

kcbA Architects New Lower Merion High School Bids Under Budget

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KCBA Architects is proud to announce that bids for the new Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Pennsylvania came in almost \$2 million under the original budget estimate. The bids included a long list of major add alternates such as a natatorium yet still beat the original \$88.4 million estimate.

KCBA provided architectural planning and design for the new 337,000 square foot school. Designed on a constricted 41 acre site that contains the current high school, athletic fields, and a historic district administration office, the project required careful planning as these facilities must remain fully operational throughout the three and a half year construction phase.

The new building will include gymnasiums, an 850-seat theater, lecture room with tiered seating, library, and a large complement of classrooms and science laboratories to accommodate the needs of a student body of 1,250. Special attention was given to the

development of outdoor spaces in deference to the dense suburban neighborhood that surrounds the site.

On track to receive silver LEED certification, the project includes multiple sustainable building strategies such as efficient mechanical systems, daylight harvesting, improved indoor air quality, innovative site stormwater management, and the use of locally manufactured construction materials with a high percentage of recycled content.

KCBA is also currently providing architectural services for another school for this district - the new Harriton High School in Rosemont. Currently under construction and on schedule to be occupied in 2009, the Harriton project is of similar size and complexity and also on course to receive silver LEED certification.

