

Owner: White Plains City School District
Architect: Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson Architects, PC
Completion: September 2009
Building Type: Education
Glass: FireLite Plus® and FireLite® NT
Supplier: Technical Glass Products, Snoqualmie, Wash.



New York's Kaeyer Garment & Davidson Architects (KG&D) worked to ensure the replacement facility for Post Road Elementary School in White Plains, New York, was an environmentally responsible, yet functional learning environment for children. This included allowing for natural daylight in typically hard to illuminate spaces like corridors, workspaces, libraries and stairwells.

To account for this need, KG&D oriented the new facility around a courtyard to maximize the benefits of the sun's rays as they travel across the sky during the day. Library and art rooms on the south side of the courtyard receive a soft light more conducive to student productivity, while stairwells near perimeter walls with large windows help reduce the need for artificial lighting. Light shelves, a geothermal heating and cooling system, and controllable, energy-efficient fluorescent light fixtures help regulate energy use.

One challenge with the design vision was identifying appropriate materials for the glazing in interior openings such as doors, transoms and borrowed lites that were required to be fire- and impact-safety rated by code.

FireLite Plus® and FireLite® NT ceramic glass from Technical Glass Products (TGP) helped resolve the dilemma. Manufactured using TGP's new ultraHD™ Technology, the wireless ceramic glass options feature a clear and nearly colorless surface to better resemble the look of ordinary window glass and visually integrate with the school's non-fire-rated windows. FireLite products defend against the transfer of flames and smoke, are available with fire ratings up to 3 hours, and meet Category I and II impact-safety standards.

Utilized in borrowed lites, as well as in doors, FireLite Plus and FireLite NT helped the architects draw daylight into interior spaces, while protecting children and staff from the threat of fire.

For more information on the FireLite family of ceramic glass products and ultraHD Technology, along with TGP's other fire-rated glass and framing products, visit www.fireglass.com.

