

Sally & Mack Brown Rise School of Austin Austin, TX

The Rise School is a unique educational facility dedicated to the early education of children with and without disabilities. The school provides an inclusive classroom setting for children ages 18 months to six years, approximately 60% of whom have Down Syndrome or other developmental differences.

The design team researched the learning styles of children with Down syndrome to create environments that meet the specialized needs of young learners with differing abilities. Classrooms are inward-focused to help students stay attentive. Interior windows are one-way mirrors that provide transparency into the classroom while minimizing distractions.

Kitchenettes in each classroom provide a homelike feel and fingertip access for water play and instruction. Common areas are open and transparent, providing a sense of energy and excitement that enhances the activity level of students engaged in various therapies. The multipurpose room functions as a physical therapy lab, with a climbing wall, mini-zipline, tire swing and other activities to encourage motor skill development. Movable equipment and furn



nishings allow the room to also function as a school gathering place.

The exterior integrates with adjacent nonprofit facilities that share the site while maintaining a scale appropriate to the school's students. The building reflects the community's sustainability goals, earning a 4-Star Rating from the Austin Energy Green Building Program.



New Construction/Addition

Entire school/campus building

O'Connell Robertson

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 Jarrod Sterzinger, AIA, LEED AP • 512/478-7286

DESIGN TEAM

The Burt Group, General Contractor
 MWM DesignGroup, Civil Engineering
 Datum Engineers, Structural Engineering
 Coleman & Associates, Landscape Architecture

OWNER/CLIENT

The Rise School of Austin
 Austin, TX
 Emily Greer, MS, CCC-SLP, Executive Director
 512/891-1682

KEY STATS

Grades Served: Preschool
 Capacity: 80 students
 Size of Site: 1.65 acres
 Building Area: 25,312 sq. ft.
 Space per Student: 316.4 sq. ft.
 Cost per Student: \$56,836
 Square Foot Cost: \$180
 Construction Cost: \$4,546,898
 Project Cost: \$4,899,532
 Completion Date: August 2014
 Sustainability Rating System/Applied/Status/Level:
 Austin Energy Green Building 4-Star

PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK MENJIVAR

