



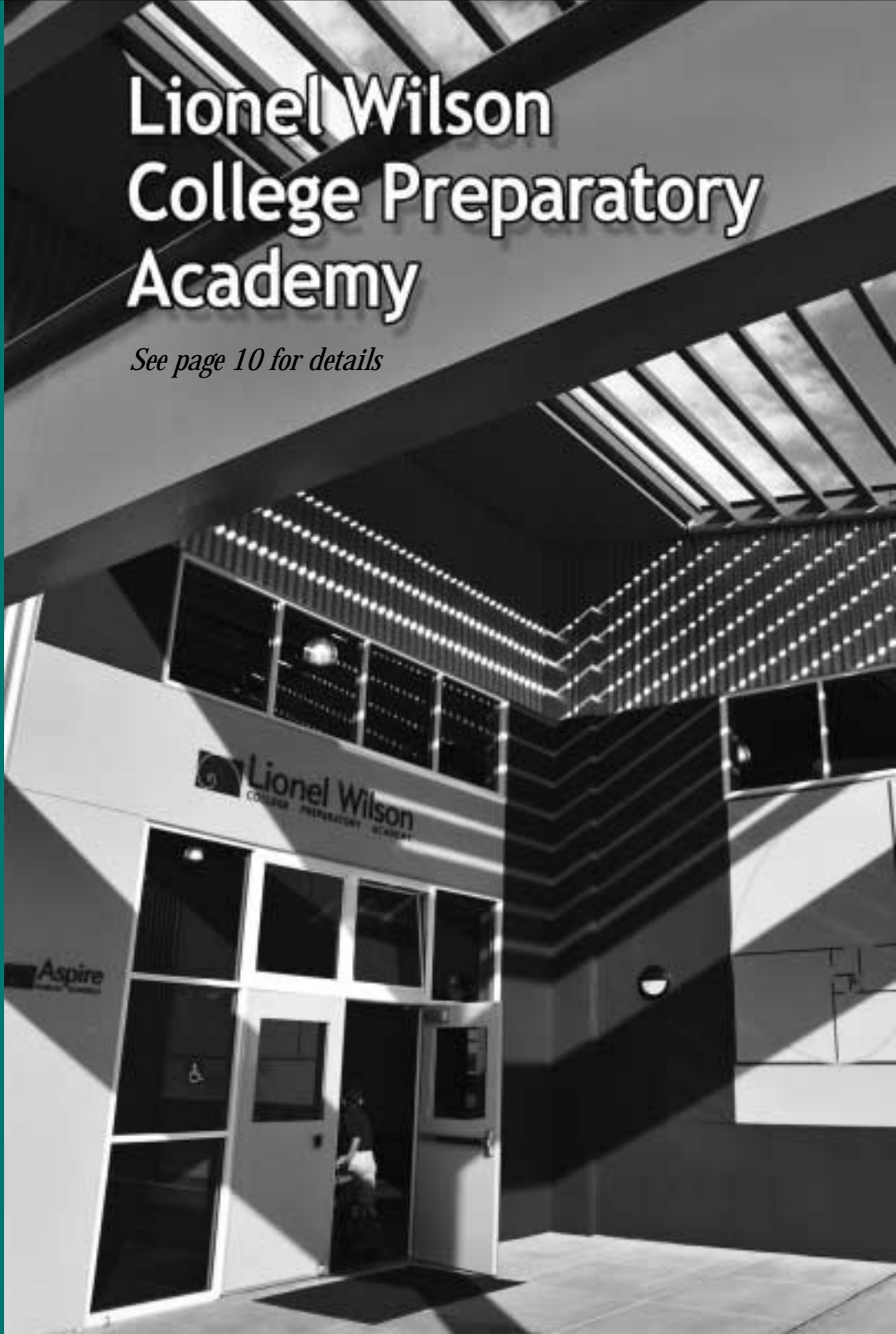
REGISTER

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COALITION FOR ADEQUATE SCHOOL HOUSING

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Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy

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Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy

Architect: K2A Architecture + Interiors; San Francisco, CA
Client: Aspire Public Schools
Project Size: 43,000 square feet

Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy strives to provide a high degree of education to youth in an underserved area of Oakland. As part of the Aspire Public Schools charter school system, it offers a unique opportunity to prepare urban youth for college. The school is dedicated to Lionel Wilson, a renowned political leader who worked to stop discrimination in the city, and served as Mayor of Oakland from 1978-1990.

K2A Architecture + Interiors designed this new 43,000 square foot school for 420 students in grades 6-12. While the exterior expression of the architecture is that of a civic building, the overall massing mimics the residential scale of the surrounding area. The structure utilizes pre-engineered steel building components, which provided substantial savings in design and construction costs. This also allowed for a fast-track schedule, from design phase to occupancy, in only 18 months.

The campus is located on the former site of one of the last operating flower nurseries in Oakland. It is

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 roof is standing seam metal and the walls are corrugated sheet metal with a stucco base. The building wraps itself around a central courtyard.

The interior corridors are constantly changing; at times completely open to the commons area, or adjacent to a library niche or open to student workstations. By redefining the circulation path, it becomes a communal place of meeting, display, reading and exchange. Small library nooks open to the corridors throughout the building. The new school becomes a



center for the community, with its large multi-purpose facility, complete with stage and kitchen.

The carrel spaces are a unique program element at Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy. Each eleventh and twelfth grade student is assigned a workstation in an open office. The students have a fax machine, telephones, printer, and copier providing a well equipped working space to students who may not have space to work at home. The carrel spaces open to the corridor so that the older students will be an inspiration to the younger ones. Upper-level students participate in internships and apprentice programs, returning to school to work on their own projects at their workstations. These students still have some traditional class time and online learning, but their workstations allow time to concentrate on personal endeavors, often culminating in presentations to the public.

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 from previous projects. The design guidelines are a set of standard finishes, furnishings and environmental controls. They include

everything from paint colors and carpet specifications to light level standards. The guidelines create a recognizable brand, and allow for a consistent response to the different conditions at each facility Aspire operates.

Providing a contemporary design, tailored to the educational program, this school reinforces the educators, assisting them to provide a very high quality of education. 