

**ADAMS SCHOOL**  
 CREAL SPRINGS, ILLINOIS

**Design Architects, Inc.**
**Associated firm:**
**Hurst-Rosche Engineers, Inc.**
**Design team**

David Pool, AIA, Architect; Boyd Poirier, PE, MEP Engineer Leader; Ruben Boehler, PE, SE, Structural Engineer; Mark Reitz, PE, Civil Engineer; Tim Downen, Project Manager

**Client**

Marion Community Unit School District No. 2; Keith Oates, Superintendent

**Area**

64,260 sq. ft.

**Total cost**

\$11.5 million

**Cost/square foot**

\$178.96

**Capacity**

400

**Space/student**

160.65 sq. ft.

**Completion**

June 2012

**Photographer**

Jenger Denosky

The district wanted a facility that was built using modern construction technologies, and one that would provide a range of learning opportunities. Adams School is the successful result.

The design enables community events to occur without distracting children in classrooms. Learning occurs in an area resembling a mall. A daylighted atrium housing an indoor pond and landscaping gives the school's nationally recognized science program new opportunities. Flexible classrooms and breakout areas provide teachers options to engage students on a variety of levels. Classrooms are bundled into small learning communities where children stay for two years and become familiar with teachers and fellow students.

Although the district chose not to pursue LEED certification, the building uses sustainable strategies. A geothermal HVAC system conditions the school from wells installed under ball fields. Daylighting throughout the building has automatic controls to ensure adequate, comfortable lighting in all classrooms. The school boasts utility usage about one-third less than similar schools in the district. The cafeteria is designed as a FEMA tornado/storm shelter—a welcome comfort to a community ravaged multiple times by disastrous storms. 🌿