

Ayer Shirley Regional High School

Ayer, MA

Transforming a Late-Modern American High School: Faced with significant decreasing enrollments when the Fort Devens military base closed, the towns of Ayer and Shirley began an educational design visioning process with SMMA for what would be the state's first new school district in decades. Following meetings with stakeholders from both communities, a new vision emerged that would transform the original 1960s building into an intimate and wholly connected educational environment. Program integration combining STEAM would daily inform student and teacher life.

After thoroughly analyzing the building, SMMA proposed creating a 21st-century plan concept utilizing the building's physical attributes to impact learning: a small courtyard became a central learning commons; two-story double loaded classroom wings were replaced with an integrated Pod Concept; and level



Remodel/Adaptive Reuse/ Restoration

Entire school/campus building

Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, Inc.
 1000 Massachusetts Ave. - Cambridge, MA 02138
 www.smma.com
 Alex Pitkin - 617/520-9220

DESIGN TEAM

Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, Inc.
 Architecture and Engineering
 Consigli Construction Company, Contractor

OWNER/CLIENT

Ayer Shirley Regional School District
 Ayer, MA
 Dr. Mary Malone, Superintendent
 978/772-8600

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9-12
 Capacity: 495
 Size of Site: 63 acres
 Building Area: 144,072 sq. ft.
 Space per Student: 291 sq. ft.
 Cost per Student: \$89,900
 Square Foot Cost: \$308
 Project Cost: \$56,200,000
 Completion Date: August 2015
 Sustainability Rating Status: LEED Silver

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changes were simplified and used as student gathering points. Once isolated spaces confined by the low modernist structure ASRHS now has multi-story, flexible learning environments throughout the school.

