Eastern Senior High School
Washington, DC

Tab F.
Design Approach

Provide a narrative explaining your underlying philosophy and approach to the design of a modern innovative High School and provide examples of how this philosophy was implemented on other projects. Provide a narrative regarding the project opportunities to achieve LEED Gold Certification, a geothermal HVAC system, and a net zero energy ready building. Provide a narrative regarding the transition between public and commercial sites.

APPROACH TO THE DESIGN OF A MODERN INNOVATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

Jamie Casap, Google's Education Evangelist, likes to say, "Don't ask a student what they want to be when they grow up. Ask them what problem they want to solve, and the give them the environment to build the knowledge, skills and abilities they need to solve that problem!"

At Architecture, Incorporated and Fanning Howey, our design approach is simple: we design environments that prepare students and school districts for the future. High schools have changed dramatically in the last 20 years, and we have always been on the leading edge of providing our clients with the vision of what is coming in the future. We are involved in many organizations, connected to many other leaders in education, cognizant of changes in the educational atmosphere, and aware of trends in our economy. All of these inform our philosophy and allow us to create future-ready schools that serve future-ready students. Education is fluid and our role is to position you for the ever-changing landscape of teaching and learning.

According to the 2013 IBM whitepaper "Leading Through Connection", interviews with 1709 CEOs indicate that the top four traits that 'future-proof" an employee are:

1. Collaboration
2. Communication
3. Creativity
4. Flexibility

Those traits are then followed by:

- Opportunity seeking
- Analytical/quantitative
- Technology-savvy
- Globally-oriented
- Assertive
- Disruptive

These traits/skills do not occur in the standard historical classroom setting. We need space for both small and large groups; we need spaces that are flexible in arrangement, size, and technology infrastructure.

We are now seeing a convergence of factors that should begin to drive 21st Century school design. These factors have appeared on the scene over the past 15 years, but are now carrying equal weight as we develop new educational facilities.

- ***Collaborative Learning*** requires a variety of flexible spaces and appropriate technology. Learning spaces need not only flexible arrangements, but also flexible, moveable furniture, and adjustable lighting systems.
- ***Integrated Technology*** should be a given, not an after-the-fact installation. Today's students are more adept at technology than ever before, and technology is not only needed, but expected. We need to think about this early in the design, and discuss how we integrate the virtual with the physical.
- ***Safety and Security*** cannot be an afterthought. We live in uncertain times in an ever-increasing atmosphere of threats from many avenues. We can use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design concepts to evaluate our buildings for student safety and security.
- ***Sustainability*** is a given and we can achieve very low levels of environmental impact. We now have a generation of students who have been recycling their entire lives. They expect their schools to do that and so much more. Sustainability is a part of their lives, and their schools should be an extension of that mindset.

The following examples show we have merged our design philosophy with our clients' vision to create innovative high school buildings.

Turner • architecture incorporated • FANNING HOWEY

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF HOUSTON, TX

The $58 million new British International School of Houston is one of the highest-performing schools in the United States, with 99.5 percent of its students receiving their International Baccalaureate diploma. The school wanted a centerpiece for its IB and STEAM curriculum. Our team designed a central space called the Agora, which is the heart of collaboration and project-based learning in the school. The Agora features:

- Space for sharing learning resources
- Resource-rich, well-defined activity pockets
- Studios to support project-based learning
- Integrated virtual and physical learning spaces
- Learning pathways to and from the community

ROUND LAKE HIGH SCHOOL, ROUND LAKE, IL

Round Lake School District 116 wanted a modernized high school that would fundamentally change the learning experience for their students, with a specific focus on nurturing college- and career-ready skills. Our team responded with a design that includes multiple signature spaces, such as a Business Incubator Lab which occupies prime real estate at the center of the building. The Incubator lab allows students to work in teams to develop new business ideas and to collaborate with volunteer mentors from throughout the community. The Incubator Lab combines with STEM labs and multiple breakout areas to provide students with real-world learning experiences.