



**Talley Middle School**  
*Wilmington, Delaware*



**ABHA Architects**

**Client:**

Brandywine School District; James R. Scanlon, Superintendent

**Area of project entry category:**

2,500 sq. ft.

**Cost of project entry category:**

\$333,300

**Cost/square foot of project entry category:**

\$133

**Total area:**

120,500 sq. ft.

**Total cost:**

\$12.5 million

**Total cost/square foot:**

\$104

**Completion:**

August 2006

**Photographers:**

Julie Bierlein, Greg Benson and Daniel Jackson



The modernization and renovation of this 1972 middle school consisted of a complete mechanical and electrical upgrade, related architectural upgrades, code and accessibility upgrades, upgrades to suit current teaching methodologies, and some exterior repairs.

A major design requirement was for a new library that evoked a quiet and light-filled garden space. This was achieved by removing corridor walls and converting the former library area from a dark interior space to a bright, airy one overlooking an inviting courtyard.

The carpet, in earth tones, has a leafy motif that is repeated on the bookshelf ends and chair backs. Ceilings were raised in the central area with direct and indirect lighting for ease of reading and computer use. The library has a separate reading/study space and computers with Internet access. An adjacent instructional/research space is separated from the main library with a glazed partition that enables the librarian to work both sides efficiently. The furniture setup also allows the room to be used as a training area for students and faculty. ▲



# Harlan Elementary School Wilmington, Delaware



## ABHA Architects

**Client:**

Brandywine School District; James R. Scanlon, Superintendent

**Area of project entry category:**

2,100 sq. ft.

**Cost of project entry category:**

\$342,200

**Cost/square foot of project entry category:**

\$163

**Total area:**

80,000 sq. ft.

**Total cost:**

\$10.8 million

**Total cost/square foot:**

\$135

**Completion:**

June 2004

**Photographers:**

Anne Gummerson, Daniel Jackson and Tom Bernard

Renovations to this 1932 building included space planning/programming modifications, finish upgrades, installations of new mechanical, electrical, plumbing and security systems, and restoration and refinishing of the original woodwork.

A highlight of the project is the library and media center. It started life as a mudroom where kids who walked to school and played outdoors shed boots and rain gear. A library in its most recent incarnation, it will emerge from renovation as a full-fledged media center. The octagonal plan lends itself to an unusual but efficient space. Bright, airy windows with wood trim and a cathedral ceiling with indirect lighting and the original exposed structure create

a spacious feel in spite of the limited space. Work rooms and a computer lab are situated off the reading and collections area, with additional research computers available in the reading area. Low shelving in the center helps retain and reinforce the open feel, and is age-appropriate for the elementary school. 

