



Creative Thinking.. Distinctive Design..

for a Changing World

Vol: 4 Winter Issue 2010

WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL WELCOMES ITS FIRST STUDENTS

The community in Yakima, Washington had reason to celebrate when, in 2007, their school bond passed, and the foundation was poured for their new high school. Architects West assisted with the school bond passage that would replace the current, cramped, campus-style high school, with a new 240,000 square foot facility that would house up to 1,500 students, grades 10 through 12. Ready for the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year, the new home of approximately 1,100 West Valley students opened four months ahead of schedule.

“MOST OF THE BUILDING’S CLASSROOMS SURROUND AN OPEN-AIR COURTYARD, LETTING IN LOTS OF NATURAL LIGHT.”

The school district looked to Architects West to deliver a new high school design that would be progressive, functional, flexible, and cost effective; a facility that provides spaces that excite the mind, engage the learning experience, and bring students, teachers, and community together. This was our second, large, full-scale project for West Valley School District, the first of which met and exceeded the school district’s goals.

The 36 acre site, which was formerly an apple orchard, was converted to



accommodate all the needs and amenities for a new high school. The spectacular ridge top site has 360 degree views of the Yakima River Valley and the surrounding hills. The site accommodates over 900 cars, and incorporates pathways to make it fully accessible.

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Other site amenities include: interior courtyard adjacent to the commons and library, a greenhouse, and JV and Varsity baseball and softball fields with press boxes, dugouts, and batting cages. The new high school includes: eight science rooms, vo-tech space, ROTC room, music/choir room, media center, computer labs, art room, business education labs, general classrooms, administration, counseling areas, home and family life lab, special needs area, auditorium, and a full PE/Athletic Complex. Most of the building's classrooms surround an open-air courtyard, letting in lots of natural light.



“OVERALL, THE PROJECT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS”

said Tom Fleming, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, West Valley School District



WHAT CAN BUILDING INFORMATION MODELING (BIM) DO FOR YOU?

Every firm claims to have the latest and greatest, but it's how technology is implemented on behalf of a client that matters. Yes, Architects West can use cutting-edge building information modeling (BIM) to create nifty artwork that looks nice in a presentation, but our transition to BIM has centered on the ways it empowers the people we work for. So what does the term building information modeling (BIM) really mean? In short BIM is a way to manage, coordinate, and integrate information more thoroughly into the design process from start to finish. While drawing the initial concept of the floor plan in Revit, the architect records the properties and quantities of each component (windows, doors, materials, etc.). Because all of this information is collected while the plan is being drawn, both a 2d floor plan and 3d model are produced simultaneously. Throughout the construction document phase, this information is revised and maintained. This entire process can bring added value to the client during design and construction of the project. It means visualizing design options more clearly and quickly, planning and measuring building efficiencies on the front end, and identifying potential problems long before they become an expensive change order. Technology like this enables clients to customize the design process like never before – so long as they feel informed and understood by the professional they are working with. Fortunately, while the tools of the trade have changed over the years, relationships have always been our specialty.

MAKING IT COUNT

Relationships, Creativity, Integrity, Sustainability

ARCHITECTS WEST WELCOMES MARCUS VALENTINE TO THE TEAM



Marcus Valentine recently joined the staff at Architects West as a project architect. He is a graduate of the University of Idaho and currently holds architectural licensing in the states of Idaho and Washington. Marcus has an extensive background in residential construction, as well as experience as both an associate architect and principal.

When asked why he became an architect, Marcus replied, “From the time I was a small child, I’ve always been fascinated by the way things are constructed. Through early experience in the construction industry my interest in the design profession was stirred. When it ultimately came to a choice between engineering and architecture, I was drawn toward the more creative and interpersonal profession.”

“FROM THE TIME I WAS A SMALL CHILD, I’VE ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED BY THE WAY THINGS ARE CONSTRUCTED.”

Marcus’ work has been primarily in the private sector - with an emphasis on custom residential, multi-family housing, professional office, public works, retail spaces, and renovations. Some of his past work includes: Hayden City Hall renovation and façade upgrades, and the new Original Concepts Design Center, both in Hayden, Idaho. “While there are a number of projects that I’ve enjoyed, the one I’m most satisfied with is the Hayden City Hall. It was a renovation of an aging building with a mishmash of structural systems that had been through numerous previous remodels. The objective of converting the building into a vision for future development for Hayden, while giving it a civic presence, was engaging and challenging.”

All of us here at Architects West are excited to have Marcus Valentine on our team!



Hayden City Hall Renovation - by Marcus Valentine Hayden, Idaho