



SLAM

Places for Learning



HELPING OUR CLIENTS FULFILL THEIR MISSION TO TEACH

We understand the importance of campus setting, architectural image and interior space to the independent school experience. It is important to foster environments that inspire learning, create community and support your mission and values.

We strive for a thorough knowledge of each independent school's history and mission, as well as the faculty, students, and staff who utilize its buildings. Understanding project drivers including enrollment, curriculum, fundraising, budgetary constraints and schedules is crucial to the design of each facility. Building upon contextual elements present on each campus, taking special care in site placement encourages interaction in formal and informal ways and is a strong value that we associate with our design process.

SLAM planning and design promotes spontaneity, innovation and collaboration; encourages interdisciplinary study and problem-solving skills; accommodates changing technology; and most importantly, celebrates the value of learning itself—truly a blend of various values which we integrate together to design and inspire.

“Every stage of the planning for Thompson Hall was a joy — imagining the integration of the visual arts and music in an academic building; designing the light-filled classrooms, studios and common spaces; watching the construction of the Christopher Wren-like clock-tower that is already a campus landmark.”

Barbara Riley, Head of School - Hopkins School



THE RIGHT BLEND

Space influences how students learn. The design of space attracts and engages students to learn in new ways, grasp new ideas through effective collaboration with peers, and understand the dynamics of different types of learning, ranging from informal collaborative encounters to focused study.

We understand that learning is not restricted to classroom spaces; it can happen anywhere on campus. Designing spaces that encourage collaboration and communication, inspire creativity and ingenuity, convey warmth and security, and relate to the school's culture, values, and mission – in all of the spaces in which we live, learn, create, and play – requires a knowledge of the right “ingredients” for space making. At SLAM, we are confident and excited about using these ingredients to find the perfect “blend” for your school.



Learn

THE BLEND OF DESIGN

How does an online course curriculum blend with a face-to-face learning pedagogy? Does the space allow students to learn at their own pace, while still guided by an instructor? Hybrid spaces that adapt to changing needs and promote active engagement with the learning environment are key to successful and productive learning. Space influences how we feel; how we think; how we interpret; how we learn.





THE BLEND OF DESIGN

The most effective learning spaces are those that encourage a fusion of learning. Hybrid learning spaces in which different purposes and interactions are blended to create heightened learning experiences, whether through project-based learning labs, hands-on experiments, or lecture-style set-ups, these innovative blended learning spaces encourage dynamic, inspirational and cross-disciplinary learning.

live

THE BLEND OF DESIGN

Learning can happen anywhere. A dining hall can become a classroom or a library can house a poetry slam. A corridor can become an informal gathering space, promoting active discussions and interaction among peers. Flexibility is essential in designing spaces that promote cross-disciplinary learning and encourage interaction between peers.



“ *These buildings are not simply designed to be more efficient and have less environmental impact, but will also become an organic teaching tool that will help foster a mindfulness of living responsibly.* ”

Andy Long, Director of Residential Life - Fay School

THE BLEND OF COMMUNITY

Today's independent education communities are rich and diverse. The design of space needs to respond by blending the mission and tradition of the school with the right materials and natural light, creating flexibility, functionality and a sense of home. Design not only needs to blend natural materials, learning spaces and culture, but through all of these aspects, is essential in connecting a campus community with students, parents and educators together.



create



THE BLEND OF NATURAL MATERIALS

Sustainability is a key element in our practice and in designing schools of the future. In seeking to do more with less, we strive to integrate the natural surroundings into the design, creating a sense of place for students to interact and collaborate with each other. Controlled use of daylight, natural ventilation and views make for an engaging learning environment. The use of blending in natural materials is essential in creating a natural connection to the site and its surrounding, reflecting the campus fabric and connecting a school community together.



play

THE BLEND OF CULTURE

Each school has a unique character. Design that blends the culture of the campus, with the mission and vision of the school, can create authenticity that is inspirational to students, faculty and trustees alike.







A BLEND OF SERVICES

The idea of combining multiple services together from master planning of school campuses, designing dormitories, residential life, and various academic buildings allows us to understand each type of project effectively, making us a leader in integrated design. For independent education clients, we have extensive expertise in masterplanning, design, construction management, and cost estimating. We have demonstrated exceptional skill in the blending of these services.

We have worked at numerous boarding and day schools that serve students in grade configurations covering Pre-K through Grade 12. Most of these assignments began with feasibility studies or master plans that have evolved into building projects where we have designed virtually every type of educational space ranging from classrooms, auditoriums to gymnasiums.

HISTORY/PHILOSOPHY

The S/L/A/M Collaborative has extensive experience in the design of educational facilities at all levels from pre-schools through colleges and universities. The firm has won recognition for its ability to create effective learning environments and its thorough understanding of the special requirements of school planning and design.

In addition to familiarity with design issues, we are extremely knowledgeable about the related concerns that face educational administrators during a building program. The firm is active in many professional educational associations, including the National and Connecticut Associations of Independent Schools (NAIS and CAIS), The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), and the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC). Our work has won commendation from both educational and architectural associations. The staff at SLAM is proud of its long history of providing design excellence and innovative solutions to create attractive, state-of-the-art educational environments.

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION CLIENTS

Archmere Academy
Avon Old Farms School
The Bolles School
Canterbury School
Cape Cod Academy
Chase Collegiate School
Choate Rosemary Hall
Connecticut Junior Republic
Cushing Academy
Episcopal Academy
Escola Graduada de São Paulo
The Ethel Walker School
Far Hills Country Day School
Fay School
The Forman School
Friends Academy
The Green Vale School
Greenwich Academy
Greenwich Country Day School
The Gunnery
Holy Spirit Prep School
Hopkins School

The Hotchkiss School
Hyde School
The Independent Day School
Indian Mountain School
Kent School
Kimball Union Academy
King School
Kingswood-Oxford School
The Lexington School
The Loomis Chaffee School
Louisville Collegiate School
Marist School
Middlesex School
Millbrook School
Miss Hall's School
The New School
Oregon Episcopal School
The Out-of-Door Academy
The Oxford Academy
Phillips Exeter Academy
Pine Crest School
The Pingry School

Portledge School
Red Bank Catholic High School
Renbrook School
Rippowam Cisquea School
Rocky Hill School
The Roxbury Latin School
Rumsey Hall School
Salisbury School
St. Andrew's School
St. Luke's School
St. Timothy's School
South Kent School
The Stanwich School
Suffield Academy
Tuxedo Park School
Ursuline Academy
Vermont Academy
Village School of Naples
The Westminster Schools
Whitby School
The Williston Northampton School
Winchester Thurston School