



Designing for Decarbonization: Lessons from Boston's First LEED Platinum School

Session Description

Josiah Quincy Upper School (JQUS) is a powerful example of what's possible when project teams refuse to slow down in the face of complexity. As Boston Public Schools' first LEED Platinum school, JQUS demonstrates bold leadership in electrification and healthy, high-performance design. This session explores how the JQUS team achieved full electrification while balancing energy use, indoor air quality, occupant comfort, a tight urban site, 21st-century high school program goals, and a limited public-sector budget. Featuring members of the project team, the conversation will highlight real-world decision-making, collaboration, and tradeoffs that kept sustainability goals moving forward, and offer practical lessons attendees can apply to their own resilient, high-performance projects. Attendees will gain practical insights into overcoming barriers and maintaining momentum toward a zero-carbon future.

Learning Objectives

1

Understand the strategies used to achieve LEED Platinum and full electrification at JQUS

2

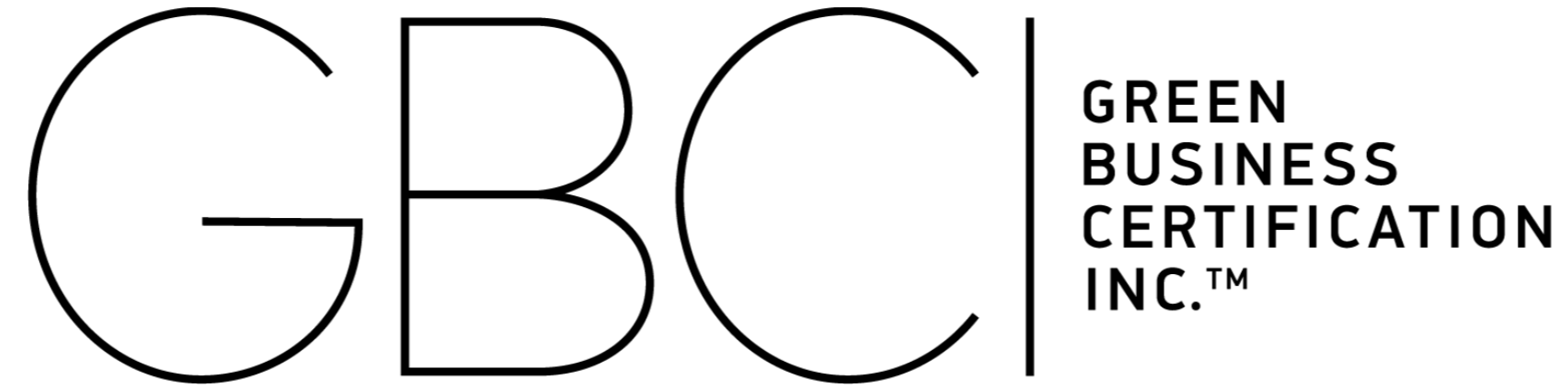
Learn directly from school leadership about how the new project has impacted attendance, performance, and engagement.

3

Explain how the constraints of a tight urban site adjacent to the highway influenced design decisions to maximize indoor air quality, acoustics and occupant comfort.

4

Apply lessons from JQUS to their own projects to make informed, resilient sustainability decisions.



This course is approved by GBCI for continuing education. Approval for this course indicates it will be monitored by GBCI to ensure that it upholds the quality, relevance and rigor necessary to contribute to ongoing learning in knowledge areas relevant to the green building

Course title: **industry.**
Designing for Decarbonization: Lessons
from Boston's First LEED Platinum
School

Approved for:
1.0 CE hour(s)

QR CODE TO REPORT CEU



Moderator



Monique Owens
Regional Director, Northeast
U.S Market Transformation &
Development
U.S. Green Building Council
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Project Overview

Project size:

178,000 sf

Site size:

0.9-acre

Students:

650

Grades:

6-12

Sustainability:

LEED Platinum certified

All-electric



CHINATOWN
NEIGHBORHOOD

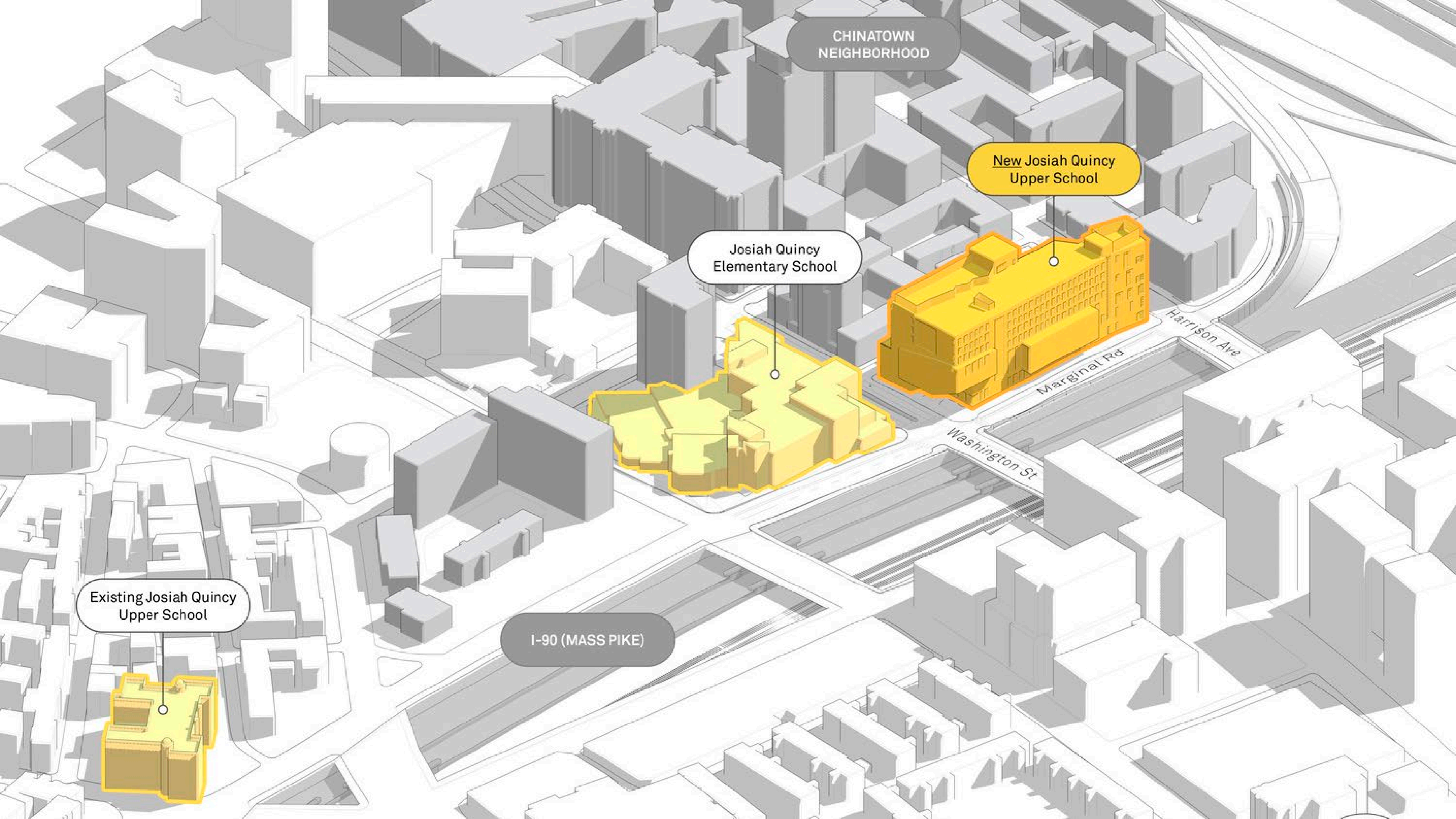
New Josiah Quincy
Upper School

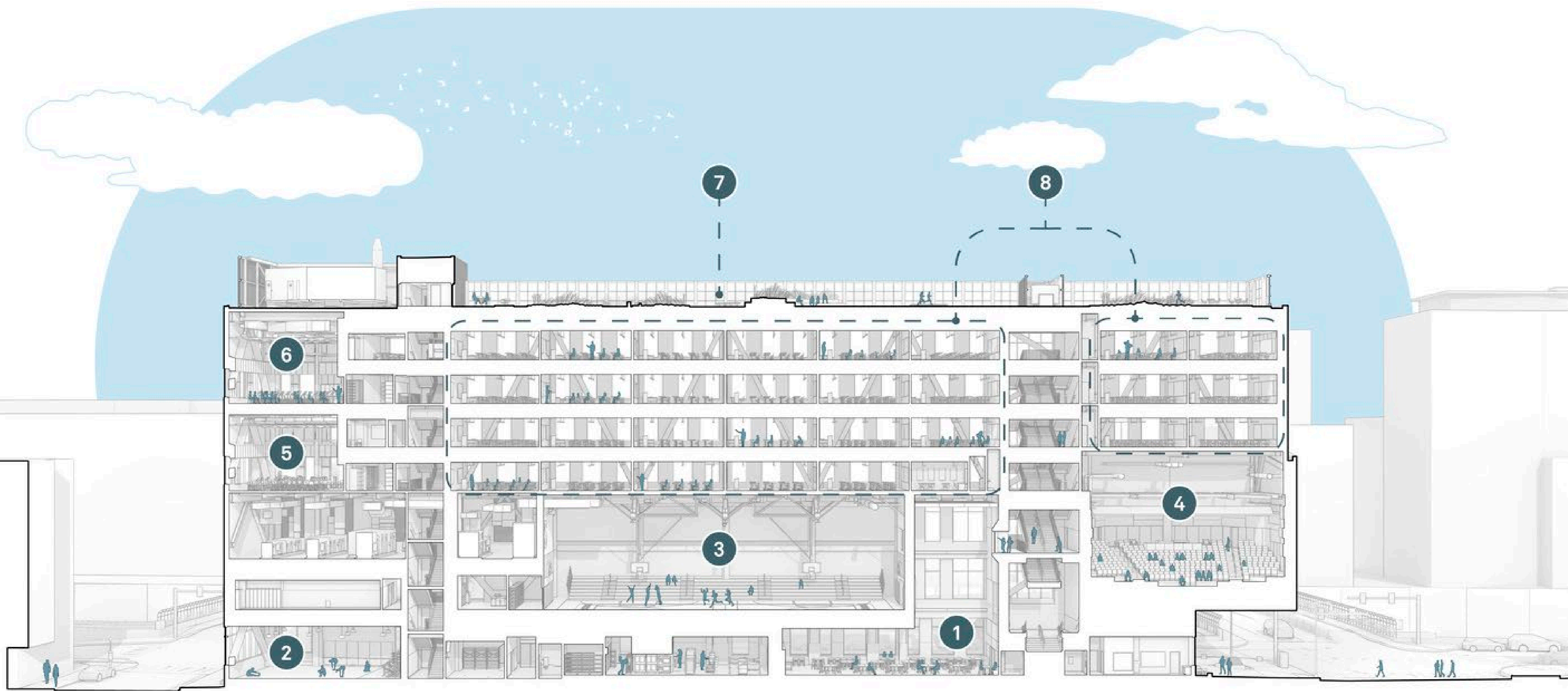
Josiah Quincy
Elementary School

Existing Josiah Quincy
Upper School

I-90 (MASS PIKE)

Harrison Ave
Marginal Rd
Washington St





Harrison Ave

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1 Cafeteria | 4 Auditorium | 7 Rooftop |
| 2 Alt. Physical Education | 5 Chorus | 8 Classroom grid |
| 3 Gymnasium | 6 Band | |

Washington St

Today's Speakers



**Colleen
Soden**

FOUNDER
SODEN
SUSTAINABILITY



**Dr. Richard
Chang**

HEAD OF SCHOOL
JOSIAH QUINCY
UPPER SCHOOL



**Delavern
Stanislaus**

CHIEF OF CAPITAL
PLANNING
BOSTON PUBLIC
SCHOOLS



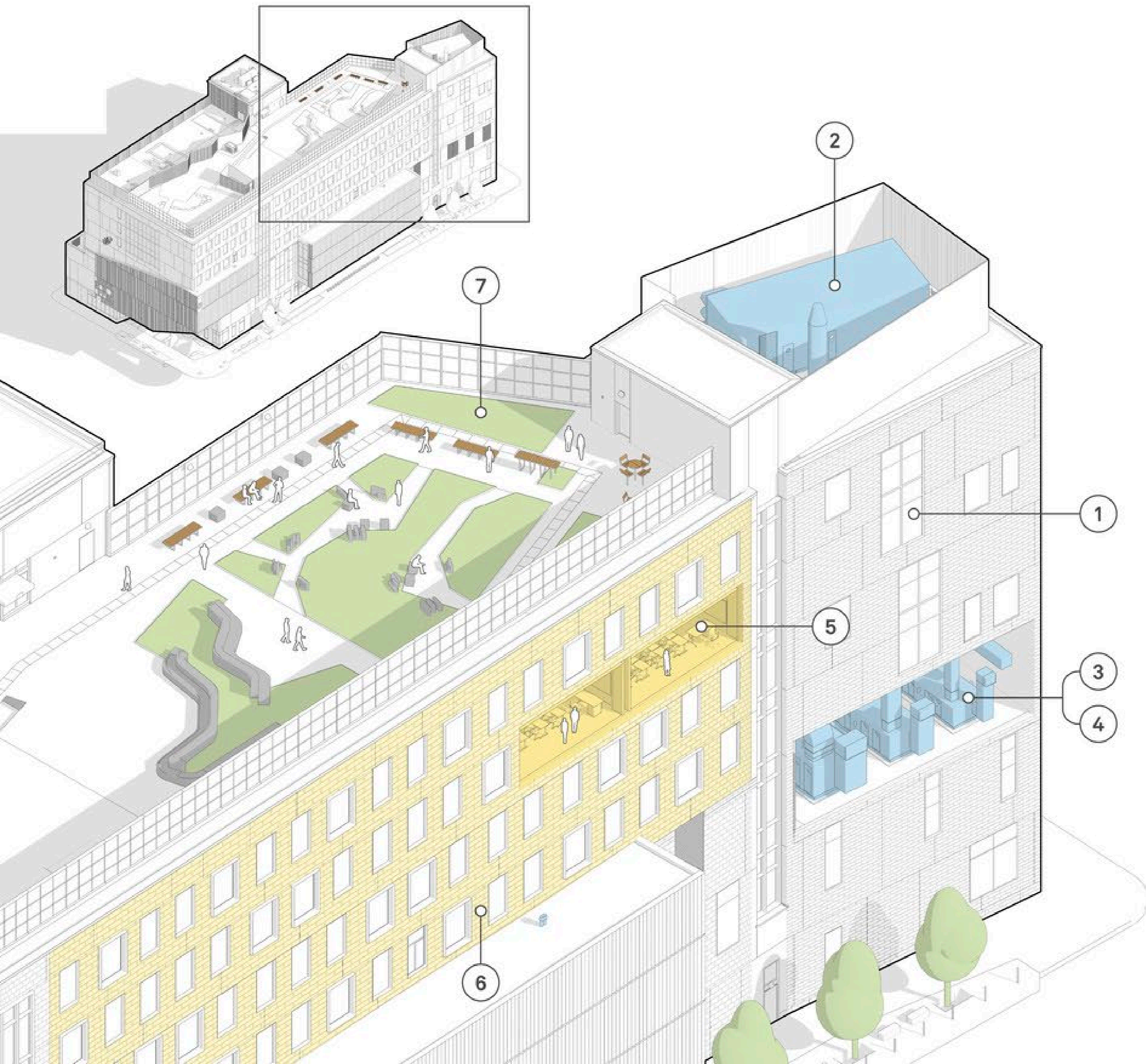
**Pip
Lewis**

PRINCIPAL
HMFH
ARCHITECTS









Sustainable Features

- 1 Highly insulated walls, windows, and roof
- 2 Enhanced indoor air quality
 - a. Enhanced air filtering
 - b. Displacement air system (reduces spread of contaminants)
 - c. Fresh air intakes at top of building where air is cleaner
- 3 All-electric heating, cooling, and ventilation (heat pump technology)
- 4 Mechanical systems above first floor to protect from flooding
- 5 Renewable, healthy materials
- 6 Building orientation (north and south facing classrooms for optimal daylighting)
- 7 Rooftop gardens and educational spaces



**Are there any
questions?**





**Colleen
Soden**

FOUNDER
SODEN
SUSTAINABILITY



**Dr. Richard
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HEAD OF SCHOOL
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Learn more about
JQUS on USGBC's
website



IAQ Case Study



**Thank you for
joining us today!**

