Sierra Madre Middle School
New Campus
Pasadena Unified School District

Campus entry view from the street of the administration/library/community building.

Front yard of school is set back behind native chaparral garden.
Campus is organized on a sloped site around a central quad to reduce impact of building massing and noise on the surrounding residential neighborhood.
The school is located in an residential community nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Care was taken in the articulation of massing through the application of materials, colors, and structure-driven forms to respond to the surrounding residential character.
The campus plan creates three communities surrounding a central quad.

The non-insitutional campus layout creates a cloistered learning environment connected by exterior covered circulation and open gathering spaces.

Ground Level Floor Plan
1. Administration
2. Library
3. Staff Work Room
4. Community Room
5. Art Classroom
6. General Classroom
7. Multipurpose Room Lobby
8. Multipurpose Room
9. Stage
10. Music Classroom
11. Food Service Kitchen
12. Gymnasium
13. Shower / Locker Room / Toilet
Exterior View

Colors, textures, and broken roof lines work together to break down scale of massing.

1  View (west) into heart of campus.
2  Morning light illuminating the gym with playfield in foreground.
3  View (east) of quad showing outdoor amphitheater seating.
4  School entry.
Biophilic principles informed the design of interior spaces, with views to nature, light from clerestory and view windows on multiple walls in each space, use of warm natural materials, and large volumes.
Key Learning Spaces

1. Instrumental music room with high ceiling, acoustic clouds, and non-parallel walls.
2. General classroom with views of tree canopy with corner glazing and high ceiling.
3. Learning Center connected to adjacent library at mezzanine level via “reading stairs”.
4. Art classroom with outdoor art activity / kiln patio.
5. Insulated, translucent skylight provides diffused natural light in art classroom.
Multipurpose Room

1. Multipurpose room expands into quad when window wall is retracted.
2. Amphitheater seating under soaring roof form frames view of multipurpose room and stage.
3. Multipurpose room is directly adjacent to the food court. Floating clouds enhance acoustics.
Exposed steel framing puts the structural science of the building on full display. Long-span trusses support saw-tooth framing and north-facing clerestory glazing. Large bands of diffused glazing and tall curtain walls at corners provide extensive natural light to the interior of the gymnasium.
Additional Exterior Views

1. Covered walkways with light wells offer shade and light to classrooms.
2. Grass-filled quad concentrates communal activities, mitigating spread of noise to neighborhood.
3. All of outdoor school life happens in the quad and is visible from the walkways that surround it.
4. Residential edge steps down with the terrain and is softened by a “front yard” of native plants.