



Mater Academy East Charter High School

Miami, Florida



CIVICA, LLC - Architecture and Urban Design

Design team:

Rolando Llanes, RA; Julio Guillen, Ivan Fajardo, Alejandro Diaz, Tomasz Modzelewski, Carlos Perez, Jose Valderrama, Rudy Castillo

Client:

990 Building, LLC; Alejandro Tamargo, Principal

Capacity:

550

Area:

34,000 sq. ft.

Total cost:

\$4.1 million

Cost/square foot:

\$120.58

Completion:

February 2008

Photographer:

Gaston De Cardenas



The Mater Academy East Charter High School is a 34,000-square-foot facility in the Little Havana neighborhood of Miami. The school was completed in February 2008, and houses 500 middle and high school students. The school is situated in a mixed-use neighborhood a few miles west of downtown Miami and anchors a corner of one of the city's east-west arteries.

The existing three-story office building, built in the mid-1950s, was renovated to include 19 classrooms, a media lab, administrative offices, food-prep area, cafeteria and a covered outdoor multi-use courtyard. In addition to the renovation of the existing building, a three-story, eight-classroom addition was added that includes a prominent and iconic stair tower.

The architectural solution to the building's north facade preserves and enhances the existing pattern of horizontal windows. The classroom addition on the south side of the building is clad in metal siding as a contrast to the otherwise conventional block and stucco exterior. The corner stair tower acts as the transition between the metal-clad addition and the masonry building.

