

Vashon Island High School

Vashon Island, WA

Community workshops determined the new school's character. These conversations led to an understanding of the close connection to the landscape that students and staff embrace in their daily lives. The design team sought to preserve this sense of connection by imparting a quality of porosity to the new building. Porosity suggested "breathing" as a metaphor for how the building supports spatial connections, how students move about the building, and for how the students themselves become the life force of the building and its site.

The idea of porosity further suggested the blurring of boundaries common to traditional educational environments. Rather than separating the academic and social activities that take place in the library and commons, for instance, these functions are combined into a collection of interlocking spaces that support study, collaboration and social engagement.

Learning occurs anywhere—and everywhere—with a wide variety of learning spaces distributed throughout the entire school. The new building reinforces the community's



values and desire to promote good stewardship of natural resources, including use of local materials and labor. All wood used as finish materials, for instance, was harvested from island sustainable forests; some was milled and finished by local sawyers.



New Construction/Addition

Entire school/campus building

Integrus Architecture

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DESIGN TEAM

Brian Carter, AIA, Principal-in-Charge
 David Van Calen, AIA, Design Principal
 Loretta Sachs, Project Manager
 Daniel Gero, AIA, Project Architect
 Jeff Middleton, RA, Project Designer
 Shelley Engles, NCIDQ, Interior Designer

OWNER/CLIENT

Vashon Island School District
 Vashon Island, WA
 Michael Soltman, Superintendent
 206/463-9171

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9–12
 Capacity: 550
 Size of Site: 54 acres
 Building Area: 84,000 sq. ft.
 Space per Student: 160 sq. ft.
 Cost per Student: \$62,000
 Square Foot Cost: \$104
 Construction Cost: \$34,000,000
 Project Cost: \$46,000,000
 Completion Date: December 2014
 Sustainability Rating System/Applied/Status/Level:
 WSSP

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