

## Project of the Week

September 26, 2011

### **Whatcom Middle School**

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

Whatcom Middle School reopened this month, two years after a fire destroyed much of the historic 1903 school.

Structural deficiencies made it impossible to restore the structure, but key elements of the facade were saved. The school was rebuilt using much of the original design.

New light fixtures have a historic feel. Acrylic paint mixed with sand was used to simulate the stucco of the old building. An artistic finish was applied to shotcrete at the base of the main building to mimic the look of the original sandstone.

The exterior walls were used as design guides and forms for new structural shotcrete walls. Once the exterior walls were complete, the fire-damaged main building was almost completely torn down, except for key facade elements. Work was done within the walls, and outside of public view.

Work was completed a year ahead of schedule.

**Owner:** Bellingham School District

**Architect:** Dykeman, Everett

**General contractor:** Dawson Construction, Bellingham

**Civil, structural engineer:** Reid Middleton, Everett

**Mechanical, electrical, plumbing engineer:** Hargis, Seattle

**Landscape architect:** Cascade Design Collaborative, Seattle

**Food service:** George Bundy and Assoc., Seattle

**Acoustical consultant:** The Greenbusch Group, Seattle



Photos courtesy of Dykeman [\[enlarge\]](#)

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