

Upstairs-Downstairs – An Artwork for Mather Elementary School – Adam Kuby, Artist



Picture of one of the earlier schoolhouses

the lower level along Church Street...

Upstairs-Downstairs evokes the history of North America's oldest public elementary school. Two new outdoor spaces, each 19 x 20 feet, reimagine the original 17th century one-room schoolhouse. At the street level, a terraced stone sitting area evokes the first floor of the schoolhouse as seen in the picture above. This multi-tiered rusticated space creates a new pick-up and drop-off spot—a place for kids to wait for parents and parents to wait for kids. The stepped sitting walls provide multiple nooks for children or parents to hang out. A playful stairway leads from the street up to the level above...



the movable play structure/outdoor classroom above

Upstairs, a colorful composition of turnable metal elements create a sculptural representation of the schoolhouse's second floor. Each building element turns on its own a full 360 degrees. The windows, door and corner posts can be positioned any which way. They can be lined up to recreate the shape of a room, or shifted helter skelter to create myriad cubist-like compositions. Boulders will be engraved with text creating a timeline of the school's history from 1634 to the present as one moves from the street towards the entrance.

