



Central Middle School

Columbus, Indiana

Perkins+Will, CSO Architects

Entire School/Campus Building

New Construction

PERKINS+WILL

Design Architect
330 N. Wabash Ave.,
Suite 3600
Chicago, IL 60611
www.perkinswill.com

Michael Palmer
312/755-4505

CSO ARCHITECTS

Architect of Record
www.csoinc.net

DESIGN TEAM

Michael Palmer, Principal
and Project Manager

Ralph Johnson, Design Principal

Bryan Schabel, Senior Designer

Mark Walsh, Project Architect

Jim Schellinger,
Principal-in-Charge

Mark Eriksson, Project Manager

OWNER/CLIENT

Bartholomew Consolidated
School Corp.
Columbus, IN

John B. Quick, Superintendent
812/376-4220

Type of School
and Grades Served:
Middle School, 7-8

Capacity: 978 students

Size of Site: 10.5 acres

Area of Building:
171,484 square feet

Volume of Building:
2.8 million cubic feet

Space per Student:
2,175 square feet

Cost per Student: \$23,517

Square Foot Cost: \$134

Cost of Construction: \$23 million

Total Project Cost: \$34 million

Contract Date: 2004

Completion Date: Aug. 2007

Percent of Completion: 100%



LEARNING CLUSTER FROM THE BALL COURT

This 978-student middle school creates new urban open space for Columbus, Indiana, while also providing a synergistic learning environment. The downtown location helps diversify and preserve the city's urban center while taking advantage of the existing infrastructure and transportation. The north-south massing defines a public open space in conjunction with Gunnar Birkert's Lincoln Elementary School. This new greenway connects 5th and 7th Streets and creates a new educational park for Columbus.

Substantial green spaces have also been provided along the eastern and northern portions of the site to further conserve the landscape and maintain a neighborhood identity by relating to the front yards of residences across the streets. This variety



AERIAL VIEW

of green spaces gives students a choice between active and passive recess areas.

The plan is organized in an L shape with general and specialized classrooms in one wing, and shared facilities—such as music, performing arts, gymnasium, and library—in the other. At the junction of these two wings is a two-story commons, which opens onto an outdoor U-shaped courtyard. The classroom wing is divided into

eight self-contained neighborhood learning clusters on one side, juxtaposed against a linear bar of specialized science and arts classrooms. The overall L-shaped configuration defines an outdoor play space onto which the classroom clusters open.

To enhance the learning environment and preserve environmental resources, natural light is used throughout the building. The team classrooms to the east have



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DOUBLE-HEIGHT LOBBY WITH STAIR



THE WEST FACADE FROM 7TH STREET



ENTRY CANOPY FROM 7TH STREET



MAIN STUDENT CORRIDOR WITH LEARNING CLUSTERS ON THE LEFT AND SPECIALIZED CLASSROOMS ON THE RIGHT

large windows and, because they face slightly north of east, are shielded from the direct morning sun. The shared classrooms that face west are provided with numerous narrow vertical windows that provide natural light deep into the room but help control afternoon sunlight. Deep overhangs and louvers protect

the southern glass walls. The brick exterior references the traditional schools of Indiana, with certain elements accented in local limestone and large glazed areas. The playful use of multiple brick colors, the overall massing, and the window patterning provide additional human scale to the building. ■