



# HONOR AWARD

## EDUCATIONAL VILLAGE: Vidyalankar Institute of Technology

Location: *Mumbai, India*  
Designer: *Planet 3 Studios Architecture*  
Program: *College/University — Engineering Focus*  
Capacity: *1,200*  
Completion: *2006*

Starting with a strong commitment to progressive learning, the educational planning team challenged designers to create a facility that would focus first on student needs, educators second and management third.

The new engineering school allowed a re-evaluation of current operations, and as the project kicked-off, designers suggested involving students in the process. The result of the exercise refined the understanding of how the institute actually functioned at a social level. The program brief then expanded to include the subtleties of relational dynamics between faculties, resources, student groups and the community.

Architecturally, the project needed to engage a complex design program in an urban context within a developing country. The team chose to explore a horizontal form, which allowed an educational village to be built within the building envelope.

The village has several groupings with similar requirements in clearly defined structures along a main learning street, which serves as the central organizing element of the village and encourages student interactions. This structure of open public spaces, enclosed semi-public spaces and private areas provides the spatial connectivity of open plan interiors, encouraging equal and communal learning experiences.

The project provides numerous activities to promote interaction, including a human sized chessboard, a table tennis court, half-court basketball, a street side café, a book kiosk, a graffiti wall, student work displays and a suspended amphitheater.



# School Construction NEWS

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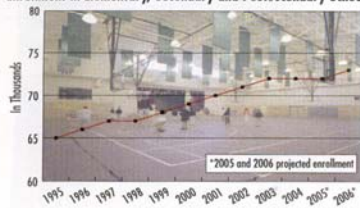
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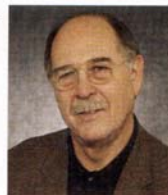
## Data Delivery

Enrollment in Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools



## Ask the Expert

Charles Eley, FAIA, PE, executive director for the Collaborative for High Performance Schools, advises school officials and planners to consider the climate and its impact on potential energy and water savings before choosing an HVAC system or green roofing product.



Eley

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## Spotlight

Dennis Cecchini, AIA, of MHTN Architects Inc., offers 10 suggestions for keeping school construction costs down, including selecting the most beneficial delivery method for a project and fostering strong relationships with subcontractors.



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