Architecture Boston

YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY•FEBRUARY 2008





K-12 **EDUCATIONAL** FACILITIES DESIGN

JURY COMMENTS



- **63** Rogers Marvel Architects Stephen Gaynor School and **Ballet Hispanico** New York City
- **64** Maryann Thompson **Architects** The Atrium School Watertown, Massachusetts

AWARDS

- **65** Flansburgh Architects Auburn High School Auburn, Massachusetts
- **65** Newport Collaborative **Architects** Center for Marine and **Nautical Sciences** Tabor Academy Marion, Massachusetts
- **66 Platt Byard Dovell White Architects** The Reece School New York City

Umberto Dindo AIA Dindo Architect New York City

Stuart Lesser AIA Joslin, Lesser + Associates Cambridge, Massachusetts

Jennifer Marsh AIA Mowery Marsh Architects Hoboken, New Jersey

Jennifer Pinck

Pinck & Co. Boston

> One juror noted the tremendous challenges involved in making huge, sometimes in elegant, spaces feel intimate enough to support programs for children. We were intrigued by the peculiar absence in the submitted portfolios of photographs featuring children or adults. There was a shortage of photographs depicting fun "child-spaces" too, and we wondered why the designers chose to illustrate the facilities with barren rooms that

> > and renderings.

Together with past juries, we wanted better narratives to help us understand the context for these schools, the problems that each design team was asked to solve, the constraints under which they worked and how they strove to enliven their communities. Also lacking in many cases were conceptual diagrams that could have been useful in quickly understanding underlying design influences, theories, and strategies. We agreed that every building tells a story that is as much a part of its identity as the structure

The work we viewed this year included both public and private

facility design. We found similarities in finish and materials that

interpretive plateau in the quest to provide well-designed places

projects that were all competent examples of educational

may indicate that architects and builders have reached an

for teachers and children. This plateau may reflect a relative

stasis in current educational theory, where ideas about how to

We were pleased to see universal design and sustainable systems and materials referenced throughout the body of work,

though we found few post-occupancy mechanisms in place for

made for plentiful natural light and thoughtful site orientation,

and were pleased to find that many buildings provided an atrium.

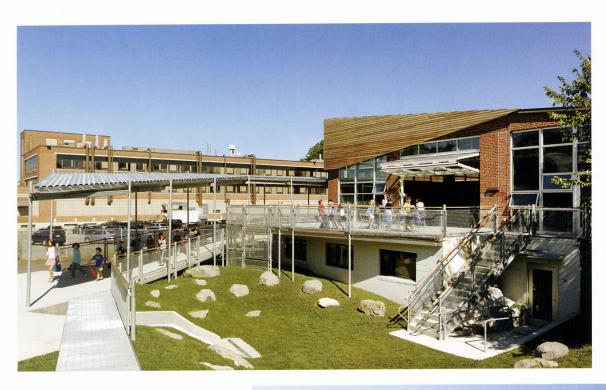
measuring their effectiveness. We appreciated the provisions

teach — alongside cost and the need for efficiencies expressed by hard, easy-to-clean surfaces requiring minimal maintenance —

Editor's note: The full text of jury comments, including responses to individual projects and advice on preparing submissions, may be found at www.architects.org/awards.

itself and hope that future designers become as adept at telling those tales as they do at commissioning beautiful photographs

K-12 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES DESIGN



HONOR AWARD

The Atrium School Watertown, Massachusetts

Client:

The Atrium School

Architect:

Maryann Thompson Architects Cambridge, Massachusetts

www.maryannthompson.com

Project team:

Maryann Thompson AIA (principal-incharge); Bill Pevear AIA (project architect)

Contractor:

Bowdoin Construction Corporation

Consultants:

Landworks Studio (landscape); Richmond So Engineers (structural); Wozny/Barbar Associates (mechanical/ electrical/plumbing/fire protection); Gala Simon Associates (civil); The Green Engineer (green engineering); Schirmer Engineering (code)

Photographer:

Anton GrassI/Esto



Designer's statement:

This project called for the adaptive reuse of a brick warehouse, on a limited site in a mixed industrial/residential neighborhood, into a functional schoolhouse for The Atrium School's expanding program. The transformation required rethinking the building's orientation relative to site and creating a playful interior sequence that breaks down the long and narrow building volume