In the State of North Carolina, the statutory responsibility for operating the local public schools is delegated to county and city boards of education. A board of education is a policy-making body and it has the legal responsibility and authority for entering into contracts for the design and construction of local public school system buildings.

Charged with this responsibility, a conscientious school board, as well as a successful superintendent, keeps abreast of recent developments and trends in public education, utilizes every possible source of professional information, and plans continuously for the improvement of the educational program. Along with insuring the highest quality of educational decision-making, the alert school board secures the best design talent available.

Effective and intelligent planning and design does not occur accidentally but through a thoughtfully designed process that is sensitive to local conditions. This publication presents several projects which reflect that planning process. The process frequently includes preparation of educational specifications, analysis of educational specifications, development of a design program, design program schematic plans, plan development, and evaluation and review of plans. This process provides a framework for systematic, purposeful planning and permits the flexibility necessary for adaptation to local need or special conditions.

We commend this publication to your attention. It, along with the previous issues of Schools of Interest beginning June, 1971, by the Division of School Planning, could serve as the basis for an effective and imaginative school planning process to the end that your building program is strengthened and improved. The Staff of the Department of Public Instruction is available for consultation and assistance in any or all aspects of the planning process.

A. CRAIG PHILLIPS, State Superintendent
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

JAMES T. BURCH, Assistant Superintendent
Administrative Services Area

LACY PRESNELL, Director
Division of School Planning

July, 1978

A. Craig Phillips, State Superintendent
N. C. Department of Public Instruction
PREFACE

We are pleased to present several examples of floor plans for buildings built during the period of the 1973 Public School Facilities Fund. It has always been difficult for us to select just a few schools for this publication from among the many notable designs constructed in North Carolina. There are others which are worthy of presentation each time we prepare an issue of Schools of Interest. Almost all administrative districts have a new school or an addition to an older school which is of particular educational or architectural interest. Quality professional planning and design services are readily available to all school boards. The schools presented here represent a wide range of educational philosophies and design solutions. These preferences and objectives blend with the capabilities of local design services and educational perceptions to produce more variety than is ordinarily believed to be the case. Each community may express its own preferences and educational objectives. The public school planning process is remarkably responsive in this respect.

The process of public school programming, planning, and building design has matured during the period of the 1973 Public School Facilities Fund. Plan relationships are a matter of choice rather than tradition. All kinds of special program facilities are included or anticipated wherever local educational preferences dictate. Room sizes, arrangements, and relationships, can and do vary as much as the perceptions of educators, architects, and school boards. The latest educational or architectural trends are usually reflected in a new school building somewhere. Also, many school facility design efforts have provided experience and information which are useful when applied to other building types. This variety of design solutions to the functional environmental problems of education may be seen as illustrative of the democratic complexity and evolutionary responsiveness of public education.

Lacy M. Presnell, Director
Division of School Planning
Department of Public Instruction
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elkin Elementary</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eno Valley Elementary</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Heights Elementary</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayesville Elementary</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isenberk Elementary</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Road Elementary</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siler City Elementary</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Primary</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Elementary</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanfield Elementary</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swannanoa Elementary</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas H. Cash Elementary</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallace Elementary</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archdale/Trinity Middle</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville Middle</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Craven Middle</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Iredell Middle</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Junior High</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinston High</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison County High</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell High</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland County High</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocracoke Union</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clyde A. Erwin High Gym &amp; Pool</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby High Pool</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashe County Vocational Education Center</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union County Career Center</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winston-Salem/Forsyth County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Center &amp; Administrative Center</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro School For The</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainable Mentally Retarded</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Schools 7/1/76 - 7/1/77</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Locations</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ELKIN ELEMENTARY

Here we have classroom clusters around a support core containing a library. The library space is enlivened by means of natural light from two large rooftop monitors. Each cluster of four classrooms or teaching stations has its own sheltered porch which can be used as a private entrance or exit. Each cluster shares its own core of toilets, storage, and private work areas. This plan is evidence of the variety which is possible with the cluster plan concept.

DSP Property Number ........................................ 861-3636
Administrative Unit ........................................... Elkin City
Surry County
Superintendent ................................................... David W. Thrift
Grade Organization .............................................. K-4
Approximate Capacity .......................................... 480
Square Footage .................................................. 27,645 sq. ft.
Opening Date .................................................. September, 1975
Architects ...................................................... Ferebee, Walters & Associates
Engineers ...................................................... Ferebee, Walters & Associates
ENO VALLEY ELEMENTARY

Here is an example of school building planning for phased construction. A classroom building for sixteen teachers and classes was designed to be repeated as part of second phase construction. Other educational program requirements are housed in self-contained structures to allow construction budget decisions to be made as money becomes available. The resulting campus plan has been closely tied together by covered walks and fully developed courtyards. Each classroom has natural lighting at work areas from roof monitors. Also, pairs of classrooms are connected by means of an attractive sliding "barn" door, custom designed by the architect.

DSP Property Number .................................. 320-3593
Administrative Unit .................................. Durham County
Superintendent ......................................... Dr. J. Frank Yeager
Grade Organization .................................... 1-6
Approximate Capacity .................................. 800
Square Footage .......................................... 64,200 sq. ft.
Opening Date ............................................. November, 1978
Architects .............................................. Carr, Harrison, Pruden & DePasquale
Structural Engineers ................................. W. H. Gardner, Jr. & Associates
Mechanical and Electrical Engineers ............. Walter G. Smith & Associates
FOREST HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

The sloping site suggested a plan with a series of terraces, each of which would accommodate several teaching stations. An open educational concept was a requirement of the initial design idea. In practice, standard groupings of teachers and children arrange themselves on the terraces without undue inconvenience. Intriguing interior vistas extend uphill and downhill from many points inside the school. The long sloping ceilings emphasize space flow. The centrally located library is also a visual focal point of interior view. This design is further proof that public school buildings are frequently among the most imaginative and interesting of all buildings constructed during this era.

DSP Property Number .................................. 360-3716
Administrative Unit .................................. Gaston County
Superintendent ...................................... Dr. Zane E. Eargle
Grade Organization ................................... K-6
Approximate Capacity .................................. 750
Square Footage ........................................ 52,000 sq. ft.
Opening Date .......................................... August, 1977
Architects ............................................ Wilber, Kendrick, Workman & Warren
Engineers ............................................... Wilber, Kendrick, Workman & Warren
Landscape Architects ............................... Jordan/Evans
The site has many architecturally unrelated buildings constructed over a period of about forty years. Hilly terrain has made it difficult to plan in a visually comprehensive way. However, this new structure provides a strong focal point for several existing buildings. The four teacher open plan interiors are appropriately divided by conveniently placed work areas, toilet rooms, and stairs. The stairs ascend to a centrally located open loft which is shared by each class. These little buildings are more fun than usual.

DSP Property Number ........................................ 220-1439
Administrative Unit ........................................ Clay County
Superintendent ................................................. Paul K. Beal
Grade Organization ............................................. K-2
Approximate Capacity ........................................ 200
Square Footage .................................................. 11,500 sq. ft.
Opening Date ................................................... August, 1976
Architects .......................................................... Padgett & Freeman
Engineers .......................................................... Reece, Noland & McElrath
Here is another variation of classroom clusters in separate houses. Each house is attached to a core of supporting services. It can operate with combinations of open classrooms or self-contained closed classrooms. Classroom traffic goes directly to or around the library.

The inside and outside of the main entrance is distinguished by ceramic tile wall murals. The murals are large and well designed. The exterior one depicts stages in evolutionary creation and human development.

Bus and auto traffic is clearly separated by thoughtful site planning with paving, curbs, and covered walks.

 DSP Property Number ............... 801-3707
 Administrative Unit ................... Salisbury City
 Rowan County
 Superintendent ..................... Dr. Harold D. Isenberg
 Grade Organization ................. 1-6
 Approximate Capacity ............. 600
 Square Footage .................. 41,000 sq. ft.
 Opening Date ..................... June, 1977
 Architect ..................... Robert F. Stone
 Mechanical and Electrical Engineers ... Buffaloe, Morgan & Associates
 Structural Engineers .............. King-Hudson Associates
The plan form of this school is symbolic of a frequently stated educational trend of having all supporting services at the gravitational center of the program. Each open classroom cluster focuses on that center. Educators' directives are literally translated into building. Exterior spaces between clusters provide interesting gathering places for outdoor activities if teachers and children choose to use them.

DSP Property Number ........................................ 920-3663
Administrative Unit ........................................... Wake County
Superintendent .................................................... Dr. John A. Murphy
Grade Organization ............................................. K-6
Approximate Capacity ......................................... 828
Square Footage .................................................... 87,599 sq. ft.
Opening Date ..................................................... March, 1977
Architect ............................................................. Owen F. Smith
Engineers ............................................................ Progressive Design Collaborative, Ltd.
Landscape Architects ........................................... James B. Godwin & Associates
GRADES K&I

GRADES 2&3
WORK RM
COURT
MULTI-PURPOSE
KITCHEN
DINING
ADMIN

GRADES 4&5
WORK RM
COURT

BUS ENTRANCE
SERVICE AREA
MAIN ENTRANCE
SILER CITY ELEMENTARY

Siler City Elementary is an example of total design development. Local educators prepared specifications which the architects translated into a design program. From the early stages, the landscape architect was a member of the design team. Educational specifications were interpreted by the architect to require a mix of self-contained classrooms, double classrooms, and semi-open classrooms, accommodating several teaching modes. Each cluster of classrooms has its own teachers' workroom, teachers' toilet room, children's toilet rooms, and mechanical equipment (HVAC) room. Courts and connecting covered walks have been fully developed. Exterior areas around the buildings are attractively landscaped and paved. This project is a response to thoughtful educational and lay leadership.

DSP Property Number .......................... 190-3687
Administrative Unit .......................... Chatham County
Superintendent ............................... Perry W. Harrison
Grade Organization ........................... K-5
Approximate Capacity ......................... 700
Square Footage ............................... 59,882 sq. ft.
Opening Date ................................. August, 1977
Architects .......................... Polier, Flowers, Ballard & Branan
Mechanical Consultants ...................... Buffaloe, Morgan & Associates
Structural Consultants ....................... Bigger & Agnew
Landscape Consultants ...................... McNeely Associates
SOUTHERN PRIMARY

The designer decided early in the planning stages that a compact, low eaved, hipped roof combination of buildings would best express the idea of a school for primary age children. Compact design was achieved by arranging groups of double classrooms around a two-level core of special rooms and services. A feature of the interior group is the library on the upper level. A ramped main entrance connects the classroom building and multi-purpose building.
SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY

The classroom cluster plan which has evolved during recent years is represented here in a simple and economical form. The classrooms in each of the four clusters are self-contained. They could be grouped into two or four teaching station combinations when necessary. The total plan is compact without sacrificing exterior exposure for classrooms. Mechanical equipment for conditioned air is economically located above a low ceilinged central core of library work areas and toilet rooms.

DSP Property Number .......................... 291-3699
Administrative Unit ......................... Lexington City
                                      Davidson County
Superintendent .............................. William E. Niven
Grade Organization ......................... 3-5
Approximate Capacity ....................... 400
Square Footage .............................. 35,900 sq. ft.
Opening Date ............................... September, 1976
Architect .................................. Paul T. Briggs, Jr.
Landscape Architect ....................... Roger A. Briggs
STANFIELD ELEMENTARY

This project proves that a small school with a limited budget can be planned efficiently and still be especially attractive. Although the building is an addition to an existing school, it could be a prototypical elementary school if food service facilities and a gymnasium were added. Classrooms can be combined or left to remain self-contained as educational modes change. Primary grades are separated from other grades by means of their own commons area. The administration offices are accessible from a separate lobby without entering the main school area. The school’s central core is spacious and flexible.

DSP Property Number ........................................ 840-3184
Administrative Unit ........................................ Stanly County
Superintendent ............................................. Dr. Jimmie E. Martin
Grade Organization .......................................... K-6
Approximate Capacity ....................................... 350
Square Footage ............................................... 25,904 sq. ft.
Opening Date .................................................. November, 1977
Architects ....................................................... Wilber, Kendrick, Workman & Warren
Engineers ....................................................... Wilber, Kendrick, Workman & Warren
Landscape Architect .......................................... Jordan/Evans
School sites in western North Carolina challenge architectural design ability. Here is another example of a creative response to a hilly site. The building was allowed to step down the hills without compromising educational planning objectives. All of the many levels are connected by ramps which are part of a central collection of special supporting services. An all masonry and concrete structure has been arranged to take advantage of natural light in classroom clusters and main interior traffic arteries.

DSP Property Number ........................................ 110-1197
Administrative Unit ......................................... Buncombe County
Superintendent .............................................. Dr. N. A. Miller
Grade Organization .......................................... K-8
Approximate Capacity ...................................... 1,000
Square Footage ............................................... 87,500 sq. ft.
Opening Date ................................................ April, 1979
Architects ...................................................... Padgett & Freeman
Mechanical and Plumbing Engineers ..................... Mechanical Engineers, Inc.
Electrical Engineers ........................................ Reece, Noland & McElrath
Structural Engineers ........................................ Bowen & Feinburg
SWANNANOA ELEMENTARY
THOMAS H. CASH ELEMENTARY

This large elementary school is divided into two classroom houses. Each house accommodates several hundred children in a variety of classroom combinations and sizes. All classrooms can be used in combination since removable partitions have been used. Each house has a center core of toilets, workrooms, and a library or common use area. The multipurpose room combines the functions of gymnasium, auditorium, and cafeteria. A massive solar heating collector was designed for this school, but not funded. The plan is distinguished by generous interior circulation and lobby space.

DSP Property Number .................................. 340-3717
Administrative Unit .................. Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
Superintendent ..................... Dr. James A. Adams
Grade Organization .................. K-6
Approximate Capacity .................. 750
Square Footage .................. 60,000 sq. ft.
Opening Date .................. August, 1977
Architects .................. Hammill-Walter Associates
Mechanical and Electrical Engineers ........................ Consulting Engineering Services
Structural Engineers .................. Sutton-Kennerly & Associates
WALLACE ELEMENTARY

Educational specifications required a school designed to allow for an educational program flexible enough to consider the needs of children and adequately structured to provide necessary instructional controls. Spaces are arranged so that teams of two or three teachers may plan and work together within a suite. Suites are equal in size to four regular classrooms. A reading laboratory, a large, well-equipped media center and other special needs rooms are separate and easily available. Each room has outside exits eliminating internal congestion and distractions. The multi-purpose area is large enough to teach a full suite of 75 to 90 students. Each suite has a separate outside paved area immediately available. The outside areas are surrounded by a seat-level brick wall. There are a number of small carpeted rooms designed to provide areas for programs dealing with learning disabilities, trainable pupils, speech therapy, and other specialties.

DSP Property Number ........................................ 310-3650
Administrative Unit .................................. Duplin County
Superintendent ........................................ C. H. Yelverton
Grade Organization ..................................... K-6
Approximate Capacity .................................. 1,080
Square Footage ........................................... 74,940 sq. ft.
Opening Date ............................................ September, 1975
Architects .............................................. Ballard, McKim & Sawyer
Mechanical Engineers ................................. Henry von Oesen & Associates
Structural Engineers ................................... Lasater-Hopkins
ARCHDALE/TRINITY MIDDLE

The plan satisfies requirements for a traditional educational program along with the designers desire for a more interesting spatial sequence than is usually associated with the conventional double loaded corridor solution. Each of the clusters can be independently zoned for conditioned air.

A pedestrian peninsula with autos on one side and buses on the other leads to a large outdoor roofed commons. Covered walks lead from the commons to each of the surrounding clusters of classrooms, the library, the cultural arts center, and the gymnasium.

DSP Property Number ........................................... 760-3708
Administrative Unit ............................................. Randolph County
Superintendent .................................................. John R. Lawrence
Grade Organization ............................................ 6-8
Approximate Capacity ......................................... 1,200
Square Footage .................................................. 106,612 sq. ft.
Opening Date ..................................................... November, 1977
Architects ......................................................... Spinks & Freeman
Engineers ......................................................... Spinks & Freeman
Consulting Engineer .......................................... Jack C. Dillard
GREENVILLE MIDDLE

This project is planned to be constructed in three phases. Heavy lines on the plan indicate first phase construction. Each cluster of four teachers shares a two-level work area, sink and counter area, and toilet rooms. Each cluster of four classrooms has its own heating and cooling distribution system.

The cafeteria is divided into four separate dining rooms served by two serving lines and two dish return rooms. All food service lines enter from a lobby which is shared by the small theater-auditorium. Four arts and crafts units share common facilities and the adjacent lobby.

DSP Property Number .................................. 741-3709
Administrative Unit .................................. Greenville City
Pitt County
Superintendent ........................................ Glenn L. Cox
Grade Organization .................................... 6-7
Approximate Capacity .................................. 1,200
Square Footage .......................................... 137,000 sq. ft.
Opening Date ........................................... August, 1976
Architects ............................................... Dudley & Shoe
Structural Engineers .................................. Bigger & Agnew
Mechanical and Electrical Engineers ............... Buffaloe, Morgan & Associates
WEST CRAVEN MIDDLE

The classroom clustering idea represented here is similar to that used for other schools in this publication. Clustering seems to work well for almost any grade level, from kindergarten to twelfth grade. At the high school level, clustering can be done by subject groups. There are operational and design advantages: Heating and cooling systems can be conveniently zoned, and each house can have a core of toilet rooms, special work rooms, and a teachers' office. Another plan feature is the semi-open cafeteria, open to the adjacent cross corridor. Decorative dividers separate the corridor and the cafeteria.

DSP Property Number .................................. 250-3675
Administrative Unit .................................... Craven County
Superintendent ............................................. Hiram J. Mayo
Grade Organization ....................................... 7-9
Approximate Capacity .................................... 750
Square Footage ............................................ 77,680 sq. ft.
Opening Date ............................................. January, 1978
Architects ..................................................... Stephens & Cardelli
Structural Engineers ...................................... George K. Coffin & Associates
Mechanical Engineers ................................. Buffaloe, Morgan & Associates
Site Engineers .............................................. John A. Dominy
Roofing Consultant ...................................... Robert M. Stafford
WEST IREDELL MIDDLE

This is a project in which symmetry has been successfully used by the designer. A clearly defined educational program indicated a compact architectural interpretation. The resulting design consists of regular classrooms arranged around a central core of media services, teachers' offices, administrative offices, storage, and a library. Some classrooms are double with folding walls between them. All classrooms are separated from the corridor by dividers rather than partitions. The student commons is the cafeteria, with the kitchen service down a short corridor behind the music theater. The stage, opposite the student commons, can be used by music classes. The gymnasium has an exercise balcony. The structural system consists of laminated wood beams and wood decking.

DSP Property Number .......................... 490-3703
Administrative Unit ......................... Iredell County
Superintendent ............................... Dr. W. T. Poston
Grade Organization ......................... 7-8
Approximate Capacity ...................... 600
Square Footage .............................. 54,615 sq. ft.
Opening Date ............................... September, 1977
Architect ................................... J. T. Pegram
Plumbing and Mechanical Engineers ...... McKnight Engineers
Electrical Engineers ....................... Stephen T. Hoysak & Associates
Structural Engineers ...................... King-Hudson Associates
Western Junior High

This junior high plan was designed to be con-
This school was planned to be built in phases. Each phase is represented by a large triangle or parallelogram. The two-story main classroom building has a steel framing system. It was arranged into a uniform grid. Corridors, partitions, and the library organically relate to the simple structural system.

One-story attached wings provide architectural accent to the main building. Occupational activities are housed in a separate large one-story building. The gymnasium is a rectangle because it is difficult to play basketball on a triangular court. Complete site planning and site development compliments the triangular forms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DSP Property Number</th>
<th>541-3723</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Unit</td>
<td>Kinston City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>10-12</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Henry von Oesen &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Architect</td>
<td>Larry W. Best</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MADISON COUNTY HIGH

This is the central consolidated high school for the county. It is located near the town of Marshall. The hilly site required reshaping so that a one-story building could extend along a buildable ridge. The gymnasium and vocational laboratories fit into hill-sides on lower levels.

The cafeteria was thoughtfully designed to open toward beautiful views on two sides. A student commons shares open space with the cafeteria. The combination of open space, changing ceiling heights, and wide expanses of glass makes an enjoyable architectural sequence.

DSP Property Number ........................................... 570-2416
Administrative Unit ........................................ Madison County
Superintendent ........................................... Robert L. Frilwark
Grade Organization ........................................ 9-12
Approximate Capacity ....................................... 1,000
Square Footage .................................................. 120,500 sq. ft.
Opening Date .................................................... August, 1975
Architect ......................................................... J. Bertram King
Structural Engineers ........................................ Bowen & Feinberg Associates
Electrical Engineer ........................................... J. S. Holladay
Plumbing and Heating Engineer ............................. J. C. Harrison
MITCHELL HIGH

A rather difficult mountainside site has been used to advantage. The building backs into the hillside on two levels. The front side is stepped back along the classroom wing and over the first floor shops. A large deeply indented glass sheathed V emphasizes a semi-circular drive and main entrance lobby. A two-level library and a two-level lobby are on the inside of the V. The total exterior architectural affect is sculptural due to the strong rectangular forms.

DSP Property Number ........................... 610-3695
Administrative Unit .......................... Mitchell County
Superintendent ................................. Phil Geouge
Grade Organization ............................ 9-12
Approximate Capacity ......................... 900
Square Footage .................................. 126,700 sq. ft.
Opening Date .................................... May, 1978
Architects ........................................ McMurray Architects & Planners
Structural Consultant ......................... King-Hudson Associates
Mechanical and Electrical Consultant ...... Bullard Associates
The original two-story classroom building and adjacent gymnasium was planned by Odell Associates, Incorporated. The new two-story addition, planned by Jordan, Snowdon, and McVicker, Architects, allows the educational program to expand into flexible classroom spaces and a large, centrally located library. Just about all new spaces are directly accessible from interior corridors or exterior covered walks on both levels. Bridges connect the new building to the original one. A new vocational building augments existing facilities. Special attention was given to improve grounds planning and traffic patterns.

DSP Property Number .................................. 830-3162
Administrative Unit ................................. Scotland County
Superintendent ................................. Dr. Kenneth R. Newbold
Grade Organization ............................... 9-12
Approximate Capacity ............................ 2,100
Square Footage .................................. 257,100 sq. ft.
Opening Date ................................... September, 1977
Architects .................................. Jordan, Snowdon & McVicker
Structural Engineers .......................... B. R. Huske & Associates
Consulting Engineers .......................... T. C. Cooke
OCRACOKE UNION

This unique school project was constructed in two phases. Phase one was the open plan classroom building. It was planned to accommodate a complete elementary, junior, and high school program and to serve as a community center. Phase two extended the community use aspect to include a large recreation hall and gymnasium combination. Increasing vocational and kindergarten needs were included.

All construction is wood frame on concrete piers similar to much indigenous coastal region construction. Buildings and covered walks are scaled as much as possible to the range of ages, five years to adults, who regularly use them.

DSP Property Number ........................................ 480-2232
Administrative Unit ........................................ Hyde County
Superintendent ................................................ D. Scott Coble
Grade Organization .......................................... K-12
Approximate Capacity ......................................... 90
Square Footage .............................................. 11,750 sq. ft.
Opening Date .............................................. May, 1978
Architect ....................................................... James B. Willis, Jr.
Mechanical Consultants ..................................... Fenner & Proffit
Structural Engineers .......................................... Bigger & Agnew
CLYDE A. ERWIN HIGH
GYM AND POOL

Schools of Interest 3 included the new Erwin High School building. At that time the gymnasium and swimming pool were being planned. The completed project illustrated here is one of several new swimming pools planned or built for North Carolina secondary schools. Swimming offers an opportunity for almost all students to participate in a sport and physical education in a way that is not possible with basketball and many other team sports invariably found as part of public school physical education. In this case the pool is part of the community recreation program, also. It is built on land owned by Buncombe County. However, the school part of the program is administered by the school board. All swimmers use dressing rooms and adjacent facilities owned by the school board.

DSP Property Number ............................................. 110-3596
Administrative Unit ........................................ Buncombe County
Superintendent ................................................. Dr. N. A. Miller
Grade Organization ............................................. 9-12
Square Footage .................................................. 49,979 sq. ft.
Opening Date ................................................. August, 1978
Architects ..................................................... Wood & Cort
Structural Engineers ........................................ Sutton-Kennerly & Associates
Mechanical Engineers .................................... Mechanical Engineers, Inc.
Electrical Engineers ......................................... K. M. Armstrong Associates
SHELBY HIGH POOL

There are several school swimming programs operating in North Carolina. Shelby High natatorium is one of the latest to respond to the growing trend. Some of the other natatoriums have been designed so that dressing rooms are shared with other physical education programs. At this school, dressing rooms and pool are entirely separated from other physical education facilities. The pool is minimum recommended competition size. Deck area for spectator seating is provided on one side of the pool. There are low diving boards at one end and starting blocks at the other. The south wall is glazed in order to take advantage of southerly sun and light. There is direct community access to the building.

DSP Property Number .................................. 232-1485
Administrative Unit .................................. Shelby City
Cleveland County
Superintendent ........................................ Malcolm E. Brown
Grade Organization .................................... 10-12
Square Footage ........................................ 12,500 sq. ft.
Opening Date .......................................... June, 1978
Architects .............................................. Holland-McGinnis Associates
Structural Engineers ................................. King-Hudson Associates
Mechanical Engineers ............................... J. C. Harrison
Electrical Engineers ................................. J. S. Holladay
When originally planned, this building was to be the beginning of a future high school. In the meantime, it serves as an occupational education center. Split level planning and sloping roofs relate well to the rolling country of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Among special interior features are the divisible instructional theater and an open dining room commons. This is an architecturally unified design with more than the usual spatial variety found in occupational facilities.

On the site plan is indicated the passenger loading and unloading peninsula which separates bus traffic and auto traffic. It works very well, and a similar arrangement is recommended for any school site.

DSP Property Number .................. 050-3736
Administrative Unit .................. Ashe County
Superintendent .................. Dr. Roger H. Jackson
Grade Organization .................. 9-12
Approximate Capacity .................. 265
Square Footage .................. 32,025 sq. ft.
Opening Date .................. September, 1978
Architects ............... Wilber, Kendrick, Workman & Warren
Engineers ............... Wilber, Kendrick, Workman & Warren
A large site was selected in the town of Monroe near the geographical center of Union County. Municipal water and sewer lines were readily available. The completed building is divided into two large rectangles connected by an extension of the central core of classroom, library, and supporting functions. The educational program speaks for itself as indicated on the plan diagram.

DSP Property Number ........................................... 900-3689
Administrative Unit ........................................ Union County
Superintendent .................................................. Dr. B. Paul Hammack
Grade Organization ........................................... 10-12
Approximate Capacity ........................................ 400
Square Footage .................................................. 62,800 sq. ft.
Opening Date ................................................... September, 1976
Architects .................................................. Ferebee, Walters & Associates
Engineers .................................................. Ferebee, Walters & Associates
Consultants .................................................. Alger Associates
A city site was chosen on which to construct new school administration facilities and the school system occupational education center. Both building programs required multi-story construction. Forsyth County central staff educators state that the purpose of the occupational center is to offer "practical experiences which help prepare students for specific occupational fields. Students who plan to continue their education in college or specialized schools are offered courses not normally available in their schools." The center functions as an extension of programs in junior and senior high schools.

DSP Property Number .................. 340-3619
Administrative Unit ............. Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
Superintendent .................... Dr. James A. Adams
Grade Organization .................. 10-12
Approximate Capacity .................. 2,300
Square Footage .................... 304,032 sq. ft.
Opening Date ................... December, 1976
Architects ....................... Hines-Northup-Ersoy
Mechanical, Plumbing and
Electrical Engineers .......... Consulting Engineering Service, Inc.
Structural Engineers .............. Szostak & Associates
An existing midtown school site had three separate older buildings which had to be incorporated with new plans and programs. One is a gymnasium, another is a dietary or food service wing, and the third is an occupational wing. New construction consists of classrooms and related facilities. The program accommodates children, who as adults, will have a mental age equivalent of seven or eight years, and teaches basic occupational and living skills. Areas are provided for special therapy dealing with speech, hearing, and sight as well as orthopedic problems. The pupil to teacher ratio is twelve to one.

The site has been completely planned and landscaped. Berms have been extended to the second floor levels in some areas and are intended to be used as emergency escape slides. Each floor is accessible by means of elevators located near each end of the building.

**METRO SCHOOL FOR THE TRAINABLE MENTALLY RETARDED**

DSP Property Number ................................................. 600-2578
Administrative Unit ................................................. Charlotte/Mecklenburg
Superintendent ......................................................... Dr. Jay M. Robinson
Approximate Capacity .................................................. 660
Square Footage ............................................................ 191,400 sq. ft.
Opening Date ............................................................... February, 1977
Architects ................................................................. Snoddy & McCulloch
Structural Engineers .................................................... Dana Rucker & Associates
Mechanical Engineers .................................................. Glenn Agnew & Associates
Electrical Engineers ..................................................... John Bolen & Associates
Landscape Architect ..................................................... Bob Jordan
During the past three decades, school building planning and design have been in the forefront of progressive building design. New school buildings have incorporated many of the best ideas about spatial relationships, open planning, food service, audio and visual technology, building materials, movable and relocatable equipment and walls, the thermal environment, lighting, and acoustics. There is a great deal of variety in the architectural solutions to school planning problems as perceived by designers and educators. The variety also reflects a democratic principle, the importance of local participation in decision making concerning education.

The Schools of Interest series covers about ten years of school design and construction in North Carolina. A total of ninety-two projects have been presented in the four issues. During this period school building planning has moved steadily from the eggcrate plan of administrative convenience to the more compact core plan with attached clusters. In one respect, this evolution is a review of changing educational modes in which school buildings have been seen as special environments for learning rather than a collection of containers. In another respect it reflects heightened awareness by designers of the increasing complexity of educational facility planning. In either case, almost everyone directly involved with public education is aware of the significant contribution and interpretation of educational needs made by professional designers.

Now there is another challenge to educational planners and designers. That challenge goes beyond functionalist school building design solutions. It includes the need for prepared environments which speak to the spirit so that each child and teacher feel they are in a special place — a place which helps them feel good about themselves.

A building cannot be built which conceals pretense, cynicism or lack of spirit. It is equally impossible to conceal in our buildings our native optimism, enterprise, and good fortune. Other art forms can create illusions. They may make us believe we are something other than what we really are; but the art of building does not respond to the illusions a society may have about itself. When we build we reveal ourselves as a society.
1. Archdale/Trinity Middle
2. Ashe Co. Vocational Education Center
3. Clyde A. Erwin High
4. Elkin Elementary
5. Eno Valley Elementary
6. Forest Heights Elementary
7. Greenville Middle
8. Hayesville Elementary
9. Isenberg Elementary
10. Kinston High
11. Lynn Road Elementary
12. Madison Co. High
13. Metro School for the TMR
14. Mitchell High
15. Ocracoke Union
16. Scotland Co. High
17. Shelby High
18. Siler City Elementary
19. Southern Primary
20. Southwest Elementary
21. Stanfield Elementary
22. Swannanoa Elementary
23. Thomas H. Cash Elementary
24. Union Co. Career Center
25. Wallace Elementary
26. West Craven Middle
27. West Iredell Middle
28. Western Junior High
29. Winston-Salem/Forsyth Co.

Career Center & Administrative Center

* previous “Schools of Interest”