

2012 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Kathlyn Joy Gilliam
Collegiate Academy

Dallas, Texas

Project Type: High School

Project of Distinction Award – New Construction

SHW Group

Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy



Site Context

Community Environment:

Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy is a result of the community's desire for a program that would help close the achievement gap and improve college success across the community.

The school's location on a 10-acre greenfield site, adjacent to a nature preserve overlooking the downtown Dallas skyline, provides a unique juxtaposition of natural and metropolitan landscape.

The early college high school is located in the South Dallas area to serve the six area high schools that are within the Cedar Valley Community College attendance zone - a college within the Dallas County Community College District. The project is nestled in the northeast corner of University of North Texas' South (Dallas) campus providing easy access to the area university and to Cedar Valley Community College that is located less than four miles away.



Collaboration Plaza

Community Environment:

This 106,000-square-foot facility is designed to mirror a collegiate environment while maintaining appropriate supervision for high school students. The building is made up of a series of academic and social spaces centered around a common area. These separate areas give the facility the feel of a multiple-building campus, similar to a college, while keeping the students in a secure environment.

The two-story building provides varied academic and social experiences for 9th-10th and 11th-12th grade students. Higher grade levels are housed on the first floor, allowing for more freedom and unstructured time, and thus, more informal learning areas. The lower grade levels, which are located on the second floor, have more structure, a more controlled environment and a more structured learning environment.



Media Center, Tiered Platform

Learning Environment:

The program combines high school and college courses for grades 9-12, allowing students to graduate with up to 60 college credit hours. The school provides a progressive environment that promotes academic success and allows students to gain a sense of independence, to take ownership of their education and succeed in college.

Flex spaces provide breakout areas for collaborative education and social interaction. Typically underused areas are now open for dining and group activity.



The Perch , Informal Collaboration

Learning Environment:

The facility incorporates multiple spaces for informal learning to assert the importance of planning unstructured time. Open visibility to all spaces allows staff to maximize supervision, providing transparency and accountability, while still encouraging self-directed learning.

The design team took into account the importance of acoustics by incorporating rubber flooring and ceiling paneling to absorb sound in these informal learning spaces so group study would not disrupt the surrounding classrooms.

The entire campus maintains a balance between formal and informal areas, creating a collegiate feel to prepare students for the demands and environment of higher education.



Writing Wall, Small Group in Plaza

Physical Environment:

Many of the spaces are multifunctional to allow for a variety of different teaching and learning styles. As a byproduct, the money saved in square footage was able to be used to incorporate high-end finishes, which further enhance the aesthetics.

Informal learning spaces throughout the campus allow students the opportunity for spontaneous collaboration and learning variety.

Unique exterior fenestration material on each of the facades, the elimination of lockers, and an enclosed plaza contribute to the professional, collegiate feel.



Multipurpose Lecture Lab

Physical Environment:

The building has a tiered lecture hall with stage that can be closed off from the rest of the building to provide a gathering space for the community. The stage functions as an indoor/ outdoor stage to be used with the lecture hall or the outdoor amphitheater.

The building is intended to be used to provide the community access to books and technology. The community may also use the facility for neighborhood events and in obtaining a G.E.D.



Visioning Group

Planning Process:

The Visioning Committee included fifty-two members representing all segments of the Early College High School community. Students from the Cedar Valley and Mountain View ECHS campuses, teachers and staff, parents, community and business leaders, representatives from Cedar Valley College and the University of North Texas Dallas, a school board member, Dallas Police officer, legislative aide, DISD Facilities staff, and the design team architects made up the committee. The committee met four times for a total of fourteen hours to explore broad concepts of how instruction should be delivered at the ECHS.

The design team conducted an intensive visioning process, involving designers, programmers, administrators, teachers and students, to determine how the facility could best meet the needs of teachers, students, community members, area businesses, and partnering colleges.



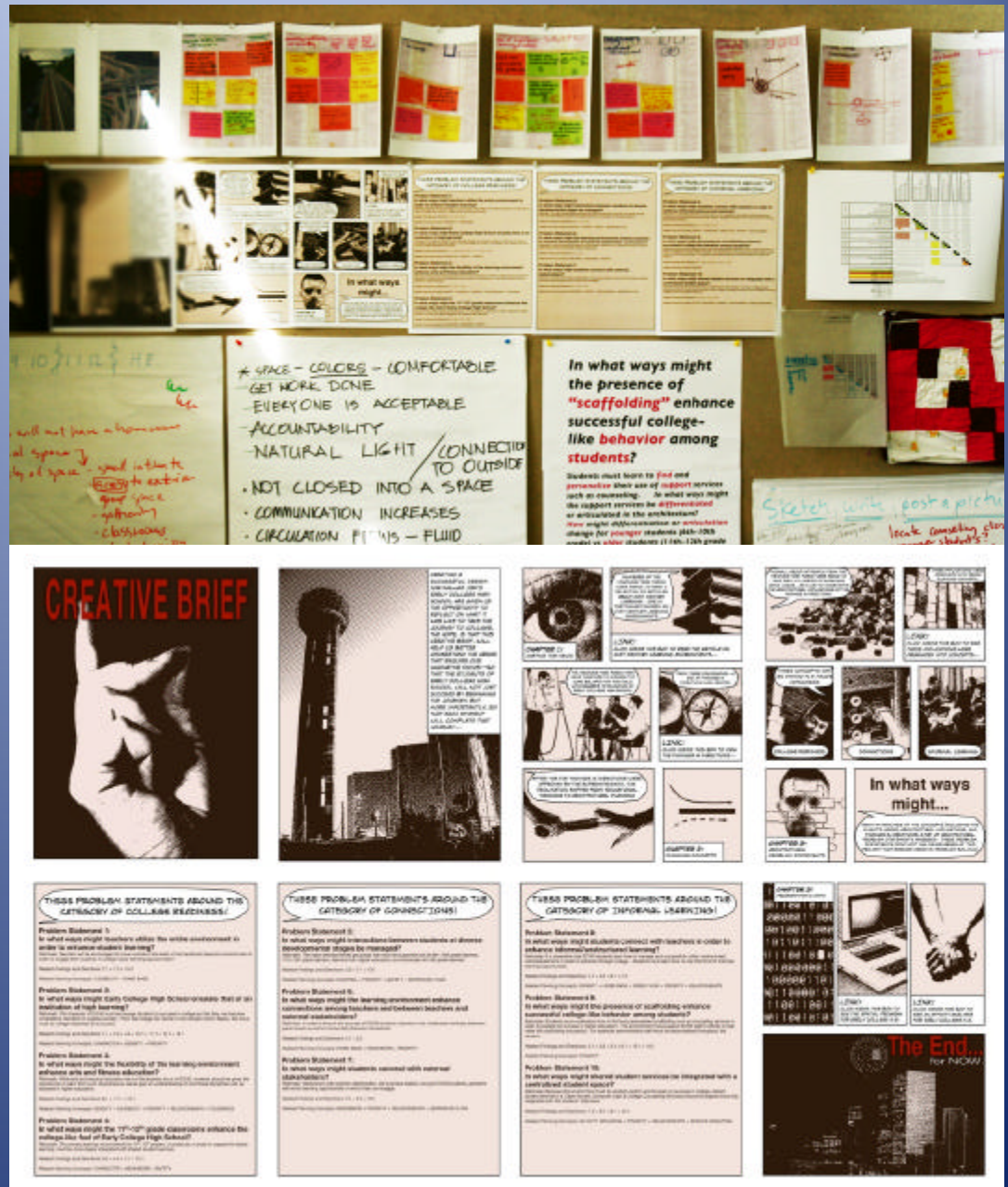
Creative Brief

Planning Process:

Based on the information gathered in these sessions, the design team determined 10 problem statements that needed to be solved through thoughtful planning and design.

The visioning document, the architectural problem statements, and the later developed summary of spaces went into a Creative Brief. After the initial designs were complete, the Creative Brief and the design solution were presented to the stakeholders for final review.

After completion of the project, the stakeholders were amazed at how well the design team was able to capture their vision and turn it into a reality.



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Project Data

Submitting Firm :	SHW Group
Project Role	Architect
Project Contact	Kelley Merriman
Title	Communications Manager
Address	5717 Legacy Drive, Suite 250
City, State or Province, Country	Plano, TX 75024
Phone	214.473.2454

Joint Partner Firm:	N/A
Project Role	
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Other Firm:	N/A
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Project Contact	
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Construction Firm:	Satterfield and Pontikes Construction
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Jim Hagermann
Title	Project Lead
Address	6220 N. Beltline Road, Suite 200
City, State or Province, Country	Dallas, Texas, USA
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Project Details

Project Name	Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy
City	Dallas
State	Texas
District Name	Dallas ISD
Supt/President	Mike Miles
Occupancy Date	August 2011
Grades Housed	9-12
Capacity(Students)	500
Site Size (acres)	10
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	106,000
Per Occupant(pupil)	212
gross/net please indicate	gross
Design and Build?	
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$1,536,249
Building Construction:	\$19,515,100
Fixed Equipment:	\$1,068,227
Other:	\$1,485,000
Total:	\$23,604,579

Supporting/Supplemental files/Images



Observation Deck

Informal outdoor spaces offer learning variety and areas for social gatherings.

Supporting/Supplemental files/Images



Collaboration Cubes

Transparent break out spaces offer small group learning with passive supervision.

Supporting/Supplemental files/Images



Bridge Connection

Academic block connects directly to The Perch for student – teacher collaboration.

Supporting/Supplemental files/Images



Observation Deck

The building engages the outdoor environment and inspires students to learn anywhere.

Supporting/Supplemental files/Images



Building Exterior

A pedestrian-friendly walk up not only contributes to the collegiate feel, but also allows easy access for the large number of students who utilized public transportation.