



Kaufman Undergoes Renewal



The Kaufman Center.

Rendering by Augustus Wendell for Robert A.M. Stern Architects

The Kaufman Center, an arts and educational institution in an award-winning Brutalist building designed by Ashok Bhavnani, AIA, in 1978, is undergoing a \$17 million restoration and renovation designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects. Located a block from Lincoln Center, The Kaufman is composed of three divisions — two educational facilities (Special Music School (P.S. 859) and Lucy Moses School) and Merkin Concert Hall. Plans call for respecting the building's original form while enhancing its functionality and appearance, physically and conceptually uniting the three divisions with one entrance and lobby for the facility.

Channel glass will replace corroding metal rods on the main floor and balcony levels, while other façade elements will be restored in keeping with the original architectural intent. The interior transformation will include a renovation of public spaces with new materials, signage, lighting, and furnishings. The concert hall will be refurbished, and its technical functions will be updated while preserving the hall's much admired acoustical capabilities. The project will be completed in time for a January 8 celebration.