

OUTSTANDING DESIGNS LIBRARIES/MEDIA CENTERS

Maplewood-Richmond Heights Elementary School Richmond Heights, Missouri

Firm: Bond Wolfe Architects
Associated firm: Architectural Design Resource

Client: Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District; Natasha Webster, Director of Communications

Area of project entry category: 5,200 sq. ft.
Cost of project entry category: \$355,200
Cost/square foot of project entry category: \$126
Total area: 64,000 sq. ft.
Total cost: \$8.5 million
Total cost/square foot: \$126
Completion: August 2004

Maplewood-Richmond Heights Elementary School is the result of a series of public workshops in which the community was asked to consider the future of its district in light of aging facilities and rising operating costs. The community recommended eliminating two ineffective elementary schools and consolidating into one modern facility.

The centerpiece of the school is the student media center and library. The space was designed around the superintendent's desire to have a sophisticated learning environment that metaphorically resembled an interactive museum. Low shelving not only serves a functional purpose, but also provides students with an eye-level view of artifacts on display. In addition, designated spaces, such as the recessed kiva, promote interactive learning for a variety of

small-group activities.

The museum theme blends into each element of the interior design. The sophisticated color palette, introduced in the shelving and furniture, is placed strategically throughout the space.

The whimsical serpentine couch is accented by carefully placed colored tiles, providing pops of color and interest. Both versatile and flexible, these tiles mimic the surrounding classroom accent colors and can be replaced easily as needed. ▲

PHOTOGRAPHERS: BRYAN ELM, MAN AND BOND WOLFE ARCHITECTS



Media center



Seating area



Stacks

