

# 2013 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Crownpoint Elementary School Crownpoint, New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM

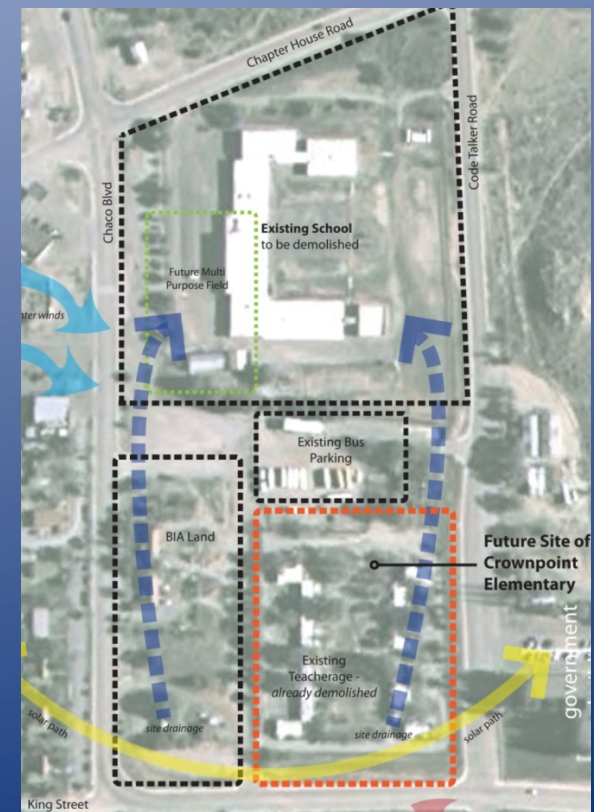
Indianapolis, Indiana

# Crownpoint Elementary School



# Crownpoint Elementary School

SITE DIAGRAM - In keeping with Navajo tradition the school entry faces east and public functions run along the school's east spine. In keeping with the Navajo "Circle of Life" the floor plan organizes the PreK-1, and grades 2-3, 4-5 learning pods on the 13-acre site by student age. The old school site is now used for playing fields for both school and community.





## Community Environment - Navajo Traditions

The new school is a light filled, state-of-the-art, 45, 000 square foot learning environment featuring technology-rich classrooms. The school is a response to community input that the exterior and interior design reflect and honor Navajo culture and tradition. The design team appropriately and respectfully fused the Navajo community's traditional hogan form in the building, Navajo rug designs in floor tile work, and words of lessons and values are displayed in both Navajo and English throughout the school





## Community Environment Multi-purpose Cafeteria /Performance Stage

The school is both an educational and a community economic asset as the multi-purpose space is the new venue for the monthly Crownpoint Rug Auction, an important source of community income. The flexible space can handle larger crowds and the gym can be separated from the cafeteria and stage by an acoustic folding wall.



A hand-crafted wood surround highlights the stage and displays a ceremonial tapestry

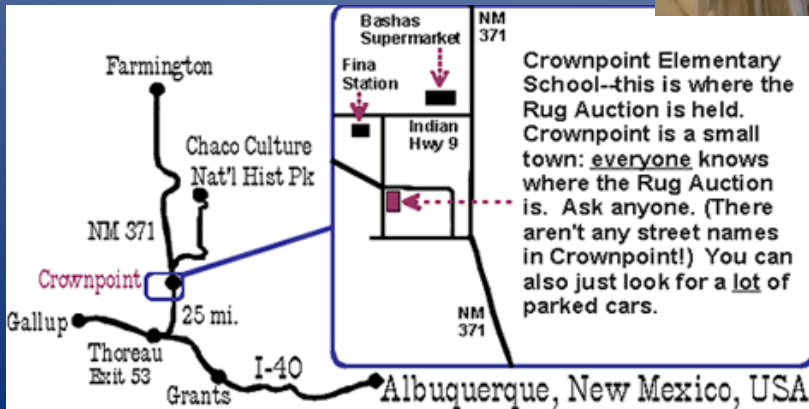


# Supplemental Image



## Legendary Crownpoint Rug Auction

Crownpoint Elementary is a vital component of the close-knit community both as a prized education institution and as an important economic resource. For over 40 years the school has hosted the renown, monthly Crownpoint Rug Auction. The community is thrilled about the auction's new venue.



Crownpoint Elementary School--this is where the Rug Auction is held. Crownpoint is a small town: everyone knows where the Rug Auction is. Ask anyone. (There aren't any street names in Crownpoint!) You can also just look for a lot of parked cars.





## Learning Environment -

The programming and planning goals were implemented in the school's design through a focus on a 'learning anytime anywhere' philosophy.

Located 60 miles from the nearest town, the technology package is key to student advancement. Advanced fiber optic internet access provides critical connections to web-based educational programs and supplemental materials to support curriculum.

Large windows offer views to the surrounding hills and keep the classrooms day lit and bright. Students easily access core facilities of cafeteria, gymnasium, and media center.

Age appropriate playfields are allow age groups to interact with their peers and to participate in outdoor learning opportunities.



## Learning Environment – Classroom Common Space and Native Rug Tile Work

In planning sessions the community expressed a need for function and aesthetics to be balanced by featuring familiar cultural markers. School floors are tiled in design patterns that echo the traditional rug patterns. These floors tie the school to one of the key sources of community identity and pride.

At hallway entry points the words ‘kindness, respect, responsibility’ in both Navajo and English, reinforce traditional values and lessons.

Expanded corridors function as ‘commons’ spaces used for student interaction, small group instruction, one-on-one lessons, or testing.





# Supplemental Image

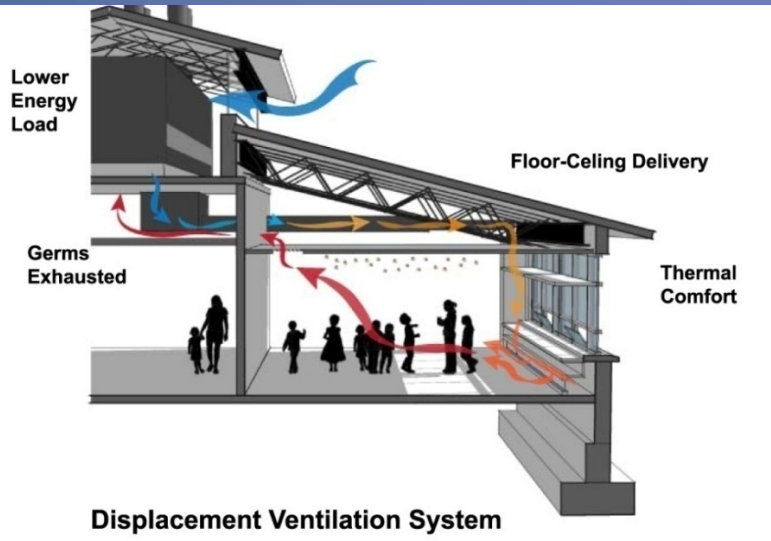
## Physical Environment – Mesas, Cliffs, Blue Skies

At an elevation of 7,000 feet the area is subject to wide temperature swings so the design factored in environmental issues of snow, wind, dust storms, freezing cold, and sizzling heat. Building materials had to meet high performance standards for the elements and for recycled content and energy efficiency. Insulation, high performance glazing, low flow plumbing fixtures, water harvesting, clerestories, and lighting sensors contribute to energy efficiency.



## Physical Environment – Sustainability

An energy efficient displacement ventilation system provides excellent air quality, is quiet, and reduces energy consumption. The system does not consume valuable interior square footage needed for curriculum. Ventilation system elements are in the hand crafted below window shelving units with storage above.





## Physical Environment

### Media Center

The octagon shape is a key organizing element of the school. The eight-sided media center recalls the Navajo hogan's shape, exposed beams and center smoke vent. This room's center opening lets in an abundance of natural light. Following community wishes the center was designed as the welcoming hearth of the school.

The center serves as the gathering point for students attending the daily language and cultural instructions adjacent to the center.

Recycled and low VOC materials were used throughout.



## Supplemental Image

### Sustainability



The design achieved a 30% energy savings over similar sized schools. There is a system to capture and save rain water that flows off the metal roof and is then used to supplement the landscape irrigation system. The building orientation and roof overhangs provide passive shading to help keep the building cool during the days of intense sun.



## Planning Process

The planning process was a collaboration. The design team listened to community input, developed the community's ideas into conceptual designs, and then presented those ideas at subsequent meetings for further input and refinement. The Owner made sure that ideas and concepts important to the community were implemented in the design.



A cultural classroom adjacent to the media center was designed specifically for teaching Navajo traditions and the Navajo language to the community's children. This classroom underscores the importance that continuing the teachings of the culture played in the project planning.

## Supplemental Image

### Planning Process

The planning process and Ed Spec verification occurred over a 2 month period. Meetings and community presentations continued through the design development phase.

The community now refers to the school as the community “Nest” where their young children are nurtured and guided by the learning principals of Kindness, Respect and Responsibility.





# Floor Plan



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## Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Van H. Gilbert Architect PC
Project Role	Architect
Project Contact	Van H. Gilbert, FAIA
Title	President
Address	2428 Baylor Drive Se
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Construction Firm:	Murphy Builders Inc.
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## Project Data

Other Firm:	Isaacson & Arfman, Inc.
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Project Contact	
Title	
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City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

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## Project Details

Project Name	Crownpoint Elementary School
City	Crownpoint
State	New Mexico 87301
District Name	Gallup McKinley Country School District
Supt/President	Leonard Haskie, Assistant Superintendent
Occupancy Date	May 2013
Grades Housed	Pre-K – 5
Capacity(Students)	300
Site Size (acres)	13
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	45,000
Per Occupant(pupil)	140
gross/net please indicate	gross
Design and Build?	
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$ 1,881,300
Building Construction:	\$11,084,108
Fixed Equipment:	\$ 297,400
Other: Old School Demolition	\$ 288,600
Total:	\$13,551,408



# Supporting/Supplemental files/Images

Not to exceed five (5)  
additional slides

Add additional images  
information