Design for K–12
Educational institutions are complex communities that resonate with BBB’s inquisitive culture. Our planning and design for educational institutions are based on a commitment to understanding mission and responding to the unique physical, historical, and cultural context of each campus. Our academic projects are attentive to the particularities of program, while also creative and flexible to accommodate evolving pedagogies and the dynamics of campus life.
Clients
Chelsea Vocational High School
Children's Village
Columbia University
Darien Elementary School Expansion
District of Columbia Public Schools
The Heschel School
New York City Historic Public Schools
New York City School Construction Authority
Old Boys High School
Olmsted School
Phillips Academy, Andover
Riverdale Country School
Saint Patrick's School
Saint Peter's Preparatory School
Summit School
Village Academy
Woodhaven Schools
Xavier High School

Riverdale Country School
Hackett Hall
Bronx, NY

Riverdale Country School
Student Center
Bronx, NY

Riverdale Country School
Master Plan
Bronx, NY

Saint Peter's Preparatory School
Moriarty Science Center
Jersey City, NJ

Saint Peter's Preparatory School
Master Plan
Jersey City, NJ

The School at Columbia University
& Faculty Residence
New York, NY

Xavier High School
New York, NY

Darien Elementary School Expansion
Darien, CT

Phillips Academy
Campus Master Plan
Andover, MA

Old Boys High School
Brooklyn, NY

PS 224
Brooklyn, NY
BBB’s sensitive renovation and addition to the historic Hackett Hall provides a modern and efficient academic facility, complete with an expanded, state-of-the-art library and flexible classrooms.

Hackett Hall was originally designed in the 1920s by McKim Mead & White as a dormitory for The Riverdale Country School. Over the years, it was modified many times to create classrooms, a library, and support spaces. BBB was commissioned to design a comprehensive renovation to update and reconfigure the building into a cohesive and energy-efficient academic building. A double height reading room in the expanded library is the main spatial feature of the project, and its contemporary design is in marked contrast to the rustic masonry on the exterior. Offices, conference rooms and classrooms, including one with moveable acoustical partitions for flexibility, are distributed throughout the four floors. An addition to the top of the building, which incorporates former gable roof details into the interior, houses faculty offices, a lounge and a terrace.

Location: Bronx, NY
Completed: 2009
Construction Cost: $5.2 million
Riverdale Country School
Student Center

BBB’s design for a new Student Center at one of New York City’s premier independent school creates additional student facilities that feature gracious panoramic views of the campus and Van Cortlandt Park.

BBB designed an expanded student center on the roof of the Riverdale Country School’s existing gymnasium. The addition is spanned by an 8-foot-deep exposed truss that provides a column-free space over the gym below, while continuous windows offer panoramic views to the north and east, and glass doors provide access to a deep terrace that overlooks the football field. The addition seats up to 600 students for use as a cafeteria or assembly hall, with three new multi-purpose rooms that feature moveable acoustical partitions that can divide the space into two larger rooms if needed. New bathrooms, lockers, an interior connection to the adjacent building, and a new servery system were also part of the expansion.

Location Bronx, NY
Size 19,800 SF
Completed 2006
Construction Cost $5.3 million
Riverdale Country School Master Plan

Riverdale Country School’s Upper Campus has been transformed over a 20 year period through the implementation of BBB’s master plan and the renovation of nine academic buildings.

The Riverdale Country School’s Upper Campus enjoys a beautiful, sloping site with mature trees, dramatic rock outcroppings and historic buildings. The site is designated a “Special Natural Area District,” requiring substantial documentation and public hearing for any changes. BBB’s Master Plan, which addressed the school’s need for additional playing fields and a new building site, included a careful architectural, financial, and land planning study resulting in the decision to move a 19th-century, Second Empire style, stone bearing-wall house. The Master Plan also identified numerous facilities, many of which BBB implemented, including a theater for performing arts; an art and music building; a science building; an admissions and administrative office building; renovation of the gymnasium and classroom buildings; and reorganized roads, walkways, plazas, landscaping and open spaces.

Location: Bronx, NY
Size: 80 acres
Completed: 2000
Saint Peter's Preparatory School
Moriarty Science Center

The centerpiece of BBB's master plan for Saint Peter's Preparatory School is the conversion of an existing campus building into the Moriarty Science Center, a new state-of-the-art science education facility.

BBB has converted the 45-year old Burke Hall at Saint Peter's Preparatory School into the Moriarty Science Center, heralding a new era of scientific education at the school. Exterior modifications include the creation of a new primary entry to the school, greater visibility on the street level, and enlarged windows on the second and third floor to allow for more natural light and ventilation into classrooms and labs. Interior modifications include the addition of a school information center, nine science laboratories and classrooms as well as academic and administrative offices.

Location: Jersey City, NJ
Size: 35,000 SF
Completed: 2012
Saint Peter’s Preparatory School
Master Plan

BBB’s programming, building assessment, and space utilization studies for Saint Peter’s Preparatory School have been followed by a series of major capital improvements throughout the multi-building campus.

Saint Peter’s Preparatory School is a Jesuit high school situated on a multi-block site in the Paulus Hook historical district of Jersey City. In 2008, BBB produced a master plan — the first ever in the school’s 140-year history — that included reorganizing programmatic functions and circulation, creating a single, secure entrance to the campus, and identifying new development possibilities. BBB has completed the renovation of Moriarty Science Center, the O’Keefe Commons dining and study facility, and the first two phases of the Hogan and Moriarty Halls administrative and classroom buildings. The design of a new athletic field house is currently underway.

Location Jersey City, NJ
Size 47,000 SF (3 buildings)
Completed 2008
The School at Columbia University & Faculty Residence

BBB’s design for a new mixed-use building at Columbia University creates a home for a progressive K-8 school, as well as premier faculty housing and ground floor retail.

The School at Columbia University & Faculty Residence is a 12-story building on the corner of West 110th Street and Broadway, partially built over an existing bank. The facility houses a K-8 independent school administered by Columbia, with an innovative laboratory curriculum and a teaching philosophy that stresses a collaborative approach to learning. Building features include clustered teaching areas with seminar seating and moveable walls, and a 2-story gymnasium, cafeteria, and play roof. The faculty housing consists of 27 spacious apartments for Columbia’s most senior faculty and includes both 3- and 4-bedroom units, many with terraces. The vertical stacking of the three programs — retail, education, and housing — is expressed in the façade design. Stone horizontal banding reflects the different uses, while the columns and windows unite the building vertically.

Location: New York, NY
Size: 770,000 SF
Competed: 2003
Construction Cost: $79 million
BBB's master plan for Xavier High School details a multi-phase campaign of capital improvements and expansion to meet the growing requirements of the school and its students.

The master plan and expansion began with programming interviews with Xavier administration, faculty, students, and parents to gain insight into the school's environment, functional needs, and education goals. BBB concurrently conducted a code review and analysis of the existing facilities. This research resulted in a vision for the Xavier campus that is grounded in the past and articulated in the form of a projected 10-year master plan, which will guide a multi-phase campaign of capital improvements for the school's facilities and future educational curriculum growth. BBB designed a 6-story expansion that addresses programmatic needs for classroom and academic space. The new addition accommodates a multi-purpose/gym/theater facility and a significant musical education program that includes large acoustically appropriate classrooms, practice rooms, and control rooms with dedicated technology to support the music program. The balance of the building includes classrooms of varied sizes and student common areas for educational collaboration and socialization, critical to well-balanced student development.

Location: New York, NY
Size: 5 buildings and the Church of Saint Francis Xavier
Completed: 2017 (master plan); 2018 (Fernandez-Dumisco Hall)
Darien Elementary School Expansion

Responding to a dramatic increase in the local school-age population, BBB completed major additions for the five elementary schools in Darien, CT.

Each addition at five elementary schools is unique and customized to the particular site constraints and architectural style of the existing facility. At each school separate bus and auto drop-offs were created, while preserving existing playing fields. A complex interactive process between local citizens and the architectural team was devised to assure public consensus and timely approvals in a fast-track sequence. All schools underwent design, construction document preparation and construction simultaneously in order to open on time for the school year and within budget.

Location  Darien, CT
Size  80,000 SF (5 schools)
Completed  1996
Construction Cost  $20 million
Phillips Academy
Campus Master Plan

BBB’s comprehensive campus master plan for Phillips Academy in Andover, a residential secondary school in New England with a strong tradition of academic excellence and a foundation in the liberal arts, updates a historic campus for 21st-century needs.

Grounded in sustainable principles, the master plan provides a framework for the physical development of the campus, preserving its history while planning for the future. The master plan provides a series of specific proposals that prioritize adaptive reuse of existing structures with strategic new construction complemented by landscape interventions and a campus-wide parking strategy. The planning process included extensive outreach to the full campus community, including an open house attended by students, staff, and faculty.

Location Andover, MA
Size 700 acres
Completed Targeted 2026
Old Boys High School

BBB’s comprehensive restoration of a Romanesque Revival style school and New York City landmark, revitalized a historic Brooklyn high school.

All the exterior elements, including a rich brick facade, terra cotta, pressed metal, clay tile, copper roofs, and wood windows and doors, were either restored or replicated. Landscaping included restoration of the original wrought-iron fence, installation of new lighting, and ramps for handicapped accessibility. This project received the 1996 Tucker Award for excellence from the Building Stone Institute.

Client: New York City School Construction Authority
Location: Brooklyn, NY
Size: 73,000 SF

Public School 224

Upgrade and restoration of the original 1930 building, modernization of a 1961 addition, and design of a new addition for primary grade classrooms and community spaces, create one unified educational complex.

The modernization of the existing buildings included classroom conversions and new lighting. The project also included the replacement of fire alarm, security, intercommunication, and mechanical venting systems. The main entrance was fully redesigned for more prominence and to provide a higher level of security control. A new kitchen and lunchroom were included to accommodate the school’s expanded enrollment. The new addition comprises lower-level classrooms (K–4), computer rooms, science and art classrooms, and administrative offices. A fully-enclosed early childhood playground provides a controlled environment for the students. The site was redesigned, with new ball courts, play areas and planting.

Client: New York City School Construction Authority
Location: Brooklyn, NY
Size: 83,000 SF (renovation), 17,000 SF (new construction)
Construction Cost: $71 million
Beyer Blinder Belle was founded in 1968, in the wake of the urban renewal movement in the United States, when the social fabric of cities, communities, and buildings was compromised by the prevailing attitudes about planning and architecture. We pioneered and defined a different approach to the design of the built environment that focused on architecture empowering people—their interaction with each other on streets and in neighborhoods, their pleasure in moving through the city, and their connections to the surrounding physical fabric.

This mission has guided us for more than four decades and has shaped a broad and award-winning practice—now 195 professionals in New York City and Washington, DC engaged in architecture, planning, and interiors. A persistent exploration of historic, cultural and civic meaning guides our work, while our design is contemporary and reflects the materials and technology of today.

Planning, restoration and the design of new buildings are the fundamental underpinnings of our practice. Many of our projects involve the stewardship of historic buildings in sensitive urban sites—the work for which we have become best recognized. Our deep sense of identity and evolving perspectives on design have guided our practice in new construction as well as master planning and urban design. With our clients and friends, we continue the dialogue.

Our areas of specialization include: Campus Planning; Design for Higher Education; Design & Planning for K-12; Government; Historic Preservation; Hospitality & Retail; Interiors; Mixed-Use; Museums & Institutions; Office; Parks, Gardens & Recreation; Performing Arts; Planning & Urban Design; Residential; Sacred; and Transportation.