2012 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Gottlieb Building

Colorado Springs, Colorado Lee J Brockway Award - Renovation Other RTA Architects

Gottlieb Building



Gottlieb Building Renovation and Addition

Community Environment

The placement and design of the building additions were planned to enhance the campus experience and maintain the historical facades. From the perimeter of the campus you cannot see any significant changes to the Gottlieb Building. The formal west facades have been maintained to preserve the historically significant campus lawn which is the public face of the campus. While inside the campus and inside the Gottlieb building a completely new experience is achieved.





Gottlieb Building Before and After

Community Environment (continued) The renovated Gottlieb Building has become the epicenter on campus for support of CSDB events, functions and promotion of the broader school mission. The facility contains the campus media center, auditorium and community classrooms for sign language instruction. Distance learning environments allow the classroom to fully connect to deaf students in remote areas of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. The ability of these remote students and families to fluidly connect with the students and staff on campus enriches their lives in a way that was not previously possible. The renovated Gottlieb Building has been a source of pride in the local deaf community and has provided a venue to support this unique group of individuals.



21st Century Classroom

Learning Environment

Small classes of 6-12 students each are organized by student needs and ability rather than by grade level. Students work in small groups, perform individual tasks and work in small format lecture environments throughout the day.

The educational program leverages technology to reinforce the learning process using interactive LCD's, scrolling banners, distance learning, video recording and multi-plane sliding white boards. This reinforcement helps the student receive all the information presented.





Science Lab | Green Roof

Learning Environment (Continued)

The Science lab is designed with laboratory stations are formed in an arc for visibility and communication. Located adjacent to a green roof, students have an opportunity to utilize outdoor space for experiments and classroom work that support the science curriculum. Building systems are exposed in the science lab and allow the building to become a teaching tool.



After



State of the Art Classrooms

Physical Environment

The quality of light in the classrooms is critical to relieve eye strain and allow minute visual signs and facial expressions to be easily recognized from all angles. The windows are provided with translucent rolling shades that automatically default to the open position at the beginning of each class period. This allows the students to start from a mode of full daylight. The instructor can easily change the shades to pre-set configurations from the teacher station. Solatubes are provided for interior lighting.

Classrooms are designed to rigorous acoustic standards and to remove outside visual distractions. Rooms are provided with infrastructure for audio reinforcement and selected rooms have integrated distance learning capabilities. Instructors are able to travel with a mini computer that may be plugged into the media plate in each classroom for full access to their instructional resources. Interactive LCD monitors provide high contrast images to students so that light levels can be maintained for better acuity while signing.





Physical Environment (Continued)

The project is currently pursuing the LEED Gold and provides a number of sustainable design features. The mechanical system uses an energy recovery unit and is modeled at 41% better than baseline for energy usage. The building is equipped with a lighting control system that communicates with occupancy sensors to turn lights off in unoccupied rooms. Interior materials include low VOC and recycled content products. The building envelope was insulated and provided with new thermally broken windows to optimize thermal comfort. The green roof is irrigated using condensate water that is collected from the mechanical units. The landscaping features low water use plant material and the parking lot is constructed of concrete to reduce heat island effect.





Designing for Deaf Spaces

Planning Process

The planning process for the renovation and additions to the Gottlieb Building (K-12 School for the deaf) was centered on a strategy that the architect would provide the school design expertise and the Design Advisory Group from CSDB would provide strong guidance concerning the special needs of this student population. Utilizing interpreters, RTA conducted design charrettes in our DAG meetings that included administrators, deaf staff, hearing staff, students and Board of Education representation.







Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Data

Submitting Firm :	RTA Architects
Project Role	Architect
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Title	Project Manager
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Joint Partner Firm:		
Project Role		
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Construction Firm:	GH Phipps Construction
Project Role	Contractor
Project Contact	GregCollier
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Address	496 Nevada Mesa View
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Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Details

Project Name	Gottlieb Building Addition and Renovation
City	Colorado Springs
State	Colorado
District Name	Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
Supt/President	Carol Hilty
Occupancy Date	September 1, 2011
Grades Housed	K-12
Capacity(Students)	256
Site Size (acres)	30 acre campus
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	38,151 sf
Per Occupant(pupil)	149 sf (gross)
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	No. Design/Bid/Build
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
lf no,	
Site Development:	\$322,816
Building Construction:	\$6,674,769
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	\$1,8992,415 (all soft costs)
Total:	\$8.890.000



Computer Area



Learning Commons

The best ideas in education planning were combined with the schools knowledge of their student population to produce a program that reinforces flexible learning environments. The need for flexible spaces was balanced against the requirement for enhanced acoustical performance by creating a design with small classrooms arranged around a learning commons. This learning commons provided the flexible space for larger group activities and gave the students a much needed social gathering space unique to each school level.





Built in 1952, the Gottlieb building replaced the original school for the deaf which was destroyed by fire. Although the building maintained the late 19th century Collegiate Gothic style found throughout the campus, the interiors were typical of a 1950s school. For nearly 60 years before the current renovation, the school was largely unaltered.