Designs for 21st Century Learning

Founded by architect and educator David Stephen, New Vista is a Boston-based consulting firm that works with schools, districts, charter management organizations, education foundations, and architectural firms across the U.S. to facilitate the design of inspiring, forward thinking, and technology-rich school facilities and programs.

Innovative School Environments and Programs for the 21st Century

Architecture

New Vista offers architectural design services that support school projects through each phase of the design process, and help design teams to develop targeted, innovative, and economical building solutions.

Curriculum

New Vista offers curriculum design assistance and professional development workshops for teachers and districts in the creation and implementation of interdisciplinary and project-based curricula.

Training

New Vista facilitates hands-on visioning workshops that help school groups to clarify their academic goals and guiding principles, and envision teaching and learning environments that enhance and support them.

STEM/CTE

New Vista specializes in the design of facilities and curricula that support the delivery of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and CTE (Career Technical Education) programming.

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New Vista projects include the nationally acclaimed High Tech High network of schools, the Denver School of Science & Technology, and the Harlem Village Academy network of schools. Awards include three Design Share Honors Awards for building design, and a Ford Foundation Innovations in State and Local Government Award for curriculum design.
Architecture for Achievement: Building Patterns for Small School Learning
Eagle Chatter Press, 2008, in collaboration with Victoria Bergsagel and the Architects of Achievement team, see description below.

Henry Ford Learning Institute Design Resource Guide

Dollars and Sense II: Lessons from Good, Cost-Effective Small Schools
KnowledgeWorks Foundation, 2005, in collaboration with the Dollars and Sense team. Makes the case for the cost-effectiveness of small schools, with new research and examples of what is working at 25 schools across the nation.

CityWorks: Exploring Your Community
The New Press, 1999, in collaboration with Adria Steinberg. A high school curriculum that engages students in community exploration, service, and development. Based on the “CityWorks” program at the Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School, which was a recipient of a 1992 Ford Foundation Award for Innovations in State and Local Government.

The New Urban High School Practitioner’s Guide
U.S. Department of Education (OVAE), 1999, in collaboration with the NUHS team. Case studies and best practices from six urban high schools using school-to-work strategies as a lever for whole school reform.

Seeing The Future: A High School Planning Toolkit
U.S. Department of Education (OVAE), 1999, in collaboration with the NUHS team. A planning process for schools to identify and work towards strategic design principles.

The VIA Project (Vocational Integration with Academics)
Cambridge Public School Department, 1997, in collaboration with Tamara Berman and Adria Steinberg. Strategies for integrating the best of vocational (hands-on) and academic (heads-on) approaches to teaching and learning.

New Vista has collaborated on a wide-range of educational publications, including high school curricula and project-based learning guides, school case studies, and school architecture and design guides. In addition to writing and editing copy, New Vista often plays a lead role in the development of graphics, photographs, illustrations, and layouts.

Architecture for Achievement: Building Patterns for Small School Learning
This book offers schools and architects an approach to match educational ideas with buildings that powerfully support them. Photographs, diagrams, and vignettes from over 30 successful schools and school facilities, illustrate design patterns that promote personalization, active learning, collaboration, community connection, and flexibility.

Architecture for Achievement was written in collaboration with Victoria Bergsagel and the Architects of Achievement team. It can be purchased at Amazon.com
Smart design is more important than ever in challenging economic times. New Vista quickly educates your design teams on current research and best practices in school programming and facility design, engaging all stakeholders in the design process to build ownership and excitement. New Vista’s projects run the gamut from high- and mid-budget new construction and renovations, to large school conversions, to modular and temporary campuses, to low or no-budget school “makeovers.” The following provides highlights from current and recent projects.

For more project information please visit our website at www.newvistadesign.net.

Selected Architectural Projects

High Tech High Village
San Diego, CA  2000-Present
Partnering Firms: The Stichler Group and Carrier Johnson

As a co-founder and Director of Design of the High Tech High (HTH) network of schools in San Diego, CA, David Stephen has had the opportunity to work closely with leading educational visionaries and reformers from across the country. With the design and opening of each new school, the HTH team has pushed the envelope in the creation of vibrant and adaptable buildings that foster transparency, team-teaching, personalization, project-based learning, ubiquitous technology, and performance-based assessment. HTH buildings have won numerous design awards, and are visited by over 3,000 educators and architects each year.

Denver School of Science & Tech (DSST)
Denver, CO  2002-2005
Project Architects: Klipp

As an educational design consultant to DSST, New Vista worked closely with the school’s design team to create the architectural program and design for its new 65,500 s.f. building. In addition to monitoring all phases of design, New Vista consulted on the facility’s technology infrastructure, finish materials, and furniture. The DSST building has been featured in Architectural Record and lauded by the American Architectural Foundation. The success of its academic program has made it a national model for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) instruction.

“David’s understanding of schools is unlike that of any other designer. His hand and eye have been part of every school program and building I have worked on over the past 20 years. David’s productivity, focus, and collaborative skills are unparalleled.”
Larry Rosenstock, CEO High Tech High

“When we work with educators to develop and design innovative learning environments, we bring David onto the design team to provide his vision, experience, and global perspective to the discussion.”
Sam Miller, AIA, Principal / Klipp

Among the highest performing public schools in California, the HTH Network was singled out in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s 2009 Education Letter as having achieved “amazing” results.
**Plymouth Educational Center (PEC)**
Detroit, MI / Partnering firm: Hamilton/Anderson / 2006-Present

Founded in 2002, PEC runs a STEM-focused charter K-8 program and is now in the process of constructing a new high school building to accommodate expansion. New Vista initially worked with PEC to train architects, develop a building program, and review building designs as they developed. When their first site fell through, New Vista worked to create a new building and site plan, partnering with a local modular builder to develop the site, a process which has proved economical and effective.

> “David’s guidance, support, suggestions, and architectural contributions have been invaluable to our design team. It is truly rare to work with someone who has such vast experience marrying pedagogical programing with building and graphic design.”

  Chris Plum, Principal / PEC

**Harlem Village Academy (HVA)**
Harlem, NY / Partnering firm: Cooper-Robertson & Partners / 2002-Present

HVA is a network of college preparatory charter middle and high schools located in East Harlem, New York. New Vista has consulted on numerous projects ranging from the creation of fundraising materials and feasibility studies for potential building sites to hiring architects, developing the architectural program, and monitoring all phases of design for a new 56,000 s.f. charter high school building.

**Henry Ford Academy / Henry Ford Learning Institute (HFLI)**
Dearborn MI / Partnering firm: Concordia Architecture / 2006-2008

Building on the success of the Henry Ford Academy, its original school located on the grounds of the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, HFLI plans to create a network of 10 project-focused small schools that leverage a wide range of community resources. New Vista worked with HFLI to write, edit, illustrate, and lay out an 80 page Design Guide that familiarizes teachers, designers, and educators with the schools’ educational design principles and their implications for the design, use, and evolution of HFA facilities.

> “David recommended furniture and finishes that align directly with our educational model. He helped us refine our school’s vision and created a wonderful combination of images and text to help others understand it.”

  Deborah Parizek, Executive Director, HFLI

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**Selected Architectural Projects**

**Facilities**
Aspire Public Schools, CA
American Planning Association
Architects of Achievement, WA
The Big Picture Company, RI
Boston Public Schools, MA
Cambridge Public Schools, MA
Cleveland Metropolitan School District, OH
Detroit Public Schools, MI
East Harlem Village Academy, NY
Fenway High School, MA
Groton School, MA
Henry Ford Learning Institute, MI
High Tech High Learning, CA
Innovation Academy Charter School, MA
Israel Ministry of Education, Israel
Jefferson Parish Public Schools, LA
KnowledgeWorks Foundation, OH
Los Angeles Unified School District, CA
Marysville School District, WA
Massachusetts School Building Authority, MA
Michigan Health Academy, MI
The Nueva School, CA

New Bedford Global Learning Charter, MA
New Schools Development Corp, CO
New York City Public Schools, NY
Pingry School, NJ
Orleans Parish Public Schools, LA
San Diego Unified School District, CA
Skyline School District, CO

**Curriculum**
Berrien Springs School District, MI
Boston Public Schools
Dade County Public Schools, FL
Greensboro Day School, MA
Michigan Health Academy
New Jersey Public Schools
Oakland Public Schools, CA
Philadelphia Public Schools
San Antonio Public Schools, TX
San Diego Unified School District
St. Louis Career Education District
Utrecht Public Schools, Netherlands

**Awards**
American Association of School Administrators
2006 Citation Award, Denver School of Science and Tech

The Silicone Valley/San Jose Business Journal
2005 Redevelopment Public Project of the Year, High Tech High Bayshore.

Design Share/School Construction News

American School & University Architectural Portfolio
2001 Educational Design Excellence Award, High Tech High