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AUGUST 2005

## Educational Interiors Showcase

Highlighting award-winning and  
other outstanding designs

2008 OUTSTANDING DESIGNS  
INTERIOR RENOVATION

Horace Mann School, Lower Division Campus  
Riverdale, New York

**Firm:** Linda Yowell Architect and James Wagman Architect LLC

**Client:** Horace Mann School; Steven Tobolsky, Head of Lower Division

**Area of project entry category:** 14,800 sq. ft.  
**Completion:** April 2003

Renovations to the Lower Division campus of the Horace Mann School presented the challenge of bringing organization and updated technology to a 90-year-old campus of interconnected buildings. The educational program, developed in collaboration with a committee of teachers and administrators, included a library and multimedia center, studio-arts center, technology center and new cluster of first-grade classrooms.

Infused with natural light and tree-top views, each first-grade classroom has a curved, upholstered window seat and an open, carpeted area for circle reading and meeting time. Patterned glass sliding doors separate individual auxiliary classrooms, with a mini-kitchen and skylight, from each main classroom. The first grades, formerly scattered over two floors, now surround a skylighted

gathering/entrance area. This unique organization is an innovative design model for lower school teaching, allowing open-classroom collaboration and flexibility with small-class spaces.

The art center features three light-splashed studios for painting, sculpture, ceramics and publishing, and a central gallery for student work. The technology center includes a conference space and glass-enclosed office overlooking two "smart" classrooms.

In the Lower School library and multimedia center, window seats, playful upholstery and furniture, warm indirect light, and a circulation desk with book display define a variety of spaces for reading, meeting, study and informal teaching. ▲

PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHAEL MORAN PHOTOGRAPHY



First-grade hallway



Technology center (After)



Classroom (Before)



First grade with auxiliary classroom



Library