



Marion High School, Conceptual Design *Marion, Illinois*



Design Architects, Inc.

Associated firm: Hurst-Rosche Engineers, Inc.

Client:
Marion Community Unit School District #2; Wade Hudgens, Superintendent

Capacity: 1,600	Space/student: 250 sq. ft.
Area: 400,000 sq. ft.	Total cost: \$65,258,000 (includes site development)
Cost/square foot: \$163.15	Completion: August 2013

The school is planned to be a 400,000-square-foot facility for students. Areas of the building to be shared with the community include a competition gymnasium; 43,000-square-foot fieldhouse with indoor athletic training and physical-education courts; 16,000-square-foot natatorium with eight-lane competition pool; and cafeteria/kitchen facilities to seat and serve about 700.

The facility also is planned to have an auditorium with 600 seats. Although the education facilities will be designed for 1,600 students, the core spaces will be designed for a maximum capacity of 2,200. This recognizes the fact that the educational areas are more easily expanded

when future demands arise.

The classroom wing will consist of four floors of classrooms arranged along a wide, curved corridor. The curve was introduced to take advantage of the 60 feet of relief of the existing site.

With all the opportunities that the new facility will have to offer, the district is looking to enhance its curriculum. The traditional foods lab will be replaced with the culinary-arts department, where students will learn to cook in a commercial kitchen environment. Accommodations also will be made near the vocational department for a new pre-engineering program where students explore hydraulics, electronics and a variety of other technical skills.

