

Custom Fire-Rated Windows With Historic Charm

Hilltop High School Renovation

Location: 2730 Bryant Street
San Francisco, California

Architect: Thomas Lawrence
Hamilton+Aitken Architects

Product: CW-E1 120 Exterior Stair
E1 60 Interior

Applications: Property Line
Corridors
Exterior Stair
Assembly Room
Kitchen

**Installation and
Glazing Contractor:** AHC Glass, Sina Ahmadi

Photo Credit: Eric Chiu, Hamilton+Aitken Architects



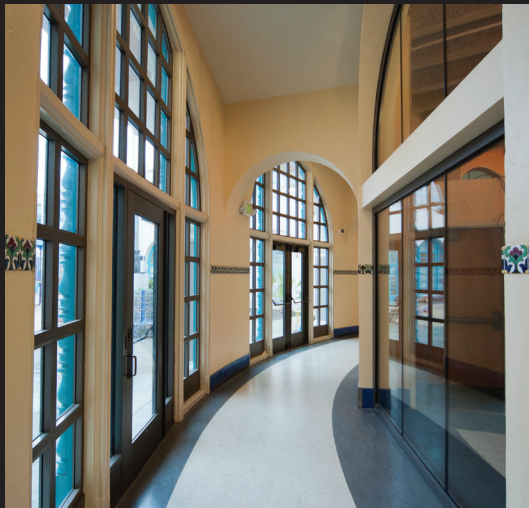
Photo courtesy of Hamilton + Aitken Architects.

Custom arched 60-minute aluminum interior storefront windows with butt-glazed fire resistant glazing.

To learn more about **Aluflam CW-E1 120 Exterior, E1 60 Interior** and the entire line of **Aluflam** fire-rated aluminum glazing systems, contact Aluflam North America at **714.899.3990** or email **info@aluflam-usa.com**. Or visit **www.aluflam-usa.com**.

Challenge

The Sunshine School was originally built as a New Deal project in 1937 to serve children affected by polio and heart ailments. Now known as Hilltop High School, the school also serves as a support service center for pregnant and parenting teens. A variety of community service agencies, including the Family Service Agency of San Francisco, also share the site providing childcare, education, counseling, case management, and community services to the public.



Hamilton+Aitken Architects were hired by the San Francisco United School District for the nearly \$11 million renovation, which includes classrooms, administrative offices, counseling rooms, kitchen/servery and dining areas, an auditorium, child development classrooms, nurseries, and play yards, as well as improved entrances and drop-off areas.

In addition to establishing life and safety code conformance, H+A paid particular attention to seismic upgrades of the historic concrete building; waterproofing improvements to skylights; accessibility upgrades including a new elevator, and building-wide electrical and mechanical upgrades.

Another challenge was to find window replacements and glazing that would help improve energy performance, increase daylighting and maintain the historic charm of Hilltop High.

Solution

"The historic importance of the building was important to us," stated Andrea Dawson, Project Manager, Hamilton+Aitken Architects. "So we were particularly sensitive to the quality of finishes throughout."

Architect Thomas Lawrence explains, "For example, to retain a piece of the building's historic use, we repurposed the mosaic-tiled walls of the building's original hydrotherapy pool to serve as the kitchen servery line. When original finishes could not be saved, H+A chose ways to honor the building's past through new interpretations. Bathroom tiles and metal gratings over radiators and gates recall existing tile patterns, while plank acoustic ceilings mimic original finishes. We were looking for fire-rated windows and glazing that would meet our standards for quality and design."

"This project called for some unusual requirements on window shapes. We were able to send full-size traced templates of the actual arched wall openings to Aluflam," says Sina Ahmadi, Director of Operations at AHC Glass. "In turn, they were able to digitize the template contours and match these with their arched window frames. The resulting fit was perfect. In addition, Aluflam provided butt-joint glazing that fit perfectly within the custom arched frames, which is not an easy task to achieve. Yet they did so in an impressive manner."

"At the beginning of the project, we had originally considered another supplier for the fire-rated materials. Upon further review and discussions with the architect and owner, the decision to go with Aluflam framing was obvious.

"The other advantage to Aluflam's window system is that the frames arrived in large fabricated units, which resulted in labor savings during the installation. We were able to install the window frames right into the wall openings and proceed to install glass. This is often an overlooked factor when evaluating different systems for a project."

"All in all, working with the Aluflam team was a great experience. Their professional expertise made the job flow smoothly."