2014 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

San Marcos High School

San Marcos Unified School District
San Marcos, CA

San Marcos High School





San Marcos High School



RESIDENTIAL



Rebuilding a Community Campus

Community Environment:

Funded by a 2010 Local Bond election, the \$125 million San Marcos High School project included the phased reconstruction of the entire project site. While the existing campus was home to fond memories of many alumni, the radial of aging buildings was no longer supporting new ideas or the growing population. Completed early 2014, the facility was transformed from the 2,300 student capacity, single-story radial plan complex, to a 3,200 student capacity learner-centered, multi-story educational facility organized around a central quad.

This new facility will provide equity with the other District high school and include four academic houses linked by a student commons that will provide administration, library, food service, and student services.





Reimagining the Comprehensive High School

Community Environment:

The planning process identified programs to engage students in learning that interested them, and create appropriate facilities for these hands-on experiences such as Environmental Science and Agriculture, Design and Engineering, and Performing/Media Arts.

As more than 600 students were staying on campus longer in extracurricular activities, studying and working collaboratively, district leadership recognized that a collegiate model student union would provide a better space for this extended learning to occur. SMHS presents a new and distinguished resource for the community, representative of the 21st century learning environment that will be available to residents for generations to come.







Personalized Learning + Social Gathering

Learning Environment:

The Student Union is the student gateway to the campus and is a place to celebrate student life at San Marcos.

This collaborative social space is home to the Library Reading Center, the Student Store, and the Career Center. These programs focus on student success and engagement with campus life and the surrounding community. Open before, during, and after school, the Student Union provides a variety of seating, a large projection system, and direct views to the quad amphitheater located just outside.

The Student Union will be the heart of this campus and supports the 'learning anywhere, anytime' philosophy that defines a 21st century student.







A new model for working and learning

Learning Environment:

When reimagining the campus, the planning committee looked for ways to co-locate classrooms with breakout areas to allow for group work, projects, and studying. With broad visibility and a mix of hard & soft finishes and furnishings, the commons adapt to the changing needs of the students and their preferred working environments.

The teacher commons allow for professional development space and also give teachers an office area that frees up classrooms to be scheduled for every period of the day, responding to growing future enrollment.

Both student and teacher collaborative work areas overlook the campus quad, and are located off the major circulation in each wing of the academic building, fostering cross-collaboration between disciplines and classroom clusters.





Connecting the School Community

Physical Environment:

With land at a premium, a three and four story academic building defines two sides of the main quad. It is organized in a live/work strata: the ground level is dedicated to spaces that support student life while the upper floors are dedicated to academics. Architecturally the buildings are designed to provide an elegant yet easily maintainable sustainable campus. The ground floor of the main academic building mixes the durability of cast in place concrete with the transparency of glass.

The Quad itself is zoned into passive and active spaces that can provide for a multitude of events. The use of turf is limited and combined with native trees and groundcover.





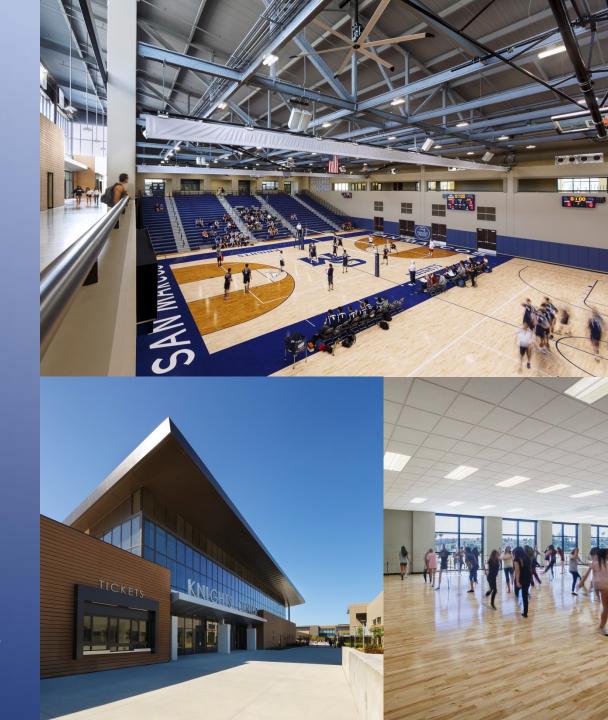


Connecting the Greater Community

Physical Environment:

While the academic buildings secure the quad and internal school community spaces, the Public use spaces are located off of a prominent circulation spine called the Festival Court, leading visitors from the main public street to the Theater and Gymnasium with a lighted tower that serves as a beacon and a lighted path along the stadium.

As visitors and spectators alike step off the festival court and into the athletic center at SMHS, they are met with the impressive scale and identity that is San Marcos. Important design characteristics of the gymnasium were identity and school pride. The open counters and glazing provide a strong connection between the Gym and the supporting spaces. The emphasis on maintaining transparency to the gym is a reminder of the importance of physical health.



Community Involvement in Campus Organization

Planning Process:

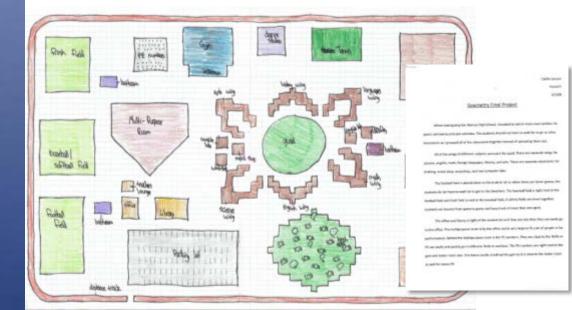
significant.

An interactive and inclusive design process was led by the design team and contractor that engaged students, parents, educators and administrators of the San Marcos community to plan this campus. This diverse group also participated in a workshop to build consensus in developing the site approach. Their authorship resulted in the school embracing a single outdoor "Town Square" or quad to promote security and a sense of community. Multi-story construction was a cultural shift for the school, but the benefits of a more collaborative learning environment and the ability to maximize available land for athletics and community recreation, as well as maintaining visual connection to the surrounding hillside open space, were







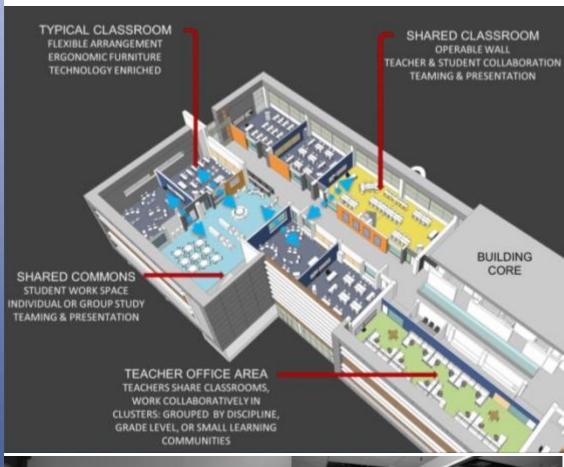


Educational Visioning

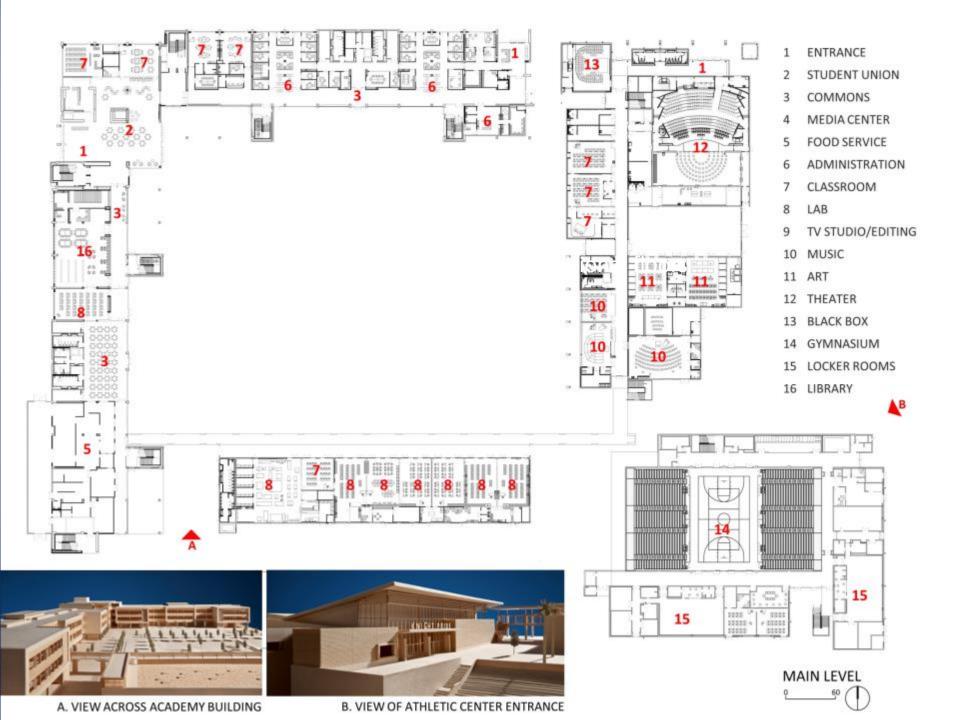
Planning Process:

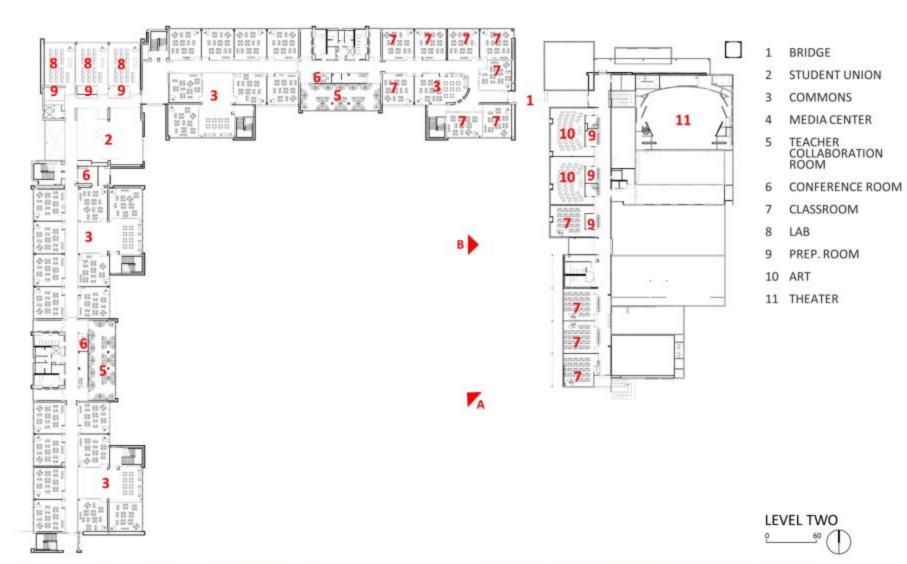
After a popular charter high school opened across the street, the District began to see the importance of attracting and retaining students; the goal became keeping students engaged in school by responding to the 21st century learner's needs and desires for flexible, technology enriched learning spaces.

The district leadership, architect, school site principal and school parent, along with the general contractor, took part in multiple site tours of newly designed schools that promoted collaboration of students and staff. Seeing these types of spaces confirmed their desire to include a Student Union, shared commons areas in the classroom clusters, and the professional development teacher commons as the critical parts of this new learning environment.















- COMMONS
- 2 TEACHER COLLABORATION ROOM
- 3 CONFERENCE ROOM
- 4 CLASSROOM
- 5 LAB
- 6 PREP. ROOM

LEVEL THREE & FOUR







A. ELEVATION AT SAN MARCOS BOULVARD

B. VIEW TO STUDENT UNION

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Data

Submitting Firm :	LPA, Inc.
Project Role	Architect, Planner
Project Contact	Wendy Rogers
Title	Principal
Address	5161 California Ave. #100
City, State or Province, Country	Irvine, CA
Phone	949-261-1001

Joint Partner Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Other Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Construction Firm:	Lusardi Construction Co.
Project Role	General Contractor, Construction Manager
Project Contact	Jeff Jenco
Title	Vice President
Address	1570 Linda Vista Dr.
City, State or Province, Country	San Marcos, CA
Phone	760-744-3133

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Details

BOOK STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE	
Project Name	San Marcos High School
City	San Marcos
State	California
District Name	San Marcos Unified School District
Supt/President	Kevin D. Holt, Ed.D
Occupancy Date	January 2014
Grades Housed	9-12
Capacity(Students)	3,200
Site Size (acres)	45 acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	425,000
Per Occupant(pupil)	132
gross/net please indicate	gross
Design and Build?	No
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$42,000,000
Building Construction:	\$108,000,000
Fixed Equipment:	Included
Other:	N/A
Total:	\$180,000,000























