

NEWS RELEASE

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Knox architectural firm cited in new book for designing one of country's leading middle schools.

(April 30, 2003) -- Knox architectural firm Community Tectonics is cited by author Dr. Paul S. George for designing an East Tennessee middle school George recommends to school planners in his new book, *The Exemplary Middle School*.

Dr. George, who has written 11 books on middle school education, has been called "the foremost expert on middle schools in the country" by the American Association of School Administrators.

The Cleveland Middle School in Cleveland, TN, designed by Community Tectonics, has a 1,400 student capacity.

In the book, Dr. George wrote, "We find few buildings to be more flexible and, simultaneously, more accommodating to middle school concepts than that of the Cleveland Middle School plant. We recommend it for consideration by planners investigating new middle school designs."

Don Shell, president of Community Tectonics, said his firm was "honored and appreciative" to be praised in Dr. George's book. Community Tectonics has created master plans for 15 Tennessee school systems.

Shell said the demands on school systems when it comes to school design are formidable, with many competing interests to satisfy.

"These include client desires, budget, student population, age, geography, topography and other factors that must be considered in any school to make it work well for the students, the teachers, and the community," he said.

"Fortunately, we bring to bear on our projects a deep reservoir of experience working with schools," Shell added.

Community Tectonics, LLC, one of the state's largest architectural and engineering firms, has offices in Knoxville and Nashville. Its staff includes architects, engineers, planners, interior and graphics designers and educational consultants.

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