



COMBINED-LEVEL SCHOOL

Hazel Wolf K-8 ESTEM School Seattle, WA

This K-8 school uses the environment as the lens for their focus on their ESTEM program. Maximizing use of the site for environmental learning was a critical design generator, and the site is conceived as a lab with a variety of indoor/outdoor learning areas. The project evolves educational typology by blending traditionally separate parts of the school program so the site and the building intertwine both conceptually and physically. Design thinking embraced three key principles:

The whole site was conceived as an environmental lab: A pioneering ESTEM program required that the design seek every opportunity to create diverse exterior educational spaces. A tight triangular site was a serious challenge to that goal, requiring the deliberate and careful



New Construction/Addition Entire school/campus building

NAC Architecture

2025 First Ave., Ste. 300
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Kevin Flanagan, Managing Principal
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DESIGN TEAM

Murase Associates, Landscape Architecture
Coughlin Porter Lundeen, Civil/Structural Engineers
Hargis Engineers, Mechanical Engineers
Travis, Fitzmaurice & Associates, Electrical Engineers
Heery International, Construction Manager

OWNER/CLIENT

Seattle Public Schools
Seattle, WA
Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent
206/252-0000

KEY STATS

Grades Served: K-8
Capacity: 680 students
Size of Site: 3.2 acres
Building Area: 83,000 gsf
Space per Student: 122 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$42,667
Square Foot Cost: \$350
Project Cost: \$39,000,000
Completion Date: September 2016
Sustainability Rating Status: WSSP (Washington Sustainable Schools Protocol)

PHOTOGRAPHY: BENJAMIN BENSCHNEIDER PHOTOGRAPHY

organization of the site and the building to maximize usable outdoor space. A part of the solution was to extend the site over the building and provide exterior learning spaces on the "green roof." Additionally, the landscape design encourages a variety of uses of exterior space

by providing diverse landscapes each designed to support a specific curriculum.

Blending learning with play and socializing: An increasing body of research has established clear relationships between planned learning and informal learning, and





play and socializing. The integrated design of this site and the building creates a "space flow" where a multitude of non-traditional learning environments can accommodate planned deliberate teaching opportunities while also creating spontaneous opportunities for informal and/or unplanned activities, indoors and outdoors.

Educational connectedness of a compact three-story volume: The building was designed to accommodate a variety of interior spaces of different scale and character, suitable to a multitude of project based learning experiments that are part of ESTEM curriculum. A very strong transparency throughout provides connections between classrooms, shared spaces and found spaces throughout. "Found" spaces allow additional small group activities or individual respite and focus.

