

A photograph showing the backs of several students looking out of a large, arched window. They are wearing casual clothing, including red and black t-shirts. The scene is bright and suggests a school environment.

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LEARNING AT THE EDGES

Select Learning Environments by BKSK Architects

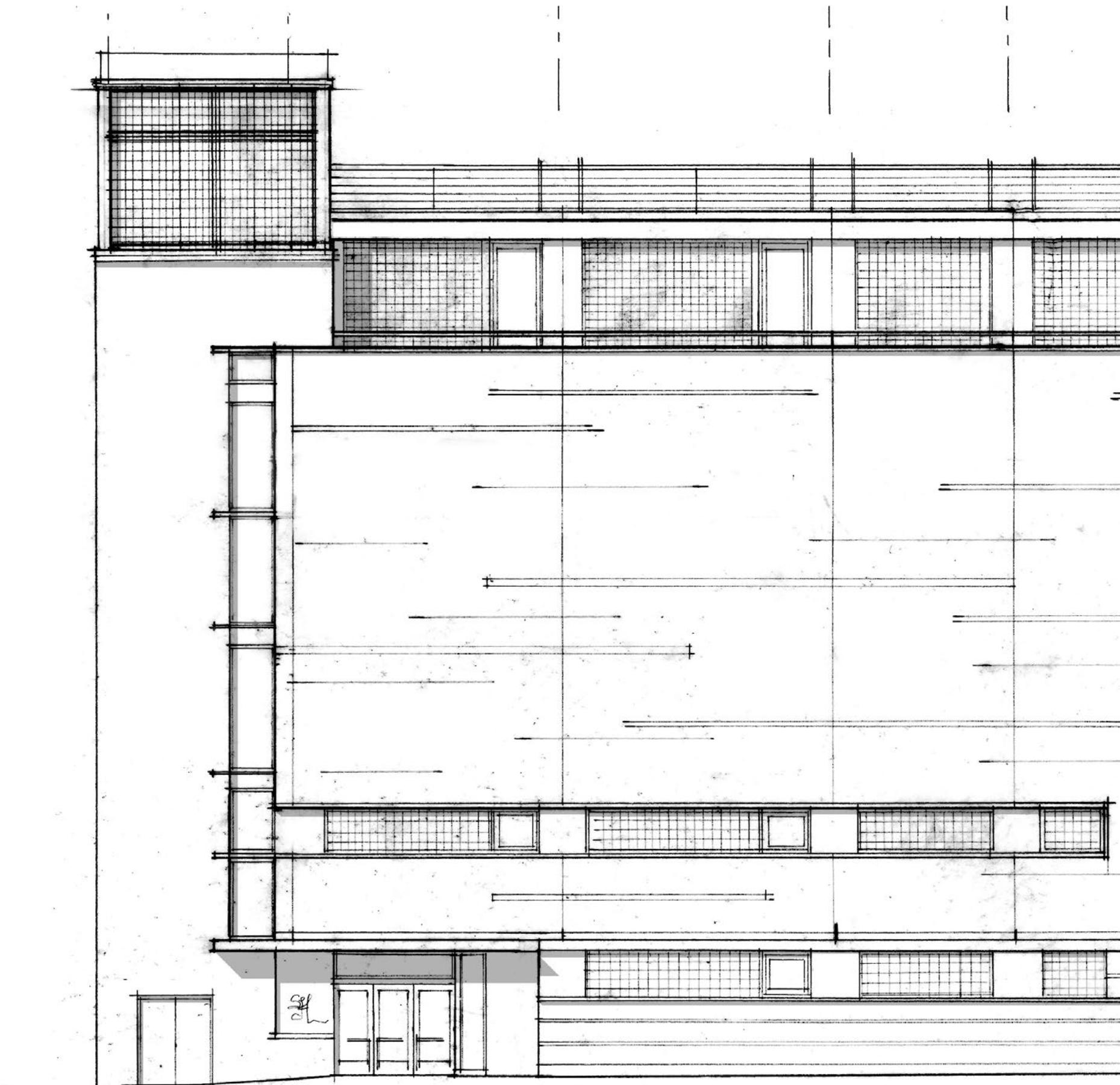
What do we mean by “Learning at the Edges”?

There are a wide range of spaces that we consider “learning environments”. We view ourselves as architects, not only of classrooms, but of the peripheral zones that encourage meaningful interaction. On every project, we embrace holistic educational goals and ingrain them in our design work.

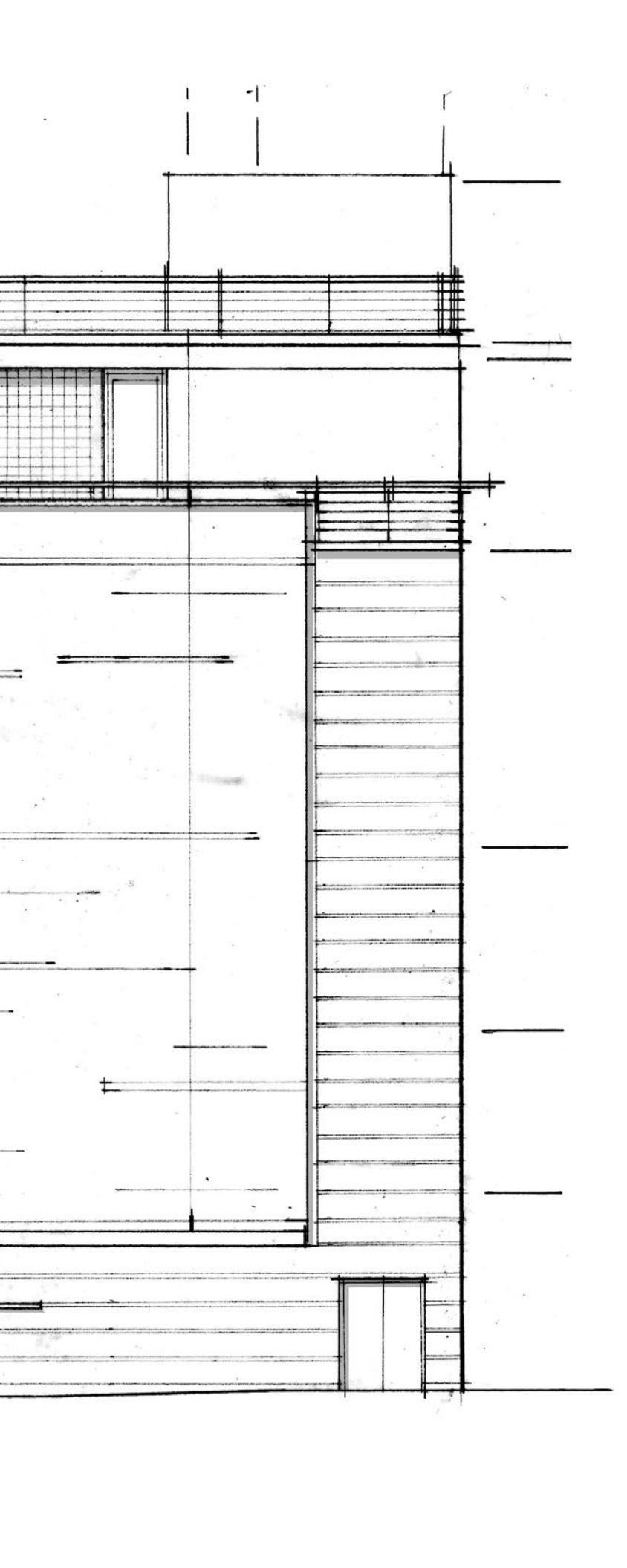
We see the design process itself as a collaborative exploration of the boundaries, seams, and leading edges of the places where students learn best.

With the following pages, we introduce BKS Architects as innovative designers of educational facilities. We very much hope to be included in discussions about the program needs of your school or educational facility, today and in the future, and we welcome any inquiry.

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Convent of the Sacred Heart Athletics & Wellness Center



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THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

A growing interest in holistic student development lies at the heart of the debate over STEM, STEAM or STREAM. Still lacking representation in these dueling-acronyms is physical education, which can play lead role in nurturing mind, body and spirit. With their new athletic and wellness center, NYC's Convent of the Sacred Heart school demonstrates their commitment to all three, providing quite the competitive edge.

[+ LEARN MORE](#) about the Convent of the Sacred Heart Athletics & Wellness Center



THE SURPRISE VALUE OF IN-BETWEEN

Like John Lennon's vision that "life is what happens while you're busy making other plans," academic life is full of un-programmed time spent in-between classes – studying, eating, laughing, and ... learning. Enticing stairways and hallways line the edges of New York Law School's main library and academic center, offering circulation spaces that encourage interaction and create welcoming facades.

[+ LEARN MORE](#) about New York Law School's vertical campus



ACTING OUT

How should the spaces of an acting school for Hell's Kitchen's kids feel? Funky, raw, and forgiving. As the organization says, "the Project is not about teaching children to act, although they will learn to... It is about an opportunity to prove he or she has something of value to offer." The 52nd Street Project's home is an empowering and sophisticated urban clubhouse, wrapped around a world-class theater.

[+ LEARN MORE](#) about The 52nd Street Project performance and teaching space



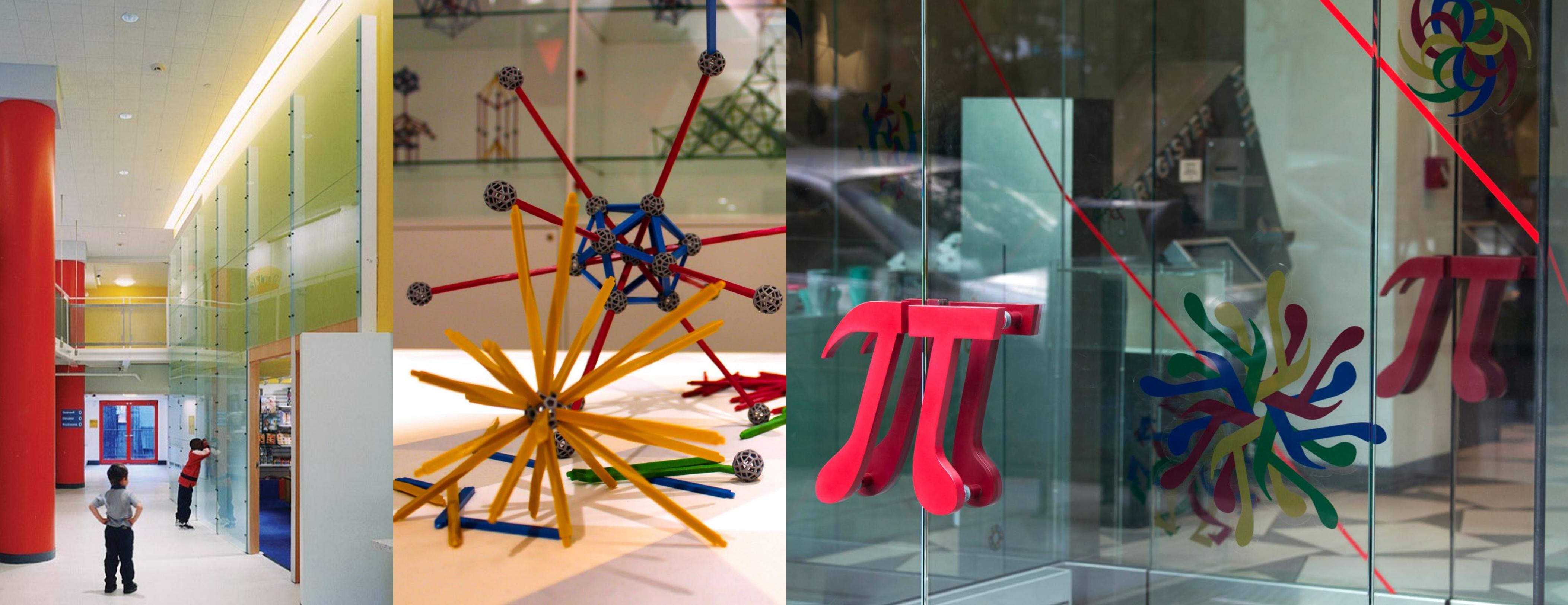
THE FIRST EDGE OF LEARNING

Children are sophisticated about design in their own way, sensing qualities of safety, durability, and flexibility as key components of a welcoming space. We feel great responsibility when designing a child's first home away from home, and conscientiously uphold high standards of space-making that address and enrich these early sensory experiences.

[+ LEARN MORE](#) about the Imagine Early Learning Center

[+ LEARN MORE](#) about our work for the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services

[+ LEARN MORE](#) about the Sephardic Community Center



THE WHOLE WORLD AS EXHIBIT

Designing for children does not mean designing childishly. Children are inherently curious, familiar with the “edgy” urban materials of their cities, and ready to be challenged. Museums must acknowledge children’s natural enthusiasm for how the work works in order to compete with the fascinating world outside of their doors, and their architecture should actively raise questions and engage.

+ [LEARN MORE](#) about our work for the Children’s Museum of Manhattan
+ [LEARN MORE](#) about the Museum of Mathematics



PLAYGROUNDS AS LEARNING LANDSCAPES

The line between playing and learning blurs when this edge is viewed through the lens of embodied learning, in which we acknowledge that learning is in some way rooted in our physical experience. When guided by the latest research on children's cognitive development, architectural interventions can be combined with rolling landscapes to create exuberant environments that support both play and education.

+ [LEARN MORE](#) about our work for the New York Hall of Science



BUILDINGS AS TEACHING TOOLS

Some of the most inspiring educators are those that push beyond the boundaries of a lesson plan, and embrace the teachings of the world around us. Similarly, the best buildings not only serve the functional, cultural, pedagogical, and sustainable needs of an institution, they also actively demonstrate and reinforce lessons themselves.

[+ LEARN MORE](#) about the Queens Botanical Garden Visitor & Administration Center



STUDY HALL MEETS TOWN HALL

Today's libraries provide important gathering spots for our local neighborhoods, and also serve as a critical source of connection to our growing global community. As our tools and technology continue to evolve, our capacity to learn from each other only grows. Libraries bring the past to life, enrich our shared present, and forecast our futures.

[+ LEARN MORE](#) about the Plainsboro Public Library



A COMMUNITY OF LISTENERS

The ongoing design and construction process for the Lambaye Learning Center in Senegal has been highly collaborative, despite the bilingual and cross-Atlantic nature of the team. Our toolkit of communication strategies (both low- and high-tech) and our firm's commitment to deep listening bring value and understanding, no matter where we are in the world.

[+ LEARN MORE](#) about our most recent visit to Lambaye



WE WANT TO LEARN FROM YOU

Every institution offers a unique perspective on learning, opening our team to new educational horizons and new design opportunities. Whenever you find yourself exploring a new edge of learning, consider inviting us to the table.

We're ready to listen.

BKSK
ARCHITECTS LLP

We look forward to hearing from you. | 28 W 25th Street, New York NY | 212-807-9600 | bkskarch.com/learning