

# ALBION HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM ADDITION CRAIG WEFLEN

## CONCEPT:

With the need for a Theater in the town of Albion, it is important to consider who will use it the most. Clearly, the biggest user will be the school, so linking the theater into the school is the logical choice. Positioning the addition on the eastern side helps to create a new identity for the school, as well as providing a definable entrance.

## FUNCTIONAL GOALS:

- Auditorium seats are subdivided, making the theater usable for different size groups. Classes are able to be held in the intermediate space in the center of the circulation path.
- Interior classrooms are rearranged to create subject "wings", or clusters based on subject. In doing so, a new library is constructed on the south side, providing the space with more natural light, as well as helping to define an outdoor courtyard space.
- The addition is orientated so that the stage is linked to the band room while the main entrance doubles with the main entrance of the school. By doing so, it creates a much easier set up for school concerts and musicals. The backstage area also provides additional storage areas for the band program.

## PROGRAMATIC FEATURES:

- Interior Courtyards are located at three places throughout the building. These bring natural light into the building, which has been shown to help improve student performance.
- A sculpture competition is held every year, and the winner gets to place their sculpture on the podium which is a featured view from the new lobby space.
- The new lobby space serves as a lobby for both the school and the theater. Therefore, there is a submerged area in the floor where students can congregate before and after school. This area can also be used for small events, such as jazz bands or speech competitions. When larger productions are going on in the main auditorium, merchandise and/or concessions tables can be placed in this area to keep these functions out of the predominant circulation paths.

