2013 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

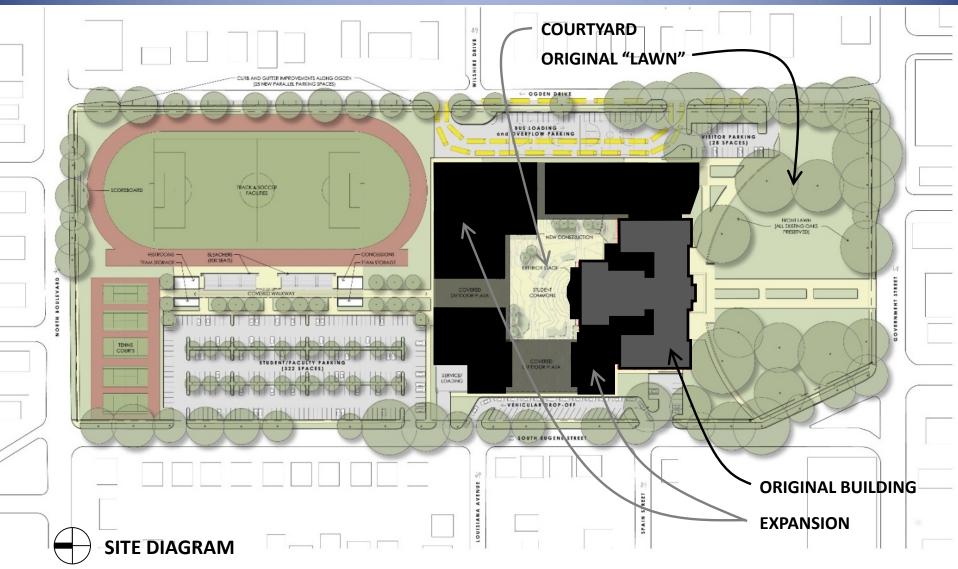
Baton Rouge Magnet High School

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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NORTH

A Community Gem

Community Environment:

By focusing on connectivity and gathering spaces, Baton Rouge Magnet High School places a priority on its goals of excellence in performing arts, student achievement through technology and collaboration, and community outreach.

While preserving and enhancing a historic, but crumbling community treasure, the designers were also tasked with tripling the size of the campus on a congested site. By consolidating the functions into a compact building form, the project maximizes its site, while highlighting spaces devoted to performing arts and the community.

This open stair between the new lobby and two-story media center exemplifies the approach to dynamic, inviting spaces that allow for chance encounters and collaboration.



The Heart Of The Campus

Community Environment:

The centerpiece of the original campus was a spectacular, 1,300-seat theater. Behind this space, a service drive bisected the campus and produced constant conflict between vehicles and pedestrians. In keeping with the theme of enhancing the visual and performing arts programs, the previous drive was replaced by a new outdoor stage that shares the backstage of the existing theater. The surrounding space is now a courtyard ringed by the original building to the south, and new structures to the north, east and west. Axial openings located on each side focus on the new stage, the physical and figurative heart of the new campus.





The Intersection of Old and New

Learning Environment:

While the existing building was renovated to accommodate core classrooms for the 21st century, science, technology, and performing arts classrooms are located in new construction. At their intersection, occupying two levels at the southeast corner of the building, is the media center – the information hub for the campus.

Located to accommodate after-hour gatherings and community meetings, from the new media center one can appreciate the original terra cotta detailing on the upper floors of the existing building.

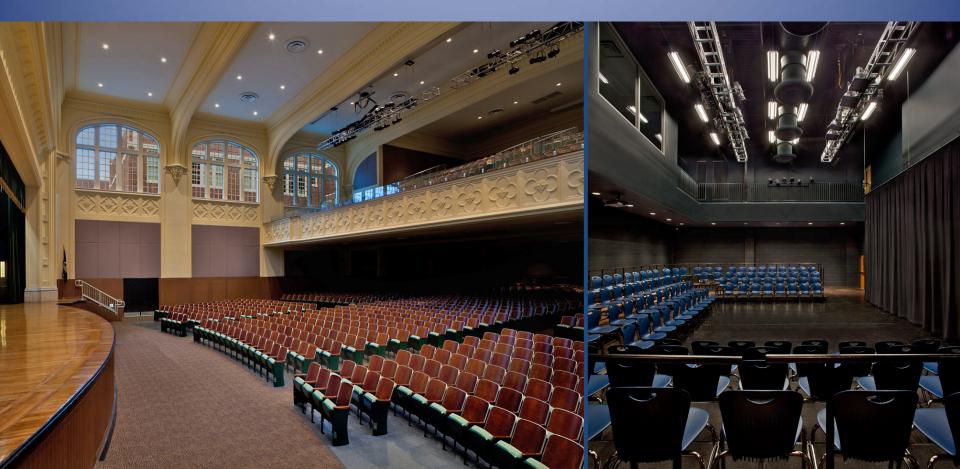
The dynamic ceiling design infuses the space with movement while a calming view through the tree-tops of the oakcovered lawn makes the space feel larger than life.

Performance Art

Learning Environment:

The emphasis on performing arts spaces expresses the school's focus on both the arts and community engagement. The existing 1,300-seat theater has been carefully restored to its original glory. Seats were refurbished instead of replaced, large windows that had been covered for decades were uncovered and restored, and original plaster ornament underwent comprehensive restoration.

In contrast to the original, ornate theater, two sleek new black box theaters offer new options which expand the high school's vibrant performing arts curriculum. Second floor control rooms and sophisticated lighting and set management systems offer students exposure to performance and production methodologies.



Gather and Focus

Physical Environment

The architects believed that a student commons, or gathering space, was essential to the success of the high school. Ringed by the original building to the south, and new structures to the north, east and west, the courtyard provides limited, controlled openings – these axial openings focus on the new open-air stage, while also providing excellent campus security.

The high school features two gymnasiums, including one designed specifically for the gymnastics program. The gymnasiums, like the classrooms, also enjoy benefits of natural light.

Athletic facilities are strategically grouped to provide convenient locker rooms, concessions stands, restrooms and athletic offices to all sports.





Beacon for the Community

Physical Environment

Located on the upper-most floor of the new addition and facing the front of the building is one of the high school's signature programs, the 24-hour jazz radio station. As the lights shine through the night, the community passing by outside will be constantly reminded to tune in and support the local station.



Passion and Purpose

Planning Process:

The ultimate success of Baton Rouge Magnet High School is tied to its ability to engage and support the local community. To that end, the design team met with the community of several occasions to solicit input and keep them informed of the project's development.

As a result of this process, three directives were clear: First, to preserve the 1927 structure with minimal visual alteration; second, to maintain the 4+ acre front lawn with its magnificent live oaks; and third, to expand the campus from 100,000 sf to 300,000 sf. Clearly, tripling the size of the facilities within a small, landlocked campus would be difficult even without the scrutiny of a passionate, vocal group of alumni and concerned citizens.



Balancing Act

Planning Process:

The solution grew from a practical need to consolidate the campus in order for the required facilities to fit the limited available area, while arranging the spaces in a way that would enhance the magnet school's established reputation for excellence in the visual and performing arts.

The architectural language of the new additions was derived from a careful analysis of massing, proportions, materials, and color of the historic structure. Formulas derived through this analysis were sensitively applied to create a thoroughly modern, yet respectful aesthetic.

The resulting balancing act has received overwhelmingly positive response from the community.



First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan



Third Floor Plan



Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Remson Haley Herpin Architects, APAC
Project Role	Architecture
Project Contact	Samuel J. Herpin, AIA
Title	Principal
Address	200 Government Street, Suite 100
City, State or Province, Country	Baton Rouge, LA 70802
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Joint Partner Firm:	Chenevert Architects / Remson Haley Herpin Architects,
	A Joint Venture
Project Role	Architecture
Project Contact	Samuel J. Herpin, AIA
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Title	
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City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	
Construction Firm:	MAPP Construction, LLC
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Michael Polito
Title	President
Address	344 Third Street
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Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Details

Project Name	Baton Rouge Magnet High School
City	Baton Rouge
State	Louisiana
District Name	East Baton Rouge Parish
Supt/President	Dr. Bernard Taylor, Jr., Superintendent
Occupancy Date	August 2012
Grades Housed	9-12
Capacity(Students)	1,635
Site Size (acres)	16.98
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	305,036
Per Occupant(pupil)	187
gross/net please indicate	305,036 gross / 227,638 net
Design and Build?	No
lf yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
lf no,	
Site Development:	\$3,450,000
Building Construction:	\$42,480,000
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	
Total:	\$45,930,000