



Green School Building
New Construction

SHW GROUP

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DESIGN TEAM

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Planner/Programmer

OWNER/CLIENT

Columbia-Brazoria Independent
School District
West Columbia, TX
Carol Bertholf,
Superintendent
979/345-5147
Type of School
and Grades Served:
Junior High School, 7-8
Capacity: 600 students
Size of Site: 53 acres
Area of Building:
91,500 square feet
Space per Student:
153 square feet
Cost per Student: \$16,553
Square Foot Cost: \$109
Cost of Construction:
\$9.9 million
Total Project Cost: \$13.6 million
Contract Date: April 2004
Completion Date: May 2006
Percent of Completion: 100%

West Brazos Junior High School

Brazoria, Texas

SHW Group



LIBRARY EXTERIOR

West Brazos Junior High School, the first public school in Texas to receive LEED certification, is an excellent example of achieving a flexible, durable, sustainable learning environment within a tight budget. The school was carefully sited on its 53 acres to preserve the existing trees and wetlands area, which is used as an outdoor learning space. Exterior materials of concrete masonry, stucco, and metal panels are durable and low-maintenance. Natural light penetrates deep into the core spaces via clerestory windows, and light shelves reduce heat load and distribute light into learning spaces. Energy Star roofing, reflective paving, and energy-efficient windows minimize energy waste. All of these features highlight the district's commitment to sustainability.

The school is organized into a series of three academic houses and one science house. The houses can be organized by grade level or curriculum,



MAIN AXIS



LIBRARY INTERIOR

and each has a flex room to accommodate changing needs. Flex space in the corridor area connecting the classrooms serves as a break-out area for teaching and collaboration. The signage explaining the functions of the building and

the exposed features throughout provide teaching tools to integrate into the curriculum the sustainable concepts of energy conservation, sunlight control, and environmental consciousness of our impact on future generations. ■

PHOTOS: RICHARD PAYNE, FAIA