

# 2012 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Silverland Middle School

Fernley, NV

2012 School Planning & Architectural Exhibition  
Awards

New Construction  
Tate Snyder Kimsey

# Silverland Middle School



# Main Entry

## Community Environment:

Situated in Fernley Valley, Silverland Middle School presents a contemporary reflection of both the built and natural context of northern Lyon County, Nevada. The school's setting is a pastoral island in the vast, temperate landscape of the Great Basin.

Developed through a series of locally driven design charrettes, this facility was designed as part of a new educational campus for the Lyon County School District; serving as a new landmark in an otherwise expansive context, while providing a sense of permanence and identity for this booming historic community.



## Courtyard Gathering Space

Silverland Middle School was developed to meet the needs of the then rapidly expanding population in Fernley. Like many rural districts in the Great Basin, Lyon County School District was ill prepared to meet the demands of this growing population having neither school capacity nor locations to effectively serve the community.

Rather than simply building new space, Lyon County School District—which had not constructed a new facility in over twenty years—set forth multiple objectives for two new schools: reflecting the District's desire to engage the community as well as providing the best possible educational space. The 97,520 square-foot, \$19.8 million dollar school serves a student population of 800 students.





# Media Center

## Learning Environment:

Organized around a central courtyard, the programmatic layout utilizes traditional planning patterns found throughout the American Southwest. This core element functionally organizes the school, providing flexible spaces for both social and educational opportunities.

Furthermore, the central courtyard provides an age-appropriate space for student interaction, as it serves the needs of a diverse population and offers opportunities for community use during after-hours engagements.



## Student Neighborhoods

Responding to the specific curricular objectives and teaching methods practiced by the LCSD, the classroom arrangements are based on grade-level wings, which promote the idea of “student neighborhoods” and seek to advance the practice of team teaching.

Each wing is identified by a series of large-scale historic images, providing a sense of place in a quickly growing city. Additionally, each wing is oriented to maximize solar exposure in the classrooms, providing appropriate levels of daylighting to all learning spaces.



# Inside | Outside Connection

## Physical Environment :

The materiality and color palette of the exterior brings to light the quiet, subtly warm, regional hues associated with the high desert and surrounding plains. These colors are contrasted against punctuations of vibrant moments of color, on the interior, helping to identify the classroom areas.

Additionally, Silverland Middle School serves as a teaching tool by addressing several key tenets of the AIA's 10 Principles for Livable Communities. Constructed at the heart of this rural community, the school with its surrounding neighborhood provides a considerate sense of human scale within a newly developed, pedestrian friendly community.





## Gymnasium Exterior

Beyond simply constructing a facility which utilizes regional materials, daylighting, solar hot water collection and wind turbine electrical generation, Silverland Middle School seeks to engage sustainability through a variety of sustainable technologies, both passive and active. These elements are intended to benefit the overall community by serving as a teaching tool for students and residents alike.

Through exposing such devices to the general community, the importance and familiarity of these technologies will augment sustainable undertakings such as the 2030 Challenge by providing a greater understanding of architecture's role in addressing sustainability and energy consumption. Quantitatively, these components have reduced the energy demands faced by Lyon County School District and set a new baseline for future educational facilities.



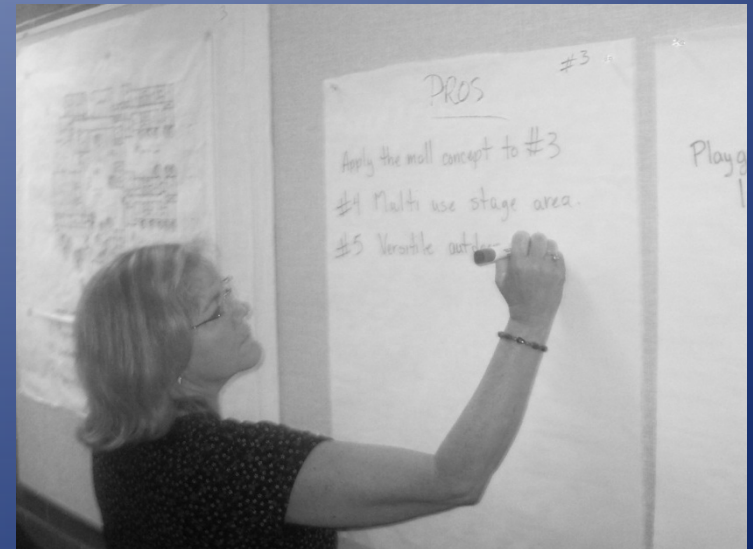


# Charrettes

## Planning Process:

The design of this project was based on community charrettes that delved into the core values, needs and concerns of the students, faculty and citizens of Fernley. Members of the local community, members of the school district and the architectural and engineering team shared in the 3-day event.

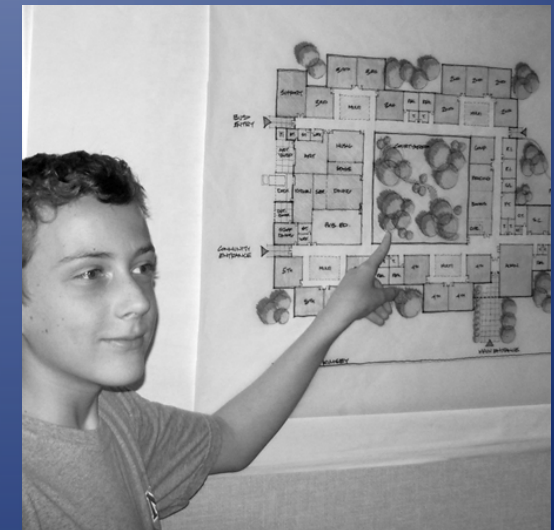
Driven to craft the best possible learning environment that responded to and represented the unique history and culture of the town, the program and building form took shape.



# Charrettes

Following the decision upon a final design direction, the team spent 2 weeks refining the charrette materials and then presented a “ final ” conceptual design to the same participants.

As the design process continued, members were notified of up-coming presentations by the design team and asked for their comments on the development of their vision. This collaboration allowed for a facility that was embraced by those who took part in its evolution.



# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Tate Snyder Kimsey
Project Role	Lead Architect
Project Contact	J. Windom Kimsey, FAIA, LEED AP
Title	President and CEO
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Joint Partner Firm:	
Project Role	
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Title	
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Other Firm:	
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Project Contact	
Title	
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Phone	

Construction Firm:	Rafael Construction Inc.
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Tim Burns
Title	Project Manager
Address	7120 Rafael Ridge Way
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## Project Details

<b>Project Name</b>	Silverland Middle School
<b>City</b>	Fernley
<b>State</b>	Nevada
<b>District Name</b>	Lyon County School District
<b>Supt/President</b>	Caroline McIntosh, Superintendent
<b>Occupancy Date</b>	January 2011
<b>Grades Housed</b>	6 - 8
<b>Capacity(Students)</b>	800
<b>Site Size (acres)</b>	32 acres
<b>Gross Area (sq. ft.)</b>	97,520 sq. ft.
<b>Per Occupant(pupil)</b>	122 sq. ft.
<b>gross/net please indicate</b>	gross
<b>Design and Build?</b>	
<b>If yes, Total Cost:</b>	
<b>Includes:</b>	
<b>If no,</b>	
<b>Site Development:</b>	\$4,870,000
<b>Building Construction:</b>	\$19,877,135
<b>Fixed Equipment:</b>	\$632,248
<b>Other:</b>	n/a
<b>Total:</b>	\$25,379,383







