



Solana Ranch Elementary School

San Diego, CA

The school is organized around small learning communities. The plan and massing articulate three "neighborhoods" of 175–200 students. These two-story, multigrade "houses" feature shared resource areas and outdoor learning spaces to empower teachers to facilitate multiple styles of learning simultaneously by allowing students to work outside the footprint of the daylight classrooms. Science, art, music, technology and special education classrooms are



New Construction/Addition

Entire school/campus building

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DESIGN TEAM

John R. Dale, FAIA, LEED AP, Principal-in-Charge

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Manager/Project Architect

Gary Lievers, RA, LEED AP BD+C, Designer

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Engineer

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Balfour Beatty Construction, Grace Chan,

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KTU+A, Kurt Carlson, Landscape Architect

Wiseman Rohy, Steve Rohy, Structural Engineer

RBF Consulting, Ross Garcia, Civil Engineer

Dieli Murawka Howe, Jeff Murawka, Food Service

OWNER/CLIENT

Solana Beach School District

San Diego, CA

Caroline Brown, Executive Director, Capital

Programs & Technology

858/794-7140

KEY STATS

Grades Served: PreK–6

Capacity: 650

Size of Site: 10 acres

Building Area: 68,311 sq. ft.

Space per Student: 132–110 sq. ft.

Cost per Student: \$42,599

Square Foot Cost: \$405

Project Cost: \$49,089,735

Completion Date: May 2014

Sustainability Rating Status: CHPS

PHOTOGRAPHY: RMA PHOTOGRAPHY

integrated into each community. The neighborhoods are connected by "indoor streets" linking six shared "collaboration zones." To the north, a multipurpose hall, media resource center and administrative center form a central hub.

Situated on 10 acres next to a public park in Pacific Highlands Ranch, the school is scaled to complement surrounding neighborhoods. Two outstretched wings embrace the main entry. The southern two-story building stretches

east to west to maximize north and south-facing classrooms. The northern wing houses a preschool pod and a multipurpose room. The two wings are linked by a large dining porch and the administrative core. Sloped roofs and articulated massing bridge to the scale of the surrounding housing. The playgrounds link adjoining neighborhoods as an extension to the park.

The structure is a rigid steel frame with





steel stud infill. Clad in painted stucco and cement fiberboard siding, the building projects a residential character. The aluminum casement windows, rolling garage doors, sliding and folding doors link indoor and outdoor learning spaces. Steel columns doubling as rainwater leaders support dramatic tapered trellises. Photovoltaic arrays on south-sloping metal roofs and crystalline arrays over parking provide electricity.

The mechanical system is a design innovation which employs displacement ventilation in all learning spaces. Large diffusers, incorporated into teaching walls, deliver quiet, low velocity air. Unusual for displacement ventilation, each classroom is cooled and heated by individual package units. Cross-ventilation is provided through operable windows and low velocity fans.

