Aspire East Palo Alto
Phoenix Academy
Creating a sense of place.

After much anticipation, Aspire Public Schools’ newest high school opened on August 22, 2011, welcoming sixth- through twelfth-grade students to its East Palo Alto campus. Built by Enviroplex in partnership with K2A Architecture and Interiors and Aspire Public Schools, the 23,328-square-foot campus consists of four separate two-story buildings. The buildings are comprised of administration and staff offices, high school–level science classrooms with prep areas, standard classrooms for traditional curriculum, boys’ and girls’ multi-fixture restrooms and MDF data and storage spaces. Custom bridgeways and switchback stair towers with concrete infill connect the buildings and provide students with opportunities for peer interaction in a pedestrian-friendly environment.

The striking aesthetics of the new buildings—painted with bold, blocky shapes in spiced orange and primitive plum on a white sapling–colored three-coat stucco exterior—are an eye-pleasing addition to the surrounding suburban neighborhoods. “College for Certain” for its students is Aspire Public Schools’ life’s work. Creating school buildings that inspire students to academic success is Enviroplex’s commitment to its educational customers.

Key Building Features

- High school–level science classrooms
  - Stainless steel sinks with acid diluters
  - Gas turrets at each lab station
  - Hi/low teacher’s island with epoxy sink
  - Movable lab tables (both ADA and standard height)
  - Eyewash station and multiple floor boxes
  - Chemsurf P-LAM countertops at student lab stations

- Interior chases that eliminate exposed utility connections
- Concrete-filled cantilevered balconies
- Pre-engineered fire sprinkler system
- Gurney-capable elevator with matching exterior finish
- Extensive low-voltage systems (security, FA, data)
- 8-inch front overhangs and powder-coated handrails

High-Performance Features

- Kohler low-flow plumbing fixtures
- High-efficiency interior Q-Tec HVAC
- Three-phase electrical panels
- Lithonia optimal 2' x 4' directional and diffused reflected lighting
- Armstrong Green Genie ceiling tiles
- Low-VOC adhesives, sealants, paint and coatings
- Fly ash–filled concrete foundation
- Oversized glazing for natural daylight
- Formaldehyde-free casework
- Collins & Aikman Explorer carpet (qualifies for LEED EQ4.3/CHPS-compliant)
- Armstrong Medley resilient flooring (CRI Green Label Plus/CHPS-compliant)