

# Curtis High School Restoration, Preservation, and Rehabilitation



THE RENOVATION OF CURTIS HIGH SCHOOL, A NEW YORK CITY LANDMARK, HAD TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CAMPUS BUILDINGS.

LOCATION  
STATEN ISLAND, NY

CLIENT  
NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL  
CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY  
(NYCSCA)

CONSTRUCTION COST  
\$26.5 MILLION

SIZE  
55,000 SF

Renovations at Curtis High School were required to preserve and restore its elaborate gothic architecture, correct inappropriate previous repairs and replacements, and return each building's appearance to a time period closer to its original date of construction.

As part of an on-call design services contract with the NYCSCA, STV served as the lead architect and engineer for the \$26.5 million, 5-year restoration, preservation/conservation, and rehabilitation project for Curtis High School.

STV provided complete architectural design and construction administration for the meticulous restoration of terra cotta and stone fabric, which included materials research, working closely with suppliers and preservation consultants, and tracking every nuance of the restoration as it progressed. The project featured

the reconstruction of the central tower, turrets, and crenelated parapets of the 1902 Main Building and 1926 Auditorium/Library Building, which involved replacement of copper cladding and replication of a wide array of ornamental decoration, including gargoyles.

Other improvements included window replacement and exterior brick masonry repairs, and interior rehabilitation.

A significant challenge that STV overcame was enabling more than 30 months of construction to proceed without disruption to school operations that serve 2,300 students in grades 9 to 12. The project not only won numerous historic preservation awards, including the Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award, but has also fostered a sense of pride within the school and the surrounding community.