



Entire School/
Campus Building
Renovation/Addition/
Restoration

RDG PLANNING & DESIGN

301 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
www.rdgusa.com

Philip Hodgins
515/288-3141

DESIGN TEAM

RDG Planning & Design:
Architecture
Landscape Architecture
Lighting Design
Multi-Media

KJWW Engineering:
Structural
Mechanical
Electrical
Technology

OWNER/CLIENT

West Des Moines Community
School District
West Des Moines, IA

Tom Narak, Superintendent
515/633-5025

Type of School and
Grades Served:
High School, 10-12

Capacity: 1,800 students
Size of Site: 41 acres

Area of Building:
347,883 square feet

Volume of Building:
5.1 million cubic feet

Space per Student:
193 square feet

Cost per Student: \$17,500

Square Foot Cost:
\$136 new construction
\$70 remodeled

Cost of Construction: \$24 million

Total Project Cost: \$31.5 million

Contract Date: Oct. 2003

Completion Date: Nov. 2007

Percent of Completion: 100%

HIGH SCHOOLS

Valley High School

West Des Moines, Iowa

RDG Planning & Design



MAIN ENTRY

The challenge: To design new additions and infrastructure improvements to better the teaching and learning environment for an existing suburban high school serving 1,800 students in grades 10-12.

The process: RDG Planning & Design, with consultant Bruce Jilk, joined the West Des Moines Community School District's facility improvement team to envision the 21st century high school and its implications for the district's existing Valley High School. After nearly three years of committee work, research, community forums, and national peer tours, a design effort began that prioritized improvements

totaling \$31.5 million dollars. The building was to be phased in over four years on the existing site while school was in session. Because a large percentage of students would experience their entire high school education "under construction," it became the goal of the committee to maintain not only a safe environment, but also an environment conducive to learning.

The solution: A new two-

story classroom addition links to the existing building through an open commons, which provides opportunities for project-based learning and passively supervised social interaction. A new centrally located physical plant, completed as phase one, allowed both remodeled and new spaces to come on line as needed with appropriate sprinkler, security, data, communications, and HVAC systems. ■



STUDENT COMMONS



COFFEE SHOP

PHOTOS: KUN ZAHN