

UNDUGU'S MATHARE SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT - 2015
PICTURE GALLERY - THE FRONT PART OF THE TUITION BLOCK

The tuition (classroom) block front elevation - before the renovations.....

Although the walls were painted two years ago they had become dirty because they were not originally smooth-plastered, they were left rough, thus easily collecting dust and looking dirty all the time. The windows were of wooden (timber) frames and the glass louvers either fell off or were broken over the years, since USK has had no funds to renovate them. The ceiling in the corridors are made of wooden trusses, many of which have rotted or were broken over time, giving prowlers access to the classrooms through the roof. On one occasion one learner fell and was injured when he climbed onto this ceiling for fun and the weak trusses gave way to his weight. It has been impossible to keep anything valuable in these classrooms because it was very easy for thieves to break in and steal anything in sight. For this reason no books or teaching aids (even blackboard chalk or duster) were kept in the classrooms. They were only brought in during lessons and taken back for storage immediately after the lessons in the head teacher's office.



The tuition block front elevation - at the beginning of the renovations.....

THE WINDOWS

The window panes were all broken and the metal bars and frames had seen better days. The renovations saw the removal of these old wooden window frames.



The tuition block front elevation - during ongoing renovations.....

THE WINDOWS, continued...

The old wooden window frames were replaced by these new metal frames that are stronger and not easily broken into.



THE WINDOWS, continued...

The bottom part of the new window frames have been fitted with opaque window panes so as to minimize distraction of the learners during class sessions by people passing through the adjacent corridors.



The tuition block front elevation - during ongoing renovations.....

THE WALLS

Skimming has been done on the rough walls and corridors under the verandah to render them smooth so as to reduce the dust that used to get trapped on them.



Fresh undercoat (base) painting was done in preparation for new higher quality outdoor paint.



The tuition block front elevation - during ongoing renovations.....

THE EXTERNAL WALLS, continued.....

After the undercoat paint the external walls have been painted with three coats of fresh high quality washable outdoor paint (matt finish).



The tuition block front elevation - during the ongoing renovations.....

THE EXTERNAL CORRIDORS

The corridors were worn out and full of potholes. The worn out screed here was removed and fresh screeding done after which they were dressed with ceramic tiles (with matching skirting against the walls) spilling out from the new-look classroom floors described elsewhere in this report.



Tuition block front elevation - ongoing renovations continued.....

THE NEW-LOOK EXTERNAL TUITION BLOCK CORRIDORS...



Strong high-quality non-slippery ceramic tiles were purchased



Tuition block front elevation - ongoing renovations continued.....

THE CLASSROOM DOORS

The classroom doors were originally designed to open inwards, a serious risk in the event that a stampede occurred and children needed to rush out of the classrooms for safety. If this had happened they would all have been stuck at the doors, unable to escape. Luckily this has never happened. These classroom doors have now been removed and re-installed so that they open outwards for improved escape opportunities for the learners, in case of any fracas, stampede or commotion.



In addition, the top part of the classroom doors have been reinforced with metal lathing added to the previous frames. This is to prevent access into the classrooms by burglars, thereby improving security. The doors are now re-painted with Undugu's official green colour.



Tuition block front elevation - ongoing renovations continued.....

THE VERANDAH CEILING

The rotten and broken wooden ceiling trusses of the verandah have been replaced with new ones and, together with the roof canopies and other wooden parts of the roof that are deemed strong and have been retained, all wooden parts have been freshly treated with a chemical solution that protects them against rotting and termite invasion.



THE CEILING (GABLE)

The classrooms were designed with no ceilings and the roof gable space was open. This has now been sealed with wire mesh, again to deny burglars and thieves access to the classrooms, and also to deter naughty learners from climbing up into the verandah ceiling using the top frame of the doors as one of them did before.



Tuition block front elevation - ongoing renovations continued.....

THE TUITION BLOCK ROOF

The whole asbestos roof of the tuition block was damaged and leaking in most parts as seen in the two pictures below...



Now the entire asbestos roof of the tuition block has been removed and replaced with new aluminium zinc pre-painted sheets, with a thickness of gauge 28. These new roof sheets will now enable the harvesting of rain water to supplement the water supplied by the Nairobi City County and reduce the frequent water shortages experienced in the area.

Tuition block front elevation - ongoing renovations continued.....

THE TUTION BLOCK ROOF, continued...

For better natural lighting inside the classrooms sections of the new roof now have 450 gauge translucent sheets in between the aluminium zinc sheets.



The open area outside the learners' washrooms...

The ground here was very rough and unkempt. It has now been leveled and screeding has been applied to the surface. A hand washing counter that will have taps and sinks has been created and the building of a canopy to shield the learners from rain as they walk from the classrooms to the washrooms has been initiated.



Neatening of the pathways and grounds around the tuition block ...





Tuition block front elevation – after renovations – near final look.....

Bright, attractive and child-friendly colours (peach, red, orange and lime green) have been eventually combined to achieve a great effect that is expected to improve the general learning environment for more motivation of the children. Renovations to the surrounding grounds, footpaths and the flapost/assembly area have also now been initiated and are almost complete.

