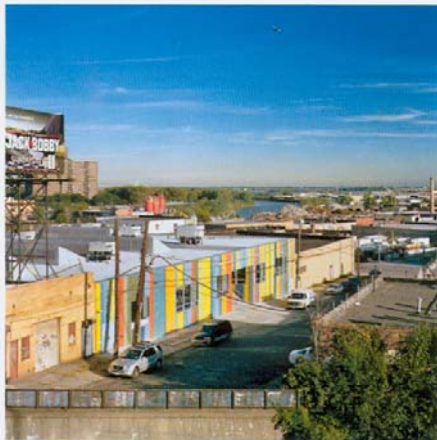


Basement floor plan



Ground floor plan

- 1 Multi-purpose room
- 2 Offices and storage
- 3 Kindergarten
- 4 First grade classroom
- 5 Second grade classroom
- 6 Third grade classroom
- 7 Fourth grade classroom
- 8 Fifth grade classroom
- 9 Sixth grade classroom
- 10 Music, dance and art spaces



Coloured tiles on the street facade counter the drab post industrial context. | Conceptual facade with the suggestion of the use of the dead-end street as a playground during school hours



South Bronx Charter School for The Arts

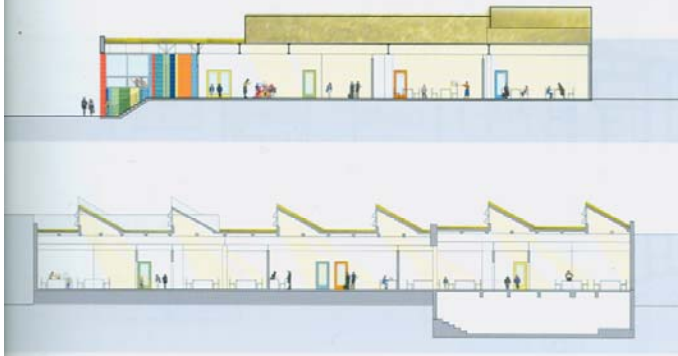
Hunts Point, New York, USA

Architect	Weisz + Yoes Studio, New York
Pupils	250 aged 5-10 years
Building area	2,100 m ²
Average classroom	60 m ² (for 24 student class size)
Parking spaces	0
Build cost	2.3 million USD
Completion	2004
Year group system	Traditional single form entry classbase system

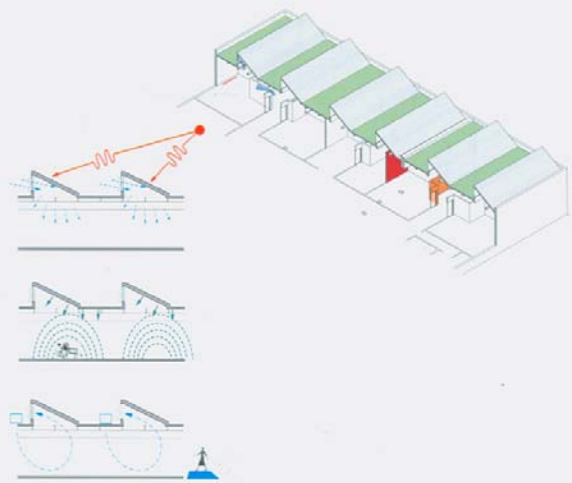
Community design and use of existing industrial building to reduce costs and provide more space than usual

The project is unusual in that the process which directed its design and procurement was fully inclusive and local to the point where a new school typology can be discerned; not only is the result a true community building in that it accurately reflects the needs and aspirations of local people who bothered to get involved, it is also comparatively small and orientated towards the needs of people who are not necessarily in education themselves.

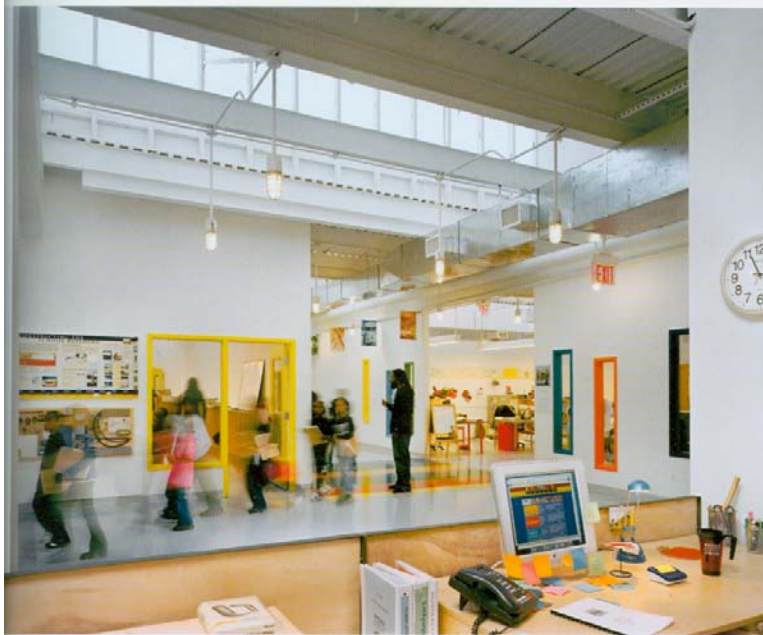
Initiated by community activists from the local arts board, the school developed through a series of workshops with board members, school staff and parents, which were organised by the architects. A key concern was how the school might integrate into the wider



Section through glazed entrance hall



Daylighting concept



View from the reception desk towards the community hall at the heart of the plan | Larger than average classrooms provide for creativity and fluid flexible teaching groups

community; one response to this question was the suggestion that if the school had a gallery, local artists and students might use it. Thus new spaces were being added which aimed at a seamless crossover between school and community. Then several buildings and vacant lots in the South Bronx were visited. Finally, an old sausage factory was selected mainly because of its location, but also because it provided large flexible accommodation with widely spaced columns throughout. One of the main ideas to emerge was the grouping of similar grade classrooms together around shared multi-use spaces, or as one participant described them, 'hot pods'. In addition, all arts-related spaces were positioned in the centre of the scheme and along the main street façade, emphasising their

importance and allowing them to be semi-permeable, by way of moveable partitions, to the surrounding halls and communal spaces, and readily accessible to members of the general public entering from the street.

The limitations of a confined factory building with its deep-plan form meant that there were very few opportunities for conventional windows. The architects designed the building with a regular grid of north-facing openable skylights across the entire roof, which provided for modules of 45 degree south-facing translucent PV panels. The sustainability agenda was addressed with solar electricity generation, the use of re-cycled building products and certified sustainable wood products.

The end result is a building which is basic architecture on the outside, whereas on the inside there is an unusually spacious feel with high ceilings and larger than average teaching spaces. With exposed service ducts visible within the open ceiling void, up and over moveable wall panels it has funky light industrial feel, more like an advertising agency than a school. The challenge to site a school in an old factory building right at the heart of the community has been very successful. It functions both as a traditional school and a new community learning centre.