



EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Plains Elementary School South Hadley, MA



DAVID RYAN

Designed for young learners experiencing school for the first time, this new primary school encourages play both inside and out, allows for hands-on learning, and is built with earthen materials in a durable, colorful manner. The school is arranged into four "neighborhoods," which include classrooms clustered around shared common spaces and small breakout rooms. Children stay in their neighborhood for two years. The house-sized forms are connected by two offset ribbon roofs, providing spatial interest and daylighting.

At the core of the facility, there are large, flexible community spaces—stadium seating at the central stair that holds the entire enrollment, and a gymnasium which opens to the cafeteria for larger town functions. Along with the library and administration wing located at the main entry, this town facility is a recreation center, municipal venue, and lifelong learning center.

The school was designed from the outside in and the inside out. Recess becomes a time for students to explore the woods and hills, express their physical exuberance, and learn about water, plants, and movement. The tricycle track, climbing mounds, labyrinth, water runnels, and large concrete spheres encourage participation and games.



PETER VANDERWARKER

New Construction/Addition Entire school/campus building

Jones Whitsett Architects

308 Main St.
Greenfield, MA 01301
www.joneswhitsett.com
Kristian Whitsett
413/773-5551

DESIGN TEAM

Jones Whitsett Architects, Architect
Dodson & Flinker, Landscape Architect
Ryan Hellwig, Structural Engineer
Hesnor Engineering, FP, HVAC, Plumbing
ART Engineering, Security, Data & Electrical

OWNER/CLIENT

South Hadley Public Schools
South Hadley, MA
Nicholas Young, PhD
413/538-5060

KEY STATS

Grades Served: PreK-1
Capacity: 315 students
Size of Site: 8.1 acres
Building Area: 63,377 gsf
Space per Student: 201 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$68,457
Square Foot Cost: \$340.25
Project Cost: \$21,563,821
Completion Date: September 2015
Sustainability Rating Status: LEED Silver

PHOTOGRAPHY: (EXTERIORS) PETER VANDERWARKER; (INTERIOR) DAVID RYAN



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