sliding doors to provide easy access to the Living Room. The new Dining Hall, with massive windows over green space, doubles as an events space for students and community members.



» The Junior School, Classroom Interior



» Communal / Multi-purpose Space (JK to Grade 4)

Learning Environment: *Continued...*

All classrooms are equipped with sinks for multi-use teaching, and have windows to allow natural light, interesting views, and fresh air.

Classrooms from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 4 gather around a central hall, which functions as place to robe. It also serves as an informal teaching area and indoor play space during inclement weather.

The outdoor play area has multiple stations for enhanced learning opportunities, which further supports a “learning anytime, anywhere” philosophy.

» The Junior School, Library (pictured above and below)



Physical Environment: *Re-Use Recycle*

The York School's Junior and Senior campuses were designed with an environmentally-conscious approach to support healthy, transformative spaces for learning. The space in both buildings is flexible and adaptable to different methods of instruction.

As an adaptive reuse project, Montgomery Sisam Architects repurposed the existing buildings into bright, contemporary spaces to enrich the emotional and physical well-being of students and faculty, while successfully producing significantly less construction waste than new construction.

» The Junior School, Cafeteria



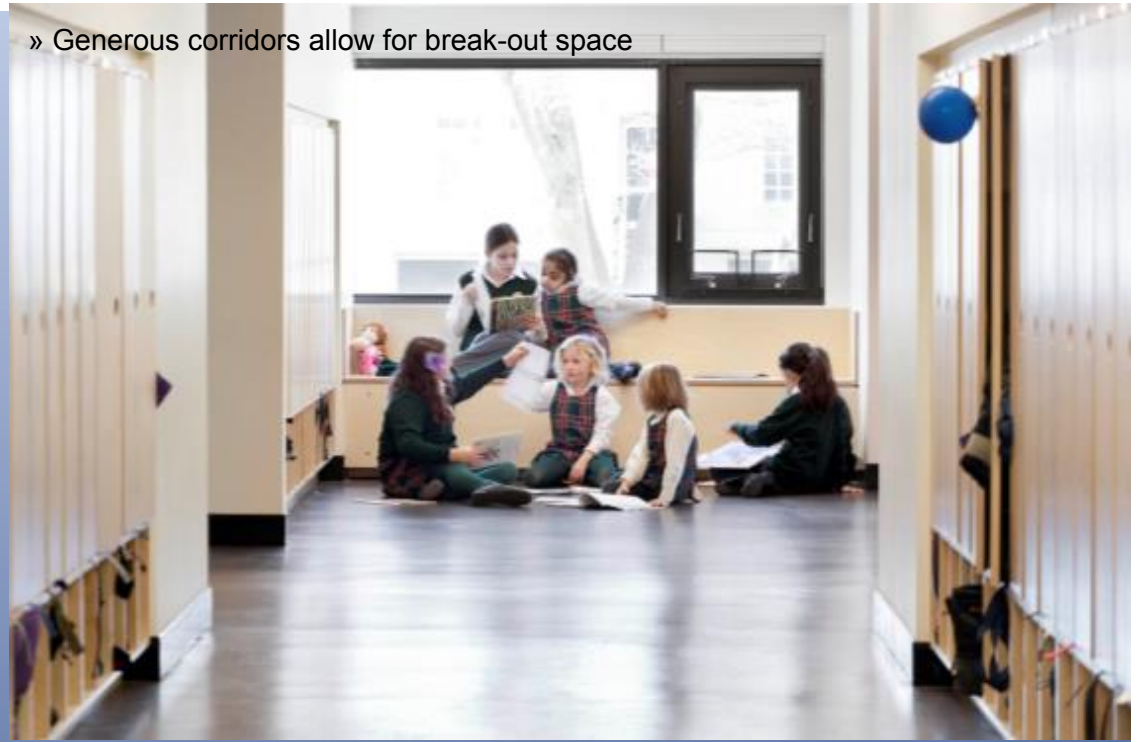
Physical Environment:

Continued...

All casework, including cubbies and lockers, is constructed of Baltic birch plywood, which is highly sustainable. No plastic laminates or adhesives were required to finish the product, and elements of the building were designed to leave no waste. For example, all off-cuts were used to construct the hearth above the fireplace. Both campuses have access to public transit (subway, streetcars and buses). A calm palette of material and colour provides a stress-free environment for students and staff.

Montgomery Sisam ensured that The York School would be a sustainable space, full of light and air, in order to improve students' abilities to think and learn. The redeveloped buildings support this initiative, and are aligned with the School's values to "develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who are engaged citizens of the world."

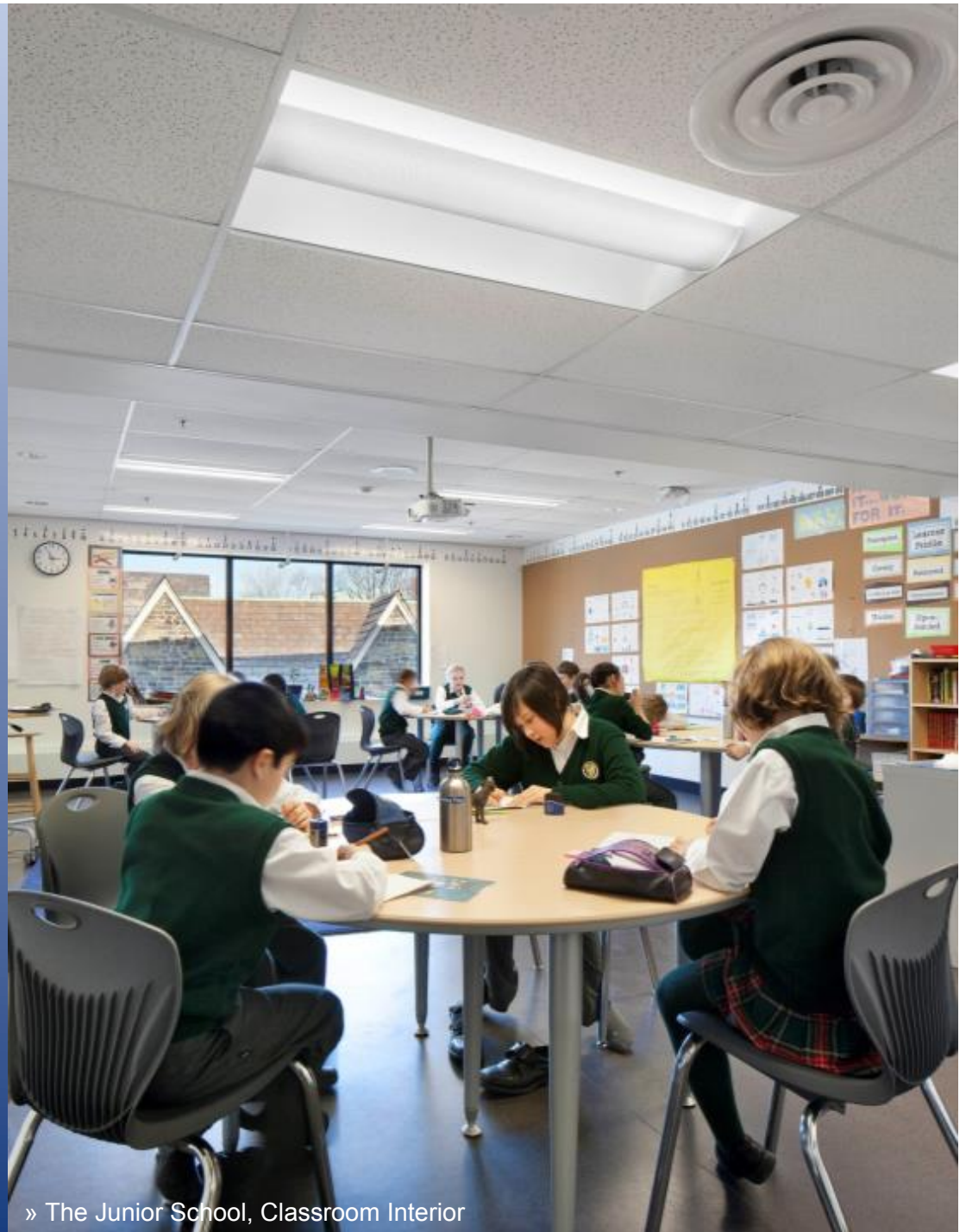
» Generous corridors allow for break-out space



Planning Process:

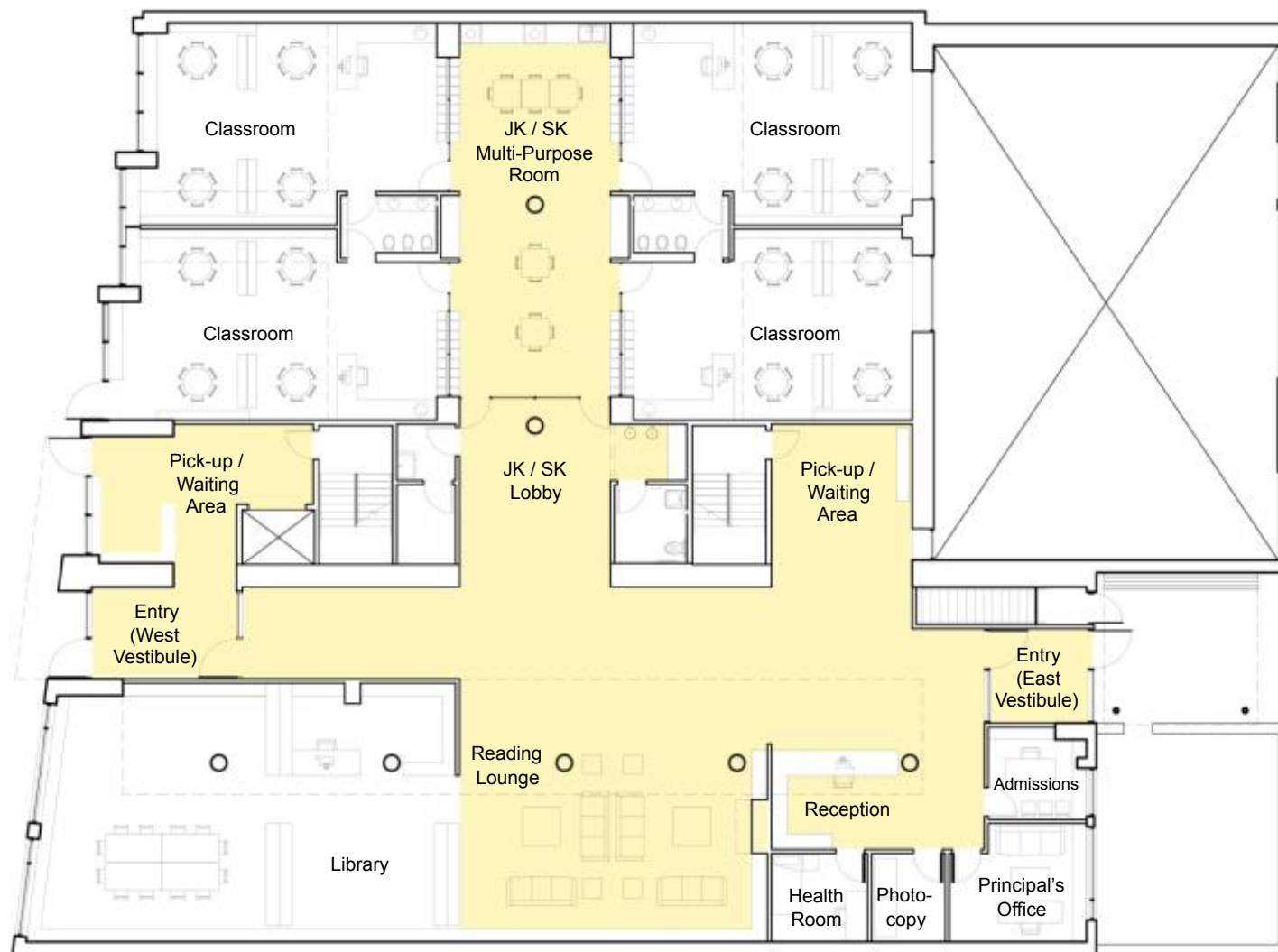
Establishing a Master Plan strategy that would allow The York School to grow in the most efficient, fiscally responsible way, while maintaining a high quality of design and strong identity, was of critical importance to this project. By infusing the site with a contemporary look, Montgomery Sisam aimed to appeal to their target demographic.

Design commenced in early June 2009 with the aid of a Construction Management approach and some creative permitting strategies. Occupancy was achieved for August 2010, in time for the new school year. The new design provides The York School with a bright and contemporary environment flooded with daylight and a variety of unique views.



» The Junior School, Classroom Interior

Floor Plan: Ground Floor



Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Project Data

Submitting Firm:	Montgomery Sisam Architects Inc.
Project Role	Campus Renovation
Project Contact	Robert Davies
Title	Principal
Address	197 Spadina Avenue, Suite 301
City, State or Province, Country	Toronto, Ontario M5T 2C8 Canada
Phone	416-364-8079

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

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

Construction Firm:	Venture Construction
Project Role	Contractor
Project Contact	Rick Rinkel
Title	
Address	4181 Sladeview Cresnet, Unit 50
City, State or Province, Country	Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5L 5R2
Phone	1-905-828-5585

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Project Details

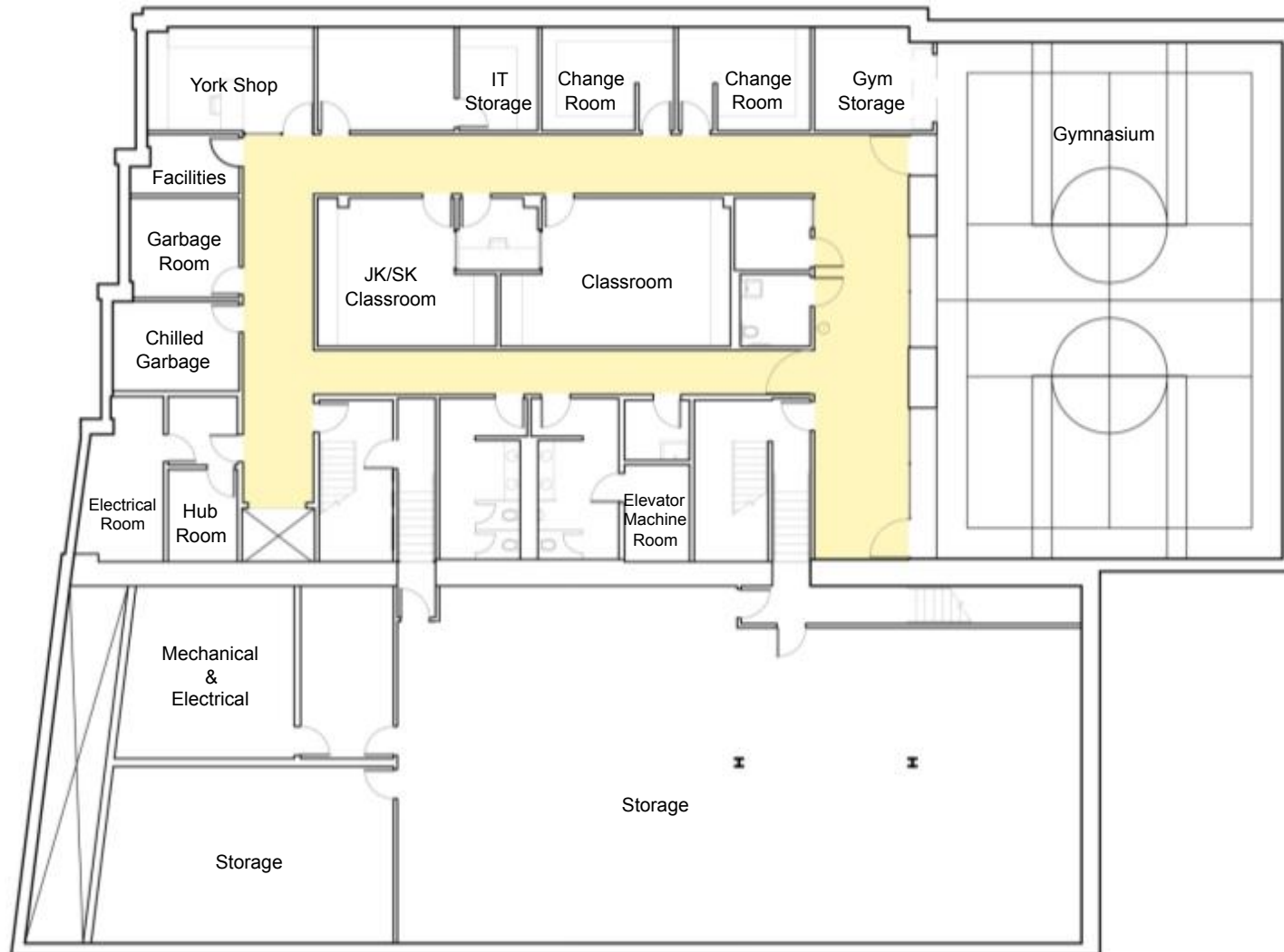
Project Name	The York School
City	Toronto
State	Ontario (Canada)
District Name	N/A
Supt/President	Conor Jones (Head of School)
Occupancy Date	September 2010
Grades Housed	Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5
Capacity(Students)	500 students
Site Size (acres)	0.5 acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	36,540 sq. ft.
Per Occupant (pupil)	73 sq. ft.
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	
Building Construction:	\$6.1 million CAD
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	
Total:	

Supporting/Supplemental files/Images

Not to exceed five (5)
additional slides

Add additional images
information

Floor Plan: Basement



Floor Plan: Second Floor



Floor Plan: Third Floor

