RECLAIMING COMMUNITY BY
REVITALIZING BRUTALIST STRUCTURES:
MARIE H. REED COMMUNITY
LEARNING CENTER

JENINE KOTOB, QUINN EVANS ARCHITECTS
KATIE LUNDGREN, D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ASSOCIATION FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS:
BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION
APRIL 13, 2018
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Transforming a Brutalist structure into a 21st Century Learning Environment.
- How to have a successful community engagement process.
- How co-location of a school and public services can help your community.
- Embracing history of your site in the form of art.
THE BIG QUESTION:
ET TU, BRUTALISM?
M.R. LEARNING CENTER
BRUTALIST STRUCTURES
TRANSFORMATIONS
EDUCATION
WHATS NEXT?
LEADERS OF CHANGE
MARIE H. REED CLC

2015

DC Dep’t of General Services
DC Public Schools
DC Dep’t Parks and Recreation
Community of Hope
Children’s National
United Planning Organization
THE BEGINNING
THREE SCHOOLS

WILSON SCHOOL
1891

MORGAN SCHOOL
1901

ADAMS SCHOOL
1930
BROWN V. BOARD - 1954
A NEW VISION - 1968
“We needed to have a community school; it was out of control. One snowy day, we met [a director from the DC school board] at her office. She was surprised that we showed up that morning because it was snowing so bad. She said, ‘You folks coming down here in this weather?’ So Ms. French said, ‘We’re here on behalf of our school.’ Then she said, ‘All right have a seat.’ And we talked . . . that was beginning of it right there.”

—Ed Jackson
ADAMS MORGAN - 70's
1970s Pedagogy

- Open-Plan School Design
- Self-guided Learning
- Increased student–teacher interaction
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WHATS NEXT?
Brutalism is an architectural style featuring bold, structurally innovative forms that use raw concrete as their primary material. At once recognizable for their massing and materiality, Brutalist buildings often reveal the means of their construction through unfinished surfaces that bear the imprints of the molds that shaped them.
BRUTALIST ORIGINS

- Béton brut = concrete that is raw or unfinished
- “Machine for Living,” Le Corbusier, Unité d’Habitation, Marseilles, 1952
- Split off Modernism, post-war affordability

Memorability as an Image
Clear exhibition of structure
Valuation of materials for their inherent qualities ‘as found.’

MARIE REED - 2015
Unwelcoming entries that do not clearly identify different tenant groups: School, Recreation, Clinic.

Views of Washington Monument.

Harsh, steep, unusable play space.
EXISTING CONDITIONS

LEGEND
- Circle Academic
- Recreation Ctr, Aquatic Ctr, & Children’s Pool
- Health Center and Children’s Hospital Clinic
- School Auditorium
- Parking/Support
- Early Head Start

- School Entries
- DPR Entries
- Cline Entry
- Daycare Entry

No trash disposal area
Desirable shared spaces
Inefficient parking
Sharp and harsh light
Lack of visual access to community
Unique skylight feature
DEMO LISH OR SAVE?

SCHEME A: NEW BUILDING

SCHEME B: REHABILITATION AND REUSE
PROS VS. CONS

• Urban Place-Making
  • Public space
  • Recreation Center
• Learning Environment
  • Meets Educational Specifications
  • 21st Century educational facility
  • A place for the in-school partners
• Economics
  • Initial Cost
  • Life-cycle Cost
• Community Partners Environments
  • Community of Hope Clinic
  • UPO Daycare
  • Women and Infant Care Facility
• Environmental Stewardship
  • Construction impact
  • Sustainable and regenerative design
  • Embodied energy
COMMUNITY DRIVEN
COMMUNITY DRIVEN
MARIE REED, THE IDEA

Existing Structure w/ Barrel Vault Roof

New Learning Communities

New Skylights at Roof
1. Skylights with smart glass technology
2. Green Roof
3. New glazing replaces existing brick panels
4. Vertical fins on East/West facades
5. Metal scrim shading at new curtain wall
6. Stormwater Management bioretention areas
THE SITE

Section
A NEW PLACE

Kitchen & Cafeteria Infill @ Level 3

Recycling / Trash @ Level 1

Ramp Infill

Admin. Infill @ Level 3

West Side Addition

New Elev.

New Elev.

Kitchen & Cafeteria Infill @ Level 3

136,000 GSF
1977

153,600 GSF
2018
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TRANSFORMATIONS
EDUCATION
WHATS NEXT?
Eat healthy -

**By:**

Evelyn L. and Natalie E.

**healthy foods**

- Salad
- Carrots
- Tomatoes
- Potatoes
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
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TRANSFORMATIONS
EDUCATION
WHATS NEXT?
PARCC Results (Grades 3-5)

- **English Language Arts**
  - 2014: 18%
  - 2015: 35%
  - 2016: 39%

- **Math**
  - 2014: 33%
  - 2015: 42%
  - 2016: 46%
OPENING DAY
2018