



PRESS RELEASE

April 21, 2009

Brooklyn, NY

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Poly Prep's Park Slope Lower School—First LEED-Certified School Building in New York City—Also Wins Prestigious Moses Award for Outstanding Historic Preservation

Brooklyn, NY—April 21, 2009. Last night, at The Cathedral Church of Saint John The Divine in New York City, Poly Prep Country Day School received the prestigious Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award from The New York Landmarks Conservancy. This award signals Poly Prep's commitment to both environmental stewardship and historic preservation. The Moses Awards are the Conservancy's highest honor for outstanding preservation and recognize those who restore the beauty and utility of the city's great architecture. [\[Photographs available upon request.\]](#)

Poly Prep received the Moses award for the outstanding renovation of—and modern addition to—its Park Slope Lower School, the first LEED-Certified school building in New York City, and the first LEED-Certified primary school building in New York State. Poly Prep was also the only school to receive a Moses Award this year, and the only awardee that both renovated and added to an existing historic structure.

Poly Prep completed its award-winning renovations of the historic Hulbert Mansions (Prospect Park West at First Street), which house its Lower School, in 2008. Platt Byard Dovell White (Samuel G. White and Serena Losonczy, Administrative Principal and Project Manager, respectively) were the architects. R.C. Dolner (Anthony Dolce, Managing Partner) was the project's construction firm.

Built in 1889 for Henry Hulbert and his family, Poly Prep's grand paired mansions are the last surviving example of the "Romanesque Revival" style designed by Montrose Morris in Park Slope.

Consisting of exuberantly carved white limestone, complete with turrets, grand staircases, and stained glass windows, the Hulbert mansions were used by the Brooklyn Ethical Culture School starting in 1925. Poly Prep acquired the school and buildings for its Lower School (Nursery through 4th Grade) in 1995, augmenting its historic 25-acre Middle and Upper School campus in Dyker Heights, Brooklyn.

The mansions posed three principal challenges, for both Poly Prep and the architects. First, Poly Prep—founded in 1854 and an historical institution in its own right—wished to preserve the Hulbert mansions and comply with the requirements of the Park Slope Historic District.

Second, Poly Prep sought to demonstrate good environmental citizenship by minimizing the Lower School's carbon footprint and modeling sustainable practices for students, faculty, parents, and the Park Slope community.

Third, the project needed to accommodate expanded enrollment and a top-flight co-curricular program involving athletics, dance, art, and music.

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Platt Byard Dovell White’s design admirably meets all three challenges. Upon project completion, Poly Prep’s Lower School has nearly doubled its square footage with additional classrooms, and large indoor athletic, music, and dance spaces.

In addition, the modern addition harmonizes beautifully with the Morris-designed mansions and adjacent 19th century brownstones by using materials such as limestone, painted metal, and asymmetrical window bays and openings—all in a restrained palette.

Finally, Poly Prep’s Lower School became New York City’s first school building with LEED Certification (Silver) in New York City and the first LEED-Certified primary school in New York State. LEED Certification involves reducing a building’s carbon footprint and environmental impact.

For example, Poly Prep’s new Lower School has reduced its potable water consumption by 31%, used 22.5% recycled content in building materials, enjoys “green” landscaping using native plants and other features to minimize its “heat-island” effect, and diverted 308.4 tons of construction waste from landfill.

Steven Andersen, Associate Head of School for Advancement & Operations said: “Poly Prep is deeply grateful to the Landmarks Conservancy for recognizing Poly’s leadership in greening and historic preservation. We must also thank Sam White and Serena Losonczy at Platt Byard Dovell White for their superb design. Our Lower School now truly supports the amazing work of Launa Schweizer, our Lower School Head, and her faculty. It also enables the learning of our Lower School parents and children. Our gratitude also goes to Tony Dolce of R.C. Dolner, our contractors.”

David Harman, Poly’s Headmaster, commented: “The Moses Award is truly a distinct honor. Poly is proud. Actually, our current Moses continues a Poly Prep legacy for such recognition. Alumni Otis Pearsall ’49 and Board Chair Vincent Vigorita ’68, along with his wife, Patty, were all previous Moses award winners. Clearly, they mentored their former school well, contributing sage advice along the way. Moreover, I’m thrilled to discover that Poly parent Tim Wynter-Stoner P’09 was the architect for another current Moses awardee, the American Irish Historical Society.

Harman continued, “We must also thank the Poly Prep Trustees whose support of this project proved invaluable: Michael Correra, Susanna Furfaro, John Madden, Vic Samra, Grace Sawyer, Vincent Vigorita, and David Womack.

“Finally,” Harman added, “We are tremendously grateful to Poly parents Karen and Peter Goulandris whose extraordinary generosity, vision, wisdom, and attention to detail enabled us to complete this project in such a grand and magnificent fashion.”

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More Information About Poly Prep Country Day School:

Founded in 1854, [Poly Prep Country Day School](http://www.polyprep.org) prepares a diverse community of students (Nursery through 12th grade) for college and life. [Poly Prep](http://www.polyprep.org) fosters learning, health, leadership, community responsibility, and character. The school offers an outstanding program of academics, athletics, arts, and community service guided by a strong, committed faculty. [Poly Prep](http://www.polyprep.org) operates a 25-acre campus in Dyker Heights, Brooklyn, for its Upper and Middle Schools, and a Lower School in Park Slope. For more information about Poly Prep, please visit www.polyprep.org. [Poly’s Facebook Fan page is at http://tinyurl.com/polyfacebook](https://www.facebook.com/polyprep). [Poly’s Twitter account is at http://twitter.com/polyprep](https://twitter.com/polyprep).

More Information About Platt Byard Dovell White Architects LLP:

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