LEARNING BY DESIGN
Outstanding Project
2017

COMBINED-LEVEL SCHOOL

John Cooper School Rock Math + Science Building

The Woodlands, TX

New Construction/Addition

Science center

Ziegler Cooper Architects
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DESIGN TEAM
Ziegler Cooper Architects, Architecture
Pinnacle Structural Engineers, Structural Engineering
DBR, Inc, Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Engineering
Clark Condon, Landscape Architecture
Brookstone, LP, General Contractor

OWNER/CLIENT
The John Cooper School
The Woodlands, TX
Michael Maher, Head of School
281/367-0900

KEY STATS
Grades Served: 1-6
Capacity: 937 students
Size of Site: 43-acre campus
Building Area: 59640 gsf
Space per Student: 82.3 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: $24,827
Square Foot Cost: $302
Project Cost: $18,132,250
Completion Date: September 2016

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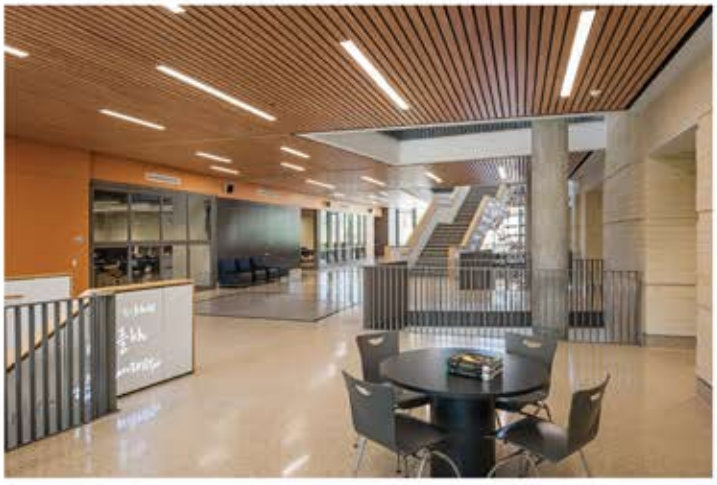
John Cooper School's new STEM building facilitates innovative teaching for math, science, and technology learning. Included is a 135-seat lecture hall, 40-station computer lab, robotics lab, writable walls, and mathematical equations and methods of measurement embedded into stairwells and floors. Each room is dual-functioning for laboratory and classroom needs.

Designed throughout for interdisciplinary learning, the building respects both traditional and modern environments within a beautiful form and will be the benchmark for STEM education in the Houston area. A three-story Forum connects all learning and teaching spaces, and is a living educational exhibit of massive proportion, including a fossil display and the largest sculpted DNA strand in continental America.

Interactive vertical space allows for idea testing and experimentation to occur in full sight. Close collaboration expanded the reach of the design to be a dynamic teaching tool. The dramatic structure creates the illusion of a single-point cantilever, which provided an interesting challenge in supporting the roof.

The architecture is structurally elaborate and visible to show the transfer of the building's physical forces. A roof garden and bio-swale facilitate learning/teaching ecology and conservation.



The design necessitated intensive coordination to successfully integrate the HVAC systems with the requirements of the building's architecture.