

## A New School of Thought

### Gonzalez Goodale Wins LAUSD Commission for Innovative Prototypes for Schools

*by Barbara Pressman, Barbara Pressman Public Relations*

In response to the growing need for new schools and replacements for aging temporary classrooms, the Los Angeles Unified School District unveiled three innovative prefab designs that feature stunning architectural features without further straining the District's dangerously dwindling budget.

Among the winning commission designs was that of Gonzalez Goodale Architects (GGA). The Pasadena firm's 30,000-square-foot design is a modular shell structure with a distinctive canted roof that seamlessly marries prefabricated components with a customized whole.

Gonzalez Goodale designed a two-story and three-story scheme with flexible interiors that can be organized and re-organized to fit varying academic uses and pedagogies. The firm's rigid-steel-frame, repeatable prototype is clothed in an insulating rain screen that can be clad in metal, plastic, or a variety of site-suitable materials.

Aside from its flexibility, the design also makes full use of the sun. Prefabricated glass curtain walls ensure generous daylighting that lend the space an airy, expansive atmosphere. "There's a thesis here that students need a place that opens out to nature, to the sky, to the city; a place that supports expansive dreaming," said David L. Goodale, AIA, GGA design principal.

Joint-use classrooms, collegial circulation areas, and generous frontage were also included in the prototype to anchor the community around the school grounds. "Education isn't confined to the classroom; it happens everywhere, which is why the design allows for the community to be part of the process of learning," said Goodale. Sustainability is a driving

consideration in the project. The school's garden area features permeable paving strips with no-mow grass-crete. Special concealed rooftop solar collectors utilized in the design are twice as efficient as normal solar cells, helping increase the energy efficiency of the building.

An estimated \$64 million is needed to build the initial four or five projects. Other winning prototypes came from two other local firms, Hodgetts+Fung and Swift Lee Office (SLO).

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