



## Entire School/Campus Building

Renovation/Addition/  
Restoration

### DESIGN IDEAS GROUP

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### DESIGN TEAM

Vincent Myers, Principal  
Walt Sura, Project Architect  
Kevin S. Dunn, Designer,  
Concept Architect  
Jessica Poko, Project Manager

Consulting Engineers  
Collaborative, Structural  
O'dea Lynch Abbattista  
Consulting Engineers, MEP

### OWNER/CLIENT

New Jersey Community  
Development Corp.  
Paterson, NJ

Robert F. Guarasci,  
President  
973/413-1632

Type of School  
and Grades Served:  
Charter School, Pre-K-5

Capacity: 500 students

Size of Site: .6 acres

Area of Building:  
30,000 square feet

Volume of Building:  
480,000 cubic feet

Space per Student:  
60 square feet

Cost per Student: \$7,000

Square Foot Cost: \$116

Cost of Construction:  
\$3.5 million

Total Project Cost: \$7 million

Contract Date: 2007

Completion Date: Aug. 2008

Percent of Completion: 100%

# Community Charter School of Paterson

## Paterson, New Jersey

### Design Ideas Group

Our task was to transform a historic industrial building into a space suitable for this charter school. The restructured space was influenced by the inherent industrial aesthetic and the shared desire by all involved to foster a sense of community. Much of the existing exterior envelope has been retained, and many original materials—concrete, steel, brick, and wood—have been integrated into the design, further recalling the building's roots. Windowed doors and clerestory glazing help promote a sense of openness.

We purposely designed the space to feel a bit rough around the edges, and a limited budget encouraged careful choices about where to intervene. The elements we introduced are simple in



UPPER-LEVEL COMMONS

form and brightly colored to arrange the space and aid in way-finding. The plan is organized around central "living rooms" with furnishings and atmosphere that encourage gatherings.

We managed to fit all program elements into the existing structure: 25 class-

rooms for up to 500 pre-K to fifth-graders, a multipurpose room with a kitchen, upper- and lower-level gathering spaces, and a Think Tank—a glowing, cylinder-shaped room, clad in polycarbonate panels, that functions as a student resource center. ■



CENTRAL "LIVING ROOM" AND THINK TANK

PHOTOS: TOP, ROBERT L. FAULKNER; BOTTOM, BARRY HALKIN