

Brick Weaves a Brighter School

Case Study in Masonry:
Washington Heights Elementary School
Replacement Structures, Fort Worth ISD

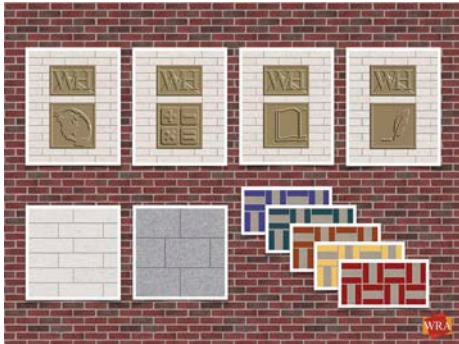


Acme Brick
Featherlite Hill Country Stone



Acme Brick Masonry Makes a Bright New Beginning for a School Once Underground

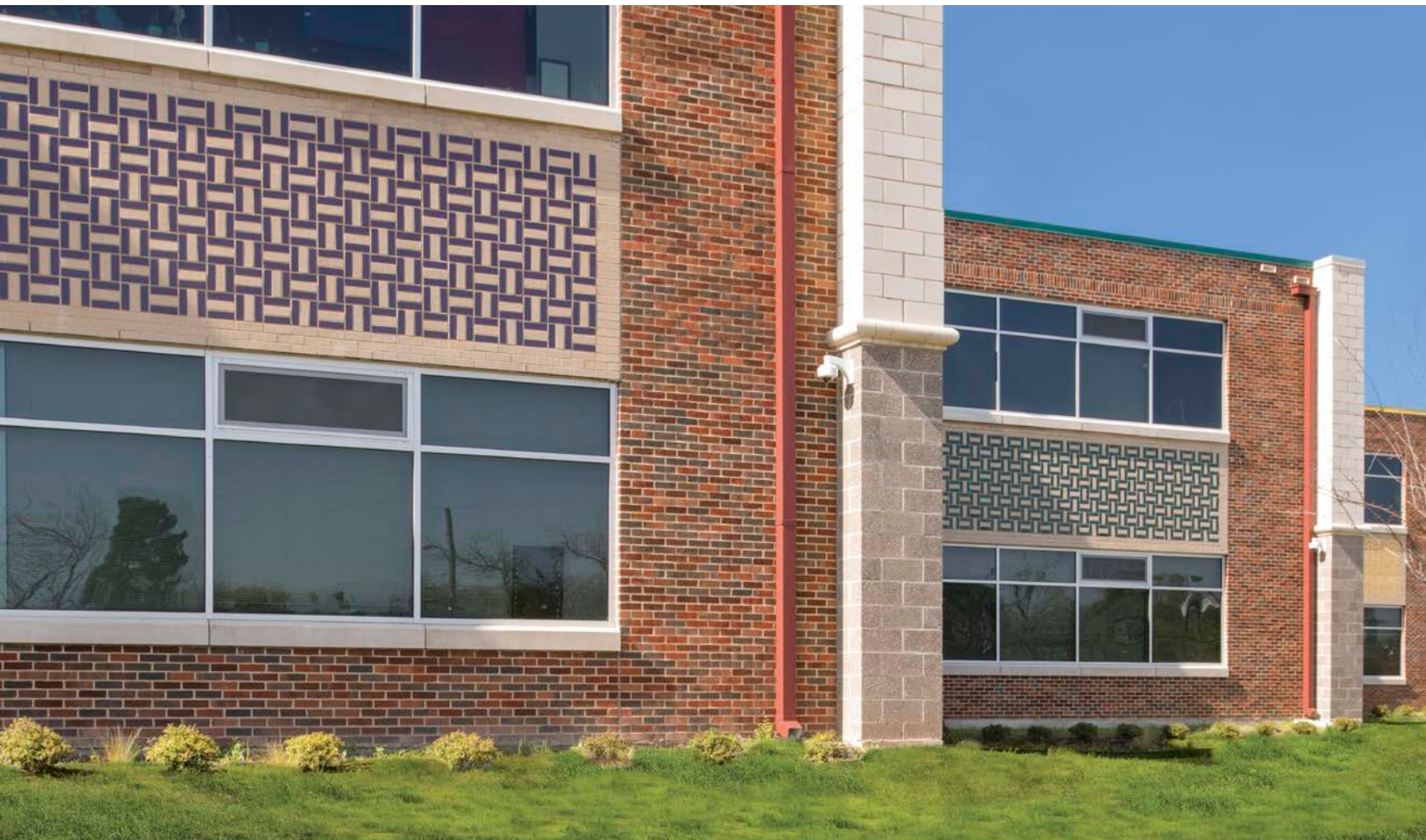
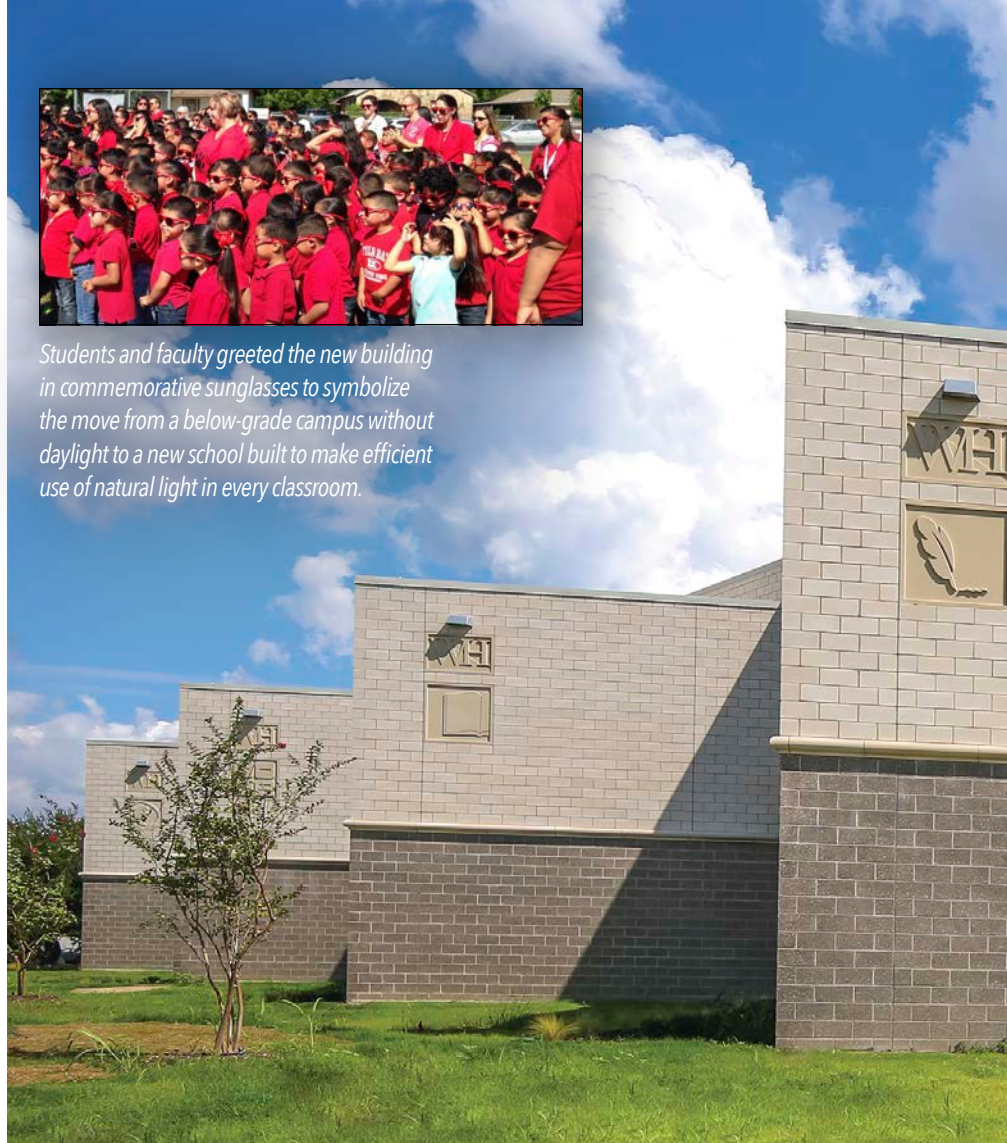
Washington Heights Elementary School is back in the sunshine, rebuilt above grade to replace a 1979 underground school. Airport noise mitigation now comes from angled walls of Featherlite Hill Country Stone. Entry and playground facades have colorful walls of Acme Brick, animated by a multicolor basketweave pattern that celebrates the school's prominent site. With Acme's durable, beautiful masonry products, the future is bright, indeed.



Architects created a rich vocabulary of Featherlite Hill Country Stone, with academic insignia insets, and Acme Brick laid in a basketweave pattern on a blend of venerable contrasting brick.



Students and faculty greeted the new building in commemorative sunglasses to symbolize the move from a below-grade campus without daylight to a new school built to make efficient use of natural light in every classroom.





"The design team achieved our goal of creating a school that reflected its neighborhood. The brick patterning and color scheme make clear this is an elementary school—playful and colorful—a place where kids come. In bringing the school above ground, we worked with the design team to make the building light, bright, colorful, and exciting, with classrooms designed and oriented to protect against airport noise with masonry elevations. The school is a hit with the community."

*— Gary Griffith, AIA, LEED AP,
District Architect, Fort Worth ISD*

Floor Plan: First Floor

- 1 Entry Plaza and Main Entrance
- 2 Front Office Suite
- 3 Gymnasium and Stage
- 4 Music Room
- 5 Cafeteria
- 6 Kitchen
- 7 Pre-K Classroom
- 8 Kindergarten Classroom
- 9 First Grade Classroom
- 10 Resource Classroom
- 11 LINC Classroom



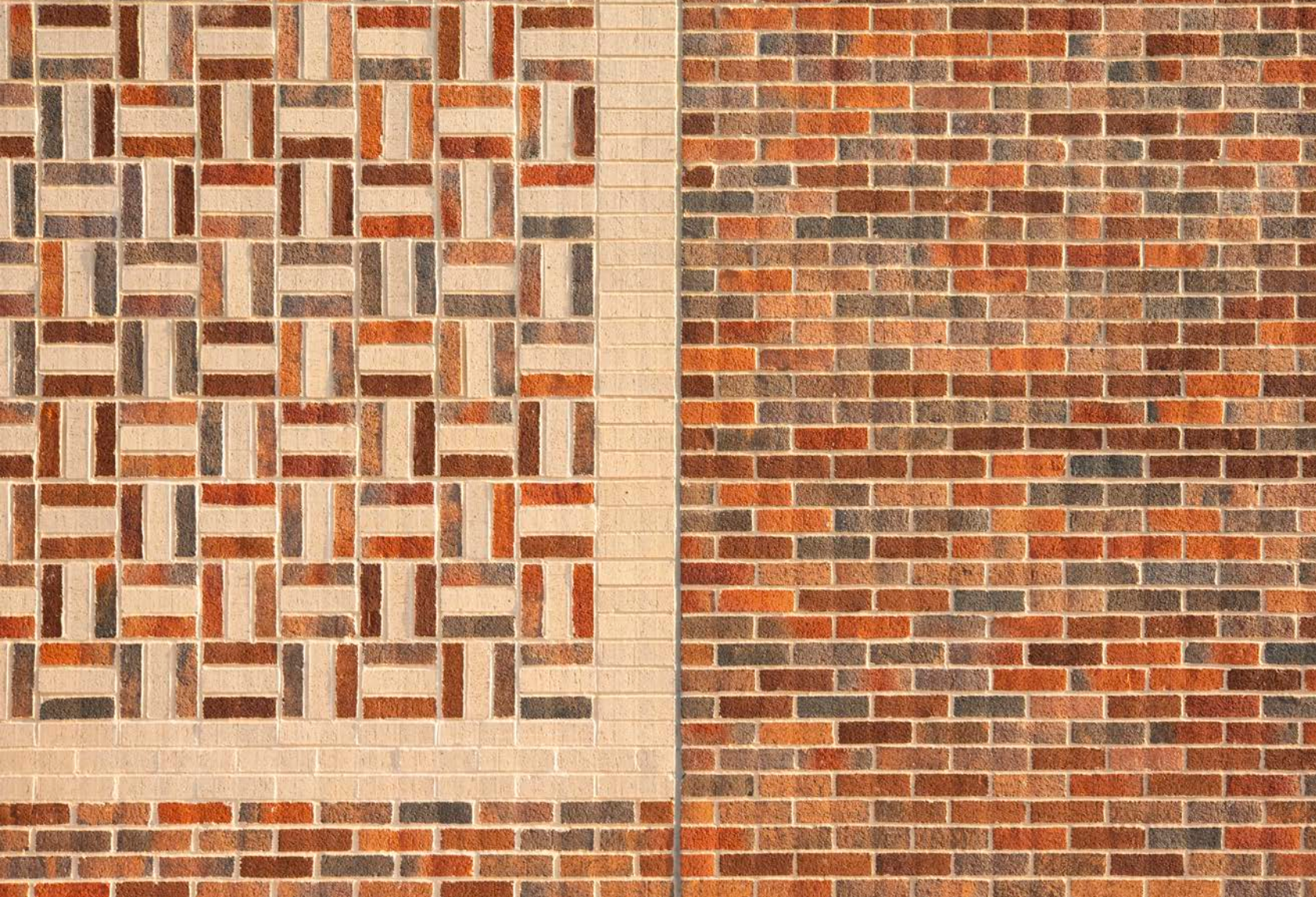
Floor Plan: Second Floor

- 1 Media Center/Library
- 2 Art Room
- 3 Exploratorium
- 4 Second Grade Classroom
- 5 Third Grade Classroom
- 6 Fourth Grade Classroom
- 7 Fifth Grade Classroom
- 8 Media Classroom
- 9 Resource Classroom
- 10 Art Kiln



^ north

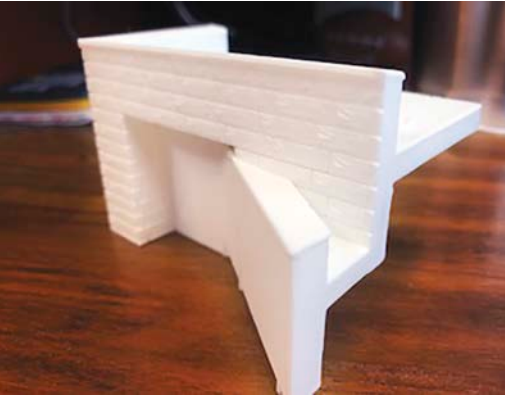




"We used masonry to tie the whole building together. The larger Hill Country Stone and laminated windows on the sawtooth classroom design element addressed sound from the airport across the street. Acme Brick was a simple material we could use in interesting ways to celebrate the special parts of the building and handle the challenges of a tight plan and FAA height restriction. We even repurposed the void of the old school as a detention tank for storm water under the playground."

— Roberto Ramirez, AIA, Principal, WRA Architects

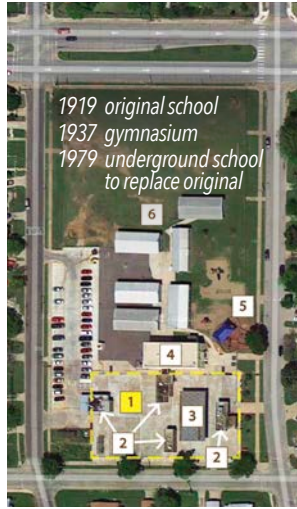
Study Model at Angled Classroom Wall Intersections



Site Plan

Existing Elementary School

- Main Building 1
- Underground
- Elevators 2
- Covered 3
- Outdoor Playcourt
- Above- 4
- Ground Gymnasium
- Playgrounds 5
- Portable 6
- Classrooms



Site Plan

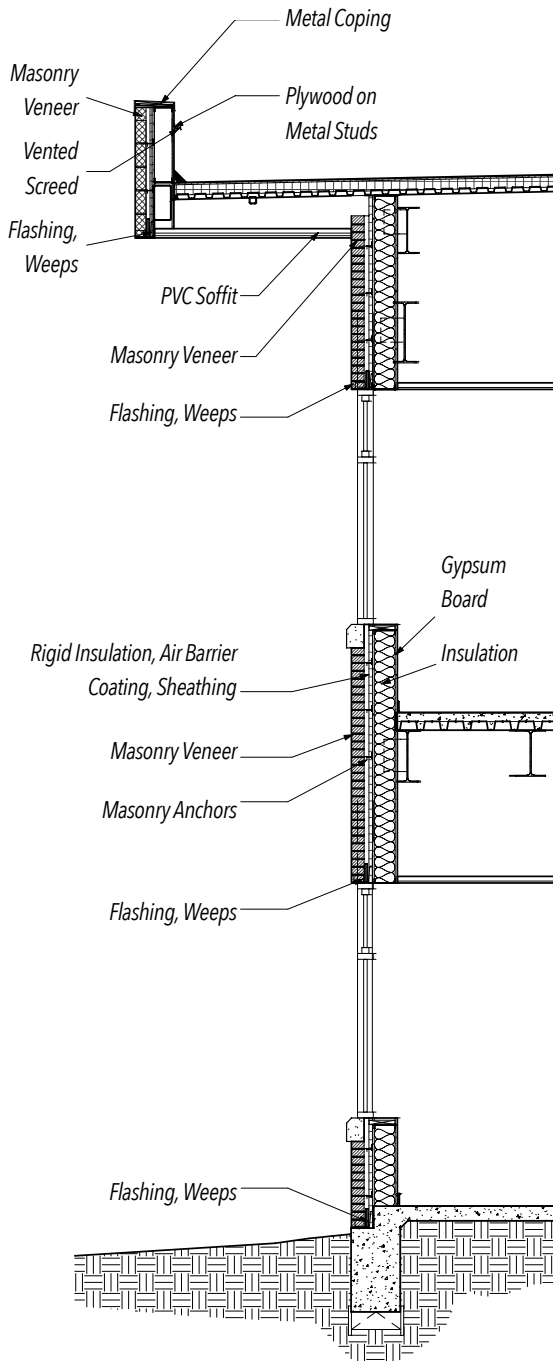
New Elementary Replacement School

(constructed onsite with school in session)

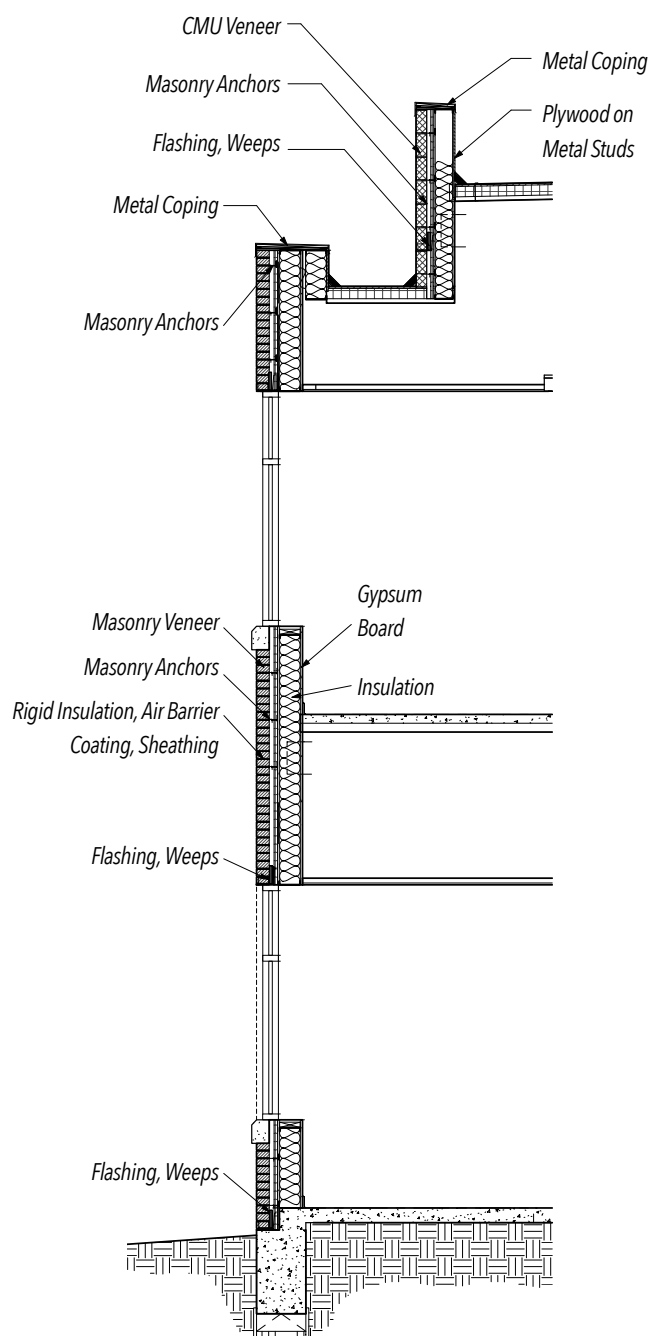
- 1 Entry Plaza and Main Entrance
- 2 New School
- 3 Parent Drop-Off
- 4 Playgrounds
- 5 Outdoor Eating
- 6 Detention Tanks

^ north

Section at Angled Classroom Wall Intersection
Hill Country Stone Prominent



Section at Angled Classroom Wall Intersection
Acme Brick Prominent



Playful colors of Elgin Butler glazed brick and imaginative patterns highlight the walls of a school once buried away from the sky, now brilliantly above ground on its century-old site.

**Washington Heights Elementary School,
Fort Worth ISD**
architect
WRA Architects, Dallas
general contractor
Cadence McShane, Addison, Texas
masonry contractor
Wilks Masonry, Fort Worth



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for the earth.®**

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and full-service support

Acme Brick materials

Acme Brick

FSP Special Mingle (75% B100, 25% B15)
Modular Heritage; DVP Driftwood
Blend Velour; Elgin Butler Burnt Sienna,
Ultra Yellow, Evergreen, Purple Heart
(basketweave) Modular Glazed

Featherlite Building Products

Charcoal, Limestone Hill Country Stone

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