



Palm Desert High School

Palm Desert, California

Ruhnau Ruhnau Clarke

**Entire School/
Campus Building**
Renovation/Addition/
Restoration

Ruhnau Ruhnau Clarke
3775 Tenth Street
Riverside, CA 92501
www.rrcarch.com
Roger Clarke, AIA, Principal
(951) 684-4664

DESIGN TEAM

Robert Clarke, AIA,
Principal-in-Charge
Joseph Calderon, AIA,
Project Designer
Michael Kohls, Project Director

OWNER/CLIENT

Desert Sands Unified
School District
La Quinta, CA
Dr. Doris Wilson,
Superintendent
(760) 777-4200
Type of School and
Grades Served:
High School, 9-12
Capacity: 2,200 students
Size of Site: 41.7 acres
Area of Building:
301,675 square feet
Volume of Building:
3.7 million cubic feet
Space per Student:
127 square feet
Cost per Student: \$29,545
Square Foot Cost: \$215
Construction Cost: \$65 million
Total Project Cost: \$19.5 million
Completion Date: Est. 2009
Percent of Completion:
50% Completion of
Construction Documents



PUBLIC ENTRANCE

The design of this high school connects the school to the community through the strategic placement of the various facilities. The plan uses a layered approach with public areas—the gymnasium, administration, and library, which are used year-round—are at the front of the campus. A second layer is created by the student courtyard and amphitheater. The academic village creates the third layer, which is private and set away from the street.

The learning environment is flexible, adaptable, and transformable to meet changing needs. Structural walls are placed at the perimeter so spaces can be rearranged for academies, departments, or houses, as necessary to break down the size of the learning community.

Students start out in a ninth-grade core where they gain study and technology skills. Every classroom will have capability for 10 permanent computers, wireless networks,



FLOOR PLAN

and overhead LCD projectors networked between the students and the instructor. Each group of classrooms

has a curriculum lab for interdisciplinary teaching. Staff offices are provided throughout the academic village to foster

Photos: Tu Tran; Floor Plan & Site Plan, RRC