



Entire School/
Campus Building
New Construction

CUBELLIS

1800 Eller Drive,
Suite 500
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
www.cubellis.com
Merrill Romanik, AIA
954/961-6806

THE WEITZ COMPANY

www.weitz.com

DESIGN TEAM

Cubellis, Architect of Record
Weitz Company, CM@Risk
Spillis Candela DMJM,
Design, Structural & Electrical
Land Stewardship Company,
Landscape Architect
Flynn Engineering Services,
Civil Engineer
Merlino Associates,
Food Service Design Consultant

OWNER/CLIENT

Berkshire Elementary School
West Palm Beach, FL
Teresa Stoupas, Principal
561/434-8678

Type of School and
Grades Served:
Elementary School, K-5
Capacity: 1,048 students
Size of Site: 9.3 acres
Area of Building:
148,000 square feet
Volume of Building:
1.4 million cubic feet
Space per Student:
141 square feet
Cost per Student: \$22,042
Square Foot Cost: \$156
Cost of Construction:
\$23.1 million
Total Project Cost:
\$28 million

Contract Date: Aug. 2004
Completion Date: April 2007
Percent of Completion: 100%

Berkshire Elementary School

West Palm Beach, Florida

Cubellis / The Weitz Company

The new 148,000-square-foot facility was inspired by the diversity and uniqueness of its student population, and infused with opportunities for artistic expression. The walls of the original “finger” school buildings were adorned with vibrant, colorful, and expressive murals that engaged the eye and educated viewers about the visions, passions, and heritages of its students.

Cubellis’ design intent was to provide a safe and inviting setting that would embrace each child upon arrival and support his or her needs.

By pushing the buildings to the perimeter of the site, we created the necessary civic presence along the public face of the building; provided the opportunity for a courtyard or “plaza mayor” scheme to protect the students; and created a vibrant learning space. The architectural style is Mediterranean and is a reflection of the Hispanic heritage of the student population.

The heart of the campus includes an open air stage for performance, grade-level educational gardens, and a raised circular globe with adjacent seating that can be used for instructional purposes. The administration area is at the corner of the site, allowing for access control for both parent drop-off and the bus loop, and providing a centralized location for administrative contact with the students.

The library, on the floor above the administrative area, allows for a bridge to the com-



FRONT FEATURE



ADMINISTRATION AREA



CORRIDOR

PHOTOS: CHUCK WILKINS PHOTOGRAPHY



COURTYARD



MEDIA CENTER

munity when opened to the public during the evening, still keeping the educational spaces secured. The imagery of trees from the original murals comes to life three-dimensionally in reading areas for children within the media center. Opportunities for future murals are provided throughout the building, as visual communication is an integral part of the curriculum. Audio

enhancement technology has been integrated into every classroom to provide the best learning environment for every child.

The 1,048-student station facility, built primarily of tilt wall construction with precast concrete joists, includes eight kindergarten, 22 primary, and 16 intermediate classrooms; ESE classrooms; art and music suites; a food service and din-



MEDIA CENTER

ing room; a multipurpose room; a media center; and a physical education pavilion.

Berkshire Elementary School is the largest elementary school in Palm Beach County on one of the smallest sites. Cubellis

and The Weitz Company are proud to have provided a unique solution that embodies the children's needs, while promoting cultural appreciation for both the students and the community. ■

PHOTOS: TOP, CHUCK WILKINS PHOTOGRAPHY; BOTTOM LEFT & RIGHT, BEST SHOT PRODUCTIONS