

WEST PREPARATORY JUNIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Windows big and small, some with clear glass and some with coloured film on the glass, dance haphazardly across the walls.

INSTITUTIONAL

West Preparatory Junior Public School, Toronto

Taylor Smyth Architects, Toronto

This 2,400-square-foot multipurpose room is a simple brick-box addition to school for junior kindergarten through sixth grade. Inside, vertical slots of acoustic concrete block embellish concrete-block walls. Floors are surfaced in standard, foot-square vinyl composition tile; interior window surrounds are painted wood. Acoustic tile covers the ceiling.

The designers worked magic on this no-frills materials palette. Random slots flank the ceiling lighting, the slot edges painted in bright colours. Multi-hued floor tiles reflect, in a higgledy-piggledy way, the ceiling plan. Windows big and small, some with clear glass and some with coloured film on the glass, dance haphazardly across the walls.

Deep surrounds of colour framing the windows add depth to the wall. The windows and the frames cast coloured shadows onto the floor and walls that move with the sun's position, making students aware of the passage of time. Indeed, the happy users have dubbed this space the "Rainbow Room."



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