



Thompson Elementary School

Arlington, MA

New Construction/ Addition

Entire school/campus building

HMFH Architects, Inc.
130 Bishop Allen Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139
www.hmfh.com
Liza Bouton
617 492 2200

DESIGN TEAM

George Metzger, AIA, Project Director
Lori Cowles, AIA, LEED AP, Project
Manager
Melissa Greene, AIA, LEED AP, Project
Architect
Chris Vance, AIA, LEED AP,
Construction Administration

OWNER/CLIENT

Arlington, MA, Public Schools
Arlington, MA
Dr. Kathleen Bodie
781/316-3000

KEY STATS

Grades Served: K-5
Capacity: 380 students
Size of Site: 3 acres
Building Area: 57,600 sq. ft.
Space per Student: 152 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$39,816
Square Foot Cost: \$263
Construction Cost: \$15,130,244
Project Cost: \$20,596,010
Completion Date: September 2013
Sustainability Rating System/Applied/
Status/Level: MA-CHPS Verified
Leader

PHOTOGRAPHY: ED WONSEK



Driven by deteriorating building conditions that compromised student safety and accessibility as well as steadily increasing enrollment, the town of Arlington elected replacement of this neighborhood K-5 school. The new building is sensitive to the dense, small-scale residential context and is sited to minimize the overall impact.



Taking advantage of the diagonal east-west axis on the site, the design optimizes daylighting in the classroom wing and accommodates a student garden system, restoring a lost portion of the site's history as early 20th century market gardens. Programmatically, the school is organized around a simple plan that allows direct access to protected outdoor play for the youngest students. A full-sized art classroom and library provides students with spaces that were severely compromised in the original building.

Many students walk to Thompson and approach the site from several sides, so the plan allows a central, open lobby serviced from two sides, along with a community entrance directly onto the K-1 corridor. And because the site faces residential streets on three sides and a public park on the fourth, there is no "back" side, a challenge that HMFH addressed through lively masonry patterns and carefully placed window openings.