



BEACON HIGH SCHOOL NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK



BEFORE



"Very well done exterior re-branding – simple but effective. The effect on the streetscape is incredible."

—2016 JULY



John Ciardullo, P.C. Architects + Planners

Associated Firms: DVL Consulting Engineers (Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing & Fire Protection), AKRF (Site Civil and Acoustic Engineers), EME Consulting Engineers (Sustainability), SavkromInc. (Vertical Transportation), Assume Vivid Astro Focus (Artist for Public Art Installation)

Design team

John Ciardullo (Principal); Charles Heaphy (Partner); Georgia Stokes (Project Executive); Neil Bienvenu (Project Architect); William Riley (Discipline Lead); George Varthalamis (Field Architect); Ardeny Goris (Structural); Brian Anderson, Kyunghee Lee, Matthew Lombardi (Architects)

Client

New York City School Construction Authority

Area

230,000 sq. ft.

Total cost

\$89,000,000

Capacity

1,500

Cost/square foot

\$387

Completion

September 2015

Photographer

Anna-Marie Kellen, Ciardullo staff (Before)

Beacon High School is one of New York City's premier schools, distinguished by its "dynamic inquiry-based curriculum," which focuses on arts and technology. The search for a permanent home for the school resulted in the discovery of a six-story former factory building that was being used as a book storage for the New York City Public Library in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan.

Much of the existing concrete structure showed signs of deterioration, but the design team felt saving the original mushroom columns and floor slabs was critical. These elements were resurfaced to reflect the existing structure of the building. Corridors and classrooms weave through this original structure, enabling students and staff to perceive indications of the building's former use.

To adapt the existing building for the needs of a modern high school, a seventh-floor addition provides space for a 432-seat performing arts theater and a regulation-sized gymnasium. Traditional steel frame construction with diagonal bracing was used for the rooftop addition as a lighter alternative to concrete. Castellated smart beams with long span metal deck are used in both the gymnasium and auditorium that provides the flexibility needed to create large open spaces without the interruption of columns.

By adapting a nearly abandoned city building for use as a public high school, the architects provided a critical amenity to a rapidly changing neighborhood. The school helps enable the far west side of Manhattan to continue its residential transformation. 🌿





"The Beacon High School project was challenging, presenting unexpected obstacles along the way. The SCA team, John Ciardullo, and Skanska USA worked closely together, executing solutions to bring this innovative project to a successful completion ahead of schedule. The result is a truly fabulous building that will serve our students for years to come."

– LORRAINE GRILLO, PRESIDENT & CEO OF NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY (SCA)

