



**Palm Academy**

Palm Academy, a one classroom high school, provides an educational environment for at-risk students in the Coronado Unified School District. The buildings elements are shaped to define interior and exterior spaces and create a transition from the "public" to "private", defining both more completely. The building is "discovered" in moving from the street to the classroom.

Going from the street to the classroom, one moves through a series of changes in direction and qualities of space that separate public from private. From the street one sees the main entrance. Glass front doors allow a view through the breezeway to the back of the site. The entry to the classroom is not yet obvious. Two parallel rows of trees emphasize direction and depth. As one is drawn further, going from cover to open sky and back to cover, an opening in the roof above is apparent. The sun lights up a part of the building under the roof. Season and time of day are present. Now an opening to the right is visible. A view through the building to the exterior beyond draws the visitor on. As one proceeds towards the light in the distance, the corridor becomes narrower and the ceiling lower. Finally, one enters the classroom. Here is a tall and private space; taller and further away from the world outside because of the steps one has taken to get there.

**PROJECT STATS**

*Owner: Coronado Unified School District*

*Location: Coronado, California*

*Construction Cost: \$2,400,000*

*Initiation / Completion Dates:  
Design Began in 2005  
Construction completed in 2007*

*Size: 2,361 sq. ft.*

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