



Playa Vista Elementary School

Playa Vista, CA

New Construction/ Addition

Entire school/campus building

NACIArchitecture
3951 Medford Street
Los Angeles, CA 90063
www.nacarchitecture.com
Michael Pinto
323/859-3100

DESIGN TEAM

Michael Pinto, Design Principal
Dawn Brisco, Project Manager
Tim Ballard, Principal-in-Charge
Esmeralda Ward, Sustainability
Handbuilt Studio, Environmental
Graphics
Thornton Tomasetti, Structural
Engineer

OWNER/CLIENT

Los Angeles Unified School District
Los Angeles, CA
Julia Hawkinson, Senior Project
Development Manager
213/241-7508

KEY STATS

Grades Served: K-5
Capacity: 650 students
Size of Site: 4.2 acres
Building Area: 56,000 sq. ft.
Space per Student: 86 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$46,923
Square Foot Cost: \$493
Construction Cost: \$30,500,000
Project Cost: \$48,500,000 (est.)
Completion Date: August 2012
Sustainability Rating System/Applied/
Status/Level: Pursuing LEED
Platinum; CHPS HP Certified

PHOTOGRAPHY: EDMUND BARR



The design for Playa Vista Elementary School (PVES) leverages a set of constraints from a rigorous program and a tight urban site. The program—26 classrooms, multipurpose room, joint-use library, and play areas—relies on a collection of standardized volumes. This modularity was utilized as inspiration for the steel frame structure—broken by periodic braces for lateral resistance—exposed to the exterior along the length of the classroom





building to facilitate learning.

The serpentine structure maximizes natural ventilation and daylight for the classrooms. Landscape is striated into learning zones: vegetable gardens, meeting areas, outdoor classrooms and water zones. This project successfully provides a different interpretation of district standards for mechanical systems, educational technology, recycled water, usable landscapes, classroom configurations, reactive energy management systems and onsite energy generation. PVES is on target to become one of the first LEED-accredited schools in the LAUSD.

"There were many disparate interests in this project, and our architectural team embraced that. It is located in the Ballona wetlands, a very delicate ecosystem. Loyola Marymount University, located on the cliffs overlooking the site, wanted to have interaction between its teaching component and this new school. At LAUSD, we were very focused on sustainability, including the use of wastewater, solar energy, and alternate methods of heating and cooling of buildings. The NACI Architecture team worked with us to craft a vision and drive it through to the successful completed project."

— Kevin Newman
Senior Design Manager, Los Angeles Unified School District

