



Entire School/Campus
Building
New Construction

BLRB ARCHITECTS, P.S.

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DESIGN TEAM

Thomas L. Bates, FAIA, LEED AP,
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Project Architect

OWNER/CLIENT

Highline School District
Burien, WA
John P. Welch, Superintendent
206/433-2217

Type of School and
Grades Served:
High School, 9-12

Capacity: 1,500 students

Size of Site: 30.2 acres

Area of Building:
207,159 square feet

Volume of Building:
4 million cubic feet

Space per Student:
138 square feet

Cost per Student: \$38,221

Square Foot Cost: \$277

Cost of Construction:
\$57.3 million

Total Project Cost: \$68.5 million

Contract Date: Mar. 2003

Completion Date: Sept. 2007

Percent of Completion: 100%

HIGH SCHOOLS

Mount Rainier High School

Des Moines, Washington

BLRB Architects, p.s.



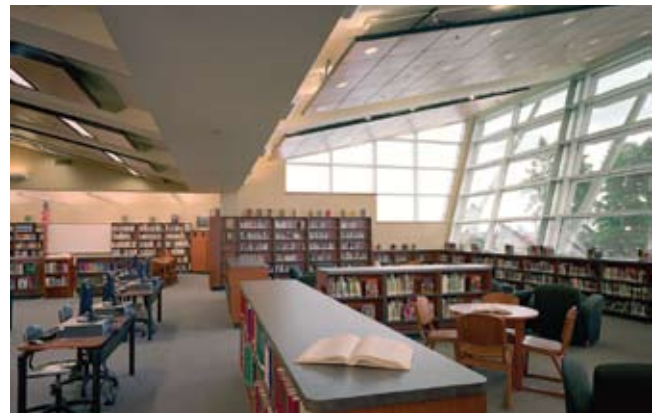
MAIN ENTRY



OVERALL EXTERIOR VIEW

Originally built in 1957 and located within four miles of SeaTac airport, Mount Rainier High School was an obsolescent, ineffective learning institution slated for demolition. Through an extensive community outreach program and an interactive planning process involving more than 30 stakeholders, a new school was conceived. Key to success was abandoning the current “California campus” facility and replacing it with a single self-contained structure.

The new school features a linear “main street” linking common-use facilities and four interdisciplinary communities of learning. Each community includes general-purpose classrooms, science and technology labs, resource rooms, and a shared staff planning room. A flexible “great hall” also opens onto the main street, serving as both student commons and performance hall. Through operable partitions, retractable seating, variable lighting sys-



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tems, and moveable acoustical baffles, this space transforms from a student social hub to a state-of-the-art auditorium.

Indoor air and auditory quality were of paramount importance considering the school’s proximity to the airport. Through careful research and engineering, an advanced

exterior building envelope and glazing system was conceived that maximizes daylighting while minimizing noise transference. Further enhancement of the learning environment included an inventive ventilation filtration system that eliminates airborne pollutants from air traffic. ■

PHOTOS: JOE MANFREDINI PHOTOGRAPHY