

LIONEL WILSON COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY - ASPIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Oakland, California



Design Features

- 420 students, grades 6-12
- Unique Educational Program
- Open Air Campus
- Carrel Study Spaces

Size: 43,000 SF

Construction Cost: \$6.8 Million

Completion: September 2002

Aspire Public Schools is a not-for-profit charter school organization founded to enrich students' lives. Reshaping the California public school systems, their schools are located in underserved areas. Providing a contemporary design, tailored to the educational program, this school will reinforce the educators, assisting them to provide a very high quality of education. The new school provides a community center, and lends a sense of pride to the neighborhood.

Aspire's combination of innovative teaching techniques, smaller schools, smaller classes and less bureaucracy has already helped Aspire to get positive results. Aspire students at two existing campuses in California's Central valley are consistently outperforming their public school neighbors, local districts and state averages. Aspire is going into the same troubled neighborhoods with the same amount of funding as public schools and getting better results.

Designed for 420 students in grades 6-12, this 43,000 sf new school opened in the Fall of 2002. K2A was responsible for complete architectural and engineering services from programming through construction administration. The design phase commenced April 2001, construction began November 2001 and was completed in September 2002.

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Campus Planning & Circulation

With a tight budget, aggressive schedule and demanding program, K2A designed the Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy for Aspire Public Schools. The campus is created with pre-engineered metal building, composed of four wings linked with corridors, lobbies and libraries. By separating the program into multiple wings, the size of the buildings does not overwhelm the neighborhood. The roofs are standing seam metal and the walls are corrugated sheet metal with a stucco base. The building wraps itself around a central courtyard.

The pre-engineered metal building design allowed for interior corridors, something prohibitive with modular classrooms. The interior corridors, a place to meet and gather, create community. The corridor is constantly changing, at times completely open to the commons area, at times adjacent to a library niche or open to the eleventh and twelfth grade workstations. By redefining the circulation path, it becomes a place of meeting, display, reading and exchange. Small library nooks open to the corridors throughout the building.



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Oakland, California**Interior Design and Branding**

When it was time to design the interiors for Lionel Wilson, Aspire had a head start. K2A's interiors group had developed a set of design guidelines for them from previous modernization projects. The design guidelines are a set of standard finishes, furnishings and environmental controls. They include everything from paint colors and carpet specifications to lighting level standards. The guidelines create a recognizable brand, and allow for a consistent response to the different conditions at each Aspire school.



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Classrooms & Carrel

The carrel spaces are another unique program requirement at Lionel Wilson Preparatory Academy. Each eleventh and twelfth grade student is assigned a workstation in an open office. The students have a fax, telephones, printer and copier. The carrel spaces are open to the corridor so that younger students will see the older students working and be inspired. Eleventh and twelfth grade students will participate in internships and apprentice programs and then return to school and work on their own related projects at their workstations. They will still have some traditional class time and online learning, but the carrels allow for an emphasis on projects that often culminate in presentations to the public.

