



Somerset Academy Charter School Miami-Dade County, Florida

Firm: Civica, LLC-Architecture and Urban Design

Design team: Ivan Fajardo, Rolando Llanes

Client: Valencia School Development, LLC;
Suzette Ruiz, Principal

Capacity: 600

Area: 47,000 sq. ft.

Total cost: \$4.5 million

Cost/square foot: \$95

Completion: August 2005

Somerset Academy is a public charter school in the southern part of Miami-Dade County, Fla. that serves 600 elementary and middle school students. The site is in a fast-growing residential area that, until recently, was predominantly agricultural.

The school was built in conjunction with an adjacent residential development. The completion of the residential project was contingent on the completion of the school for the 2006-07 school year.

The school is designed to retain the civic qualities and scale of an educational facility while integrating itself into its residential context. The programmatic components of the school include an administration area, cafeteria, multipurpose room, media lab/library, art rooms and

classrooms.

The design is composed of a series of programmatic elements (i.e. classroom wing, service core, classroom wing) that are assembled in an L-shape, "kit-of-parts" strategy. This approach allows for maximum site planning and design flexibility and an expedited construction documents phase.

The kit-of-parts strategy was developed in conjunction with the charter school operator and has evolved into a successful and repeated model for a series of new elementary and middle schools. The construction systems employed in the project are common to the area and consistent with the residential architecture of the surrounding neighborhoods.

PHOTOGRAPHER: GASTON DE CARDENAS



Aerial view



Main entrance



View from recreation field



Breezeway