TOP REAL ESTATE PROJECT AWARDS

CATEGORY: EDUCATION K-12

NAPA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY CENTER

erging the classic exterior associated with the 1926 Napa High School shops building with modern, state-of-the-art interior enhancements and seismic upgrades was the task assigned to Quattrocchi Kwok Architects and Lathrop Construction Associates by the Napa Valley Unified School District.

The renovated structure — formerly a wood shop, a maintenance and operations facility as well as a warehouse for district's records — was repurposed to become an integrated technology center for use by staff, faculty, students and the community. The total cost of the project was about \$7 million and was paid for with district funds.

"The school district needed more room to house NVUSD's technology department and server equipment," said Mark Quattrocchi, principal architect, "fOur] design team, general contractor Rick Martellaro with Lathrop Construction Associates and district officials realized that renovating the existing building would save both time and money associated with new construction costs, while having minimal environmental impact and preserving a historic structure for the city and the campus."

This revitalized building now functions as a central technology hub staffed by the district's information technology experts and providing a spectrum of educational and training programs.

Completed for the 2015–2016 school year, the building comprises 15,500 square feet. About 11,100 square feet are devoted to the Napa Technology Center with enough room for the district's entire IT staff in one building, bringing together some 30 employees previously located in six, 50-year-old cramped and outdated in six, 50-year-old cramped and outdated

portable classrooms without space for workstations and storage. The remaining 4,000-plus square feet will be used as a warehouse.

One-third of the building is dedicated to teacher training, where they receive instruction on the newest software tools enabling them to create technology-based curricula for their students. It includes two classrooms separate by a folding wall where teachers can receive technical training. Students may also serve as interns in the Technology Center. The center also includes an emerging technologies section where educators test new hardware and software before introducing it in their

For this portion of the building, Quattrocchi Kwok created all'st century learning environment, utilizing outdoor and indoor spaces that can be easily adapted for collaborative or individual instruction. In addition to housing some of the most advanced educational technology tools, such as 3-D printers, the building also includes a computer hardware warehouse and repair shor for the TT team.

New district servers in the building's large data center now interface with the city of Napa's IT servers, enabling the Technology Center to perform as an "essential services" facility during declared emergencies.

To preserve the building's historic character, the design and construction team worked with original elements. They carefully removed Spanish-style red clay roofing tiles for later reuse to accommodate structural upgrades. The team reinforced and refurbished heavy wood timber trusses to preserve internal elements. Environmental controls were installed to keep the district's computers

installed to keep the district's computers within an optimal temperature range. Other upgrades include providing modern lighting, mechanical and data systems. The end result showcases the character

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of the vintage structure's exterior while infusing high-technology interiors and functions in keeping with its new mission. The project meets 2010 Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) standards, as well as 2013 California Green

Building Code (CalGreen) criteria.