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AMERICAN

# SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY

SHAPING FACILITIES & BUSINESS DECISIONS

AUGUST 2006

## Educational Interiors Showcase



Highlighting award-winning and  
other outstanding designs

# OUTSTANDING DESIGNS

## MULTIPURPOSE ROOMS

### Dena Primary Center Los Angeles, California

**Firm:** Rachlin Architects

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

**Area of project entry category:** 7,200 sq. ft.

**Cost of project entry category:** \$2,268,000

**Cost/square foot of project entry category:** \$315

**Total area:** 27,000 sq. ft.

**Total cost:** \$8.5 million

**Total cost/square foot:** \$315

**Completion:** October 2005

The architect was commissioned to design a tranquil, 27,000-square-foot educational oasis to serve as a nurturing buffer to the surrounding hustle and bustle of the inner city.

The program also demanded an innovative, out-of-the-ordinary multipurpose room to accommodate both student and local community functions, in addition to 10 classrooms for 250 students, a library, food service and administrative offices.

The designers created a colorful, inspiring primary center, which opened its doors in fall 2005—the first primary school built in 50 years in the Boyle Heights district of East Los Angeles. The design includes varied materials, such as plaster, glass and galvanized metal, extensive use of daylighting, and playful colors that generate an educationally stimulating, child-friendly environment.

The end result is the Dena Primary Center—an exciting learning environment for grades K to 2, as well as the object of renewed neighborhood pride in the inner city. ▲

PHOTOGRAPHERS: TOM BONNER AND CHRISTOPHER COVEY



Multipurpose room



Front of multipurpose room



Kindergarten room



Classroom