



Wisconsin English Second Language Institute (WESLI)

Scope: New Education Space
Location: Madison, Wisconsin
Designer: InteriorLogic



Due to a downtown redevelopment plan, WESLI was required to consolidate its teaching operations into two floors and to create a new building entrance. For Friede & Associates, it meant gutting 150-year-old buildings that had been renovated numerous times and had been reconstructed on many occasions, often as cheaply as possible. Our team also needed to match floor heights in two buildings that had not been designed with common elevations and create new openings between the buildings through masonry walls.

The demolition crew found hidden walls, covered skylights, partially removed structural beams and, in one area, inches of concrete and gypcrete topping that needed to be removed before reconstruction could begin. Friede teams constructed a bridge through the middle of the atrium that would connect the third floor classrooms and provide a student lounge area. New bathrooms, operable meeting room walls, and a second floor break room were also constructed.

This project was recognized by the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Wisconsin as a 2020 Gold Project of Distinction.

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