Lehman High School

Kyle, Texas

SHW Group LLP

Entire School/ Campus Building
New Construction

SHW Group LLP
300 W. 6th Street,
Suite 2200
Austin, TX 78701
www.shwgroup.com
Christian Owens, AIA
(512) 795-0088

DESIGN TEAM
Thomas Oehler, AIA,
Officer-in-Charge
William Wadley, AIA,
Lead Designer
Scott Stites, Project Manager

OWNER/CLIENT
Hays Consolidated Independent
School District
Kyle, TX
Dr. Kirk London
(512) 268-8454

Type of School and
Grades Served:
High School, 9-12
Capacity: 1,250 students
Size of Site: 49 acres
Area of Building:
255,945 square feet
Space per Student:
204 square feet
Cost per Student: $19,943
Square Foot Cost: $97
Construction Cost: $24.9 million
Total Project Cost: $26.6 million
Contract Date: November 2002
Completion Date: August 2004
Percent of Completion: 100%

The client/design team analyzed the current programs at the existing high school and found that the closer relationships developed between students and teachers in a nontraditional group instruction program reached even the toughest at-risk students. Working with the architects, the administration toured several high schools, met with other districts, and developed a progressive program based on a grade-level house plan. Ninth and tenth grades are joined into multidisciplinary houses to help ninth-graders adjust to high school. The first phase of the project has grouped three 30,000-square-foot self-contained pods that are conducive to team teaching for ninth and tenth grades.

Designers took advantage of the sloping site and positioned the building to sit low, gradually emerging into view with sympathetic proportions to the neighborhood. Inspired by an old house across from the school site, the owner asked for low-maintenance materials such as sloped roofs, stone, wood, and concrete to achieve a regional "hill country" look. The school is oriented toward the north not only to emphasize the main entry, but also to provide diffused ambient light into the media center and commons.

The building's structural system is a combination of tilt-up concrete, wood glue laminated members, structural steel framing, and masonry construction on a soil supported concrete slab. Due to high soil volatility approximately 20 percent of the building is on a structural concrete foundation system. ■

MAIN ENTRANCE

EXTERIOR OF SCHOOL

CORRIDORS

Photos: Mark Trew