

Material Selection and Sustainability

At Office of Mobile Design, we promote and embrace environmental responsibility.

1. Healthy Environments. We have chosen materials for our Sustainable Portables that reflect our awareness of the impact buildings can have on the environment, by using products made from natural materials either recycled or renewable. In recent decades, the construction quality of portable educational structures has significantly decreased. Not only have classrooms become life-less spaces, but the construction materials themselves have been found to be harmful to the health of the occupants. These materials contain gasses and chemicals that are slowly released during the lifetime of the product. Over time, exposure to these gasses can have adverse health effects. The materials we have selected do not off-gas. In addition, we specify durable materials with zero VOC and formaldehyde content. Children in our Sustainable Portables can be assured of learning in a safe and healthy educational environment.

2. Sustainability. Sustainability is a key issue in our design process. We at Office of Mobile Design feel that every industry and business has a direct and/or indirect impact on the environment. We take our responsibility seriously and seek to minimize the impact we make by incorporating sustainable materials and environmentally-sensitive systems into our designs. We specify energy efficient heating and cooling systems, glass, insulation and photovoltaics.

The following selected materials are healthy, sustainable and beautiful:



WheatSheet (walls)

Used as an alternative to particleboard and MDF, WheatSheet is made of recycled wheat fibers and an emissions free binder.



Expanko (flooring)

Expanko is made of cork and recycled rubber. Cork is harvested by hand and causes no harm to trees.



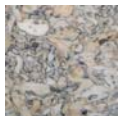
Plyboo (flooring)

Bamboo is the fastest growing plant in the world and can grow up to 18 inches in one day. This tremendous growth rate makes bamboo a renewable resource.



Non VOC Paints

These paints are made of organic raw materials and are solvent free. They do not off-gas and are a good alternative for people with allergies and asthma.



Biocomposites

This sheeting material is used for cabinets, countertops, and as wall cladding. These products are both beautiful and earth friendly, such as this sunflower seed board.



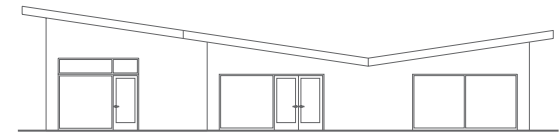
Homasote (wall cladding / acoustical ceiling board)

Homasote is a recycled fiberboard product made from post-consumer recycled paper. It contains no asbestos or formaldehydes and is tackable.



Jennifer Siegal, principal of Office of Mobile Design [OMD] received a Masters of Architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture [SCI-ARC] in 1994. In 1998, Ms. Siegal founded OMD to explore and uphold ideas of a dynamic, accessible, and sustainable design. In 2003, she spent a year as a Loeb Fellow at Harvard Graduate School of Design. She is also a full professor at Woodbury University in Burbank, California.

Office of Mobile Design is dedicated to developing a variety of relocateable and flexible structures for different kinds of programs. In 2000, California Edison approached Ms. Siegal with a grant to investigate and redesign portable classrooms. Ms. Siegal took this opportunity to explore learning environments with her students. The aim was to generate alternative designs that promote energy efficiency and sustainability, while creating healthy and attractive environments. As a teacher, Ms. Siegal has an intimate relationship with spaces of learning, the problems and the vast possibilities.



Office of Mobile Design
1725 Abbot Kinney Blvd
Venice, CA 90291

T 310.439.1129
E info@designmobile.com
www.designmobile.com

Green PreFab Schools

Classrooms with well-conceived light, space, technology and materials provide inspiring learning environments for children and their teachers.

Project Goals and Philosophy

Office of Mobile Design believes that around every corner exists an opportunity for learning. Our PreFab Portables are tools for learning about sustainability, design, and the importance of our impact on the landscape. We feel that a beautiful and flexible campus encourages children to form a special relationship to and appreciation for their place of learning. We believe in an integral experience between the learning that happens inside the classroom and the one that happens outside. Our goal is for each individual child to feel a sense of importance and belonging on their new campus by providing wonderful outdoor spaces for socializing, gardening, playing, and discovering, as well as inspiring interior classroom environments.

We at Office of Mobile Design are excited to have joined The Country School in the development of their new Middle School project in Los Angeles. The 5200 square feet expansion is comprised of three new buildings assembled from eleven prefabricated modules. This project will allow the students to continue their studies through the 8th grade, enabling them to further their intellectual development and prepare for high school.

With this goal in mind we have formulated an innovative vision for their new campus. Our design concepts center around the ideas of responsibility: environmental, fiscal, and most importantly for the welfare of the children.

The decision to use prefabricated structures will have significant environmental and fiscal effects. PreFab structures have several significant qualities. A building that is prefabricated in a controlled environment is more cost-affordable than a site built structure and can be constructed in less than half the time. In addition, the world of prefab structures has rendered endless design innovations. Office of Mobile Design has put a fresh face on prefabricated classrooms by incorporating modern design sensibilities, making these buildings virtually indistinguishable from site built structures. We employ sustainable-systems such as natural light and ventilation, the use of eco-friendly materials, and attention to construction quality, making these buildings healthy environments for learning.

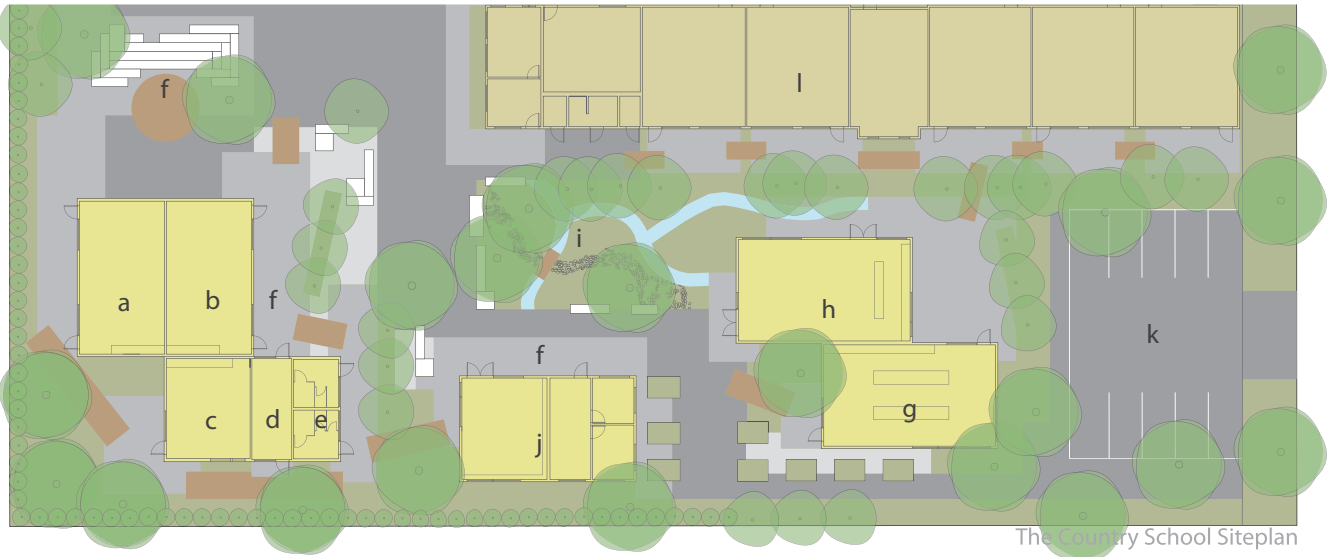


The Country School, Valley Village, CA

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| a. Classroom A | g. Science Lab |
| b. Classroom B | h. Art Studio |
| c. Classroom C | i. Garden Space |
| d. Language Lab | j. Library & Media Center / Administration |
| e. Girls & Boys Restrooms | k. Parking |
| f. Outdoor Eating / Socializing Areas | l. Existing Classrooms Building |



PreFab School, under construction



The Country School Siteplan