

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MODERNIZATION SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Francisco, California



Design Features

- Historic Restoration, including 'Art Deco' Paint Schemes
- Full Accessibility Upgrades
- New Construction Classroom & Library Building

Size: 51,000 SF

Construction Cost: \$8 Million

Completion: August 2012

Francis Scott Key Elementary School (FSK) is an Art-Deco era construction, originally built in 1935. FSK has an award winning academic program, and is a magnet school for children with severe disabilities. Currently 12% of the student body is enrolled in a special needs program.

The school site consists of 26 K-5 classrooms, plus four classrooms dedicated to special needs students, over two stories. In keeping with the school's Art-Deco tradition, an historic palate was developed for the exterior and interior paint scheme, as well as the new flooring and finishes throughout.

K2A's scope of work was a full modernization for accessibility and life-safety upgrades; including second story exit balconies, and complete fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems. The Francis Scott Key modernization also includes a new serving kitchen, lighting, boilers, a new roof, as well as clocks and bells. Restrooms are renovated to be fully ADA compliant, and serve the large special needs population. Additionally, old portable buildings on the site have been replaced with permanent modular construction classrooms.

K2A collaborated directly with an active administration, teachers, parents and students to gather valuable insights into achieving the needs and objectives for this community design project.

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Auditorium Improvements

Neighbors adore the warm and inviting aesthetics of the school's updated façade, whose palate draws out the historic art-deco era detailing. The new exterior ramp makes the school auditorium accessible for direct entry after hours. Its stainless steel railing details and embossed concrete at the school's main entry and lobby borrow from the branch-like deco-inspired pattern found existing around the building. K2A's design team sought opportunities to honor the period, and bring an historic grace the accessibility improvements.

The newly accessible auditorium is used for many functions; including a cafeteria space for school lunches, a gym for physical education classes, as well as special uses and presentations. The original light fixtures were removed and refurbished, modernized with new glass and lamps to meet energy efficient standards, while maintaining their original historic look. Hardwood flooring was resurfaced and stained, and the performance stage rigging was refurbished and curtains replaced.



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Historically Conscious Finish Upgrades

Exterior and interior finishes, colors and patterns, were all chosen to highlight and accent the extraordinary character of the depression era San Francisco Sunset District art-deco gem. At the main entry exterior, casts of the original terra-cotta fluted columns were taken in-place, and exchanged with terra-cotta reproductions from the original manufacturer to mitigate potentially unsafe materials in the original stoneware glazes.

Bold geometric shapes, combine with rich contrasting colors to create a gallant new look for the building's interiors. The wide striping found throughout the new flooring pattern is carried into the design for the exterior of the new classroom building, creating a unified and cohesive image for the school campus.



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New Library & Classroom Building

A permanent new modular construction building replaces old portable buildings on the site, providing space for the school library and two classrooms. The time and cost effective building system was greatly enhanced with intelligent site selection and design decisions.

Along the north face, clerestory windows bring in ample natural light, and create a greater architectural presence with raised ceilings and a pitched roof. Finished on-site, the exterior cladding compliments the main building color and design motif, creating a polished look greater than the sum of its parts.

