

Art & Science

THE COMMUNITY TECTONICS QUARTERLY

Enhanced Expertise & Strategic Growth Community Tectonics Acquires Reed & Associates In Nashville

Community Tectonics is known as an architectural firm that also facilitates the planning process. The firm is particularly well known in the educational arena, and they've led master planning processes for nearly 20 school systems.

Following their own advice, they developed a strategic plan years ago. Just recently, they took another step identified in their own strategic plan when they acquired Reed and Associates Architects in Nashville, TN.

Taking A Strategic Step

The identified need was better service to the Middle Tennessee architectural and engineering market. Reed & Associates fulfills that requirement and also brings unequalled expertise in travel plaza and truck stop design to the Community Tectonics design team.

"Jim Reed had built a strong business with a specialty in travel centers," explains Don Shell, president of Community Tectonics. "When he passed away, his firm needed registered architects to continue that work.

"In addition, based on our strategic plan, we needed a Middle Tennessee office to meet our vision of being the most

valued consultant to the educational profession," Shell continues.

Community Tectonics has provided architectural, interior design and planning expertise to more than 40 school systems across the State of Tennessee. In addition to award-winning designs, the firm is known for its ability to help organizations manage complex planning processes, tap public input, and facilitate positive change.

With this acquisition, Community Tectonics will continue to provide architectural and planning expertise to the growing

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**Community
Tectonics**
incorporated

Tectonics: The Art and Science of

Providing the Educational Facilities of Tomorrow — Today

As busy as ever in the educational arena, we took a few extra moments recently to check in on several projects. We wanted to see how we're doing, and we were so excited with the responses, we thought you'd like to hear them, too.

Bradley County Schools

David Holloway, Superintendent "Community Tectonics began working with us about six years ago. We started with a facilities master plan, and we've worked on a total of 12 projects. We're currently building a new high school for up to 1,200 students and we're designing a new elementary school for 650 students.

We've found Community Tectonics to be very knowledgeable about schools, school systems, and current trends. They've communicated well with our superintendent and the board of education. Most importantly, they've helped us design and build schools based on the people who use the facilities most often."

Current Project:

Walker Valley High School

Construction Manager:

H+M Construction Co.

Construction Cost: \$18.9 million

Cost per Square Foot: \$88.47

Cost per Student: \$16,250

Projected Completion: August 2001

Project Data:

- Site: 70 acres
- Building Area: 214,724 square feet
- Planned Capacity: 1,200 students
- Core Capacity: 1,800 students



Walker Valley High School

Special Features:

- 1,400-seat gymnasium
- Auxiliary gymnasium for multi-purpose use
- Four academic wings designed for flexible instructional delivery systems: grade level or departmental
- 600-seat auditorium
- State-of-the-art media center
- Vocational technology classrooms and labs
- Serving and dining areas to accommodate 400 students (1/3 of student body)



Walker Valley High School Model

Hardin County Schools

Bobby Cromwell, Superintendent "We worked with Community Tectonics to develop a four-phase facilities master plan that will drive our growth over the next 30 years. We're currently in phase one, and the first project is a renovation and addition at Hardin County High School. We've enjoyed a good relationship with Community Tectonics. We're currently on schedule and under budget on the high school. Since it's a 40-year old building, it's been quite a challenge. Community Tectonics has been extremely helpful, and they've worked closely with the building contractor and us. Now our school looks like new."

Current Project: Hardin County High School - Renovations and Additions

Construction Manager:
H+M Construction Co.



Hardin County High School

Construction Cost: \$15.4 million

Cost per Square Foot: \$73

Cost per Student: \$9,610

Completion: April 2000

of Creating Structures which are both



Hardin County High School

Project Data:

- Site: Existing
 - Building Area: Renovation-131,000 square feet; New-79,000 square feet
 - Planned Capacity: 1,600 students
- ## Special Features:

- First significant renovation/addition since facility was first occupied in the 1960's
- New instructional space for English, math, science, social studies and special education



Hardin County High School

- New food service, auxiliary gym and band facilities
- Renovations for compliance with all current building codes

Perry County Schools

David Rhodes, Superintendent
"The thing that I'm most pleased about is Community Tectonics' relationship with the client and their focus on accomplishing what the school system ultimately wants to accomplish. That's their great forte. In addition, they have the ability to adapt to difficult situations and to create

designs that suit a school system's unique needs. Their knowledge about all aspects of educational facilities in day-to-day operations is what sets them apart.

As far as challenges, we could write a book. We started this facilities master plan in 1992, and this is our first building to be constructed. We met obstacle after obstacle. It was only through Community Tectonics' expertise that we've been able to overcome these obstacles."

Current Project:

Perry County High School

Construction Manager:

Cambridge Construction Co.

Construction Cost: \$5.4 million

Cost per Square Foot: \$71

Cost per Student: \$13,500

Completion: February 2001

Project Data:

- Site: Existing
- Building Area: 76,000 square feet
- Planned Capacity: 400 students
- Core Capacity: 500 students

Special Features:

- Classrooms for 400 students
- Science labs, computer labs and media center
- Space for vocational education, physical education and a 1,700-seat gymnasium
- Kitchen and dining area



Perry County High School

Houston County Schools

Mark Beal, Director of Schools
"Through Community Tectonics, we've been able to have a good, open communication with the school system. Instead of a Band-Aid approach, we've developed a step-by-step, incremental growth plan. With that, the pieces simply fell in place. They've helped us save money by assuring that our facilities will be well utilized over the next 10-20 years.

They don't just talk about sticks and bricks. Instead, their recommendations are based on instructional, programmatic and facility needs with a long-range plan in mind."



Houston County High School

Current Project:

Houston County High School

Construction Manager:

Cambridge Construction Co.

Construction Cost: \$7.5 million

Cost per Square Foot: \$78

Cost per Student: \$11,538

Completion: August 2001



Houston County High School

Functional and Visually Pleasing.

Project Data:

- Site: 85 acres
 - Building Area: 96,621 square feet
 - Planned Capacity: 650 students
- Special Features:
- Building wings that separate classrooms, gymnasium and other public spaces
 - New athletic facilities for a variety of sports

Knox County Schools

Dr. Mary Lou Kanipe, Principal
Bearden High School

"The staff at Community Tectonics has been very willing to answer our questions about the renovation/addition project. Their representative has 'tutored' me regarding reading blueprints so our staff



Bearden High School

could understand the project that is literally going on all around us. The biggest impact of this project will be our instructional enhancements, additional space, the computer network, new computer labs, science facilities and English classrooms."

Current Project: Bearden High School - Additions and Renovations
Contractor:

Webb & Sons Construction Co.
Construction Cost: \$10 million
Cost per Square Foot:
New-\$75; Renovations-\$30

Cost per Student: \$6,250

Completion: New-Jan. 2000; Renovations-Aug. 2000

Project Data:

- Building Area: New-59,315; Renovations-202,892
 - Planned Capacity: 1,800
 - Core Capacity: 1,600
- Special Features:
- New science classrooms and labs
 - New art studios with darkroom
 - Complete wiring for technology
 - Greenhouse
 - New family living and sewing classrooms

Cleveland City Schools

Dr. Rick Denning, Director of Schools

"The old adage of 'a picture is worth a thousand words' certainly applies to Community Tectonics' 3D rendering of Cleveland Middle School. The animated video presented the architectural design



Cleveland Middle School

in an easy-to-understand video. The technological capabilities of this virtual tour of the new facility has made for smooth acceptance of a large public-funds expenditure.

Community Tectonics has helped us develop close coordination and collaboration between and among school personnel and community groups. They're a

team of professionals committed to providing the best in architectural design and planning."

Current Project:

Cleveland Middle School
Construction Manager:
D.F. Chase Construction Co.
Construction Cost: \$18.3 million
Cost per Square Foot: \$84
Cost per Student: \$13,071
Completion: August 2001

Project Data:

- Site: 33 acres
- Building Area: 219,083
- Planned Capacity: 1,200
- Core Capacity: 1,400

Special Features:

- Three classroom wings designed for flexible program delivery: individualized instruction, team teaching, grade level organization or departmentalization
- Utilization of a geothermal energy HVAC system
- Physical education area with three dividable gym floors
- Media center that serves as the hub for technology programs

Community Tectonics has worked with 40 school systems across the State of Tennessee, providing educational facilities master plans, architectural design and interior design for schools and communities of all sizes. The firm's mission is to be the most valued consultant to the educational profession, as it provides the educational facilities of tomorrow - today.

Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.communitytectonics.com

Architecture As A Calling

To Bill Vinson, architecture is as much a calling as the ministry is a calling. For as long as he can remember, he wanted to be an architect.

Maybe it was because his father, W.C. Vinson, Jr., (Bill is W.C. Vinson, III) always had some backyard project going. Maybe it was related to the family treehouse with electricity, running water, and fold-up walls and cots. Vinson knew that architecture was for him.

Today, Vinson is vice president and director of production for Community Tectonics, Inc. Under his aggressive leadership, the company became the first totally computerized large-scale architectural firm in East Tennessee. Most recently, he directed the development of an animated 3D rendering that depicted the architectural design for the new Cleveland Middle School in a five-minute video.

Vinson joined Community Tectonics after earning his degree in architecture from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1973. He started as a draftsman in the Knoxville office, and eventually came to run offices in Newport and then Morristown. He moved back to the Knoxville office in 1983. Today, he's responsible for corporate production and technology standards, as well as day-to-day management of the Knoxville office.

Looking back on a career that spans more than a quarter century, Vinson reflects on the significance of technology in the field. "It's fun to be able to do things better and faster," he begins. "Architecture has changed more in the last 20 years than in the previous 200 years. It's exciting to think what we'll be able to do in the next 20 years."

Throughout his career, Vinson has built a strong reputation in directing many successful religious facilities programs. He designed the national award-winning family life center for First Baptist Church, Concord. He directed the recent design for Grace Baptist Church, which

included the construction of a 2,200-seat sanctuary. Other projects include the sanctuary addition at Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Halls, Central Baptist Church of Bearden, First United Methodist Church of Maryville, Calvary Baptist Church of Morristown, Baptist Centers in Knoxville's Western Heights and Montgomery Village, and the new Knox County Association of Baptists Ministry Center.

Vinson says that whatever project he's currently working on is his most exciting. "It doesn't matter what the project is or the size of it, just being in the creative process is what I find to be the most exciting aspect of architecture. Pleasing clients, maybe giving them something beyond their expectations, that's what it's all about."

When Vinson talks to young people considering his chosen field, he tells them that architecture makes a great career for those who really love it. "If you don't have a passion for it, you'd be better off finding something else." He says that architecture is a slightly underpaid profession, and he remembers the early days in his career as a registered architect when he made less than the airline stewardesses who were striking due to low pay.

"But I wouldn't want to do anything else. I feel God gives everyone certain gifts to use and that architecture is where I need to be. I feel that, through architecture, I can be a blessing to people," Vinson says. "I honestly feel that it's as much a calling as preaching is to a preacher."

"It doesn't matter what the project is or the size of it, just being in the creative process is what I find to be the most exciting aspect of architecture. Pleasing clients, maybe giving them something beyond their expectations, that's what it's all about."



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industry of truck stops and travel plazas. In that business, the one who can find the most efficient, cost effective way to operate is the one who succeeds.

Together, the professionals that make up Community Tectonics and Reed & Associates are delivering high-tech solutions and architectural answers to some of the largest owners and operators in the \$35 billion truck stop and travel plaza industry.

Delivering Design Solutions for Truck Stops and Travel Plazas

“Community Tectonics and Reed & Associates offered us the advantage of not having to educate them about our industry,” says Bill Waterstreet, vice president of operations at American Eagle Garages. “They know how critical time is to our customers. They’re the experts in the shop field.”

American Eagle Garages operate maintenance shops at several truck stops. As they addressed building a new facility at a location in Oak Grove, Kentucky, they approached the architects to develop a prototype design. This design could be offered to truck stop owners and operators who want to add sophisticated maintenance facilities to their growing list of customer services.

Waterstreet worked with Community Tectonics architects to develop the prototype design, a variation of which will be built in Oak Grove. The new design will enable his company to work with a wide variety of truck stop owners and operators, including those who have property they plan to develop into a travel center, those who already operate a center and want to open a truck garage, and those who

want a lease/ build arrangement.

“Our research tells us that efficient truck repair facilities are a strong business for the future,” Waterstreet concludes. “We understand that everyone doesn’t want to operate their own, but they realize the convenience to the driver and they want to offer that service. Some are not enthralled with starting a project from scratch, so this design enables us to get them up and running easily.”

Another recent client is Relay Stations, L.L.C., in Shreveport, Louisiana. Involved in the truckstop industry since 1993, they are the new owners of a 160,000-square-foot former outlet mall at a strategic exit on Interstate 20 just outside of Shreveport. Because of zoning issues, they wanted a fast turnaround on an initial re-design of the 40 acre site to accommodate a state-of-the-art travel center.

“Community Tectonics came down on a moment’s notice and prepared a plan for us, and we had a package ready for the zoning requirements within 10 days,” says Jack Rothell, project manager.

“We learned more in one day of meetings with the folks from Community Tectonics and Reed & Associates than in a lifetime spent in the school of hard knocks,” he smiles.



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