

# Virginia Chapter A4LE Conference & 2016 A4LE Southeast Regional Conference

*Collaborate, Innovate, Motivate  
Rethinking Education through Planning and Design*

ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBIT AWARDS  
APRIL 19, 2016

# Virginia Chapter A4LE Conference & 2016 A4LE Southeast Regional Conference ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBIT AWARDS

## Renovation Project Category

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Essex County High School  
Essex County, VA  
Ballou Justice Upton Architects

# Essex County High School

## Essex County, Virginia



## PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS





Front of School - After

The new additions to the school provide a “new face”, promoting a sense of pride to the students and staff. The Main Entrance is now easily identified for visitor entry.

Safety and security is improved and subtly maintained with visual monitoring & observation using CPTED principles and controlled access. Strategic placement of the Main Entrance gives staff access control through a secure point of entry.



Front of School - Before

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## New E.S. Category

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Jefferson Houston PreK-8 School  
Alexandria City P.S. VA  
VMDO Architects, PC



A wide-angle photograph of the Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 School, a large brick building with multiple stories and large windows. In the foreground, a green artificial turf soccer field is visible with white and red yard lines. Several children are playing soccer on the field, and an adult is supervising. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

# JEFFERSON-HOUSTON PREK-8 SCHOOL

Alexandria City Public Schools embraced replacing the former Jefferson-Houston K-5 Elementary School with a new PreK-8 School in order to support growing enrollment and improve academic outcomes. The only school in northern Virginia to earn "Priority" status in 2012 (when planning for the PreK-8 school was first underway) – a new Jefferson-Houston offered the opportunity to rebuild both the school and the community support needed to guarantee its success.





## COMMUNITY CONTEXT

An aspirational community school, Jefferson-Houston serves a unique “priority” population while also attracting families and businesses to the area through its renewed urban context. The school’s major building elements were thoughtfully placed to emphasize this special nexus of community and context:

- A spacious, transparent gymnasium provides a strong, shared-use civic presence at the intersection of Cameron and N. West Streets.
- The Media Center serves as a monumental terminus for Queen Street, above which is a rooftop garden and outdoor classroom for students and community partners.
- The school’s prominent public entry is placed on axis with Peyton Street and strengthened by a dynamic, circular tower. The tower serves as an urban and academic locus for the school, housing communal learning spaces. A rooftop observation deck serves as an urban observatory providing views to neighboring Washington and Masonic National Memorial monuments.







EXTENDED LEARNING AREA



WHITE BOX THEATER



ENTRY

## A NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENT

The Jefferson Houston PreK-8 School features grade-specific “pods” carefully arranged, both horizontally and vertically, to provide adjacencies between similarly-aged students as well as exposure to different grade levels. This “neighborhood” style arrangement gives students the opportunity to learn from each other and to model good behavior to those both younger or older.

Simply put, a PreK-8 school is much more than the sum of its elementary and middle school parts. Programmatically, a harnessing of best practices occurs in carefully blending the nurturing, student-centered instruction of elementary education with the developing independence found in middle grade education. The result for Jefferson-Houston is a program utterly unique in serving the needs of the community.

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## Special Jury Recognition Award



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Huguenot H.S.  
Richmond City Public Schools, VA  
Moseley Architects, PC

Site Plan

- 1 New Huguenot High School
- 2 Existing Thompson Middle School
- 3 Practice Fields
- 4 Competition Softball Field
- 5 Competition Baseball Field
- 6 Stadium
- 7 Tennis Courts
- 8 Parking Lots
- 9 High School Bus Loop
- 10 Middle School Bus Loop



Elevations

North



East



South



West







A photograph of a modern building with a large glass facade and a brick base, featuring a green roof area with a paved walkway and a small tree.

Stormwater ponds, vegetated drainage swales, and bio-retention areas on the campus help slow and clean runoff before it reaches nearby natural streams. Students can use the building as a teaching tool by studying the effects of the natural rain gardens in their local environment.

The natural color palette is abundant in the forum with the wood paneling, exposed brick, and natural light pouring in from multiple angles.





This is the City of Richmond's first new public high school in 45 years. It houses a 3,800-square-foot health clinic for the community, which features two classrooms for adult education and a parent resource center for functions like job searches. Huguenot High School is also the first STEM school for the City of Richmond Public Schools.

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## New H.S. Category



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Louisa County H.S.  
Louisa County Public Schools, VA  
Grimm + Parker Architects



# Louisa County High School

On August 23, 2011, a magnitude 5.8 earthquake struck the Piedmont region of the U.S. state of Virginia. The epicenter of the massive intra-plate quake – Louisa County – would be forever changed by the startling geological event (the strongest east coast tremor in 67 years). The Louisa community experienced significant damage which rendered the original County High School unusable and in need of urgent replacement. Temporary classrooms, a cafeteria, and recreational facilities were constructed to help minimize disruption to the school year.

Louisa stakeholder advisory group through a design process for the new high school. The group created a visionary model that would address evolving needs of today's 21st century learner by integrating innovative learning environments for academic and career programs. The new school includes dynamic, student-centered educational spaces that combine traditional classroom features with breakout spaces for collaborative project-based learning, and technology-enabled learning. Career and Technical Education spaces provide “real-world” environments for hands-on learning. The new state-of-the-art facility also includes performing arts and athletic wings.









# Library & Media Center with Maker Space

The re-envisioned library is an integrated space where students foster skills such as communication, problem-solving, critical thinking within collaborative activities that allow for active hands-on learning.





# Authentic Learning Environments

Spaces to support contemporary models of teaching facilitate learning in the most authentic way – creativity, inspiration, and commitment informed by real-world evidence and experience, where those who desire to use their heads, hands and hearts to productive endeavor will not only thrive, but prosper. To that end, Career and Technical Education (CTE) is integrated with the core curricula where each diploma can be accompanied by a CTE certification that could lead to gainful employment as well as provide a seamless path to continuing education with advanced degrees and/or certificates.