



Entire School/  
Campus Building  
New Construction

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Becky Cotton, Zahner, AIA  
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**DESIGN TEAM**

Peter Gisolfi, AIA, ASLA,  
Design Principal

Sandra K. Mintzes, AIA,  
Partner and Architect

Robert Reiter, ASLA,  
Landscape Architect

Diane Collins,  
Interior Architect

**OWNER/CLIENT**

Pembroke Hill School  
Kansas City, MO

Dr. Richard Hibschan,  
Former Head of School  
816/936-1201

Type of School and  
Grades Served:

Combined-Level School, 6-12

Capacity: 700 students

Size of Site: 18 acres

Area of Building:  
38,000 square feet  
(Middle school);  
30,000 square feet  
(Upper school)

Cost per Student: \$45,285

Square Foot Cost: \$214

Cost of Construction:  
\$22.8 million

Total Project Cost: \$31.7 million

Contract Date:

1998 and ongoing

Completion Date:

1999 (Middle school);  
2001 (Upper school);

2002 (Library/science/commons)

**COMBINED-LEVEL SCHOOLS**

# Pembroke Hill School Ward Parkway Campus

*Kansas City, Missouri*

**Peter Gisolfi Associates**

The Ward Parkway Campus of the Pembroke Hill School serves 700 students in grades 6 through 12. The transformation of the 18-acre campus addresses issues typical of many schools, where later interventions are often based on a point of view different from the vision of the initial planners. A group of buildings introduced in the 1960s at the western end of the campus related poorly to the scale and spatial arrangement of the original campus. These flat-roofed, modern buildings appeared less important than the original Georgian buildings, and the sunken courtyard formed by them did not respond to the east-west axis of the campus open space.

Inspired by Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia, we focused attention on the dominant position at the uphill end of the quadrangle, creating a library building of a scale that corresponds to the importance of this location. Reading rooms were added to the front of the



CAMPUS VIEW



VIEW FROM THE SENIOR COMMONS



MIDDLE SCHOOL GATEWAY

PHOTOS: AISE O'BRIEN PHOTOGRAPHY



LIBRARY



MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMONS



UPPER SCHOOL QUAD RENDERING

1960s science building, which was converted to stacks and workspace for the new library. With this classical focal point, we reshaped the central landscape, emulating Jefferson's terraces that step downward to the east, toward an open view

of fields and a parkway.

We designed a middle school and an upper school, and converted the 1960s library into an upper school commons. The middle school is the northwest campus gateway and is constructed of the same brick

as the library and the original buildings. The upper school is a straightforward, symmetrical, Georgian building directly across from the original gymnasium. In these new buildings, public spaces interact with the main quadrangle. The library's

reading rooms face east toward the long axis of the quadrangle; the entry and senior lounge of the upper school look across the quadrangle, as do the middle school's commons and entry lobby; and the upper school commons, in renovated space adjacent to the library, overlooks the quadrangle. The public rooms reinforce the communal identity of the main quadrangle.

The overlapping of urban patterns suggested the creation of two types of landscapes: formal and informal. A formal, Jeffersonian lawn traverses the east-west axis of the campus, and a series of informal landscapes—playing fields, parking lots, and access drives—surround the formal core. The campus embraces formality, accommodates informality, and relates to the topography and the urban grids. The campus fosters community, elevates the library as a symbol of learning, and is intrinsically tied to the larger landscape of the city. ■