

# Columbia Public Schools

## Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School



### LOCATION

Columbia, Missouri

### DESCRIPTION

SOA collaboration with DLR Group on 90,842 sf school

### COMPLETION DATE

December 2009

### CONSTRUCTION COST

\$15.6 million

### CLIENT REFERENCE

Charlie Oestreich, Dir. of Facilities & Construction Services  
573-214-3760

### CONTRACTOR REFERENCE

Professional Contractors & Engineers - Andy Bonderer  
573-442-1113

The Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School was the first newly constructed elementary school in Columbia, MO in more than nine years. The objective was to design a new pre-kindergarten through fifth grade elementary school to alleviate overcrowding. The location was selected because of demographics and Columbia's northern growth. The residential neighborhood was under development, so it was critical to have a school building that would have its own identity while fitting into its future surroundings.

The DLR Group of Kansas City sought a strategic partnership with SOA to design a facility that would serve the district, its patrons, and students well.

SOA was the Associate Architect for exterior design and led construction administration for the new 90,842 square foot two-story facility. DLR Group served as the Design Architect & Architect of Record. The resulting building is unlike any other school in the district. Siting the building along the existing topography allowed a two story walk-out in the rear and a one story building appearance from the neighborhood. The facility is organized around a gently sweeping arc and consists of three wings for classroom learning with shared learning areas in each "pod." It includes a media center, one wing for administration, cafeteria/commons and a gymnasium. The large, inviting entry canopy reaches out to encourage exploration of this within a state-of-the-art learning environment.

The finish materials on both the interior and exterior were selected for their durability, low maintenance needs and longevity. LEED certification was not required by the school district; however, many aspects of LEED were followed such as siting the building responsibly, harvesting daylight and views out to the grove of existing trees, lighting controls, building management systems and ground source heat pumps.

