



Brad Horrigan/Register photos

New Haven Mayor John DeStefano Jr., right, has a word with architect Ken Boroson outside Mauro-Sheridan School during a tour of the new building Tuesday in the city. At lower left is Principal Denise Coles-Cross.

2 more Elm City school projects completed

By Pamela McLoughlin
Register Staff

NEW HAVEN — Architect Jim LaPosta was always mindful of the natural elements adjacent to Bishop Woods School, using rough-textured brick to simulate nearby stone outcroppings and a pitched roof to carry the eye to the ridge of the high hill behind the school.

Now that his work of art is complete, for LaPosta, designing schools comes as much from his heart as his skill and talent as an architect. LaPosta said it's "enormously satisfying," to design a school building because so many important things go on inside. As always, he'll try to make it for the first day of school.

"The best part is going to be September when the kids are there," said LaPosta, of JCJ Architecture, Hartford.

LaPosta's work, as well as that of Kenneth Boroson, architect of the renovated Mauro-Sheridan School, were put on display this week as Mayor John DeStefano Jr., the architects and construction manager toured the new buildings that will open on time Sept. 5.

Bishop Woods, a neighborhood school that will serve students in pre-K through eighth grade, about doubled in size to 75,000 square feet through a \$38 million project.

Mauro-Sheridan, now two schools combined, will be a science, technology and communication magnet school. The school, originally built around 1922, underwent a like-new renovation with an addition where the cafeteria will be housed.

The school is 101,000 square feet and was a \$47.5 million project.

from the library of West Rock.

DeStefano noted these were the 30 and 31st schools completed under his \$1.5 billion citywide school construction program begun in 1998. His excitement after the tour, as always, is about improving mastery test scores through giving children better learning environments and helping to make parents feel proud of the schools, DeStefano said.

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"The schools are stabilizing factors on neighborhoods," DeStefano said.

Leonard Schiraldi of R2D Construction, construction manager for the Bishop Woods project, said the building is wonderfully designed and teamwork on the project was the best.

"We're proud of the building, it's beautiful," he said. Schiraldi said it was a great feeling when students from the school came out to sign the last piece of structural steel and watched it being hoisted.

"That's a thrill because you know it's (the school) going to affect future generations," he said.

Susan Weisselberg, coordinator of the school construction program, said furniture deliveries are already under way and final cleaning time fast approaching. She said there's a good amount of time before school starts to "work out the kinks," that exist in all new buildings.



Boroson, right, points out a feature of the cafeteria to DeStefano during Tuesday's tour of the new Mauro-Sheridan School.

Boroson, of Boroson Falconer Architects and Engineers, who was architect for the Mauro-Sheridan project, said he was quite pleased with the new school, a collaborative design process. For Boroson, a highlight is the triple Gothic arch entrance with ornamental aluminum, characteristic of the time when the school was first built in 1922. He also noted the spectacular views