



The Friendship School

Waterford, Connecticut

JCJ Architecture (formerly Jeter, Cook & Jepsen Architects, Inc.)

School, Community
Center/Joint Use Facilities
Renovation/Addition/
Restoration

JCJ Architecture

38 Prospect Street
Hartford, CT 06103
www.JCJ.com

James E. LaPosta Jr., AIA
(860) 247-9226

DESIGN TEAM

James E. LaPosta Jr., AIA
Design Principal

Gregory J. Smolley, AIA, AICP
Project Manager

James W. Hoagland, AIA
Senior Designer

Joseph Conti, RA, Job Captain
Emily Sledge, Interior Designer

Andrew P. Gentile
Construction Administrator

OWNER/CLIENT

Town of Waterford
Waterford, CT
Dr. Randall Collins
(860) 444-5852

Curriculum Manager
LEARN, Old Lyme, CT
Dr. Virginia Seccombe
(860) 434-4837

Type of School and
Grades Served: Early Child-
hood Learning Center, Pre-K-K

Capacity: 520 students

Size of Site: 53 acres

Area of Building: 84,000
square feet (40,000 square
feet adaptive reuse)

Volume of Building:
1.3 million cubic feet

Space per Student:
161.5 square feet

Cost per Student: \$34,982

Square Foot Cost: \$217

Construction Cost: \$18.2 million

Total Project Cost: \$22.1 million

Contract Date: January 2003

Completion Date: August 2005

Percent of Completion: 100%



TYPICAL CLASSROOM

Envisaged as a model for early childhood learning, The Friendship School and adjoining community center assume their prominent civic role with familiarity and delight. An ocean-inspired architectural theme, features, layout, and coloration, as well as abundant daylighting, cleverly support the school's mission to provide children with stimulating, comfortable, and developmentally appropriate environments.

The result of an exceptional 20-year collaboration between two socioeconomically diverse seaside communities, this remarkable school is NAEYC-accredited and serves 520 3- to 5-year-olds in a fully inclusive setting. The Friendship School's planning, architecture, and interior design support brain-based learning; promote children's four basic environmental needs—movement, comfort, competence, and control; and enable educators to teach in the ways that



CORRIDOR - VIEW TOWARD MEDIA CENTER



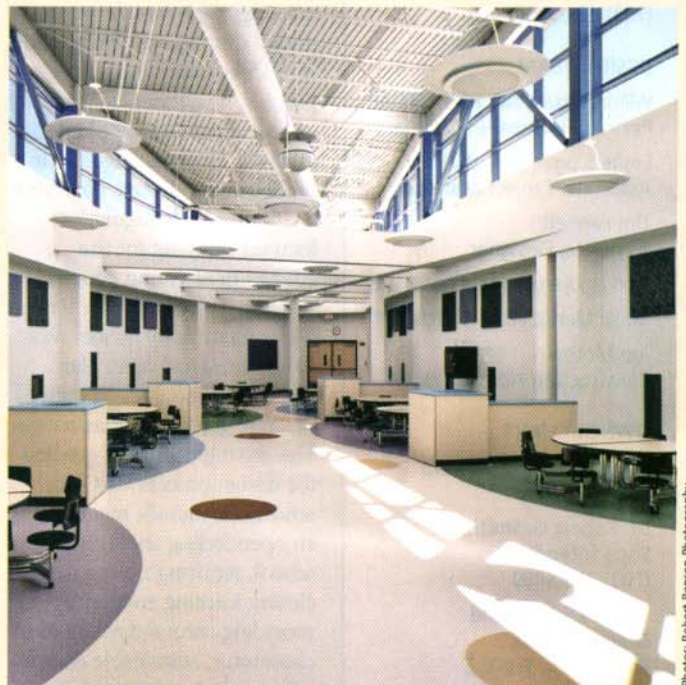
EXTERIOR VIEW ENTRANCE - PARTIAL FRONT ELEVATION



EXTERIOR VIEW



FLOOR PLAN



INTERIOR - CAFETERIA

Photos: Robert Benson Photography

best enhance learning.

Curving corridors act as dynamic circulation spines, connecting to classrooms and other major program areas, and making fluid the acts of wayfinding, interaction, and mingling. Twenty-seven classrooms are grouped into nine triads, each containing a combination of kindergarten and adjacent pre-kindergarten classrooms, two faculty offices that double as observation rooms, and two shared toilet-ing facilities. Within each uniquely shaped classroom reside dedicated zones for

gross motor skill development, dramatic play, arts and crafts, and quiet. Each zone is finished, equipped, and furnished to suit the child user's needs, preferences, and scale.

Children with identified special needs are included in a natural way in every classroom, and related services take place with typically developing peers in natural environments within the school. The dynamic learning environment is complemented by a health center, administrative areas, an informal outdoor learning area with gardens and soft-sur-

face playscape, as well as more formal learning areas, such as the media center, cafeteria, and visual and performing arts room. Additionally, the adjoining community center contains an easily accessible multipurpose room/gymnasium, which encourages multigenerational learning among the young and the young at heart.

The Friendship School's mission is to ensure that all enrolled preschool and kindergarten children will acquire the readiness skills to be active members of a diverse learning community and that their fam-

ilies will be informed advocates who will be actively involved in the development and education of their children. These goals are to be accomplished by maintaining high expectations for language and literacy acquisition through a developmentally appropriate curriculum and offering full-day, year-round comprehensive support services. The Friendship School is an interdistrict magnet school that provides full-day/full-year, family-friendly learning opportunities, and out-of-school-time care options for working families. ■