



## Spring School Tour Friday, April 22nd

*This year the Chapter's Bus Tour of School Facilities features four schools located on relatively small urban sites. Planning of the three schools in the Seattle School District was presented at our March 17th dinner meeting. Join us as we tour these buildings along with the Merit Award winning modernization and additions at Renton High School.*

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### **Madison Middle School**

*Seattle Public Schools  
Bassetti Architects*

Originally constructed in 1929, Madison Middle School is a Seattle Landmark structure.

The school's redesign supports the current educational goals of Seattle Public Schools. These goals include: creating collaborative, learner-centered team areas; providing a student commons at the heart of the school; and connecting the upper and lower levels of a steeply sloping site.

The design concept involves the restoration of the historic frontispiece of the school and new additions terracing down the hill to link the playfield with the main entry facade. A new Commons is centrally located between upper and lower classroom clusters. The multi-use Commons accommodates dining, performance and social functions. Learning clusters include classrooms, labs, teacher planning offices and open flexible areas to support grade-based teams.

Restoration of the historic facade and interior lobby coupled with new student-centered learning environments gracefully link the school's rich legacy with 21st century educational opportunities.



### **Renton High School & IKEA PAC**

*Renton School District  
Northwest Architecture Company*

A public-private partnership of the Renton School District, community leaders, arts supporters, local businesses and individual benefactors was formed to preserve the architectural history of the area's oldest high school and to infuse a new educational and cultural program into the city. The result is a thoroughly modernized Renton High School and a new first-rate performing arts center serving the community, providing a much-needed venue in Renton's downtown core.

The functional design objective was to consolidate the program for 1,400 students into a more compact campus environment. The interior was completely reconfigured and upgraded to modern codes, including the removal of the original auditorium for a new commons created at the former basement level, featuring a three-story ceiling open to new skylights above and a fully glazed monumental stair to a second-floor bridge, open to views of the new courtyard.



### **Brighton Elementary School**

*Seattle Public Schools  
BLRB Architects*

This new elementary school replaces the existing Brighton, built in the early 1950's. The design was driven by two primary educational and organizational design considerations. First, create smaller, more personalized educational communities within a larger facility or "schools within a school". Second, recognize that Brighton is looked upon as a vital community resource and serves not only as a place of learning but also as a community center.

Four independent, self-contained learning communities were provided, two on each floor in the education wing. Each community is made up of five classrooms clustered around a shared group area.

As a community center, Brighton must operate beyond the traditional school day. The "Community Center" contains administration, gymnasium, Learning Resource Center, a computer lab, auditorium and stage, volunteer room with kitchen, child-care facility and the art/science classroom. These spaces are not only accessible to students during the day, but also have hours of use beyond the traditional school day.



### **Emerson Elementary School**

*Seattle Public Schools  
DLR Group*

The Seattle School District re-established Emerson Elementary School as a true "neighborhood school" by doubling the enrollment capacity and enhancing its presence as a historic building. The new main circulation path, nicknamed "Emerson Steps," unites new and old, reinforces the relationship between the school and adjacent park and maximizes space on the steep 1 1/2 -acre site.

Emerson Steps leads from a historic archway and exterior courtyard on the east side, through an interior courtyard, to the concrete park steps on the west. With the interior use of exterior materials reinforcing Emerson's image, the interior courtyard opens westward onto an exterior balcony that overlooks the school's play area and park.

Emerson Steps becomes a concrete reality in layered steps, landing and amphitheater. The school acknowledges the neighborhood, the views and the sun. Emerson Steps becomes a place to enter and leave the school, eat, visit with friends, attend an outdoor class or perform a skit. Everyone benefits from the school's new connection to the park and the neighborhood.