

Designs Th@t Work

Preserve the past while updating for the future.



Colossal educational facilities built outside of towns are unnecessarily replacing historic school buildings, argues the National Trust for Historic Preservation. But if given the chance, many older neighborhood buildings can be renovated to accommodate state-of-the-art technology and maintain an otherwise disappearing sense of community. The renovation of the Lincoln School does just that.

Located at the center of town among other civic buildings such as the town hall and the library, the Lincoln School retains its historic structure and much of its original classroom design. At the same time, the renovation added modern features including updated sprinklers and technology infrastructure.



The renovation retained the school's front steps and the pedestrian pathways. For more than 100 years, students and community members have been able to walk to school, sustaining the vitality of the town's center.



Wood cubbies line the corridors, and carefully selected tiles and color schemes preserve the school's historic character (far left). Energy-efficient windows are juxtaposed with a restored staircase from an era past.



The restored auditorium continues to function as a community hub for the town, and the new library-media center provides access to advanced technology.

The Lincoln School Winchester, MA

Opened: March 2002

Size: 70,000 square feet were renovated and 40,000 square feet were added for a student body of 400

Cost: \$12.2 million

What it is: Built in 1903 as a high school, the Lincoln School was renovated as the town's elementary school.

Architect: HMFH Architects, Inc., of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Photos: Courtesy of HMFH Architects