

AWARD-WINNING AND OTHER OUTSTANDING BUILDINGS

Brookline Music School Brookline, Massachusetts

PETER VANDERWARKER

Client: Brookline Music School
Larry Zukof, Director

Firm: Gary Wolf Architects

Design team: Gary Wolf, AIA, Principal-in-Charge;
David Stuart, Beth Fritz, Ned Goodell, Richard Moore, AIA;
Charles Chaloff Consulting Engineers, Structural Engineer;
Am-Tech Engineers, MEP Engineer

Capacity: 70
Space/student: 143 sq. ft.
Area: 10,000 sq. ft.
Total cost: \$650,000
Cost/square foot: \$65
Completion: September 1994

The challenge of this renovation and addition for a private music school was to revive and adapt a dilapidated, truncated 150-year-old historic structure for contemporary educational use. The program called for a small recital hall, ensemble rooms, practice studios, a dance studio and offices, while most of the school's teaching would continue to occur at satellite locations.

An addition with an accessible main entrance and an egress stair connecting all four floors was required. The architects located this where the original service wing and later additions had been demolished and designed it to fit in with the landmark building. Inside, they restored the once-gracious interiors and introduced contemporary building systems and functions in an unobtrusive manner. They completed the formerly unfinished basement, re-opened the historic stairway from behind a later partition, and created practice studios in the attic by subdividing larger existing spaces. The new stair features five stainless-steel cables in the



Contemporary building systems were unobtrusively installed in the 150-year-old structure.



handrail to become a visual metaphor for stringed musical instruments.

The project offers a model for public-private cooperation, in that the not-for-profit music school undertook a long-term lease with the town of Brookline to reclaim and reuse this historic, town-owned structure, utilizing 100-percent private funding.

