



Entire School/Campus
Building
New Construction

NACIARCHITECTURE

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DESIGN TEAM

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OWNER/CLIENT

Snohomish School District
Snohomish, WA
Dr. Bill Mester
360/563-7280
Type of School and
Grades Served:
Elementary, K-6
Capacity: 700 students
Size of Site: 11.4 acres
Area of Building:
68,200 square feet
Volume of Building:
790,000 cubic feet
Space per Student:
97.4 square feet
Cost per Student: \$25,000
Square Foot Cost: \$257
Cost of Construction:
\$17.5 million
Contract Date: May 2006
Completion Date: Sept 2007
Percent of Completion: 100%

Little Cedars Elementary School

Snohomish, Washington

NAC|Architecture

The goal was to create a physical environment that accommodates the variety of ways students learn through both indoor and outdoor spaces that are flexible, engaging, and that spark curiosity and experimentation. The dynamic experiences on and under the school's bridges and in its terraced courtyard lend themselves to experimentation and a multiplicity of uses by small and large groups alike. For example, the outdoor amphitheater can be used for a teaching arena, a student performance venue, an outdoor learning area, or a place for play.

The Snohomish community places a high value on the natural setting of the site and the opportunity it provides to enjoy the outdoors. The school is conceived as two wings connected by two bridges, which span a terraced natural courtyard. A mechanical basement carved into the slope efficiently facilitates the displacement ventilation system, which provides 100 percent fresh air at floor level to all classrooms.

Because of the clear view of Mount Baker from the library and views to the surrounding forests throughout the school, nature is constantly present. These expansive views bring the outside in, allowing a constant connection to natural cycles. The forested edges of the site serve as quiet backdrops for the library and the small-group spaces adjacent to the classrooms. ■



MAIN ENTRY



TERRACED COURTYARD



SITE SECTION AND COURTYARD CONCEPT



TWO WINGS CONNECTED BY BRIDGES



THE BRIDGE



NATURAL COURTYARD

PHOTOS: BENJAMIN BENSCHNEIDER