

» W.G. Mills says it has a reputation as Florida's premier school builder, with a portfolio that includes high schools.



# Building the Dream

W.G. MILLS IS AT WORK ON A RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF EDGEWATER HIGH IN ORLANDO, FLA.

**A**fter 37 years, W.G. Mills Inc. says it has earned a reputation for its commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction. "The firm prides itself in overcoming the many budget and schedule challenges of construction management by consistently completing projects within budget, under strict time requirements, while maintaining rigorous quality standards," it says.

Based in Sarasota, Fla., the company started operations in 1972 and today provides preconstruction, construction management, general contracting, program management, design/build and master planning/development services. "W.G. Mills Inc. has realized consistent, steady growth throughout its history," the company says.

"The Mills portfolio of successfully completed projects exceeds [\$3 billion] and encompasses virtually all construction sectors, including educational facilities, commercial, retail, healthcare, hospitality, recreational facilities and major renovations," W.G. Mills says. "The company enjoys market dominance in Florida with six strategically located offices throughout the state and the recent opening of a new office located in Cary, N.C."

## Spanning All Types

W.G. Mills says it has a reputation as Florida's premier school builder. "Our portfolio of educational facilities spans across all types, including

elementary, middle and high schools, as well as higher education campuses," the company says.

W.G. Mills notes that it was the first contractor to deliver an educational project under the construction management at-risk delivery method in 1995.

In addition, "To date, we have constructed almost 300 educational facilities, totaling [\$1.9 billion]," the company explains. "Our vast experience in delivering school projects under [the] construction management and design/build [methods is] a testament to our 93 percent repeat client track record."

## Keeping Edgewater Soaring

W.G. Mills' current projects include a renovation and expansion of Edgewater High in Orlando, Fla. According to Orange County Public Schools (OCPS), the 29-acre school site will grow to more than 40 acres to accommodate new facilities on a larger campus.

"The complex will include new classroom buildings, a new performing arts theater, a new gymnasium, a new media center, a new administration building and technology upgrades," OCPS says. Site preparation has started on the project.

"During the winter break of 2010, the school staff will move into all-new buildings to prepare for students when classes resume," OCPS con-

tinues. "All renovation of existing buildings will be completed by August 2011 in time for the start of school.

"Minor site work, including the completion of the practice field, will occur after the start of school," it says. W.G. Mills is overseeing the project in a joint venture with Mims Construction.

School Board Member Nancy Robinson explained that the Edgewater High community is excited about the new look and features of the project. "This is truly a time to celebrate the power of cooperation," Robinson said in a statement. "Without the patient efforts of so many, the community dream would still be just a dream."

Additionally, "Edgewater High has been serving the educational needs of the community for nearly six decades," stated Chief Facilities Officer Bob Proie. "The upgrades and improvements we are making to the school will keep the Edgewater Eagles soaring for at least another 50 years."

#### Commitment to Green

With green building a growing trend, "We have made a firm commitment to being a

*W.G. Mills Inc. -  
Edgewater High*

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*• Headquarters: Sarasota, Fla.*

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*"W.G. Mills Inc. has realized consistent, steady growth throughout its history."*

*-W.G. Mills*

leader in this sector," W.G. Mills says. "We are proud of the fact that we have recently achieved gold certification on two projects, St. Petersburg College Natural Science and Math Building and the GSA Citizenship and Immigration Building."

Located in Clearwater, Fla., the St. Petersburg project was a new, 58,600-square-foot, two-story laboratory and classroom building. "The first floor of the building encompasses the Math and College of Education teaching areas," W.G. Mills says.

"These include a robotics lab, lecture rooms, computer labs and offices."

In addition, "The concrete structure with masonry infill and painted stucco exteriors are highlighted by a raised central roof section at the entry that is clad with a hurricane-rated curtain wall glazing system," the company continues. "The building includes state-of-the-art mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, including [a] rooftop exhaust manifold system for the laboratories, laboratory gases, [a] de-ionized water generation system, data connection at each student's workstation, access security system, emergency generator and fiber-optic cabling."

The GSA Citizenship building, the company notes, spans 43,000 square feet and is located near the Orlando International Airport.

"This facility is constructed of a masonry load-bearing and structural steel/bar joist shell, TPO roof system and stucco exterior," the company explains.

"Interior finishes were selected by the architect and owner based on LEED criteria and durability. Finishes of note include sunflower board, bamboo, cork flooring, polished concrete and other low-emitting materials." ♦




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