

2012 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Mascoutah High School

Mascoutah, Illinois
New Construction
Project of Distinction Award
FGM Architects Inc.

Mascoutah High School



Rich in History & Heritage

Planning Process:

The new Mascoutah High School is truly a school for the community. The city of Mascoutah is a 175 year old community rich in history and heritage. The city neighbors Scott Air Force Base and provides education for the children of military personnel located there. The design of the new Mascoutah High School reflects the local community and creates a school the city can be proud of for the next 100 years.

The exterior entrance of the school serves as a gathering space for the town; it is meant to resemble a front yard that welcomes members of the community and visitors alike.



Educational Green Space for the Community

Planning Process: *Continued...*

The exterior features a nature walk, an outdoor classroom and an outdoor courtyard with a trail. The lush green space and prairie path serves as a park for the community and students. Specific sections along the path feature native plantings and prairie style landscaping that are used as teaching components. In the center of the walking path is an open plot of grass that is available for special events; the center is flat and the native plantings serve as a buffer from the street for security and privacy. Signage and benches will be added for education and enjoyment in the near future. The District originally designed the space to be open lawn space, however, the design team conducted meetings to discuss the benefits of converting the space to be used as a teaching tool and gathering space for the community.

Community Plaza Connects the Past to the Present

Planning Process: *Continued...*

To carry on the tradition of the existing school the design team added various elements from the existing Mascoutah High School into the design of the new facility's front plaza and courtyard. The plaza features a cornerstone time capsule dating back to 1948, old stone signage from the original high school and the original cast iron mascot. Permanent planters and benches serve as seating for the students and create an ideal space for congregating before and after school. Furthermore, the various elements from the old high school serve as a connection between the past and the present for both the students and the community. The collaborative effort by the team and the District resulted in a notable and unique space for the students and local community.



Community Designed High School

Planning Process: *Continued...*

As part of the planning process, the design team worked with Mascoutah CUSD 19 to determine whether the District wanted to upgrade the existing facility or build an entirely new high school on the same site as the existing high school. After the completion of a facility study, the District selected the option of the new school on the same site and the planning process began. Individuals from the District, together with the design team, toured other facilities locally and around the state to determine what features they would like to include in the new high school. In Spring 2008, the design team worked with the District to present options to the community to generate referendum support. On election day 2008, Mascoutah voters approved a \$55 million bond issue to fund a new community high school. The success of Mascoutah High School is a result of public involvement and commitment. The school serves as more than just an educational facility; it is a civic center for the community.



Curriculum Based Design

Learning Environment:

Mascoutah's new school is a 241,000 square foot building including two gymnasiums, a 7,706 square auditorium with seating for 800 and classrooms to accommodate 1,200 students, along with new athletic fields, weight rooms, special education classrooms and storage and maintenance areas. The new facility was designed to reflect the District's curriculum and enable the District to consolidate departments to increase collaboration and to provide an environment more conducive to learning. In addition to the academic portion of the curriculum, the design team considers socialization to be a main part of the high school curriculum.



Mind, Body & Spirit

Learning Environment: *Continued...*

The design team divided the school into three core areas: Mind; Body, and Spirit. The core areas extend from the "student street", a path that extends the length of the school from the northern and southern entrances. The connection of the spaces to the street provides a cohesive design focused on education and socialization. The mind portion of the high school refers to the academic area and includes science labs, math, social studies and foreign language classrooms, as well as many others. The body and spirit portions are located on the other side of the commons and includes the gymnasiums, arts, shops and other spaces.



Mind, Body & Spirit

Learning Environment: *Continued...*

The library is comprised of a media center with expanded opportunities for learning including individual study areas and a student office that features a smart board and conference style seating. This promotes collaboration and interaction between students and teachers and students and other students. The design also responds to the current educational needs of the students by providing more space for technology rather than books. The cafeteria is located directly across from the library on the other side of the "student street". It functions as both a cafeteria and food service area as well as a multi-purpose space. The design team wanted to satisfy the social needs of the students by providing a space where they can convene. The cafeteria features a big screen and projector system for assemblies and will serve as the ideal location for dances and after-school functions.



Mind, Body & Spirit

Learning Environment: *Continued...*

The auditorium features designated classroom space for vocal and instrumental music, as well as a catwalk, dressing rooms and a shop for set design. This space is available for community use.

Additionally, FGM planned spaces to house 400 more students in two classroom wings that could be furnished in the future should the District continue to expand.



Design Details & Technology

Physical Environment:

Detail was given to every component of the new high school. The design relates to the users and responds to the demands in curriculum. The District understands students are engaged by technology, therefore, the teachers utilize technology as a tool in the classrooms. Special attention was given to the learning environments, including warm yellow teaching walls and natural lighting. The spaces give a sense of direction and order to the users. The furniture is comfortable and ergonomically designed, ultimately providing increased focus and learning for each student.



Safety, Security & Sustainability

Physical Environment: *Continued...*

Safety was paramount in the design of the new facility. 200 cameras are located throughout the high school and the high school has keyless entries and lockdown capabilities to ensure student protection. Furthermore, the design requires guests to enter through the front office, creating a safe and secure learning environment. Sustainable design is key to the overall project; the design includes daylighting, a green roof and energy efficient heating and cooling systems that will provide long, maintenance-friendly life cycles.

The District wanted to create a facility that embraced the visions and goals of the District - the school's tradition, educational excellence and value.



Planning a Community School

Community Environment:

The planning process began in 2005 and involved members of the District, the design team, the users and the local community. Each user group contributed to the design of the new high school from the planning to the referendum and ultimately to the completion of the new facility. The planning team established goals early on to outline the project schedule and milestones. They conducted best practices research and site visits to ultimately create a school that serves the needs of the students both now and in the future. Part of the planning process entailed programming and concepts which were then evaluated against the District's original vision and goals.



Creating the Ideal Learning Environment

Community Environment: *Continued...*

Smart budgeting and planning throughout the entire planning process and construction allowed upgrades in materials, expanded parking and the relocation of the athletic fields on campus.

The experience of the design team in collaboration with the stakeholders of the school with the student street idea was the foundation for the entire project. The result was a new high school, completed in August 2011, with intangible spaces that positively affect both academics and socialization. Mascoutah High School is no longer a place students have to be, rather, a place students want to be.



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2012 Project Data

Submitting Firm :	FGM Architects Inc.
Project Role	Architect
Project Contact	Jim Woods, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, REFP
Title	Principal in Charge, Executive Vice President
Address	1211 W. 22 nd Street
City, State or Province, Country	Oak Brook, Illinois, USA
Phone	630.574.8300

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

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

Construction Firm:	S. M. Wilson & Co.
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Fred Jaeckle
Title	Vice President
Address	2185 Hampton Avenue, P.O. Box 5210
City, State or Province, Country	St. Louis, Missouri 63139
Phone	314.645.9595

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2012 Project Details

Project Name	Mascoutah High School
City	Mascoutah
State	Illinois
District Name	Mascoutah CUSD 19
Supt/President	Dr. Sam McGowen
Occupancy Date	August 2011
Grades Housed	9-12
Capacity (Students)	1,600 Students
Site Size (acres)	87.88 Acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	249,177 SF
Per Occupant (pupil)	155.74 gsf/student
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	No
If yes, Total Cost:	N/A
Includes:	N/A
If no,	
Site Development:	\$1,595,988.00
Building Construction:	\$38,814,692.00
Fixed Equipment:	\$948,750.00
Other: Landscaping	\$192,915.00
Total:	\$41,552,345.00

North Entrance at Night

