Alma Brewer Strawn Elementary School
Lytton Springs, TX

Alma Brewer Strawn Elementary School is fun and playful—appropriate to the age group it serves and representative of the type of learning experience the school district wants its youngest students to receive. Located in Lytton Springs, Texas, in Lockhart ISD, the 2-story school rises up against the Central Texas terrain as a bright spot, featuring vibrant red accents against metal panels and Austin stone. Students, teachers, and administrators all had a hand in the design of the school.

Through a visioning process, planning sessions and site visits, the project team narrowed down its list of needs, ultimately desiring a school that supported technology use, offered a safe and secure learning environment, created opportunities for collaborative learning and featured an outdoor learning space. The school surrounds an outdoor courtyard used for play and learning. A small stage is located on the north end.

Art rooms have access to the courtyard, drawing the natural environment into instruction. Each learning space has a large window; daylighting was a key priority. Movable furniture is used in the classrooms and media center. Lighting accents, pops of color and thoughtfully placed windows of varying sizes carry the playful aesthetic from the exterior, inside.