

Corner High School



Steel-framed pedestrian bridges link the classroom wings on one side of the stream (visible here) with the assembly buildings on the other. The edge of the main entrance pavilion is just visible to the left of the classroom building.

By Philip Morris



The northwest part of Jefferson County, where the county school system's new 210,000-square-foot Corner High School was recently completed, has rugged topography. Davis Architects turned a site that drops 160 feet front-to-back into a campus focused on an existing stream.

The major move was to set the classroom wings and related spaces on the west side of the stream (see site plan). Located across the stream to the east: the 400-seat cafeteria, 1,600-seat competition gym (plus a separate practice gym), band and choral rooms and a 650-seat performance hall. Two steel-frame pedestrian bridges link the components above the stream. Set on terraces to the north is the sporting complex that includes a 3,500-seat football stadium, field house, tennis courts and practice fields for football, soccer, band, baseball and softball.

Building exteriors are a mix of red brick and ground-face concrete masonry unit that resembles limestone. Main interior corridors provide views of the natural wooded stream along with niches to gather and study.

Photography by Lewis Kennedy



A monumental square-columned portico with a drop-off drive signals the main entrance to the classroom wings at the upper end of the site.



Assembly spaces, including cafeteria, gyms and a performance hall, are located with their own circulation and parking spaces on the east side of the stream.



The site plan shows the central stream with classroom wings to the left, assembly spaces to the right and sports fields set on terraces to the north. Landscape architect: Johnson & Company, Birmingham.