

# IMI



# CASE STUDY

August 2000

**T**here were several challenges involved with the design and construction of a replacement for Wausau School District's existing 60 year old G.D. Jones Elementary School.

The considerably larger new school was being built on the same limited site as the existing school, and it needed to be completed before the original structure could be razed. This would require that the new facility have more than one story. At the same time, the design would need to respect the scale of the residential neighborhood surrounding the site.

A pattern of block and two colors of brick was used for the facade to reduce the apparent scale of the two-story structure. The resulting facility blends well into the surrounding neighborhood and relates well in size with its primary users - elementary students. The building sits at an angle on the corner site, which keeps it from closing in too tightly on adjacent residential properties.

The community had both an historical and emotional attachment to the old G.D. Jones School, a two-story brick structure with stone-arched entrances that had occupied the site for decades. The use of face brick and split face block (in lieu

*(continued)*

## G.D. JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Wausau, Wisconsin



**OWNER:** Wausau School District

**ARCHITECT:** SDS Architects,  
Dale Poynter, AIA from Eau Claire, WI

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** Miron Construction

**MASON CONTRACTOR:**  
Miron Construction, Greg Kepenhan

**LOCAL UNION:**  
International Union of Bricklayers and  
Allied Craftworkers Local #6, WI

**PROJECT SUMMARY:** Loadbearing block with brick veneer and stone accents.

**Winner IMI Golden Trowel Award 1998**

of stone) on the exterior of the building gives a sense of continuity from the old school to the new one. Old stone arches were removed from the entrances of the original facility and related to an interior two-story portion of the new school's library. Set in a wall of face brick, they serve as both a reminder of the old school, and as a symbol of the continuing tradition of G.D. Jones Elementary. A skylit "museum," clad in oversized split face block and oriented to the old school and the street, helps give the new school its identity, and is a location for the display of artifacts and memorabilia from the old school.



*Old stone arches from the original facility were set into the interior two-story portion of the new school's library.*

Classrooms in the new 65,000-square-foot facility are clustered together by grade with a shared resource room for each grade level. Common areas for use by all grades include an IMC/technology center, art and music rooms, a gymnasium and a multipurpose room/cafeteria.

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