



Pacific High School

Sitka, AK

New Construction/ Addition

Entire school/campus building

McCool Carlson Green
421 W. 1st Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501
www.mcgalaska.com
Camille Friend
907/563-8474

DESIGN TEAM

Sunland Development Company,
General Contractor
PND Engineers, Civil and Structural
Engineer
RSA Engineering, Mechanical Engineer
Haight and Associates, Electrical
Engineer
Corvus Design, Landscape

OWNER/CLIENT

Sitka School District
Sitka, AK
Dr. Mary Wegner, Superintendent
907/747-8622

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9-12
Capacity: 36 students
Size of Site: 0.35 acres
Building Area: 5,460 sq. ft.
Space per Student: 151 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$52,777
Square Foot Cost: \$348
Construction Cost: \$1,900,000
Project Cost: \$2,671,000
Completion Date: February 2014

PHOTOGRAPHY: KEVIN G. SMITH



Prior to this project, Pacific High School was housed in a 1957-style building with a humble entry off the side street, leaving the more visible Lincoln Street underutilized. The new building, built on the footprint of the old, returns the entry to the oceanfront Lincoln Street side. With the scale and feel of a schoolhouse, the building form and façades were developed to relate to the neighboring American and Russian colonial architecture, while the site design references local Tlingit culture.



An ovoid concrete pattern and cedar benches form a plaza around the existing totem pole. Native plant gardens connect the school to local ecology and horticulture. To support an “expeditionary learning” model, the school was designed to be connected inside and out. A central elliptical gathering space provides a shared living room that connects to the front office, and a “super classroom” can be formed by opening two classrooms and an adjoining flex room. Interiors feature warm local wood accents and vibrant colors, and a light shaft and light tubes bring daylight in from above. Making use of local hydroelectricity and Sitka’s temperate climate, an air source heat pump system provides heating and cooling with efficiencies approaching 300%.