

News Release *from Community Tectonics Architects*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **Contact:** Don Shell, 637-0890

Community Tectonics architectural firm wins Tennessee School Boards Association awards for design excellence

Dec. 23, 2003 – Community Tectonics Architects won several top awards for school design at the Tennessee School Boards Association annual meeting in Nashville.

Community Tectonics won a first place award for its design of Jasper Elementary School in Marion County and a second place award for Walker Valley High School in Bradley County.

Community Tectonics, LLC has designed more than 500 schools. The firm has created master plans for 17 Tennessee school systems, more than any other architectural firm.

“Being recognized by the TSBA for excellence in school design is an honor we deeply appreciate,” said Don Shell, president of Community Tectonics. “Our firm has won nine awards for school design over the past three years. We consider each one equally important because they represent recognition of effective design for students, faculties and communities.”

Jasper Elementary School opened in 2001. It is a 750-student capacity school for kindergarten through fourth grade.

The project cost was \$10 million.

“We have a child-friendly school with bright and vibrant colors, which the children and their parents really enjoy,” said Principal Tim Bible. “Security is excellent. The design of our centralized library makes it a wonderful focal point.”

Marion County Superintendent Fred Taylor said the school is “designed beautifully.” “Teacher accessibility to the office is quick and easy,” Taylor said. “Grade levels are effectively separated. The one-story plan works very well with young age groups. Walker Valley High School was built to accommodate 1,200 students with expansion potential to 1,800. The \$20 million project was completed in 2001.

“Most expert facility planners agree that one of the most difficult projects to plan and implement successfully is an area’s second high school,” said Shell. “A new high school is so far-reaching in scope it is like creating an entirely new community.”

“We were fortunate in that the school system leadership established a first-rate ‘design task force’ made up of people from throughout the community,” Shell added.

“This helped us get a clear understanding of exactly what the system and the people of Bradley County wanted in this high school.”

Walker Valley High School Principal Danny Coggin said faculty and staff appreciate the uplifting feeling created by the school’s design.

“What impresses people the most is the natural lighting,” said Coggin. “It makes it a welcoming place rather than an institution. Part of the design included an outstanding fine arts facility.”

Community Tectonics offices are in Nashville and Knoxville. Its staff includes architects, engineers, planners, interior and graphics designers and educational consultants.

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