

Architect:

BCWH Architects
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Owner:

Henrico County Public Schools

Project Cost:

\$10,212,627

Square Footage:

76,800 sf

Cost per Square Foot:

\$132.98/sf

Completion Date:

Fall 2004



Project Description:

When Henrico County acquired the property for its new north area elementary school it was faced with the need to develop a compact design on a site dominated by wetlands. A two-story concept made new opportunities possible to explore the design and distribution of the classrooms, and the synergies possible from the closer adjacencies in the plan for a 750-student enrollment that includes art, music, special education and multi-purpose rooms.

Greenwood Elementary was designed with the belief that occupants should share a connection to their environment through views, fresh air, natural light, operable windows, and accessible exterior spaces. This allows the building to orient and educate its inhabitants -- strategies evident in the classrooms, the Atrium Corridor, the Media Center, the Cafeteria and Multi-Purpose Room, the administrative spaces, and the courtyard.

Green Features:

Providing a stimulating and healthy environment for teaching and learning requires the consideration of lighting, air quality, color, technology, and adaptability. The design for natural and artificial light in the classrooms accommodates both high tech and traditional instruction. Carefully designed exterior solar shading devices admit sun in the winter and daylight in the summer, while frosted glazing bathes classrooms in diffused natural light, reducing or eliminating the need for artificial light for much of the day. Artificial light is indirect, where possible, and able to be adjusted to three light levels by the teacher, depending on the teaching lesson and amount of natural light that day.



This positive cycle fosters pride, creativity, productivity, and high achievement. From day one Greenwood was designed from the inside out – the outside being the wrapper for the promotion of the program within. More than just satisfying adjacencies, program functions, and safety concerns, this approach requires the application of psychology and medical research from the perspective of the main user groups: students, teachers, and staff.

