

2012 Land Development



Wallace Roberts & Todd

Germantown Academy, Phase 1

Whitemarsh Township

Germantown Academy, located in Whitemarsh Township, earned a 2012 Montgomery Award for environmentally sensitive site planning, sustainable building design, and restoration of natural features. This outstanding project successfully integrates the school’s natural environment into the campus design and incorporates environmental education into the academic curriculum.

The project, phase 1 of a master plan, involved removing outdated buildings and inappropriate uses along the Wissahickon Creek, which runs through the property, constructing a new 160,000-square-foot upper/middle school, reconfiguring the athletic complex, and restoring natural habitats. School buildings, using innovative green building practices, were reoriented to face the creek, and service areas and athletic fields were relocated from riparian and floodplain areas. The original administration building was preserved and renovated and connects to the new school building by a glass-enclosed walkway, successfully blending the old with the new. An appealing feature of the new building is the mixing of materials such as stone, glass, and steel. An attractive entry plaza serves as the main entrance and gathering area. Germantown Academy hopes to attain gold LEED certification for its new building.

As part of the sustainable goals of this project, a new athletic complex was created. Several athletic fields were relocated out of the floodplain adjacent to the Wissahickon Creek, allowing for the creation of a 6-acre area known as the Preserve. The Preserve contains restored wetlands, ponds, wet meadows, woodlands, walking trails, and wildlife habitats. This exceptional project demonstrates Germantown Academy’s commitment to sustainable design, environmental stewardship, and the education of future community leaders.



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