

# 2015 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Renovation category



## Ignacio Elementary School

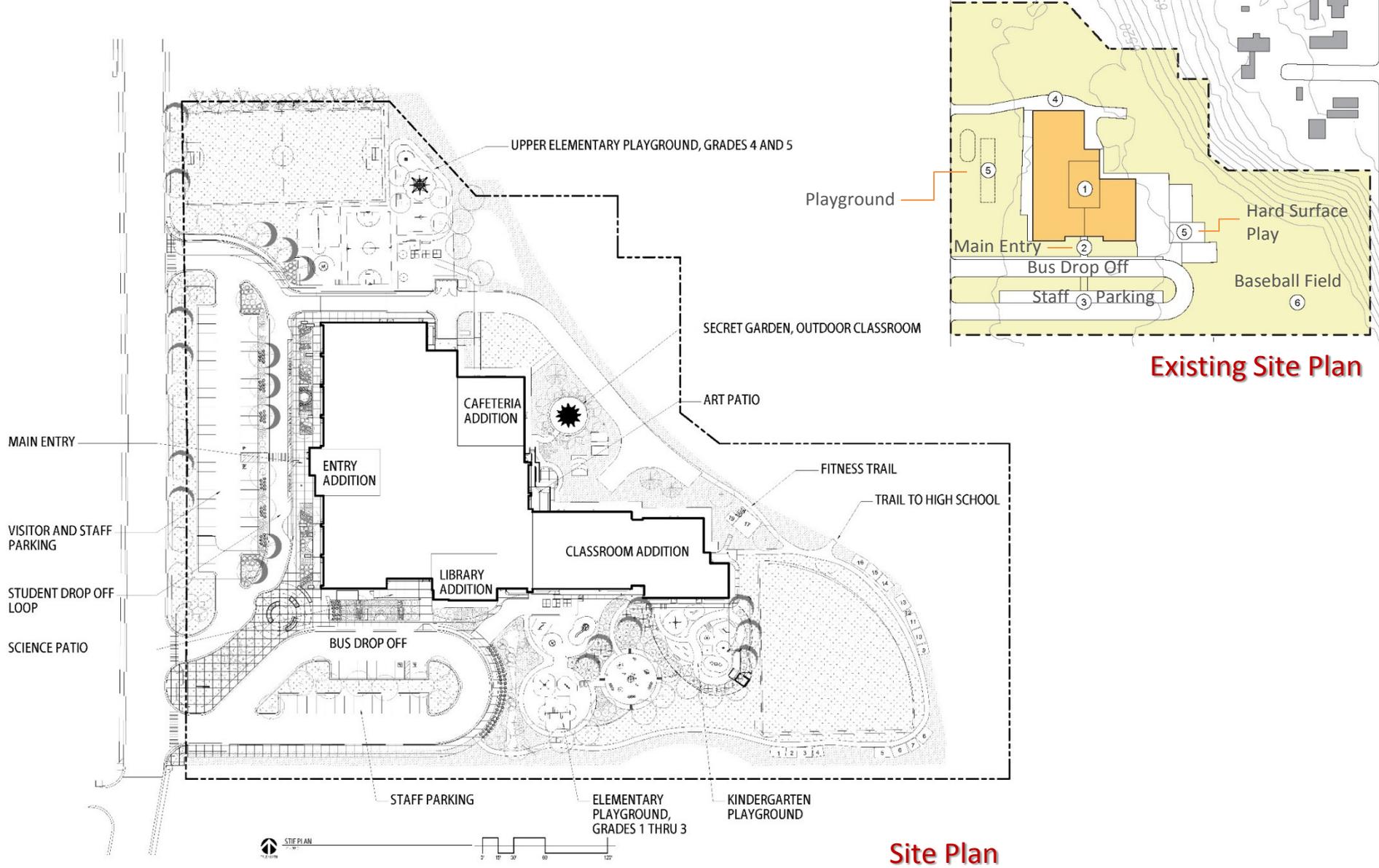
Ignacio School District – Ignacio, Colorado

## The mission of the Ignacio School District –

“As a Community Partner, the Ignacio School District will provide an engaging education for all students in a safe, positive, and respectful environment.”



# Ignacio Elementary School



Existing Site Plan

Site Plan

# Ignacio Elementary School



## Community Connections

**Community Environments:** Rural communities thrive with local support and involvement, and the Ignacio Elementary School aspires to renew community pride in the schools while reflecting the tri-cultural heritage (Southern Ute, Hispanic, and Anglo) of the region and community. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe, whose children account for approximately 40% of the student population, helped fund the road improvements serving the school.

Funded as a joint venture with the state of Colorado BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) program, the project was the first bond issue for Ignacio School District in 30 years.

## Building Consensus

Through highly interactive meetings among Ignacio School District, the Tribal Board, the community, and the design team, key program areas were identified to strengthen community connections:

- multiple community access points to the site
- flexible commons/cafeteria/stage configurations to accommodate community activities
- exterior gathering areas at the entry to the building and commons
- space to support the community agricultural heritage through the local garden program



Inside the secure main entry vestibule



# Architectural Precedence

The design team illustrated and discussed concepts and ideas for the design of the school through architectural precedence. Maintaining its identity as an elementary school was of high importance to the DAT.

- **Progressive regionalism** – Our design process embraces the cultivation and evolution of regional forms, colors, and textures found in the topography and architecture of Ignacio.
- **Truth in materials** – The building will express the methods, materials, and craft of its construction.
- **Connection from interior to exterior**
- **Whimsy / age appropriate** – Demonstrated through fenestration, color, shapes, and level changes

During these DAT discussions, the district requested that geometry be expressed in methods young children can identify with and that could be integrated into the teaching curriculum.

\*Images shown were used for building material and conceptual reference. References and sources are not those of the architect.

Architectural Precedence

• “Building Entry Embraces, Welcomes, and Inspires”

• “Progressive regionalism”

• “Truth in materials”

• “Blends e



Architectural Precedence



EXTERIOR TO INTERIOR

Architectural Pre



GLU-LAM STRUCTURE – SOUTHERN UTE ACADEMY



VISIBLE BUILDING SYSTEMS



REGIONAL MATERIALS – MODULAR SIDING



## Capturing Enthusiasm

**Learning Environment:** Capturing the enthusiasm of this student age group was a high priority. The design of the library is not seen as a quiet place to visit once a week, but an inviting space that is open to the student body—encouraging interaction with books. The corner of the library is two sliding barn doors that open to the adjoining corridor throughout the day. To further encourage student engagement, a reading loft for young readers is located in the library, along with reading benches in the corridor and within the library.

## Academic Excellence and Achievement

Existing and new classrooms were designed as flexible learning spaces with LEED enhanced acoustics and daylighting. Classrooms support current and future technology upgrades through rough in of conduit and connection points for future technology.

A common science classroom and outdoor patio were added to the building program. The building's flexible spaces respond to the desired learning program.

- accommodates several different uses and age groups
- Enhances the connection to varied outdoor amenities
- addresses anticipated changes to state-wide testing
- peaks elementary students' interest in science.





## Demonstrate And Inspire

**Physical Environment:** A thorough evaluation led to a reorganization of the building's major components. The main entry was relocated, as well as the cafeteria/kitchen, library, and special education spaces. Small group areas were incorporated into circulations throughout the building, adjoining age-based classroom configurations. Marker boards and tack surfaces are incorporated into the corridors to demonstrate learning through the use of colorful shapes and materials.

## Learning on Display

The building's original pre-engineered metal structure remains visible and is highlighted in the library. Proven, high-performing sustainable design is integrated throughout the design. The building's geo-exchange system in the central boiler room is on display for the students and community to learn about the system. The students also learn about energy use and conservation through graphical stations tied to the building's 50Kw photovoltaic system.





## Interior To Exterior Connections

**Physical Environment** - The high-performing, sustainable facility gently touches the site by stepping the building with the natural grade, using low-water native plants for landscaping, and orienting the building to the mountains to the north and northeast. Classroom windows were manipulated based on orientation, view, and solar heat gain. With an emphasis on natural ventilation, all classrooms were provided with operable windows.









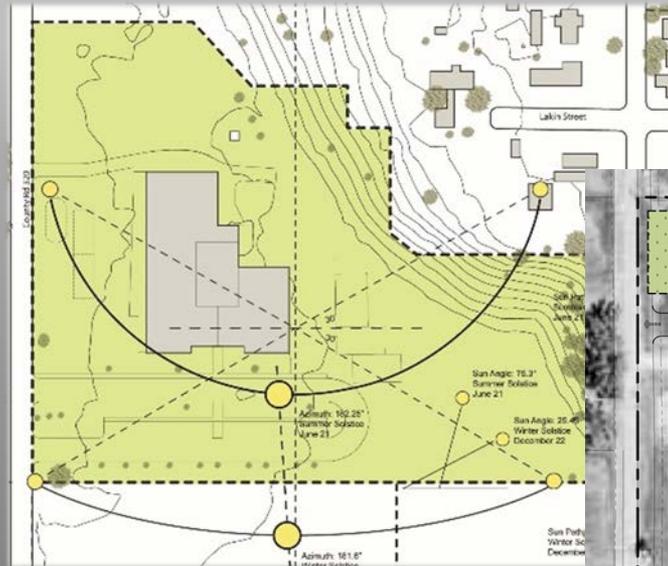
Existing Floor Plan

Floor Plan

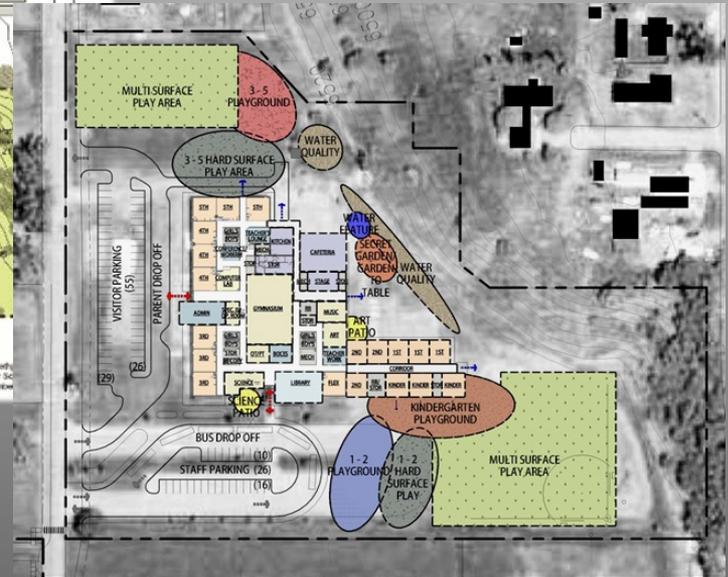
# Ignacio Elementary School

# Design Solution

After selection of the PK-5 educational program and evaluating the pros and cons for several solutions, the existing 4-6 intermediate school was selected for renovation and additions to accommodate the new program.



Existing site analysis – solar orientation



Proposed site plan



Existing entry



New entry vestibule



Existing library



New library



Existing science classroom



New science classroom overlooking an outdoor science patio



Existing classroom



New classroom

# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Project Data

|                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Submitting Firm :</b>         | RTA Architects             |
| Project Role                     | Architect                  |
| Project Contact                  | Doug Abernethy             |
| Title                            | Principal                  |
| Address                          | 19 S. Tejon St., Suite 300 |
| City, State or Province, Country | Colorado Springs, CO 80903 |
| Phone                            | 719-471-7566               |
|                                  |                            |
| <b>Joint Partner Firm:</b>       | NA                         |
| Project Role                     |                            |
| Project Contact                  |                            |
| Title                            |                            |
| Address                          |                            |
| City, State or Province, Country |                            |
| Phone                            |                            |
|                                  |                            |
| <b>Other Firm:</b>               |                            |
| Project Role                     |                            |
| Project Contact                  |                            |
| Title                            |                            |
| Address                          |                            |
| City, State or Province, Country |                            |
| Phone                            |                            |
|                                  |                            |
| <b>Construction Firm:</b>        | Okland Construction        |
| Project Role                     | General Contractor         |
| Project Contact                  | Phil Okland                |
| Title                            | Owner                      |
| Address                          | 182 Girard Street, Unit B  |
| City, State or Province, Country | Durango, CO 81303          |
| Phone                            | 801-486-0144               |

# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Project Details

|                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Project Name</b>              | Ignacio Elementary School |
| <b>City</b>                      | Ignacio                   |
| <b>State</b>                     | Colorado                  |
| <b>District Name</b>             | Ignacio School District   |
| <b>Supt/President</b>            | Dr. Rocco Fuschetto       |
| <b>Occupancy Date</b>            | May, 2013                 |
| <b>Grades Housed</b>             | Grades K – 5              |
|                                  |                           |
| <b>Capacity(Students)</b>        | 450 students              |
| <b>Site Size (acres)</b>         |                           |
| <b>Gross Area (sq. ft.)</b>      | 60,515-GSF                |
| <b>Per Occupant(pupil)</b>       | 134-GSF/per pupil         |
| <b>gross/net please indicate</b> |                           |
|                                  |                           |
| <b>Design and Build?</b>         | No                        |
| <b>If yes, Total Cost:</b>       |                           |
| <b>Includes:</b>                 |                           |
|                                  |                           |
| <b>If no,</b>                    |                           |
| <b>Site Development:</b>         | \$ 1,400,000              |
| <b>Building Construction:</b>    | \$12,100,000              |
| <b>Fixed Equipment:</b>          | \$ 300,000                |
| <b>Other:</b>                    |                           |
|                                  |                           |
| <b>Total:</b>                    | \$13,800,000              |



IGNACIO  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

2019  
DISTRICT  
AWARD  
WINNER