



Entire School/
Campus Building
New Construction

RUHNAU RUHNAU CLARKE

3775 Tenth Street
Riverside, CA 92501
www.rrcarch.com
Roger Clarke, AIA
951/684-4664

DESIGN TEAM

Roger Clarke, AIA
Principal

Joseph Calderon, AIA, Principal/
Project Architect

Ledesma & Meyer Construction
Co., Inc., Construction Manager

FBA Engineering,
Electrical Engineering
Epic Engineering, Civil
Engineering

Nack & Associates,
Mechanical Engineering

Kathy Davis Associates,
Interior Design

OWNER/CLIENT

Desert Sands Unified
School District
La Quinta, CA

Doris Wilson, Ed.D.,
Superintendent
760/777-4200

Type of School and
Grades Served: Alternative &
Adult Education, K-12 and Adults

Capacity: 850 students

Size of Site: 7.5 acres

Area of Building:
63,166 square feet

Volume of Building:
1.1 million cubic feet

Space per Student:
74.3 square feet

Cost per Student: \$22,561

Square Foot Cost: \$304

Cost of Construction:
\$19.2 million

Total Project Cost: \$27 million

Contract Date: Aug. 2005

Completion Date: Aug. 2007

Percent of Completion: 100%

SPECIALIZED EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Alternative Education Complex

La Quinta, California

Ruhnau Ruhnau Clarke



MAIN ENTRY

The district's challenge was to efficiently serve the needs of a wide variety of students in an alternative-learning environment by providing numerous programs and services at one centralized location. With graduation as the key goal, community outreach programs and career and college counseling are located onsite to assist students at the adaptable and progressive Alternative Education Complex.

At the AEC, students of all ages and specific learning needs can take instruction in one familiar environment. The several distinct education zones and the large multi-purpose and performing arts rooms can easily be combined or partitioned to create a variety of lecture, seminar, and group-instruction configurations. Smaller rooms for individualized instruction of home schooled or independent study students are included in the



CLASSROOM WITH TECHNOLOGY



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

PHOTOS: FRED DALY



MEDIA CENTER



PROTECTED INNER COURTYARD



ADMINISTRATION DESK

layout, with larger classrooms in a different zone for continuing high school and adult education.

Bright, upbeat interiors and color schemes cultivate a sense of respect and pride in self and community. Important social interactions are encouraged through the many patios, corridors, and common areas around the property without impeding circulation. Interior spaces use skylights and clerestory windows to connect students to the world outside. Designed to be accessible to students with nontraditional schedules, the campus is well-lit at night, making it an inviting after-hours venue for local community events as well.

Technology is state-of-the-art, with LCD projectors networked to teacher and student computers and interactive SchoolPads™ that allow teachers to use an electronic pen like a mouse to annotate and highlight computer images, and to interact with projected images at the front of the room while standing anywhere in the classroom. Onsite

computer labs and technical vocational classrooms mean AEC students graduate with valuable career skills.

The district will realize significant cost savings through the use of durable, sustainable materials and energy-efficient measures at the AEC. Window awnings, covered walkways, and high-tech energy management systems work with the desert climate to keep electricity and cooling costs down. The school will exceed the Title 24 code by 27 percent.

With security a high priority both on campus and off, the interior student courtyard can be observed unobtrusively from most areas of the campus to maintain safe interactions among student populations, while landscaping and other physical barriers between the campus and its surrounding environment protect students from the outside world. This “open seclusion” keeps the campus secure without feeling institutional and contributes to the atmosphere of a private desert oasis. ■