



**THE WHITTLE**

SCHOOL AND STUDIO

# Arup

## Building Renovation, Over \$40M Washington, DC

Renzo Piano Building Workshop, Architect  
Ayers Saint Gross, Architect  
Turner Construction, Contractor

The Whittle School and Studios is an education organization, focused on creating extraordinary and unique schools for children ages 3 to 18. They are working to completely reimagine education, believing that learning happens everywhere, all the time. The needs and demands of the buildings supporting these new learning environments are as unique as the educational approach.

Scouting a location for their Washington, DC campus, the client decided to renovate the largely unused, iconic, Intelsat Headquarter Building, designed by architect John Andrews. The building features more than 900,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of space across 14 distinctive “pods” which are clustered around the glass and stainless-steel atria.

Working with architects Renzo Piano Building Workshop and local architect Ayers Saint Gross, Arup provided multidisciplinary services for the renovation project, including structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire engineering, as well as acoustic, lighting, audiovisual, telecommunications, and sustainability consulting. Facing a strict budget and tight timeline, the architect leveraged the existing building’s materials as much as possible, streamlining the approach to create transferable designs across “pods” while allowing for sufficient construction time. The new building includes classrooms, learning studios, laboratories, “maker” spaces, theatres, athletic areas, kitchen and dining areas, dormitory rooms, and all required support areas.



