



**Green School Building**  
New Construction

**VLK ARCHITECTS, INC.**

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Steve Aloway, AIA, LEED AP  
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**DESIGN TEAM**

Steve Aloway, AIA, LEED AP,  
Principal  
Ken Hutchens, Senior Associate,  
Project Designer  
Todd Lien, AIA, Senior Associate,  
Project Architect

**OWNER/CLIENT**

Houston Independent  
School District  
Houston, TX  
Dr. Abelardo Saavedra  
713/556-6300

Type of School and  
Grades Served:  
Elementary School, Pre-K-5  
Capacity: 750 students  
Size of Site: 5 acres  
Area of Building:  
84,553 square feet  
Volume of Building:  
1.3 million cubic feet  
Space per Student:  
113 square feet  
Cost per Student: \$12,557  
Square Foot Cost: \$111  
Cost of Construction:  
\$9.4 million  
Total Project Cost:  
\$15 million  
Contract Date: Sept. 2003  
Completion Date: Aug. 2007  
Percent of Completion: 100%

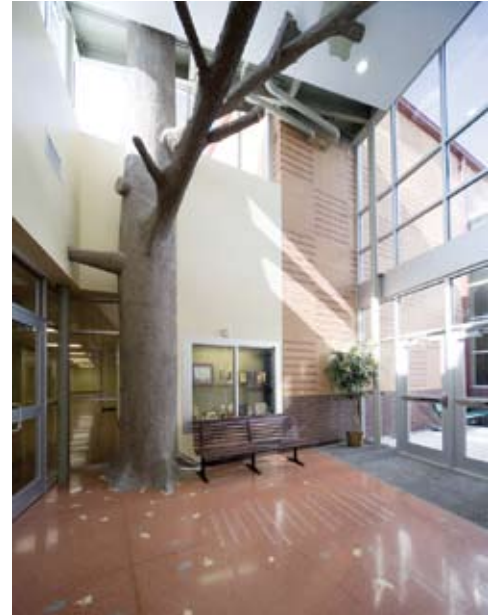
# Walnut Bend Elementary School

*Houston, Texas*

**VLK Architects, Inc.**



MAIN ENTRANCE



MAIN LOBBY

The school occupies the site of the former Walnut Bend School, which contains five acres of land featuring mature trees exceeding 40 feet in height. The two-story design houses the building program for a 750-student school, with a compact design preserving existing trees. An internal site drive provides parking and vehicle queuing while facilitating three grade-appropriate playgrounds nestled around the building and site.

A connecting corridor and organizing wall element respond to the geometry of the site, creating the entrance into the building and connecting the interior zones of the compact floor plan while separating academic areas from the public areas shared with the community including multipurpose room and cafeteria.



CLASSROOM

The school goes beyond the idea of being simply a place for learning and becomes part of the learning process. Science classes researched eagles, the school mascot. This research is incorporated into the terrazzo floor design.

Houston Independent School District is using the project as a

case study for LEED on future district projects. Sustainable elements include improved indoor air quality, water-efficient landscaping, low-flow plumbing fixtures, stormwater management, heat island reduction, local and regional materials, daylight and views, and construction waste management. ■

PHOTOS: CHAD M. DAVIS, AIA