

Los Altos Elementary School of Albuquerque has very recently received national recognition. At the convention of the American Association of School Administrators, meeting in Atlantic City, a citation for good design was made. The award was presented on February 17.

This structure is the first in this area designed to house complete elementary and junior high schools in the same building. The advantages of such an arrangement are several. Joint use can be made of such facilities as library, the all-purpose room, cafeteria, music rooms, shops and gymnasium. It is also felt that the transition from elementary to junior high school curricula, which comes at such a critical time in a child's life, will be less abrupt under this plan.

A combined junior high - elementary school necessitates a separation of the two units to a reasonable degree. The two areas were separated by means of certain rooms and building elements, the service drive and some fencing. Whereas the elementary and junior high playgrounds and classrooms were kept separate,

LOS ALTOS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Albuquerque, New Mexico

FLATOW, MOORE, BRYAN, and FAIRBURN
Architects, Engineers, and Planners





jointly used facilities like library, all-purpose room and art rooms were placed between the two areas. On the junior high side one finds science laboratories, homemaking laboratories and art rooms situated in the central area of the building with classrooms located on the perimeter. Lockers for junior high students are provided in off-corridor alcoves. Music rooms, industrial art shops and gymnasium are in a separate wing connected to the main building by a glassed-in breezeway.

The focal point of the building is the all-purpose room with its folded-plate dome rising above the surrounding low roof and creating a faceted polygon in the center of the building. Kitchen and serving line for the hot lunch program is directly behind and adjacent to this room. Approximately 80 feet in diameter, this area is capable of seating more than 400 people at community programs, school assemblies, etc.

The type of construction chosen for the building has proven most appropriate for this area. The roof is a flat, post-tensioned slab poured on the floor and raised in place by means of the lift-slab method. The lifting of some 62,000 sq. ft. of roof slab was accomplished in three sections. The folded-plate dome was lifted integrally with the central section. Columns are 10 inch diameter steel, spaced 30 feet on center in each direction. They were then fireproofed with vermiculite plaster. Two inches of rigid insulation was applied to the top of the slab and a 20 year built-up roof covered that. The dome was waterproofed with an

epoxy-latex coating. The structural system in the gymnasium-music room wing is of pre-stressed, pre-cast T-beams and reinforced concrete masonry walls.

Walls are of painted concrete masonry, glass-in-steel window-wall sections. All concrete masonry was laid in stack bond and reinforced. The administrative area was screened from the street by a field stone wall. Floors are vinyl-bestos tile on concrete slab on grade. Acoustical treatment was provided in all areas with sprayed-on acoustical plastic with special treatment in the music room. This construction and finish creates a fire-resistant, permanent building of very low maintenance and low fire insurance rates.

The mechanical system is accommodated in a clever arrangement of 4 ft. x 4 ft. under-floor trenches. These carry not only tempered and filtered-forced air, but hot water heating pipes as well. The heating pipes connect to finned radiation units at the openings in each classroom. In this manner, forced air ventilation is provided in each classroom along with individual control of temperature. In summer evaporative or washed-air pads provide air-conditioning through the same trenches.

The contract for the school was awarded on January 24, 1961 and the building was ready for occupancy in early autumn. The school, which is built to accommodate 780 pupils, comprises 79,030 sq. ft. The cost, exclusive of land, fees, landscaping and furniture was \$765,026.27 or the remarkably low figure of \$9.68 per square foot.





Grant Elementary Jr. High School, Albuquerque
All Concrete School cost \$9.24 per square foot.

Flatow, Moore, Bryan & Fairburn, Architects

Fire safety comes first — economy's a bonus in schools of **modern concrete**

Fire protection should certainly be one of the most important considerations when building a new school. Concrete provides this protection—and at exceptionally low cost. Concrete can't burn. It stays solid and safe . . . never wears out.

Concrete helps keep class rooms quiet, too. It reduces sound entry into rooms—decreases the need for sound-proofing within rooms. And modern concrete is one of today's most attractive building materials. Advances in

building design and construction methods provide interesting surface textures and colors, new shapes and styles for walls and roofs.

Concrete's first cost is moderate, frequently less than other construction materials. Concrete saves on upkeep expense. There is no need for painting. It is easy to see why concrete with its long life, low cost and upkeep is the first choice of so many communities for their newest schools of every size.

PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION

120 Maderia, NE, Albuquerque

A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete



Structural Steel

for New Mexico's thriving
building industry since 1942

Miller & Smith
Mfg. Co., Inc.

500 Phoenix Ave. N.W. Station B, Box 6007

Albuquerque, New Mexico