



+ K-12  
Learning Environments

SVIGALS + PARTNERS





## Who We Are

From a portfolio of award-winning Connecticut K12 schools, Svigals + Partners has emerged as a national leader in designing inspiring, art-embellished schools that support socio-emotional learning while integrating invisible security strategies. Our educational planning team has expertly advised our clients to achieve budgetary goals and innovative design approaches for PreK through higher education facilities.

Over our thirty-five year history, S+P has gained a reputation for creative, budget-conscious facility design adhering to strict, state-funded procedures and guidelines. Known for our creative engagement process, we have successfully involved teachers, parents, students, and the wider community to foster consensus around design concepts that address 21st century classroom trends, new educational models, neighborhood identity, and magnet themes.





### Jay Brotman, AIA | Managing Partner

A graduate of the School of Architecture from the University of Texas, Jay has designed and managed projects in commercial and institutional sectors ensuring that S+P constantly renews itself as a state-of-the-art environment for the development of world-class architecture and design. Balancing strategic and creative endeavors, he cultivates client relationships and mentors a highly productive team. He has also emerged as an ambassador and civic leader at local, state, and national levels, sharing that safety for schools need not come at the expense of an inspiring and nurturing learning environment.



### Marissa Mead, AIA, LEED AP | Director of Art Integration

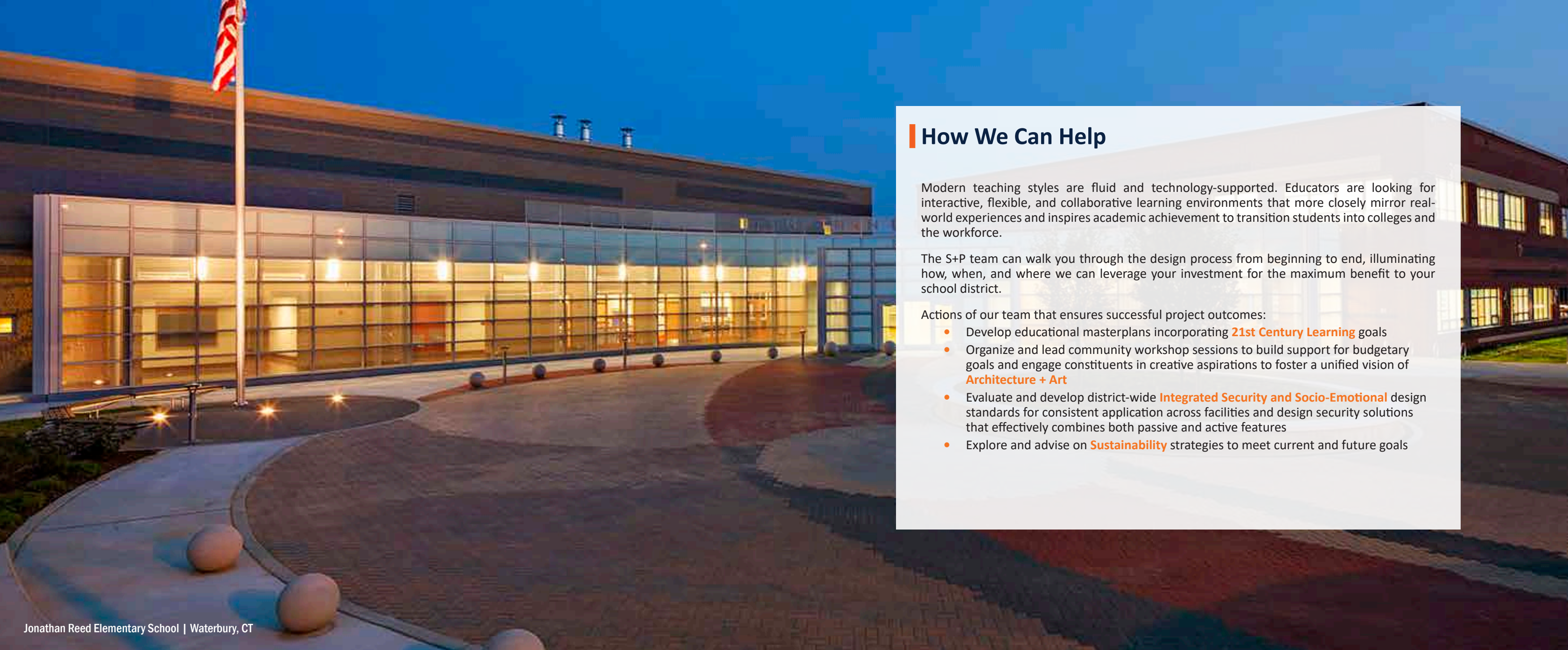
With a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Notre Dame, Marissa generates creative design solutions that strategically align with the client's vision. She is an intuitive collaborator whose organizational abilities offer an efficient flow to gathering information and translating that into conceptual designs. With her early studies in sculpture and furniture design, and experience fabricating architectural ornament, Marissa has taken on a role as a design lead and coordinator of integrated artwork efforts across the firm's portfolio.



### Katherine Berger, NCIDQ, Well AP | Associate Principal, Director of Interior Design

Katherine brings over a decade of design experience at firms in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Her keen ability to see potential where others may not has resulted in reimagined spaces that foster well-being and productivity. Intrigued by human behavior, Katherine was drawn to Interior Design for its ability to improve the human condition through the built environment. The marriage of these passions drives Katherine's ambition to bring wellness and beauty into the daily lives of clients and users.





## How We Can Help

Modern teaching styles are fluid and technology-supported. Educators are looking for interactive, flexible, and collaborative learning environments that more closely mirror real-world experiences and inspires academic achievement to transition students into colleges and the workforce.

The S+P team can walk you through the design process from beginning to end, illuminating how, when, and where we can leverage your investment for the maximum benefit to your school district.

Actions of our team that ensures successful project outcomes:

- Develop educational masterplans incorporating **21st Century Learning** goals
- Organize and lead community workshop sessions to build support for budgetary goals and engage constituents in creative aspirations to foster a unified vision of **Architecture + Art**
- Evaluate and develop district-wide **Integrated Security and Socio-Emotional** design standards for consistent application across facilities and design security solutions that effectively combines both passive and active features
- Explore and advise on **Sustainability** strategies to meet current and future goals





## Twenty-First Century Learning Environments

Our team is working on the future of 21st century teaching methodologies and the learning environments that support them. Today making use of information is now far more valuable than simply memorizing facts.

We have created environments to support the teaching modalities your school district may be considering or has already adopted:

**The 4 Cs** — Creativity / Critical thinking / Communication / Collaboration

**The Responsive Classroom** — Student-centered, social and emotional learning approach to teaching and discipline

**Montessori** — Naturalist and discovery model of free activity within a prepared environment

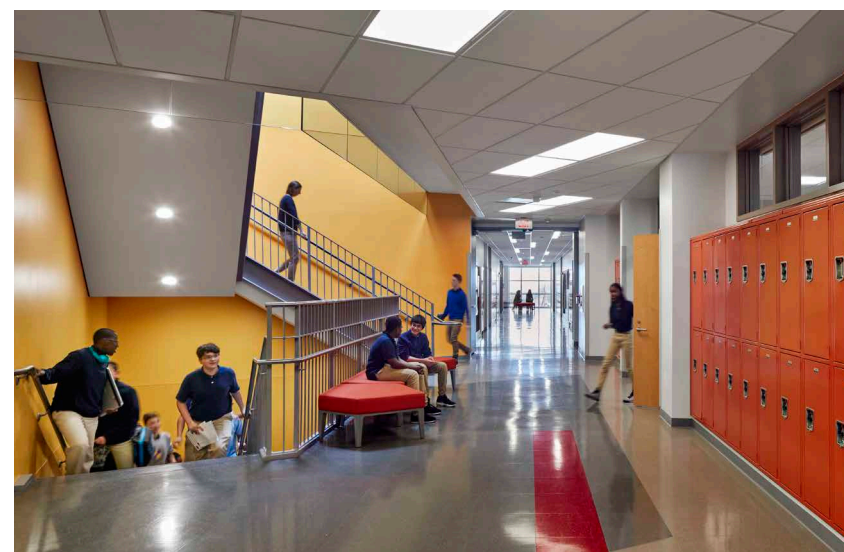
**Waldorf** — “Head-heart-hands” approach to multi-disciplinary teaching

**Reggio Emilia** — Experiential learning in relationship-driven environments

**Project-Lead-the-Way** — Instruction through hands-on, real-world activities, projects, and problems

There are many commonalities amongst these newer learning approaches, and we understand how to support educational goals through a variety of design features and approaches:

- Classroom layout and furnishings to support collaborative group work
- Scheduling flexibility through shared classrooms
- Expanding corridors to accommodate useful instructional break out areas
- Layout, technology, and optimized storage to support interdisciplinary delivery of curriculum
- Faculty spaces that reinforce teaming and collaboration
- Writable surfaces everywhere: walls in and outside the classroom, on lockers, table tops, operable room dividers
- Display systems for students’ 2D and 3D projects
- Makerspaces for hands-on learning and exploration







Early Childhood Learning Center | Goodwin University



Sandy Hook School | Newtown, CT



Sandy Hook School | Newtown, CT

## Creative Engagement

S+P is experienced in facilitating cooperation and consensus for complex projects with diverse stakeholders. We are adept at leading visioning sessions and workshops to understand your community and outline your vision of education.

We tailor the engagement activities to solicit input from all the members of your school community: from teachers, administrators, and maintenance personnel to parents, students, and neighbors. Our workshops give everyone a voice – and a systematic way to balance educational and operational priorities.

Through a wide variety of **fun, interactive, collaborative activities**, participants feel empowered to make suggestions and engage with our team of professionals in the design of their school environments.

Our aim is to . . .

- Cultivate a collective sense of purpose
- Hear your concerns and record your aspirations
- Involve you in our design process
- Set sustainability goals
- Reveal how a new environment can fulfill the school's mission
- Strengthen community identity and expression

Our process informs a robust development of program needs and Educational Specifications – while simultaneously inspiring design “themes” that reflect and support the mission and pedagogy of the school through architectural detailing and unique artwork.





Jonathan S. Martinez School | New Haven, CT

## Architecture + Art

Art has always been an essential part of human culture. Making art calls us to the humanity we share. Its resonance with others binds community together, inspiring us to be our best selves. At the heart of S+P's philosophy is the creation of meaningful art for our projects. Art tells stories, expresses feelings, and breaks down barriers. As an integrated element of an environment, art opens us up to a deeper appreciation of the community's culture and identity.

Through thirty years of practice, Svigals + Partners has established a unique firm culture of artwork generation. Our team seamlessly integrates artwork features into the expression of the architectural design – from the facade to the smallest details – to celebrate community identity and create a distinctive sense of place.

Our expertise encompasses a broad knowledge of materials, fabrication methods, and design detailing that can be deployed to strategic and economical effect. Conceived in close collaboration with the school community, artwork can convey a story, such that the school itself becomes a teaching tool.

This **Buildings That Teach** approach nourishes the spirit of learning – and a culture of care -- as illustrated in these schools:

- Silver inlays in a blue terrazzo lobby floor depict the constellations at the time of the discovery of the New World in 1493
- Colorful “tree” bulletin boards reinforce the theme of forests and treehouses
- “Leaf” benches animate the common space for school pods organized around four types of local trees
- The paving of the school's plaza depicts the internal workings of a clock for a city with historic timepiece manufacturers
- The very shape of the school building mimics the historic sailing vessels in the nearby river, while inside the flowing river is evoked in the colored floor pattern and interior windows







Sandy Hook School | Newtown, CT



Early Childhood Learning Center | Goodwin University

## Security and Socio-Emotional Learning

Svigals + Partners brings unique experience in school security design. Selected to design the new Sandy Hook School in Newtown, CT in 2013, the Newtown School District understood this school, like no other, would be held to a higher expectation of security. Yet they also made a commitment to balance security concerns with the overarching priority to fully support the school's educational mission and provide an inspiring and productive environment for learning.

Following principles of **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)**, along with guidelines from Connecticut's newly formed School Safety and Infrastructure Council (SSIC), Svigals + Partners integrated both traditional and new security features seamlessly, and almost invisibly, into the infrastructure of the school site and facility. Since its opening, Sandy Hook School has become a heralded example of how security can coexist with designs that also enhance Socio-Emotional Learning: helping support the administration, faculty, and students in efforts to reduce bullying, social isolation, and lack of engagement by creating a warm and welcoming environment, a sense of physical and social order, and a sense of ownership by students.

Since 2014, Jay Brotman and Julia McFadden have spoken at numerous summits and conferences across the country to outline key design principles:

- Territorial reinforcement (defining the property boundaries)
- Traffic management and access Controls
- Natural Surveillance and Secure Entries (Sally Port Design)
- Hardening strategies – at the building and classroom level
- Site and facility layout organized in layers to **Deter, Detect, Delay, and Deny** intruders
- Technology integrated with school security operations and City/Town first responders
- Artwork and biophilic design to support socio-emotional learning

**Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.**

*Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)*





Sandy Hook School | Newtown, CT



Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School | Bridgeport, CT

## Sustainability

Today, sustainability is a wise business strategy for creating green and energy-efficient buildings that provide healthy environments for children and adults, and are less expensive to maintain and operate. S+P is experienced in guiding owners to an approach that meets budget concerns up front, but pays dividends for years to come.

S+P's school projects demonstrate that sustainability goals support safe and nurturing educational environments:

- A brownfield redevelopment provides a safe and rejuvenated site for a new K-8 school
- An interactive Information Touchscreen allows students to learn about all the measures used to achieve LEED Gold at their school
- PreK-K students enjoy Connecticut's **first natural materials playground** approved for state grant funding
- Lower operational costs through roof-top and on-ground Photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays
- A 250-foot long raingarden at the front of Sandy Hook School in Newtown, CT: serves triple-duty as a sustainable method of treating roof rainwater, a security buffer zone following CPTED principles, and a learning laboratory for the students regarding water quality, ecology, and native plantings



# S+P Learning Environments Experience

## K12 Connecticut School Design

ACES The Little Theatre/Performing Arts Magnet School Historic Renovation/Addition  
Achievement First Amistad Middle School Phased Renovations  
Christopher Columbus Family Academy New Construction  
Edgewood STEAM Magnet School Renovation/Addition  
Engineering & Science University Magnet School New Construction  
Goodwin University Early Childhood Magnet School New Construction  
Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School New Construction  
John S. Martinez STEM Magnet School Renovation/Addition  
Jonathan Reed Elementary School New Construction  
L.W. Beecher Magnet School Renovation/Addition  
Leeder Hill Swing Space Renovation  
Riverside Magnet School Renovation/Addition  
Sandy Hook School New Construction

## K12 Master Planning + Feasibility Studies

Achievement First Amistad High School Feasibility Study of 3 Sites  
Achievement First New School Site Acquisition Study  
Achievement First Prince & Welch Schools Feasibility Study  
Cheshire Middle School Conceptual Design & Renovation Study  
Engineering & Science University Magnet School Site Feasibility Study & Conceptual Designs  
Ezra Academy Program Expansion Study  
Goodwin University Early Childhood Magnet School Expansion Study  
John S. Martinez STEM Magnet School Site Study  
Jonathan Reed Elementary School Site Study  
L.W. Beecher Magnet School Site Study  
New Haven High School in the Community Conceptual Designs  
New Haven STEM Magnet School Site Selection Study  
Waterbury Community Programming for Three New Schools

## Colleges + Universities

### Albertus Magnus College

Aquinas Hall Renovation/Addition  
Tagliatela Hall Renovation/Addition

### Boston College

Caroll Hall School of Management Renovation/Addition

### Central Connecticut State University

Barnard Hall Renovation/Addition

### Eastern Connecticut State University

Student Center Renovation/Addition

### Fairfield University

Freshman Quad Hall Renovations  
Service for Justice Residential Hall New Construction

### New York Medical College

Pharmacology Department Renovation

### Norwalk Community College

Schwab Center for Info Technology Renovation/Addition

### Princeton University

Moffett Vivarium Renovation

### Southern Connecticut State University

Health & Human Services Building New Construction

### University of Connecticut (*continuing services since 1994*)

Beach Hall Renovation  
Bioscience Complex New Construction  
Brain Imaging Research Center Renovations  
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Greenhouse Renovations  
Gentry Building & CUE Renovation/Addition  
Health Center Clinical Building Renovations  
Master Plan 2000 & UCONN 21st Century Renovation/Addition

### University of Hartford

New Residence Hall Programming

### University of New Haven

Bergami Center for Science, Technology & Innovation New Construction  
Graduate Campus Renovations

### Yale University (*continuing services since 1994*)

Department of Geology & Geophysics, Clean Laboratory Renovations  
Marsh Botanical Gardens Greenhouse I, II & Head House Renovation/Addition  
School of Medicine B, C & I Wings Renovations  
School of Medicine Butterfly Laboratory Renovations  
School of Medicine Child Study Center Renovations  
School of Medicine E.S. Harkness Memorial Hall Renovations  
School of Medicine LEPH Renovations  
School of Medicine LSOG Renovations  
School of Medicine WISTC Laboratory Renovations  
School of Nursing Simulation Center Expansion  
School of Public Health New Classrooms & Student Lounge Renovation





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