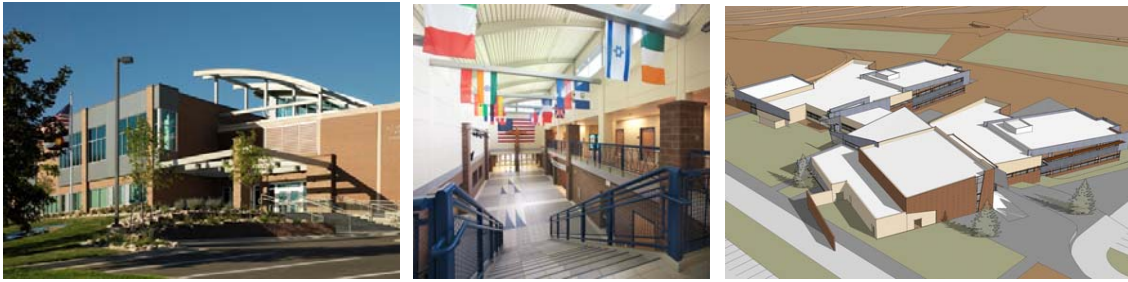


*Designing Learning Environments that Flex and Grow:  
Hinkley High School (joint venture with RTA ARCHITECTS) and  
Rawlins Elementary School Complex*



MOA has recently designed two educational facilities that recognize and encourage individual learning styles while providing an inspiring learning environment for all.

For Hinkley High School in Aurora, Colorado, MOA designed a 52,000 sf addition and remodeled 223,484 sf to accommodate four small learning communities within one facility. A layout of separate communities joined by wide hallways with doors allows for cross-pollination or independence of the communities, as desired. Light and open spaces encourage students to mingle in lunch rooms (one new; one remodeled), the main spine, the library, and the media room – all of which were reconfigure to accommodate multiple uses. Comfortable and bright interior finishes, increased windows with daylight and views, and a new addition whose form and materials relate to its location have improved the morale of students and faculty alike.

The completed high school has been embraced by the population, and is a genuine source of pride for its students. As principal Peter Mosby says, “All of a sudden, everyone wants to be in our facility. . . . The kids saw the change and take a lot of pride in it.”

Similarly, Rawlins Elementary School in Wyoming (in design) will replace three structures with one that houses two learning communities serving approximately 1,000 students. Flexibility and integration is maximized by wide open spaces and “breakout rooms” that accommodate different communities as needed. Continual learning is further enhanced by measures such as proper daylighting, comfortable interiors and furnishings, inspiring views, and building details that connect to history and local events. The building’s materials and color palette relates to its site, and its design responds to the elemental forces – pervasive wind and the Rawlins Uplift formation - that characterize its immediate surroundings.

Both projects were designed to be “of their place,” and so, in addition to site visits and research, the design team cultivated community involvement. At Rawlins Elementary, a multi-day pre-conceptual design session was chaired by American Schoolhouse Council. In both cases, input was gathered from stakeholders including faculty, staff, parents, and community members so that each school will become integral to its community.

