



# FINAL WALKTHRU

## WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL WASHINGTON, D.C.



PHOTOS BY ROBERT CREAMER

**Owner:**  
District of Columbia Department  
of General Services

**PM:**  
DCPEP Joint Venture, McKissack &  
McKissack/Brailsford & Dunlavey

**Design Build Team:**  
GCS-SIGAL  
cox graae + spack architects  
with Fanning Howey





*A dramatic central atrium and a rainwater harvesting system to support irrigation are among the features of the recently modernized Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, DC.*

The modernization of Woodrow Wilson High School, built in 1935 and accorded historic landmark status during the project’s Design Phase, combined renovation and adaptive reuse of 305,286 square feet of existing space plus 71,221 square feet of new construction. With a final construction contract value of \$97.593 million, the 14-month project was completed in time for the 2011–‘12 school year and 75th anniversary celebration.

Management of the owner’s contingency budget resulted in a balance of \$600,000. Major renovations included conversions of the existing gym into a performing arts center, and of the existing auditorium into a new athletic center with tunnel stadium access, new main entrance, floor-to-ceiling renovation of classroom spaces in the core four-story academic building, and creative expansion of the school’s footprint. Project scope included construction of a central atrium with dramatic skylight roof, seating, and landscaping that transformed an unused outdoor courtyard into a focal point for students and faculty en route to a renovated cafeteria. For the new 850-seat visual and performing arts center, original wood auditorium seats were restored and reinstalled, and theater, music, dance and art spaces added.

Sustainability features include a green roof, rainwater harvesting system to supply water for irrigation and toilets, permeable paving and high-performance HVAC and lighting systems. Six new elevators made the facility fully ADA accessible; new campus-wide instruction and security technology are state-of-the-art. »