

**KAESTLE BOOS ASSOCIATES, INC. RECEIVES
AMERICAN SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY® DESIGN CITATION AWARD**

Westerly, RI, School Project Honored for Educational Design Excellence and Cited as One of the Most Effective New Middle School Learning Environments

Foxborough, MA – December 12, 2007 – Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc., New Britain, CT, and Foxborough, MA, was recently recognized with an *American School & University*® Magazine Citation Award for the Westerly Middle School in Westerly, RI. The award, for Educational Design Excellence/Outstanding Middle School, names Westerly Middle School, as “one of the most effective learning environments in America.” Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. was one of only 14 winners in the United States receiving *American School & University*® Magazine Award Citations out of 234 projects chosen for the 25th anniversary publication. AS&U magazine reaches 65,000 facility planners, school and university administrators and architects with this issue.

The project, featured in *American School & University*® Magazine’s 25th Annual Architectural Portfolio, was judged by a jury of select school/university administrators and members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Committee on Architecture in Education. The jury cited Westerly Middle School’s “well-planned small learning communities” and its “nice use of color, consistent throughout the building.”

The new \$24.4 million Westerly Middle School encompasses 148,500 square feet and benefits from a “team cluster system” of smaller learning communities. Each ‘cluster’, or ‘neighborhood’, is home to 100 students and their teachers. All have four classrooms, a science classroom/laboratory, team planning/meeting room, toilet facilities, student lockers and a commons area for students and teachers to assemble for presentations and special projects. “The idea is to provide the space for classroom academics, social and cultural group activities in close proximity to support these small learning communities in a defined ‘academic neighborhood’. This design approach provides great flexibility for the team teaching environment and essentially creates a nine ‘schools within the school.” said Michael J. McKeon, AIA, LEED AP, and Principal-in-Charge of the project at Kaestle Boos.

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Westerly Middle School and Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. Receive American School & University® Design Association Award, pg. 2 of 2

The colorful, state-of-the-art middle school is home to 800 sixth through eighth graders and their teachers. Additional features include a central 400-seat auditorium, 335-seat cafeteria with a “food court-type” server, a central library/media center and full-size gymnasium. Art classrooms also include an area for ceramics work and computer stations for graphic arts.

The creative use of color is predominant throughout the school. Interior Designer Kristen Smith notes: “Color is a great organizer/stimulator in a learning environment for emerging adolescents.” At Westerly Middle School, color begins at the front door and drives through each pod to the exterior skin of the building. Specific colors reflect the different grade levels, the geometrics used throughout the facility and functions within.

“The work that Kaestle Boos Associates did for Westerly Middle School was nothing short of extraordinary,” Thomas DiPaola, Superintendent of Westerly Public Schools, commented. “The project not only met the objective for Westerly’s Vision 20/20 for needed space related to current and future enrollment. KBA’s design also raised the bar for what all middle schools should aspire to be: exciting, state-of-the-art learning environments where students are fueled creatively and teachers can be inspiring.”

“KBA is extremely honored to have received this award from *American School & University®* Magazine,” Charles W. Boos, AIA, Chairman & CEO of Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. said. “We’re always proud of our architectural contribution to the academic arena, whether it’s historic restoration of a school or creation of a new one from the ground up. With over 40 years of school design projects completed successfully at KBA, the Westerly project was a particular satisfying one and it’s been wonderful to see its very positive impact on the faculty, students and community.”

(PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.)

About Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc.

Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. is one of New England’s most experienced architectural design firms with offices in New Britain, Connecticut, Foxboro, Massachusetts, and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The firm specializes in educational, public safety, theater arts, parks and recreation and other public architecture. Founded in 1963, the firm’s ultimate goal is to create structures that are functional, aesthetically pleasing, environmentally sound, and economically justifiable. For more information visit www.kba-architects.com or call (860) 229-0361.

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