

## **Greenroofs.com Project of the Week: 8/31/15**

# **Drew School Sam Cuddleback III Assembly Wing Vertical Garden**

**San Francisco, CA, USA**

**1,720 sf. Greenwall**



### **Project Description & Details**

#### **VERTICAL GARDEN PATRICK BLANC**

Founded in 1908, Drew School is a fully accredited co-educational college preparatory school enrolling 250 students in grades 9 through 12. Designed by Bonnie Fisher and Boris Dramov of Roma Design Group, the new \$15 million Drew School Sam Cuddleback III Assembly Wing, performing arts space, and classroom building is among the first high school buildings in the Bay Area to attain LEED Gold Certification for New Construction and for School Pilot. Opened in 2011, green features of the award-winning new assembly wing include an external 1,720 sf vertical garden designed by Patrick Blanc, a 2,630 sf living roof designed by Rana Creek,

recycled and sustainable USGBC-certified materials, and environmental sensors.

Covering the street side wall of the new Sam Cuddleback III Assembly Wing, the hydroponic vertical garden is made up of about 4,579 native Californian plants and approximately 64 of the 105 species are from the San Francisco Bay area. The vertical garden and greenroof combined cover about 30% of the building surfaces, or approximately 4,350 sf of plants, which is double the size of the original parcel of land from the 1800's. The greenwall plants were arranged from sun loving down to shade loving understory species; just a few include flannelbush, Red buckwheat, Douglas iris, Santa Rosa Island sage, blue-eyed grass, and maidenhair fern. Helping students develop a deeper understanding of environmental systems, they study the plants on the wall as a living lab for many subjects such as botany, chemistry, and physics. Besides being an extraordinary educational resource for the high school, the Drew School vertical garden brings a vibrant lushness to the public environment of San Francisco.

Linda S. Velazquez

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**Year:** 2011

**Owner:** Drew School

**Location:** San Francisco, CA,  
USA

**Designers/Manufacturers of Record:**

**Architect and Landscape Architect:** Boris Dramov &  
Bonnie Fisher, ROMA Design Group