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architectural portfolio **2006**

**The Sourcebook for Award-Winning
and Outstanding Education Design**

CITATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Dena Primary Center Los Angeles, California

Firm: Rachlin Architects Incorporated

Design team: Michael Rachlin, AIA, Principal-in-Charge; Richard Ingrassia, AIA, Partner; Ken Stein, Designer; Armando Lopez, Designer; Andrew Ulmen, Project Manager; Mario Suson, CADD Leader

Client: Los Angeles Unified School District; Patricia Romero, Principal

Capacity: 250

Area: 27,000 sq. ft.

Total cost: \$8.5 million

Cost/square foot: \$315

Completion: October 2005

In East Los Angeles, in an urban setting with strong cultural influences, the progressive design of the Dena Primary Center makes use of varied materials including plaster, glass and galvanized metal, extensive use of natural lighting, and playful colors to generate an educationally stimulating, child-friendly environment.

The project reflects the educational program and the district's desire to break up large, impersonal schools into settings that are manageable for teachers and students—a concept referred to as small learning communities. An equally important goal was to create an object of renewed neighborhood pride in the inner city, as the school is the first in the area in 50 years.

The 27,000-square-foot primary

center includes two kindergartens, eight classrooms for 250 students, an administration complex, a library, a multipurpose room and outdoor play/assembly areas.

A key feature is the organization of the campus buildings inward toward a central elliptical courtyard, which provides a safe, sheltered play environment, as well as a gathering space for students and the local community. 🌿

PHOTOGRAPHERS: CHRIS COVEY AND TOM BONNER

"The design expresses the joy of learning. The use of vibrant colors and materials will generate fun for the students." —2006 Jury



Administration building/Courtyard



Galvanized metal stairwell



Canopy



Multipurpose room