

MIT and UCB Offer Design Expertise To Local Schools

Berke - P.S. - Restructuring

Graduate students in architecture and urban planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's "New American School Project" will participate in special design workshops this fall to help the Berkeley Unified District address the physical planning issues prompted by the emerging educational needs of students.

The students arrive today, Oct. 6, and will take part in the District's first city-wide workshop at Malcolm X Intermediate School on Oct. 9. The workshop will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to the public.

MIT's efforts will focus on how various District-wide school organization plans and Berkeley's vision for its students might affect the overall design of the District and individual school buildings. In the spring, graduate students in architecture from UC-Berkeley will more closely examine at school building designs.

Because some Berkeley schools will be rebuilt with Measure A money, the District is looking forward to working with MIT faculty and with these students—many of whom have advanced degrees in planning, urban design, and architectures. The New American School program is dedicated to redesigning school facilities to meet the changing social and technological needs of students.

Roy Strickland, Associate Professor of Architecture at MIT and Director of the New

American School Project, was a featured speaker at the District's design symposium held in June. "Schools have not kept up with the social and technological changes in our society," Strickland told board members, school administrators, and members of the public who attended the all-day symposium. "Berkeley has a unique opportunity to rebuild and reconfigure old buildings along fresh lines with the \$158 million in Measure A funds."

The 10 MIT students will stay with host families during their visits this fall. When they return to Massachusetts they will be linked through video-conferencing with BUSD students who will learn basics about architec-

ture and design during the series of workshops and round-table discussions sponsored by the District. MIT students will also visit schools and participate in tours conducted by Berkeley public school students.

"I am particularly pleased that Professor Strickland plans to use Berkeley as a site for this study and the project as an educational tool for our children," said Superintendent LaVoneia Steele. "By introducing our K-12 students to concepts of space and design, they can better understand how architects work."

The MIT group will produce a document, "A Plan for Berkeley Schools," at the end of the project.