



Robin Randall, BArch '86

Over the past 26 years, I have had the pleasure of working for design firms, including Perkins & Will of Chicago and Zimmer Gunsul Frasca of Seattle, creating unique environments customized to client needs. FGM Architects in Oak Brook, IL has been my home for the last 8 years where we have been focused on supporting K-12 educational clients needs.

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Inspired to Learn: Innovation in Educational Design

Process

One of the unique things about FGM is our process. The process includes immersion in our client's facilities, interactive questionnaires with students, teachers and administration, data gathering, research, visioning, programming and concept design. FGM developed this process to find the essence of our client's needs and dreams for their educational delivery and facility. It is a "Montessori process" where the client is the central focus.

Examples

Montessori Delivery Method - Seton Montessori - "Child's House Concept" where room configurations support individual and group learning, process from blocks to museum board to building - shoe string budget - student, parent and staff workshops - sustainable elements. Introspective, curriculum delivery is child focused - starts with one child

discovering one thing and then researching that idea from many different perspectives.

Middle School Delivery Method - Sycamore Middle School - "Transformation Concept" where an existing mundane 1960's junior high building is translated into a middle school new image, customized process, community forums, sustainable elements - adaptive reuse. Curriculum delivery method is team focused - school within a school - identity and middle school philosophy.

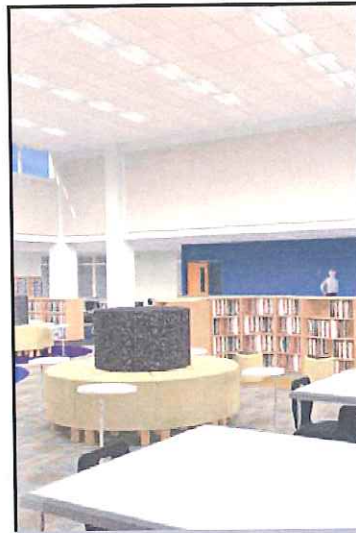
High School Learning Community Delivery Method - Wesclin High School - "Environmental Responsibility Concept" - Architecture as a teaching tool for the community, pre-referendum support, green grants, agricultural lab, rain gardens, renewable energy, planning strategies to support learning community delivery method.

Conclusion

Educators should demand customized environments to match their curriculum delivery method. Architects should be good listeners, provide expertise, create inspiring environments and make the process fun!



Seton Process



Sycamore Middle School



Wesclin Site Plan

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION REDEFINED

ALUMNI SYMPOSIUM

October 28, 2011



COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

ARCHITECTURE ▪ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ▪ URBAN PLANNING

DESIGN + THINKING