Looking Back To Look Forward
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Word Association

What do you think of when we say “1950s school” or “1960s school”?

Educational models
Physical appearance
Building organization
3 Case Studies

Del Norte HS
Honeycomb

MCHS
Completely Interior

Pecos ES
Double-loaded
Del Norte High School

- Opened in 1964 on a 45 acre site
- Original: 800 students and 124,900sf
- Eventual: 1400 students and 265,142sf

- 1965 Pacemaker Award for Revolutionary Design
  - Honeycomb layout – flexible teaching
  - Movable partitions in 40% of classrooms
  - Largest library in the state at the time
  - Blended fields curriculum
Function

Spaces for 5-15 person independent study

Collaboration space

Partitions in 40% of rooms

Resource centers – small single subject libraries

Original outdoor circulation

Classroom

Teacher workroom

½ Classroom

Storage

Classroom

Classroom

Classroom
Function

Additional classroom units
19 Classroom Addition

- 44 teaching stations total
- 12 science labs
- 2 music rooms
- 1 metal shop
- 3 home economics rooms
Vocational Spaces

- Metal and wood shops
Motor Shop & Daycare
Science Classrooms & Enclosure

1975
Early Commons
Personalization
Creating Commons

- Senior Hall
- Junior Hall
- Sophomore Hall
- Freshman Hall
- Athletes Rodeo
- General gathering area / shade.
Gymnasium, Performing Arts, & Art / Music Classrooms
Portable Classrooms
Plans for Replacement/Renewal
Built Magnet High School On Site

- Project based learning
- New Tech Network school
- Hybrid open classroom and commons
Double Rooms Revisited
Replacement School
149,000 sf

- Classroom cluster arrangement
- 9th grade academy
- Grade level commons
Commons Revisited
Demolished old
Added Industrial Arts

- Wood shop
- Darkroom
- Classrooms
- Arts studio
New Cafeteria
Re-developed Site

• Re-created school green
• 9th grade courtyard
• Redone circulation
• College campus feel
• Urban identity
Identity
Community

Photo credit: Patrick Coulie
Transformation / New Identity

Photo credit: Patrick Coulie
MCHS

- Opened in 1967 on a 15 acre site
- Original: 106,957sf
- Eventual: 142,550sf

- Rural community – whole county
- Large CTE/vocational focus
- Academic struggles – 65% graduate
- Diverse population
MCHS 1967

Mr. Varah sits in the new decorative and functional music department room.

NEW SCHOOL REPRESENTS A DREAM COME TRUE.

The east side of MCHS acts as a loading station for all bus students.

Show cases didn't have much to show at this point in construction.

What looks like a messy shop project is actually the uncompleted stage and auditorium.

A full length shot shows the complete layout of the new and beautiful buildings.

Students find the new library facilities a great improvement over those of the past.
NEW SCHOOL ALLOWS PURSUIT OF MANY INTERESTS.

Aftersoon quiet in an ordinarily noisy hall.

This little tree can be witness of the winter came to MCHS.

A startled Debbie Brown receives kites from Alan Rigg and Lee Bryan during Thorpian Initiation Week.

MCHS girls dress in original costumes for the Indian Club assembly.

Johnny Mather checks his metronome to be sure it's working properly.

Vickie Merton checks information papers during office practice.

Image courtesy of 1968 MCHS yearbook
MCHS Evolution

Base image courtesy of 2011 MCSD Facility Master Plan by SLATERPAULL Architects
MCHS Evolution

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MCHS Evolution

Base image courtesy of 2011 MCSD Facility Master Plan by SLATERPAULL Architects
Site Size
Site Size
Site Size
Entry

Image courtesy of 1968 MCHS yearbook
Entry
Entry Control

Image on left courtesy of 1968 MCHS Yearbook
Entry Control

Base image courtesy of 2011 MCSD Facility Master Plan by SLATERPAULL Architects
Entry Control – New MCHS
Entry Control – New MCHS
Corridors
Corridors
Corridors – New MCHS
Classrooms

- Most classrooms under 700sf
- Most without windows or storage

Image courtesy of 1968 MCHS Yearbook
Classrooms

- Most classrooms under 700sf
- Most without windows or storage
New MCHS Plan
Commons
Commons – New MCHS
Commons – New MCHS
Commons – New MCHS
Pecos Elementary School

• Opened in 1954 on a 5 acre site
• Original: 450 students and 35,963sf

• Rural community
• Military influence
• Neighborhood schools
• Focus on fundamentals
Original Plan

- No entry control
- Poor supervision
- Limited specialization
- Simple clear layout
- Equitable spaces
- Relationship to neighborhood
Generous Corridors

12'
Atmosphere
Atmosphere
Consistency
Renovation

- Easily reconfigured
- Classroom size adequate
- Enough above ceiling space for systems
- Minor structural modifications
Site Configuration

Before

After
Security & Control

- Highly visible entry
- Secured waiting area/check in
- Eyes on approach
- Check-in
- Secured entry

- Vestibule
- Waiting area
- Teacher workroom
- Corridor
- Assist Principal
- Recept
Security & Control
Questions to Ponder

• How does simplicity or innovation look from a distance of 50 years?

• Will the pendulum swing back the other way on things we take for granted today?

• How do you take a deep enough look at lessons from the past before making design decisions?

• We are about to start seeing a slew of projects to renew 1970s and 1980s schools - what can they teach us?
Thank you!

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All info will be posted online at
http://www.dpsdesign.org/how-we-work/knowledge-center