

Josiah Quincy Upper School: Sustainable Measures in the Project

HMFH Architects

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Efficiency and Resiliency

The JQUS project has set high standards for efficiency, resiliency, and environmental health, and is on its way towards achieving LEED Gold status.

It is designed with highly insulated walls, windows, and roof to minimize the use of energy in heating and cooling.

The building is all-electrically powered using very efficient heat-pump technology. No fossil fuels are used for heating, cooling, or cooking in the school.

All the mechanical systems that could be were raised above the First Floor, protecting them in case of the unlikely event of flooding.

Indoor Environmental Quality

Assuring a healthy environment for students is a paramount concern for the project. Measures taken with the design pre-Covid have proved effective in a post-pandemic environment.

Enhanced air filtering is used to assure that very clean ventilation air is brought into the building, creating a safe indoor environment even though adjacent to the Mass Pike.

An innovative “Displacement Air” system reduces the potential spread of contaminants among students within the classroom.

Sustainable and renewable materials, like bamboo, are used on finishes throughout the school.

Nearly all the classrooms face south to maximize natural daylighting, increasing student well-being and minimizing the need for artificial lighting.

The school is topped by a large outdoor educational space in which students can gather, study, and relax in fresh air and roof gardens with native plantings.