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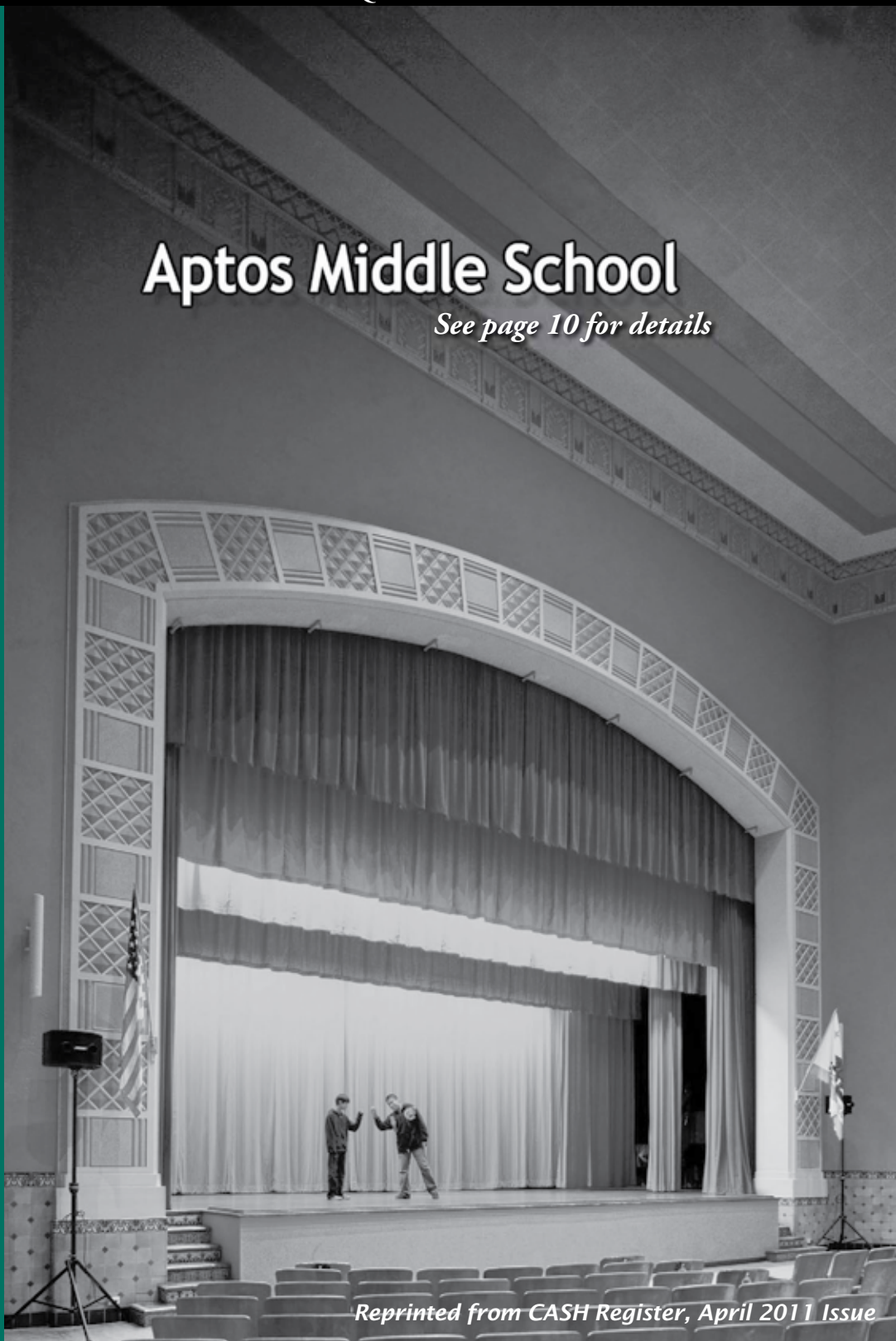
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COALITION FOR ADEQUATE SCHOOL HOUSING

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Aptos Middle School

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“Hot Potato” Project: Aptos Middle School

San Francisco Unified School District

Aptos Middle School, originally constructed in 1931, recently completed a full-scale modernization for accessibility and life-safety upgrades. The school, a part of the San Francisco Unified School District, serves over 1,200 students in grades 6-8.

K2A Architecture + Interiors’ design approach for this 146,000 sq.ft., historic building, pays careful attention to blend the old and the new. Accessibility deficiencies were latent throughout the building, which comprises multiple levels on a sloping site. This project, as a part of Bond Measure A District-wide accessibility and fire-life safety upgrades, was closely monitored by the federal courts.

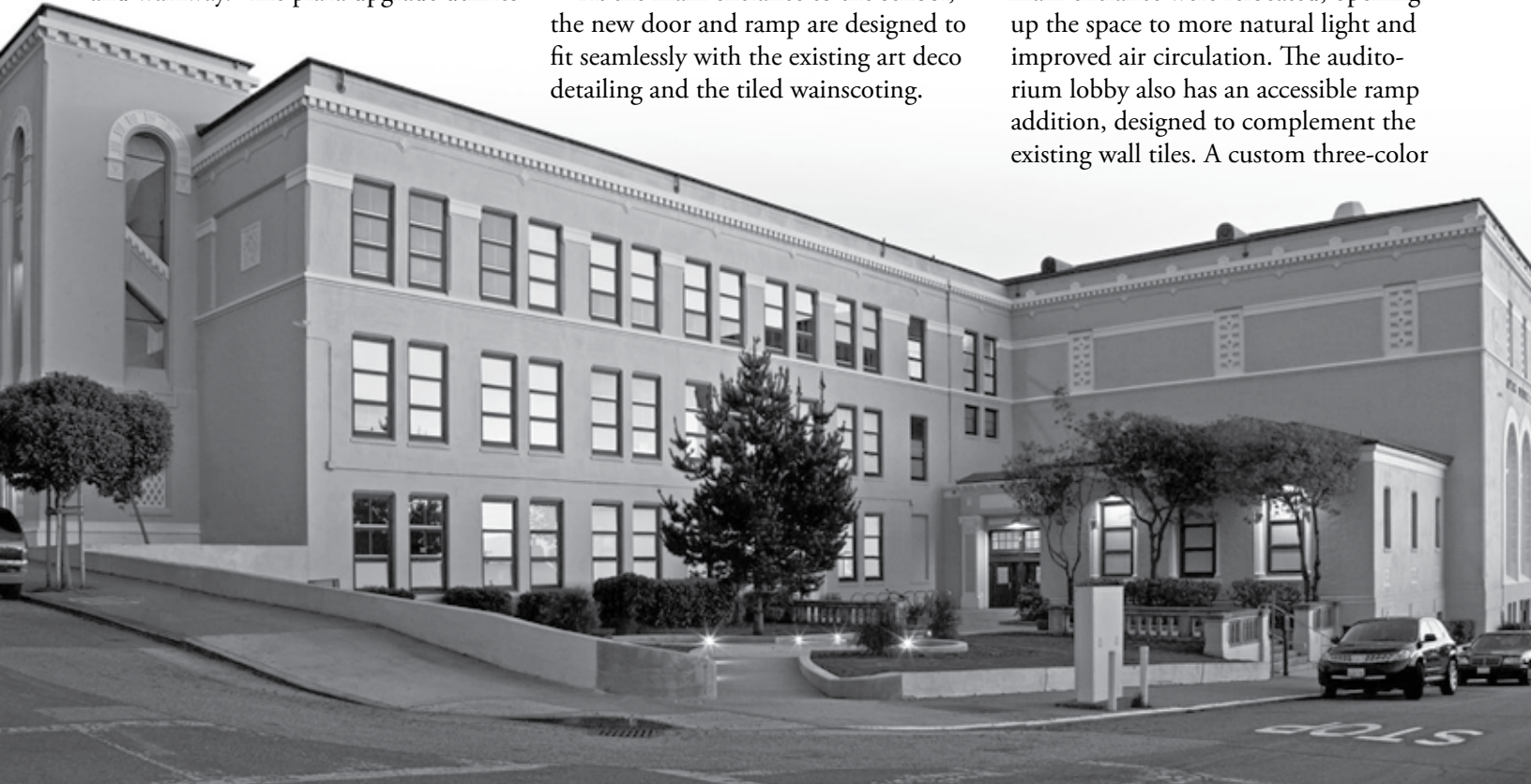
Collaborating with the residential neighborhood and campus community, K2A designed gracious new accessibility upgrades, including a new front entry and walkway. The plaza upgrade utilizes



the sloping site to create an accessible, lighted, path of travel into the main entry and auditorium lobby.

At the main entrance to the school, the new door and ramp are designed to fit seamlessly with the existing art deco detailing and the tiled wainscoting.


The historic teal pattern of the tile was extended from the existing wall through the new ramp. Offices located at the main entrance were relocated, opening up the space to more natural light and improved air circulation. The auditorium lobby also has an accessible ramp addition, designed to complement the existing wall tiles. A custom three-color



palette for the lobby and interior of the auditorium was developed to bring out the historical elements of the Art Deco molding and trim details and accent the unique tile patterns.

Inside the auditorium, three sets of accessible seating were added, as well as semi-ambulatory seating. New paint was applied to the interior walls and stage, as well as accents that highlight the architectural details. The auditorium floor was replaced, and the existing stage floor was refinished. The existing stage drapes were cleaned and reinstalled. A back of stage curtain was added to cover the wall and utility fixtures, and allow actors and stage crew to move about backstage without disrupting a performance.

At the South Entry, a fully accessible garden was created, utilizing raised planter boxes, wide walkways, and ramps to provide circulation throughout. As part of the curriculum, students have an opportunity to learn gardening in an urban environment, tending to vegetables in the planters. In an effort to reduce water consumption, a drip irrigation system, inclusion of native California and drought tolerant trees and plants, and wood mulch surround the curriculum garden. Pathways and engineered concrete block walls around planter beds all contain recycled content. This modern-ization also includes a newly designed food service facility, classroom and library updates and custom graphic way finding signage throughout the site.

A tight set of construction documents allowed San Francisco Unified School District to receive 7 responsive bids, all within 9.5% of each other, and all under the District's set construction budget. A phased, occupied construction was completed in eleven-phases. Each step of the way, the school had to be fully-accessible and life-safety compliant. K2A worked closely with the construction managers to ensure the facility remained safe and operational during the eighteen month construction process. 



Project Team:

District: San Francisco Unified School District
Construction Manager: McCarthy Builders
General Contractor: Cal Pacific Construction
Architect: K2A Architecture + Interiors
Structural: SOHA Engineers
Civil: Underwood & Rosenblum
Mechanical: Laws & Associates
Electrical: F.W. Associates
Landscape: Merrill Morris Partners