



Facts & Figures

Owner/Developer: Poudre School District, Fort Collins
Type of Project: A new junior high school
Architect: RB+B Architects, Inc., Fort Collins
General Contractor: FCI Constructors, Inc., Longmont
Size: 117,000 square feet
Cost: \$17.45 million (construction costs)
Construction Time: March 2005 - June 2006
The Need: To increase student capacity for a growing school district
The Challenge: Encountering ground water below grade



Fort Collins, Colorado

Kinard Junior High School

Supportive Team Members

- BHA Design, Inc.**
- B & W Glass, Inc.**
Glass & Glazing
- E M C Engineers, Inc.**
- First Continental Library Equipment Corporation**
Interior Design/Library Media Center Specialist
- Geiler & Associates, LLC**
Acoustical & Audio/Video Consultants
- Heartland Acoustics & Interiors, Inc.**
Acoustical Ceilings & Wall Panels
- JR Engineering, LLC**
Engineering & Surveying
- Jen-Wend Windows & Doors**
- Lafarge**
- OMNITECH INDUSTRIES, INC.**
Flooring
- POWERS**
Specialty Contractor
- Renner Sport Surfaces**
Outdoor Sport Surfaces
- Rock Solid Resurfacing LLC**
Decorative Concrete Coatings/Restorations-Flooring
- Specialties Contracting, Inc.**
Toilet Partitions & Accessories



The Poudre School District is the ninth largest school district in Colorado and serves almost 24,000 students in its 45 schools. With a mission statement of "Educate...Every Child, Every Day," every aspect of education is important to this school district. This attitude is evident in one of the newest schools in the district, Kinard Junior High School.

The two-story prototype structure was designed as three "schools within a school." This design allows for personalized learning communities within a large school. Each of these three "schools within a school" includes social studies, world languages, mathematics, art and special education classrooms, as well as conference rooms, lockers and restrooms. These quiet areas are located at the east end of the school and anchored by the media center. The noisy rooms — the gymnasium, the cafeteria and music rooms — are located on the west end. The science, computer and other exploratory classes are building wide.

"In addition to the owner's space needs, the building form was driven primarily by two factors, daylighting and wayfinding," said Matt Arabasz, AIA, LEED AP, project architect for RB+B Architects, Inc. "In terms of daylighting, all general classrooms are oriented to take advantage of the high-quality,

easily controlled natural light of the northern sky. Window size and placement were refined through computer daylight modeling to minimize the need for electric light. In terms of wayfinding, the spaces in the building are expressed on the exterior so that it is straightforward for folks to create a mental map of the building." This wayfinding design is important, considering the community uses the school after hours for meetings, athletics, etc.

Sustainability is a core design guideline for the Poudre School District. To that end, Kinard Junior High School's two-story design results in a smaller footprint and helps create a highly efficient building envelope. Xeriscape™ landscapes and a synthetic turf football field help reduce irrigation needs. Materials with recycled and/or environmentally preferred content were used whenever possible. Though the building is 90 percent air conditioned, the windows are fully operational so the HVAC system is not required when the weather is moderate. The use of a highly efficient HVAC system and materials that are environmentally friendly has an added benefit of improved air quality, which increases the productivity and performance of students. "Others could learn that you can build an energy-efficient, environmentally friendly school that



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increases learning for the same or less than conventional school construction costs," said Tammie Simpson, project manager for the school district.

Rob Price, LEED AP, project manager for FCI Constructors, Inc., the project's general contractor, said, "The greatest challenge on the project was that ground water was encountered two to three feet below grade. This created problems with foundation and utility installation. The problem was resolved by installing an underground drainage system throughout the entire site to direct the ground water to the onsite storm system."

"There were many challenges the owner/architect/contractor team faced during construction, but what I recall most vividly is not the issues themselves, but the manner in which this team solved them," said Arabasz. "This particular group of people worked extremely well together." The team's cohesiveness shows in the final outcome of Kinard Junior High School. ■

— Marci Grossman

