

2014 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Memminger Elementary School

Charleston County School District
Charleston, South Carolina

Memminger Elementary School



Memminger Elementary School

HISTORICAL SITE CONTEXT

LARGE TREES IN FORMER
GARDEN TO BE PRESERVED

1937 RENOVATED
AUDITORIUM TO REMAIN

HISTORIC BRICK WALL TO REMAIN
AND TO BE STABILIZED

NEWER 1953 SECTION OF BRICK WALL

1858 ORIGINAL SCHOOL LOCATION

HISTORIC "STUCCOED" MASONRY WALL

1923 DOWNTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE BUILDING TO BE STABILIZED

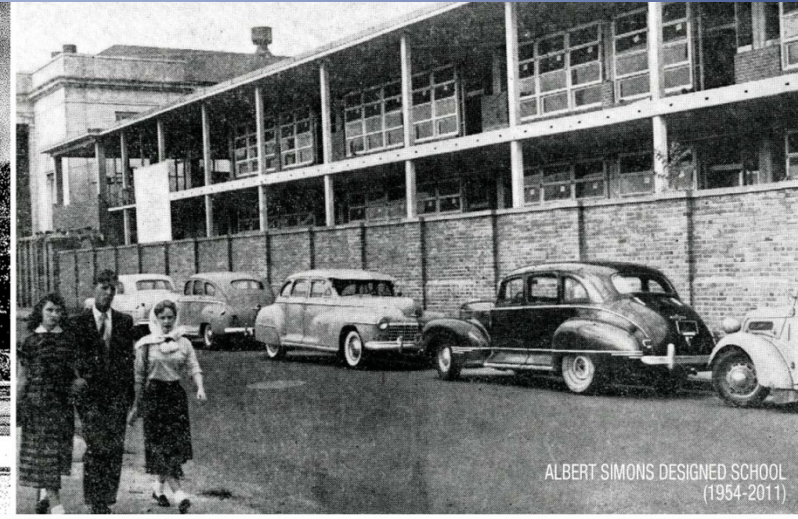
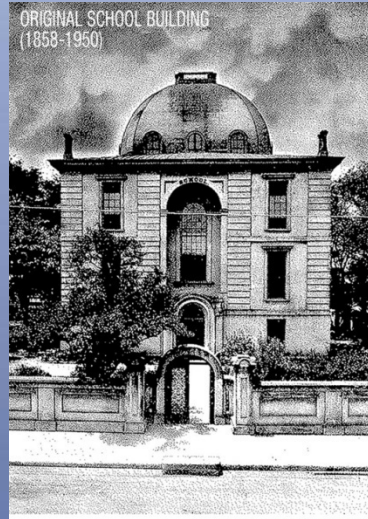
ORIGINAL GARDEN AREA



Historic Imagery

Community Environment:

While the site has served as a schoolyard since the 1800's, until recently neighbors were often unaware of the school's presence. The outdated 1950's school facility featured a U-shaped building enclosing a central playground. All administrative and educational functions were tucked behind an imposing wall, hiding much of the students' energy and activity behind the 7' tall solid brick mass. The entrance to the school was a well-kept secret.



Aerial Image

Community Environment:

The new design erodes significant portions of this wall, bringing play areas forward to enliven the streetscape while preserving much of the character of the historic urban site. The new entry portico is an active and welcoming participant in the streetscape. The school's multi-purpose room is a shared community amenity, and the design reflects this significance by locating the space in the pavilion building served by student access gate reconstructed in the location of the original gate. The interdisciplinary learning mission of the new school, coupled with abundant opportunities for the community to enter and participate, has re-energized the surrounding neighborhood.



Typical Classroom

Learning Environment:

The design of the school creates separate zones for quiet academic functions and energetic common spaces. The 2-story classroom wing, tucked away towards the rear of the site, utilizes large exterior windows to provide abundant natural light and views of the historic surroundings within the learning spaces, connecting the interior to the exterior.

Kindergarten classes are situated adjacent to the play yard to allow direct connections from the classrooms to the outdoors, and creating a sense of security for the early years of learning.



Gallery

Learning Environment:

The curving gallery space with a central staircase sits at the juncture of the academic and the common spaces, commanding a view over the playground defined by the historic curving white garden wall. From the neighborhood beyond the wall, the large expanse of glass reveals the constant activity within. The bustling activities wing is aligned with the street and neighboring houses and incorporates the administration area, art room with exterior patio, and cafeteria on the first floor.



Streetscape

Physical Environment –

The school program called for flexible spaces and furnishings which would allow students to work individually, in small groups, and as an entire class, supporting a wide variety of instructional modalities. Small- and large- group gathering and instruction spaces are provided in both the academic wings and the shared common areas. The “Academic Clusters” concept organizes the PK- K, Grades 1-2, and Grades 3-5 areas into flexible communities with classrooms, small group project rooms, special education spaces, and teacher work centers for each cluster.



Media Center & Multi-Purpose Room

Physical Environment –

The facility supports leading-edge technology such as SMART Boards for classroom use, and access to technology is intended to be seamless and pervasive throughout the building. The Media Center is designed to be a “high technology information center” to reflect the changing role of this space for active learning and research in an increasingly connected world. During the design process, the architects utilized three-dimensional modeling software to illustrate each of these spaces to the client, including in these models the programmed finishes, furniture, and instructional devices such as built-in teaching walls and other equipment.



Entry Portico

Planning Process:

The school's orientation, massing, and exterior materials all respect the neighborhood context, with details echoing those of the adjacent auditorium. The civic auditorium which serves as a community landmark was designed in 1937 by Albert Simons, and is still owned by the school district and is used as a performance and gathering place. Made more visible by the removal of the street wall; the auditorium's corbelled brick details, brick pilasters, prominent cornice, and red roof all inspire exterior details which find a more contemporary expression on the new school.



Garden Space

Planning Process:

A new, prominent entry serves as the public face of the school, interfacing with the street and offering shelter underneath through a large covered porch. This porch was conceived as a parallel to the auditorium entry portico. These porticoes frame the main classroom wing, the younger children's outdoor play yard/primary student entry and tie the two buildings together as a campus. The media center, which sits above the entry, captures views into the garden space as well as the play area for younger students. The multi-purpose room is located directly above the cafeteria, creating an overall building form that pays homage to the original 1800's school through similar massing and the incorporation of a glass cupola.



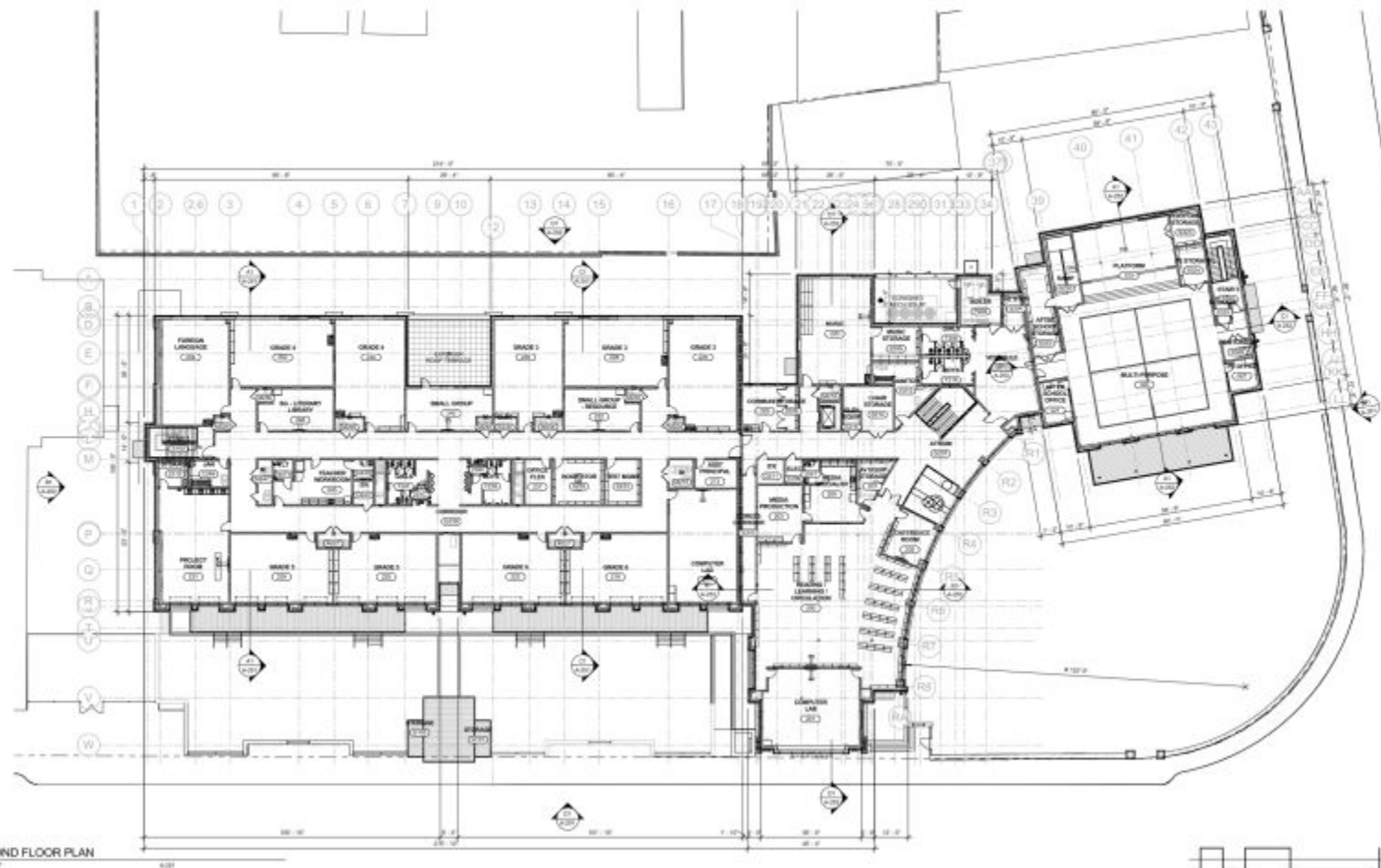
Site plan



First Floor plan



Second Floor plan



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Project Data

Submitting Firm :	LS3P
Project Role	Architect
Project Contact	Dylan Towe
Title	Project Architect
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Other Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
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City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

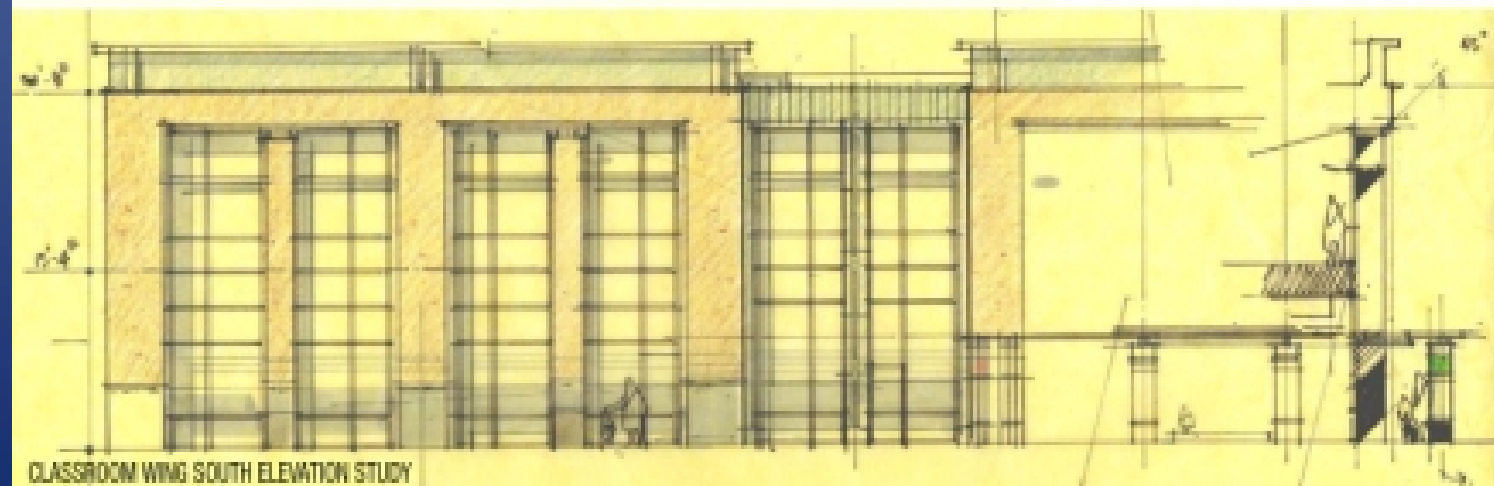
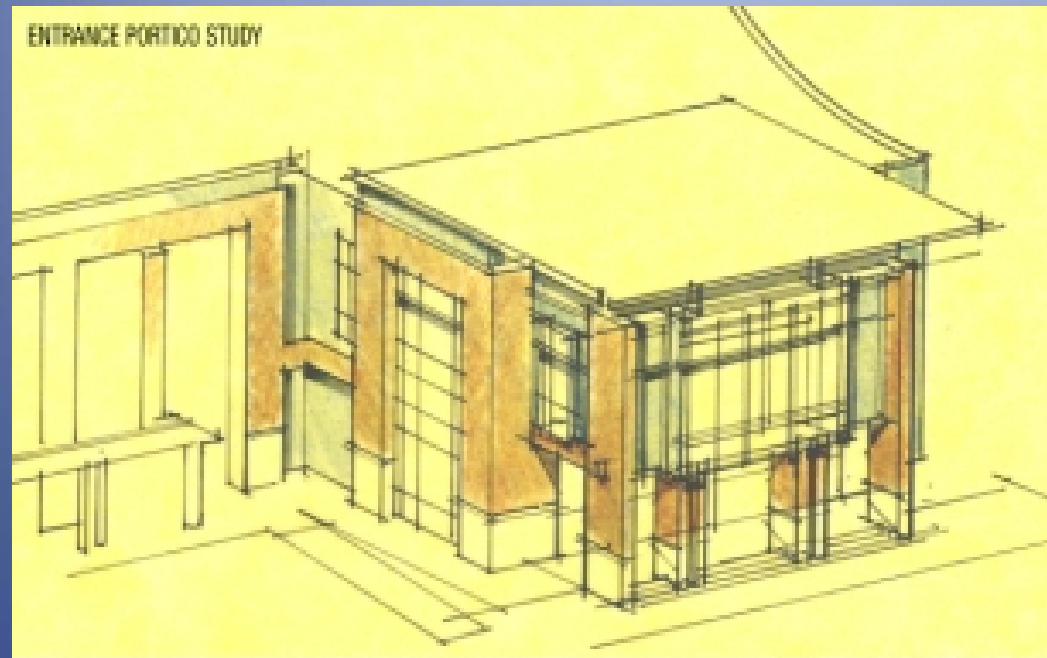
Construction Firm:	Hitt
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Josh VanScoy
Title	Vice President
Address	2457 Aviation Avenue
City, State or Province, Country	North Charleston, SC 29406
Phone	843-308-9400

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Project Details

Project Name	Memminger Elementary School
City	Charleston
State	South Carolina
District Name	Charleston County
Supt/President	Dr. Nancy McGinley
Occupancy Date	August 2013
Grades Housed	PreK – 6 th
Capacity(Students)	500
Site Size (acres)	3.443
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	77,286
Per Occupant(pupil)	155
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	No
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$1,924,293
Building Construction:	\$16,752,059
Subtotal (Building, Site & Other):	\$19,549,430
FF&E:	\$669,316
Total:	\$20,218,746

Elevation Studies



Enlarged Details



Atrium Design



Multipurpose Building



Play Area

