

# EDUCATION REFORMS

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

- Focused curriculum
- Experiential/Service learning
- Non-traditional buildings
- Parent involvement

## FOCUS ON LITERACY

- Common period
- In-class libraries
- Centers and small reading groups (flexible space)

## MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES

- Project room
- Technology Center
- Shop
- Consumer Education

## DECENTRALIZED SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

- Teachers on decision-making teams (teacher meeting rooms)
- Greater use of computers by teachers for administrative/management purposes
- More professional development at school site (teacher academies)

## HOUSES/ACADEMIES

- Team teaching
- Multi-age classrooms
- Looping
- Cooperative learning
- Small group/large group activities (flexible space)
- Block scheduling
- Decentralized media/library resources

## FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- Academics
- Dental
- Childcare
- Medical
- Social services

This 100,000 square foot **CHARTER SCHOOL** for 900 elementary school students is located in a planned redevelopment zone in the Englewood neighborhood on Chicago's south side. The school is seen as an urban element which, along with other adjacent developments, can catalyze the redevelopment of this area of Englewood. The **PUBLIC COMPONENTS** of the school program include a gymnasium, cafeteria, library and administrative offices. The classrooms form a rectilinear block perpendicular to the public areas, and a plaza at the corner links the two. The gymnasium serves as a **COMMUNITY ROOM** which can be completely opened up to the public plaza by means of pivoting doors.

### **FEARN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,**

**Aurora, Illinois,** is designed to facilitate hands-on learning in a collaborative, multi-graded setting. Classrooms are grouped in clusters of four, which will allow for curriculum to be delivered by grade level teams, or multi-graded learning environments. The classrooms open up to each other, allowing for activities to spill over from one learning environment to the other, facilitating cooperation among instructors. They are grouped around a shared, multi-functional resource center, designed to accommodate additional technology and media center resources. The shared areas also provide great opportunities for observation and collaboration. The entire school is designed as a **TEACHER TRAINING CENTER**, accommodating 20 to 30 student teachers. The school district has entered into a collaborative relationship with Aurora University, to assist them in training teachers who will learn how to teach according to the District's educational philosophy.

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PERKINS  
& WILL

**The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum** is the new home of the **CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**, which had been housed since 1893 in a neoclassical building one-half mile south in Lincoln Park. The Academy's mission, to make accessible the **NATURAL HISTORY** of the Midwest, is evident both physically and metaphorically in the new museum's siting, form and materials. The Perkins & Will design emphasizes the connection and interdependence of the natural and man-made environments and uses the history of its park setting to illustrate this. The angular masses that house the exhibits recall the shifting sand dunes that existed on the site before it was converted to park in the late nineteenth century. Their indeterminate quality expresses the **DYNAMICS OF NATURE**. The building is embedded in the site and at its peak; the roof hovers just below the tree line.

**THE HEALTH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY** designed for **West Aurora Schools in Illinois** is also an interactive learning environment designed for approximately 200 students. This academy fits into a fairly conventionally designed high school in the suburbs of Chicago. In operation for well over a year, it has helped the program grow dramatically since its inception. The academy consists of **FLEXIBLE PERSONALIZED SPACE** for each student, allowing them to work on solo tasks, small group work and large presentations. Both a self-contained classroom and science laboratory are provided as part of the design. These spaces allow for **SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION** to be provided on an as-needed basis. Professional offices are also provided to accommodate collaboration and student conferences.

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### HIGH DESERT MIDDLE SCHOOL

The learning centers in **Lincoln Unified School District** and **HIGH DESERT MIDDLE SCHOOL** were designed to accommodate 125 multi-aged students. A key feature is a flexible studio which can accommodate 125 students, each with their own personal workspace, portfolio storage, and **PERSONALIZED SPACE** to accommodate materials and ongoing project work. The design included lecture space, art experimentation and construction area, and state of the art presentation and simulation areas. In addition, it included small group areas to isolate both noisy and quiet activity areas, and professional office and **COLLABORATION AREAS** for instructors and mentors. The learning center also included a lounge and kitchenette area for casual study and gathering, and outdoor spaces for construction and recreation.

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