



Entire School/Campus Building

New Construction

SHW GROUP

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DESIGN TEAM

Jimmy Strohmeyer, AIA,
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Lead Designer

OWNER/CLIENT

Rockwall Independent
School District
Rockwall, TX

Dr. Gene Burton,
Superintendent
972/771-0605

Type of School
and Grades Served:
Elementary School,
Pre-K-6

Capacity: 760 students

Size of Site: 13.3 acres

Area of Building:
91,489 square feet

Volume of Building:
959,073 cubic feet

Space per Student:
120 square feet

Cost per Student: \$18,213

Square Foot Cost: \$151

Cost of Construction:
\$13.8 million

Total Project Cost: \$15 million

Contract Date: Feb. 2006

Completion Date: Aug. 2007

Percent of Completion: 100%

Celia Hays Elementary School

Rockwall, Texas

SHW Group



MAIN ENTRANCE

Celia Hays Elementary, a new prototype, accommodates Rockwall Independent School District's realignment of grades to include pre-K and sixth grade within the elementary configuration. Three separate drop-off zones keep younger students apart from older ones and separate parent traffic from school buses. Large canopies over these areas protect waiting students from the elements. While the school's main entrance had to be clearly identifiable, the entrance used by pre-K students had to have a more appropriate scale for smaller children. That cue continues throughout the early childhood spaces with lower windowsills and placement of visual markers. The pre-K space has its own administrative offices, along with an activity center that



MAIN COMMONS

serves as cafeteria, gathering space, and indoor play area.

The compact plan offers natural light in most occupied spaces. Rooftop light monitors admit north and south light into all classrooms. Other features include benches with books across from restrooms so waiting students stay busy. An in-house TV studio with



STUDENTS IN CLASSROOM

green-screen wall, stage lighting, and technology enables students and staff to produce professional-style content fed to monitors throughout the school. The school is adjacent to a city park, enabling the district to buy a smaller site since school and park share the playground. ■

PHOTOS: MARK TREBY