

Robert Luchetti Architects

Our approach to building involves what we see as a substantive and rigorous recognition of project conditions which include the many existing environmental, cultural and material contexts within which a project may exist. Our visual design process is technically based and thoroughly contemporary. The disciplined and imaginative use of light, spatial configuration, scale, proportion, color and natural materials are our fundamentals.

Our site and building design interest and experience includes projects for many different types of organizations and people: schools and universities, a large hospital complex, non-profit institutions and large corporations, small businesses and individual families.

Based on our longstanding work in environment behavior research, our practice centers philosophically on understanding the interaction between the people and their environment. Historical research benchmarks and experience have taught us that the environmental characteristics most important to people consist of coherence, complexity, legibility and mystery. Directly applying these sometimes seemingly contradictory concepts to building design provides the framework for our work.

We live in a time of extreme visual diversity. The real and virtual environment that we live in is tumultuous and ephemeral. Especially in the United States, rapid movement of all kinds has forever changed our experience and the spaces we live in. However, the architecture we respect the most is sedentary, consistent, urban and pedestrian. We work in a context of reconciling these contradictions on a project by project basis.

- Light is the most important element of building design
- Buildings that enhance and fit naturally into their surroundings by size, color, materials, proportions and technical expression
- Projects that provide a clear visual experience that consciously effects how we feel
- Buildings that are usually wider than they are tall that one can easily walk up to the top of
- Accurate and skillful historic renovation in coexistence with new and contemporary spaces, materials and techniques
- Being able to see how a building is made and stands up is important
- Buildings that define open spaces rather than sit in them
- Natural materials seen as such
- Spaces and surfaces that are easy to maintain
- Materials that last a long time
- Enveloping layers that make up the inside to outside form of a building
- Knowing what directions and at what times a building faces the sun and wind
- Buildings that don't leak that can expand and contract as outside temperatures change
- Warm colors and materials
- Designing every space as a setting to support predictable human activities
- Buildings composed of structural, technical and material systems each with their own rules and characteristics

Robert Luchetti Architects

- 2004 *Donnelly Reid Residence* Bedford, Massachusetts
- 2003 *Coolidge Estate Master Plan and Site Development* Marion, Massachusetts
- 2002 *Wainwright Bank and Trust Company* Boston, Massachusetts
- 2001 *Fremantle Residence* Madison, Connecticut
Higbie Residence Falmouth, Massachusetts
- 2000 *Berliner Residence* Cambridge, Massachusetts
Competition for the Central California History Museum Fresno, California
United Cerebral Palsy of Boston Master Plan Boston, Massachusetts
- 1998 *Somerville Theater* Somerville, Massachusetts
Hagemann Estate Master Plan and Site Development Marion, Massachusetts
- 1997 *Genasci-Smith Residence* Brookline, Massachusetts
Hendrix Residence Brookline, Massachusetts
- 1995 *Private Residence* Coyote Valley, Middletown, California
St. Michael's Country Day School Arts and Athletic Center Newport, Rhode Island
St. Michael's Country Day School Master Plan Newport, Rhode Island
- 1994 *Friend's Hospital Master Plan* Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 1990 *Beinart Residence* Cambridge, Massachusetts
Private Residence Sausalito, California
- 1988 *Sacred Heart Church* Groton, Massachusetts
- 1987 *General Cinema* Prototypes throughout the United States



Designed for privacy, sunlight, wind and views of the San Francisco Bay

This award-winning and widely published Modernist design capitalizes on a dramatic view of the Bay Bridge and the San Francisco skyline. The central two-story living area features tapered steel columns, exposed roof trusses, large expanses of glass, custom steel and glass furniture, and a stone fireplace.







Opening up and renovating an 1890's ocean front Arts and Crafts summer house

This 1890s Arts and Crafts summer cottage is located on waterfront property on a remarkable bay. The renovation and winterization of the old house was comprehensive and some ceilings were cut open to capitalize on views and to open up the space. A new custom kitchen was added and the entire house benefits from extensive low voltage lighting. Historically accurate custom moldings reinforce the original detailing.





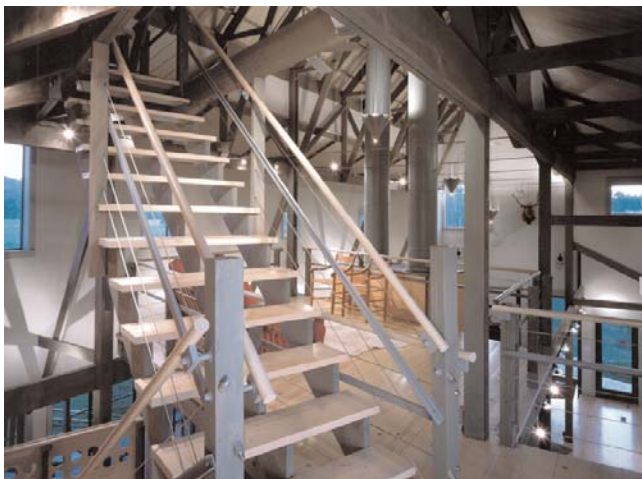
Private Residence

Coyote Valley, Middletown, California 1995



Recreate the simplicity and beauty of vernacular California barns for a family retreat

The site for this new house is a 600-acre plateau surrounded by California ranch land and distant hills. The simplicity and beauty of vernacular California barns served as an inspiration for the design's form, materials and construction technique. The thirtyfoot high living room is detailed with exposed wood structure and on the south side of the house a linear sundeck projects out over the hillside, extending the living space into the landscape.





Higbie Residence
Falmouth, Massachusetts 2001



The clients desired a house that took best advantage of the natural features of the Cape Cod site and one that explored the New England vernacular. The design was arranged around outdoor spaces that are an integral part of the spatial experience. The composition was divided into two principal volumes arranged perpendicularly around a shared open deck.





A contemporary home on Cape Cod wrapped around views of a pond and bay





Renovation of Longfellow's historic gardener's house

Located in Longfellow Park in Cambridge, on historic Brattle Street, this 1784 post and beam residence was originally part of the estate belonging to the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The traditional interior was restored and carefully modified to include open dining areas, a modern kitchen, low-voltage lighting, and built-in shelving to house the owner's extensive collection of African tribal art.







Breaking open a Cambridge workers cottage

A small workers cottage on a tight Cambridge lot was radically transformed into one large space overlooked by a generous sleeping loft, with the new bathroom articulated as a translucent volume suspended in the space. A long shed dormer, new aluminum store-front glazing at the gable ends and new skylights were added to the structure, which was clad in corrugated steel.





Open up a confusing and cramped Arts and Crafts floor plan

The focus of family life in this large house is the spacious, modern kitchen with a sitting area. New black laboratory countertops and painted wood cabinets with clean lines and custom pulls complement this Arts and Crafts style home from the early twentieth century. The center of the house was opened up to the third floor with a skylight that illuminates the main stairwell and entrance during the daytime.





Bring light into a dark Brookline 1930's colonial revival house

This renovation for an international couple introduced bright and open spaces to a 1930s stucco house with a gambrel roof. A sequence of new spaces on the ground floor reoriented the house around an enlarged kitchen/family area. An enclosed porch extends the kitchen towards the garden and leads to a new outdoor deck. The style and materials of the design are both contemporary and sensitive to the character of the existing colonial revival house.





A contemporary Arts and Crafts house with a formal front and private back opened up to a stream and conservation land

The project consisted of replacing an existing building with a new three-bedroom home. Clad in cedar siding and shingles, the new house is placed in conformance with strict Town conservation requirements. The front two story street side fits into the typical suburban neighborhood scale with hip roof and dormer gables. The wide and very private rear of the house is opened up to the south facing a stream and conservation land. A three-sided courtyard off of the living room and a two story screened sun porch off of the kitchen and family room at the center are flanked at either end by a private study and the workshop garage.

Somerville Theater

Somerville, Massachusetts 1998



Renovation of an historic building with the addition of four new movie theatres

This major renovation required the addition of new structural, mechanical and electrical systems, new fire exits as well as a complete historic renovation of the theater lobby and building exterior. Also included were a new street level marquee, lobby concession stands, and a sculptural stairway. A ground floor café, upper level professional offices and four movie theatres combine with the original 1200 seat performing arts theater to provide vital mixed-use urban activity both day and night. Today the renovated project serves as the centerpiece of a revitalized Davis Square.



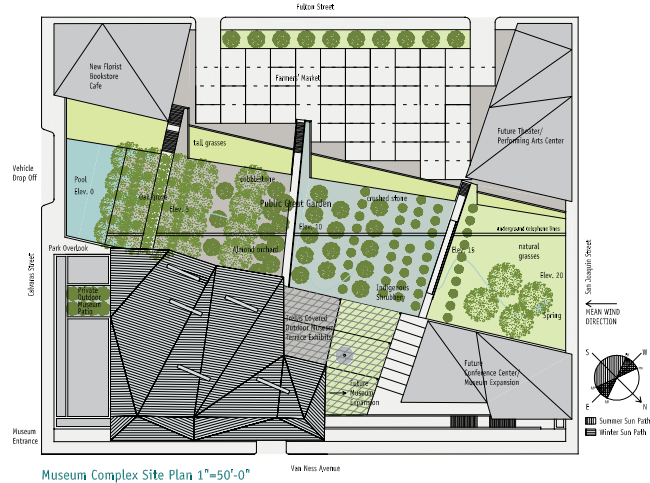




Expansion into two adjacent six-story brick and beam buildings

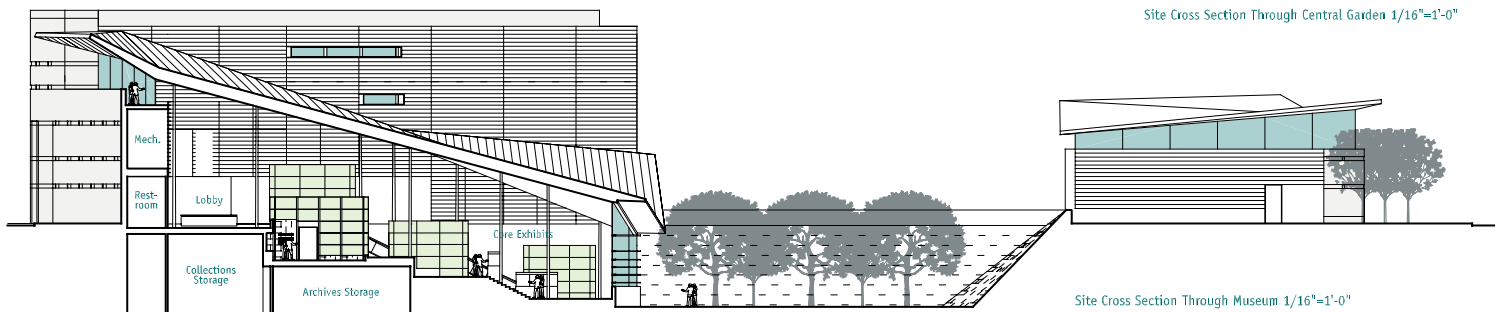
Complete architectural and interior design was provided for the expansion of the Bank into two adjacent historically significant six-story brick and beam buildings in downtown Boston. Originally built in the 1880's, the building facades were renovated by the Archdiocese of Boston in the 1930's in an Art Deco style. The second building, which will continue to house a street level chapel, will be developed as leased office space.

Competition for the Central California History Museum Fresno, California 2000

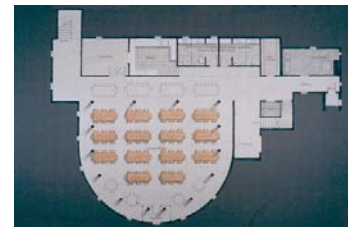


Competition semi-finalist for the Central California History Museum

Robert Luchetti Architects were semifinalists in this 2000 competition for the Central California History Museum. The museum was designed to reinforce the experience of descending into the Great Central Valley: a forest of slender columns supports a folded and angular roof structure that slopes down the hillside paralleling one's descent. The site is bound by thick stone walls that create a large scale urban edge and a container for the Central Garden. Functioning as a public park, the garden uses Xeriscape design to create landscapes of indigenous plantings, drought resistant vegetation, pavers and stone gravel.

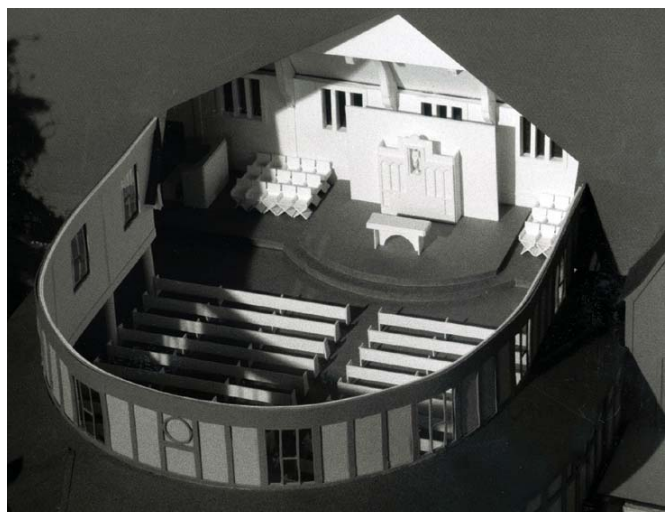
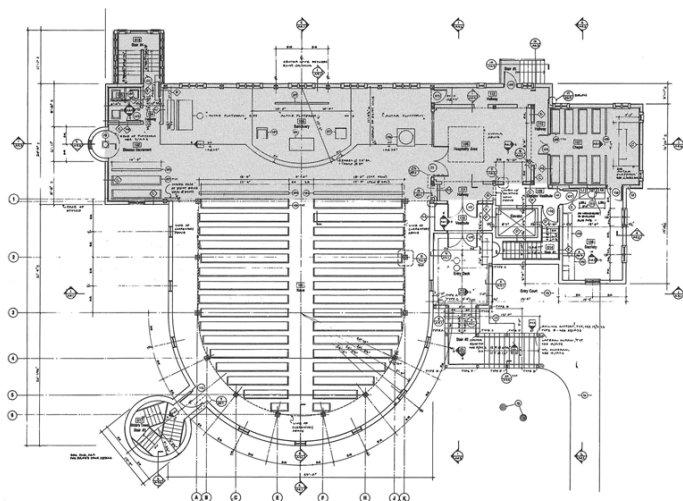


Sacred Heart Church
Groton, Massachusetts 1988



**Renovate and double the capacity
of an historic Tudor Revival church**

The 5,000-square-foot addition to Henry Vaughn's original Tudor Revival design reoriented the original church to create a new centralized worship space. Great care was taken to respect and restore the small scale and intimate character of the original design both on the interior and exterior of the structure. The renovation of the original steeple and nave, and the restoration of leaded glass windows preserved the historic quality of the structure.



St. Michael's Country Day School Arts & Athletic Center
Newport, Rhode Island 1995



A very economical structure clad with materials that are sympathetic to the neighborhood and other campus buildings

The new building was sited to create the final side of the open quadrangle comprised of existing historic campus buildings, and was cut into the site to minimize the visible scale. The very economical structure is based upon a pre-manufactured industrial steel building that is clad with materials that match the other campus buildings. The exterior materials include heavy timber posts and beams as well as a stucco finish. Deep overhangs create a covered walkway along the edge of the quadrangle.



General Cinema

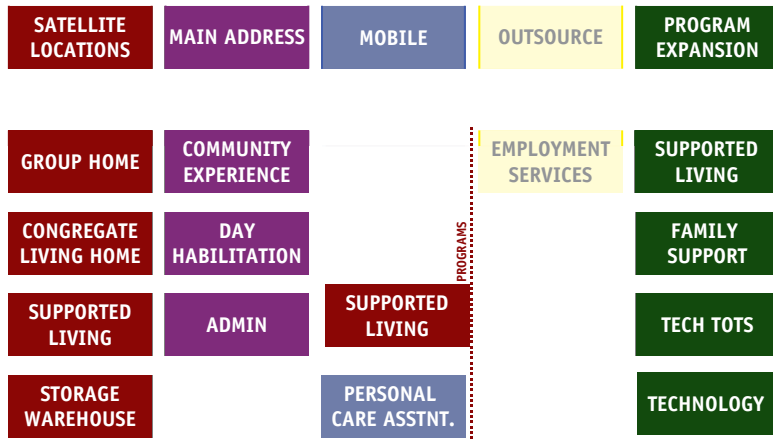
Prototypes throughout the United States 1987-1997



Design guidelines and prototypes used in over 300 hundred new and renovated movie theatres

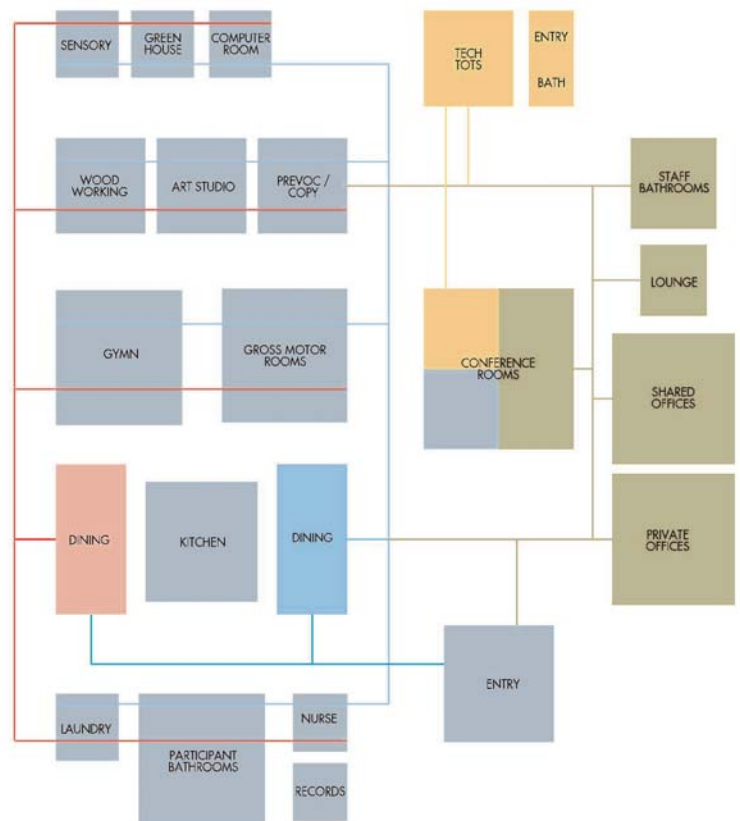
Robert Luchetti Associates served as the lead design architect for General Cinema for over 200 new buildings and renovation projects. The designs focused on improvements in patron experience and concession retailing. The sequence from the patron's car to their seat was carefully orchestrated to create a completely theatrical experience to immerse the patron in the aura of the film. The illumination of the buildings established a strong, entertaining theatrical presence on the exterior, while light levels inside were carefully controlled to become dimmer as one approached one's seat. Several innovations that were introduced by RLA have become standard in cinema design- among them an ergonomic approach to Concession design and the use of Title Art.





Regional offices and day clinics for the severely handicapped

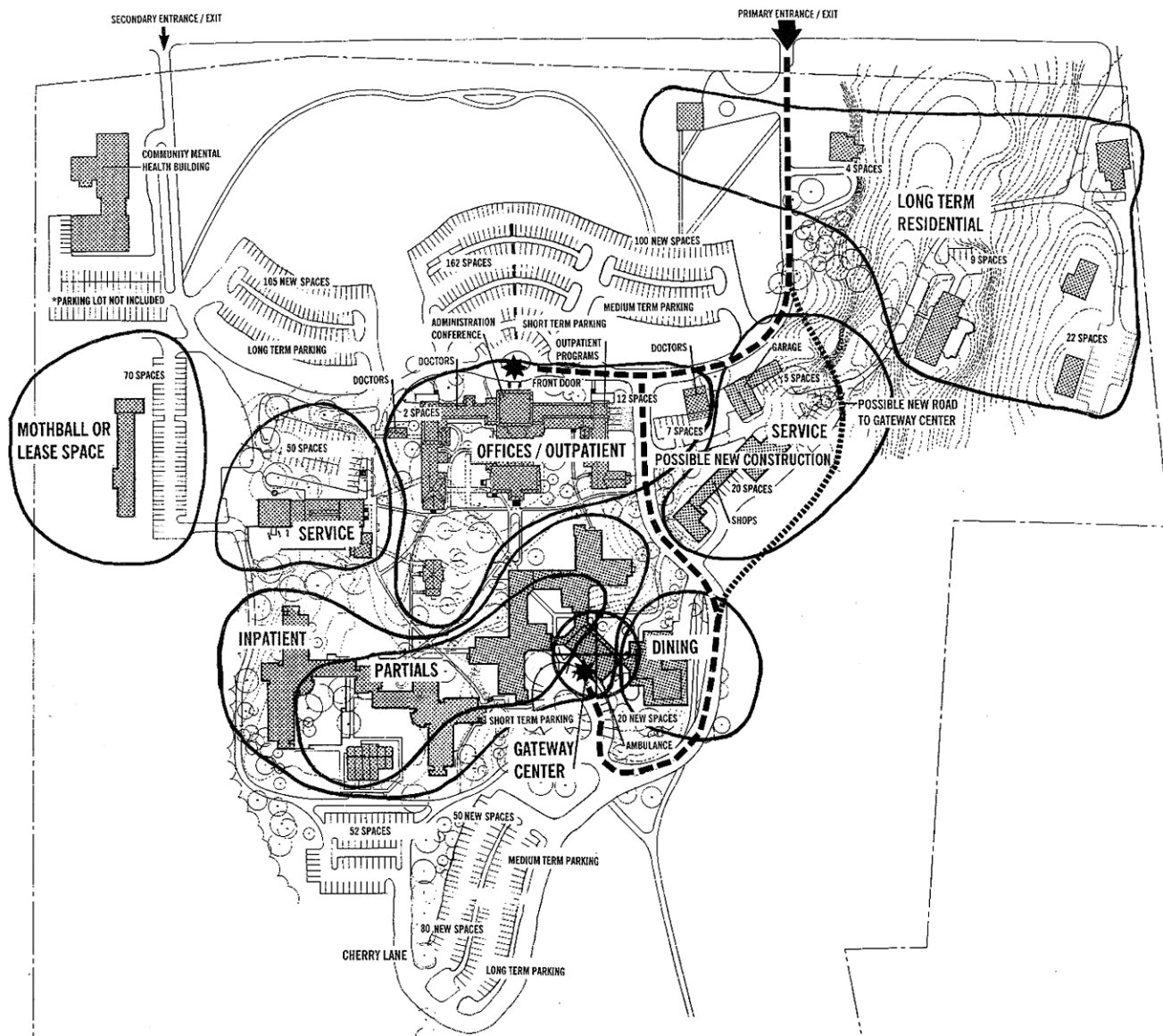
UCP Boston serves day, residential and in-home treatment and counseling programs for adults with a wide variety of physical and mental disabilities and their families. A master plan for the improvement and consolidation of three currently dispersed functions of regional administrative offices, a "Day-Hab" and "Community Experience" day programs, was developed to address the implications of leasing, renovation and new construction options in five target towns in the inner belt Boston area.



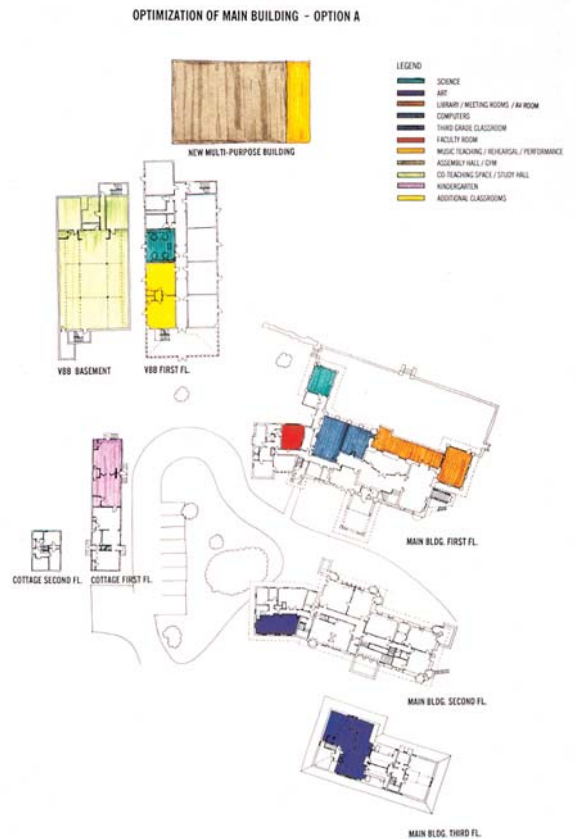
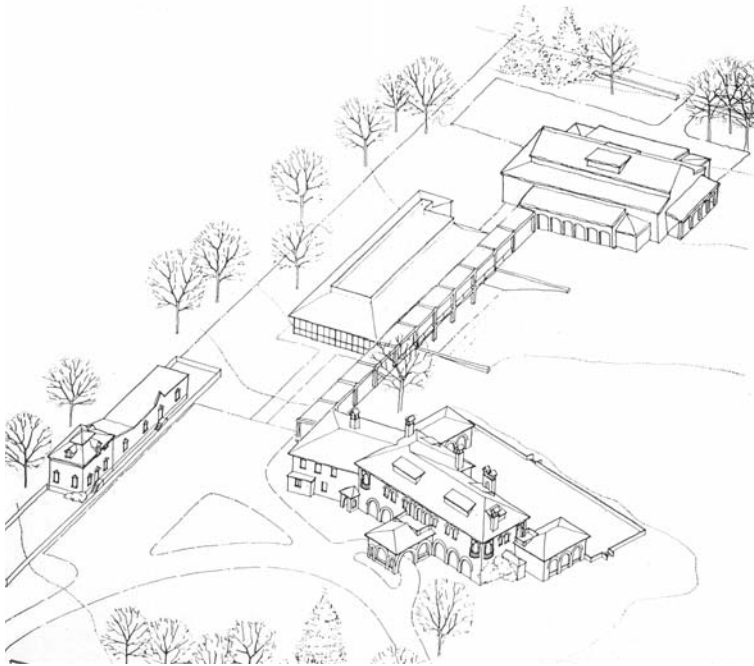
Master planning for a residential psychiatric hospital's transition to outpatient care

Located in Northern Philadelphia on a park-like site, Friend's Hospital is one of the oldest psychiatric hospitals in the United States. In addition to assessing the condition of all 300,000 square feet in fifteen different buildings, this Master Plan was undertaken to accommodate the transition from primary inpatient care to outpatient functions mandated by HMOs. The Master Plan identified the need for a new "Urgi-Center" registration and admissions facility as well as the mothballing of several unneeded buildings.

FRIENDS
HOSPITAL



St. Michael's Country Day School Master Plan
Newport, Rhode Island 1995



**Planning for school growth on
an historic Newport residential estate**

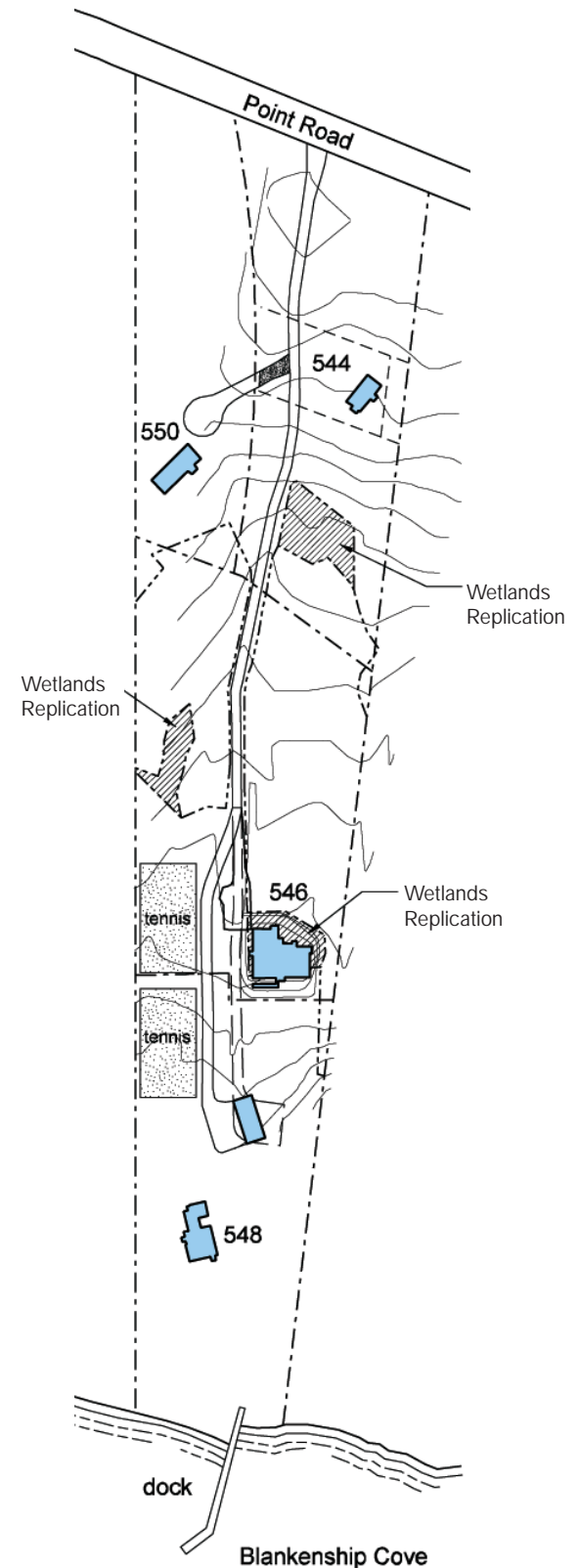
Robert Luchetti Architects was commissioned to assess the condition and use of school buildings and their site and to recommend ways of renovating and adding to their facility. The Master Plan addressed the historical sensitivity of both the existing buildings and the landscape of the campus while recognizing the incipient modernity that the significant architect of the main school building, Irving Gill, expounded.





Four buildings were moved to create four separately owned parcels out of one large lot

This historic nine acre waterfront site with a cluster of four houses and a barn needed to be subdivided into four separate lots to accommodate the new ownership, the fourth generation family descendants of the original inhabitants. Four buildings were physically relocated, wetlands were reclaimed, landscaping was completed, utilities were placed underground and lot lines were reconfigured to create four separately owned houses and parcels.





Reconfiguration of a large historic waterfront family estate to meet the current generations need for separate ownership and shared waterfront access.

This large 40 acre waterfront family estate was originally planned and designed by Frederick Law Olmsted who is recognized as the founder of American landscape architecture and the nation's foremost park maker. The prominent American architect, Charles A. Coolidge, designed the major original shingle style houses and barn. The current owners of the property, the fourth generation descendants of C. Coolidge, retained us to plan the subdivision of the land and to move three buildings to allow them to individually own and maintain separate waterfront lots.

