



Mater Academy East Charter School Miami, Florida

Firm: Civica, LLC-Architecture and Urban Design
Associated firm: The Corradino Group

Design team: Rolando Llanes, Julio Guillen

Client: Mater School Development, LLC; Beatriz Riera, Principal

Capacity: 450

Area: 17,000 sq. ft.

Total cost: \$1.8 million

Cost/square foot: \$105

Completion: August 2003

Mater Academy East is a public charter school in the Little Havana neighborhood of Miami. The school was completed in August 2003 and serves 450 elementary school students. The site is in a dense urban neighborhood of predominantly multi-family residential buildings.

The corner site previously contained three small, single-family homes and presented challenges for the design for a school that was to accommodate more than 400 students. A three-story approach provided the only viable solution to accommodating the required capacity. An existing two-story building on an adjacent site provides programmatic support areas for the school, such as the cafeteria, library and computer labs.

The building is a simple three-story

concrete block and stucco "box" with repetitive window bays, interrupted by the entry. Layered stucco details provide the otherwise plain facade with the stylistic elements that give the building its character.

The urban design strategy includes the acknowledgment of the site's corner location by providing a small public plaza for parents and students to gather safely. The building's scale and character are civic in nature, while also respectful of the neighborhood's residential characteristics.

PHOTOGRAPHER: GASTON DE CARDENAS



Facade detail



Front entrance



Front facade