



Entire School/  
Campus Building  
New Construction

**EMC2 GROUP ARCHITECTS  
PLANNERS, PC**

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**DESIGN TEAM**

Ronald L. Essley, AIA, NCARB,  
REFP, Principal-in-Charge  
Rick Carr, AIA, LEED AP,  
Project Manager/Principal  
Sean Hogan,  
Assistant Project Manager  
Ry-Tan Construction,  
Contractor

**OWNER/CLIENT**

Casa Grande Elementary  
District 44  
Casa Grande, AZ  
Dr. Frank Davidson,  
Superintendent  
520/836-2111

Type of School and  
Grades Served:  
Elementary School, K-5  
Capacity: 750 students

Size of Site: 15 acres  
Area of Building:  
67,500 square feet  
Volume of Building:  
684,313 cubic feet  
Space per Student:  
90 square feet

Cost per Student: \$9,600

Square Foot Cost: \$119

Cost of Construction:  
\$8 million

Total Project Cost:  
\$9.8 million

Contract Date: Oct. 2005

Completion Date: Aug. 2006

Percent of Completion: 100%

# Desert Willow Elementary School

## Casa Grande, Arizona

Emc2 Group Architects Planners, PC



EXTERIOR PANORAMIC

Desert Willow embodies functional, efficient, and high-quality design as the district's first K-5 prototype that satisfied cost and schedule challenges associated with growth in a volatile construction market.

The program groups classrooms as K-1, 2-3, and 4-5 in three internal linear houses accessed through the main interior spine. The "noisy house" (gym and cafeteria) are separate from the "quiet house" (classrooms). Gym and cafeteria spaces are separated to allow PE classes during lunchtime, and to provide an air-conditioned space when outside temperatures are too hot for student safety. There is direct access to playfields from the three houses, with a separate play area for the kindergarten. Separate parent and bus drop-off and staff parking areas maximize student safety and minimize traffic congestion.

The hipped roof and canopy signal the building entry, visible from the community's main thoroughfare. The increased volume of the noisy house adds interesting height and depth to the building.

All building entries feature walk-off carpeting to minimize dust and improve indoor air quality. Passive solar window overhangs on the south and southwest windows control

heat gain. Selectively painted walls of major interior spaces and prudent use of VCT floor patterns in circulation hallways enliven the interior experience. ■



EXTERIOR ENTRY



LIBRARY ENTRY

PHOTOS: RONALD L. ESSELY