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## Miller Hull-Designed Epiphany School Achieves LEED Gold Certification

March, 2011 — Designed by the [Miller Hull Partnership](#), the Epiphany School was recently awarded LEED Gold certification. The school opened last fall as an expansion of a Pre-K-5 school in the Madrona neighborhood of Seattle, and includes a new classroom building and a public art space.

Epiphany includes photovoltaic panels, a green roof, a sustainable land management plan, and high-efficiency radiant floor heating. Natural ventilation is provided from operable windows and each classroom has a chimney or shaft topped with two solar-powered fans. When the temperature in the room reaches a certain level, a louver to the chimney opens. The fans then help draw warm air out of the room through the chimney. The students can witness the air move through the space when a sculptural device suspended from the chimney starts to sway and twirl.

As a complement to its sustainable features, a curriculum was developed by the faculty to use the building as a teaching tool for sustainability and energy conservation. A prominent meter wall is located in the building with educational text and graphics where students can chart the building's water, gas, electric and solar power usage. Students engage in a "Pitchfork to Plate" program beginning in the garden beds and ending in the kitchen. The goal is to arm even the youngest of students with an understanding of responsible environmental practices so that they may lead their generation to a sustainable, healthy and green future.

"We are very excited that Epiphany School is developing a special curriculum based on the sustainable attributes of their new building and its relationship to the environment," said Robert Hull, partner at the Miller Hull Partnership and the architect of school. "From the teaching garden utilizing rainwater catchment, to the daylighting, natural ventilation and solar-powered fans, this building will be an active participant in the educational experience of every student for years to come."

In order to make way for the new building, four houses were removed from the site, with two of them relocated to other parts of the city. The architectural



The Epiphany School in the Madrona neighborhood of Seattle.



Sculptural mobiles twirl when the temperature rises and air moves up the shafts.

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character of the project mimics the scale of the neighborhood and consists of individual roof forms.

Other team members included Sellen, general contractor; DCI Engineers, structural; Sider + Byers, mechanical; Interface Engineering, electrical and lighting; Johnson/Southerland, landscape architecture; Springline Design, civil engineer; SSA, acoustics; BEE Consulting, building envelope; and Dana Warren with Warren Co., owner's representative.

The Miller Hull Partnership specializes in award-winning design for public and private buildings that actively engage their communities. Miller Hull's built work spans a wide range of project types such as schools, interpretive, community and nature centers, museums, city halls and public administration buildings, libraries, higher education facilities, mixed-use buildings, laboratories, corporate offices, condominiums and small residences. The Miller Hull Partnership is the recipient of the National Firm Award from the American Institute of Architects.



Each "chimney" comes equipped with solar powered fans.

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