

DOWNTOWN HIGH SCHOOL MODERNIZATION SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Francisco, California



Design Features

- Accessibility Upgrades
- Fire Life Safety Upgrades
- Elevator Addition
- Restroom Reconstruction
- Custom Graphic Signage
- Color Palette Designed to Compliment Existing Historic Details

Size: 50,282 SF

Construction Cost: \$8.1 Million

Completion: August 2011

Downtown High School, located in the Potrero Hill neighborhood, is part of San Francisco Unified School District's legally mandated facility upgrades. The school serves 300 students in grades 9-12, offering alternative programs focused project based learning, affording a second chance to at-risk students. This modernization project is part of the State School Facilities Program.

The steeply sloping site creates several split levels within the building, and multiple tiers of playground area. The addition of an elevator wing and several strategically located ramps provide full accessibility to the entire campus.

The scope of work includes exterior and interior ADA upgrades, restroom reconstruction, elevator addition, and fire life safety upgrades. Additionally, there is a new kitchenette in the teachers' lounge, and custom graphic way finding signage throughout the facility.

This modernization includes the upgrade of nineteen classrooms and specialty spaces to support Downtown High School's uniquely challenging curriculum, while creating a safe, accessible and welcoming environment to the community.

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Bright, Fresh Interiors

A new custom color palette created to accent existing design features and bring new life to the school. The flooring and wall tile design in the corridors is carried throughout the classrooms, specialty rooms, and administrative offices. K2A's interiors group designed a new, fully compliant custom signage package with design elements drawn from the existing historical details.

Classrooms and specialty rooms, such as the performing arts theater, were updated with new paint, flooring, lighting fixtures, and ceilings. New accessible hardware replaced the outdated fixtures. Additionally, the theater was outfitted with a new accessible wheelchair lift and the existing stage floor was refinished.



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Teaching Kitchen

The school's unique curriculum includes a program that teaches science with a hands-on and practical approach. Chemistry is applied to culinary learning, finding that students learn better when concepts such as basic chemical reactions, are applied to familiar real-life situations. The new science/teaching kitchen includes four comprehensive student work stations complete with ovens, hoods and gas hook-ups. The solid surfaces are appropriate for a lab setting, designed to last for years to come. A teaching station is central in the room, allowing easy view from table seating, or from the student workstations. A new shower and eye wash station is included.

Great attention was paid to adequate ventilation and updating infrastructure to support multiple workstations in simultaneous operation. K2A developed a color palette for the new overhead storage cabinets and new flooring to compliment the building's existing historic details.



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Administrative Reception Area

The administrative reception area includes a bright, inviting color palette to accent the existing details. K2A designed the terrazzo floor pattern to compliment the new paint. The new reception area creates a welcoming first impression for visitors.

Accessible Entry

A new exterior ramp was included in the Downtown High School Modernization project, focusing on accessibility and fire/life safety. New paint and detailing highlight the historic character, creating a dramatic entryway.

