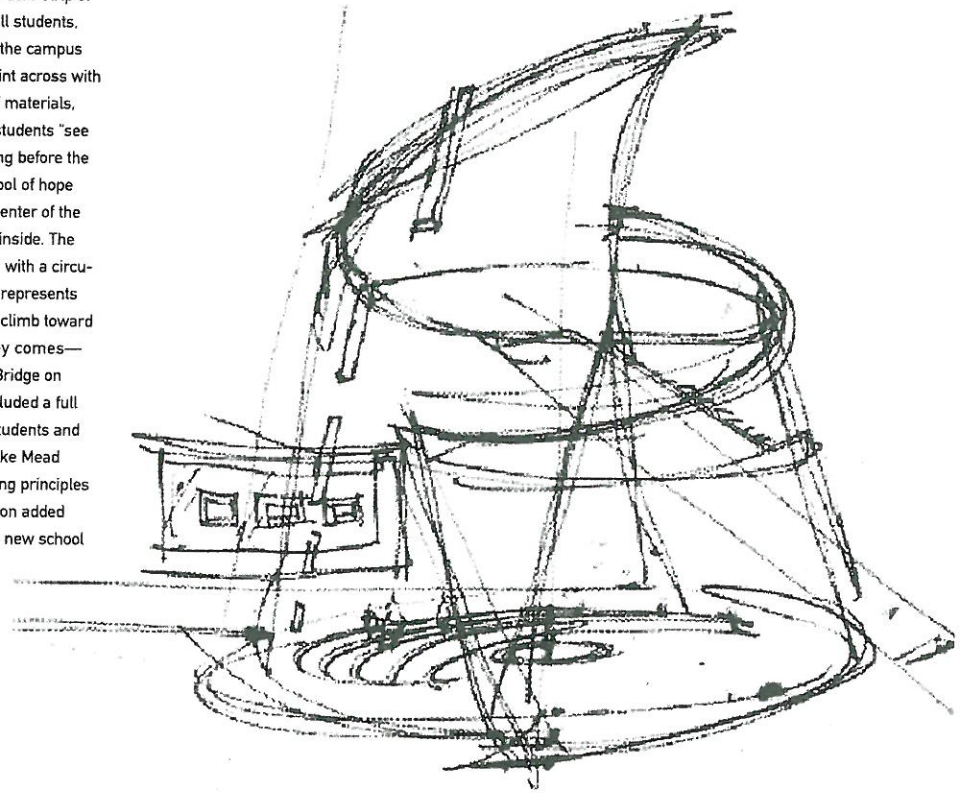
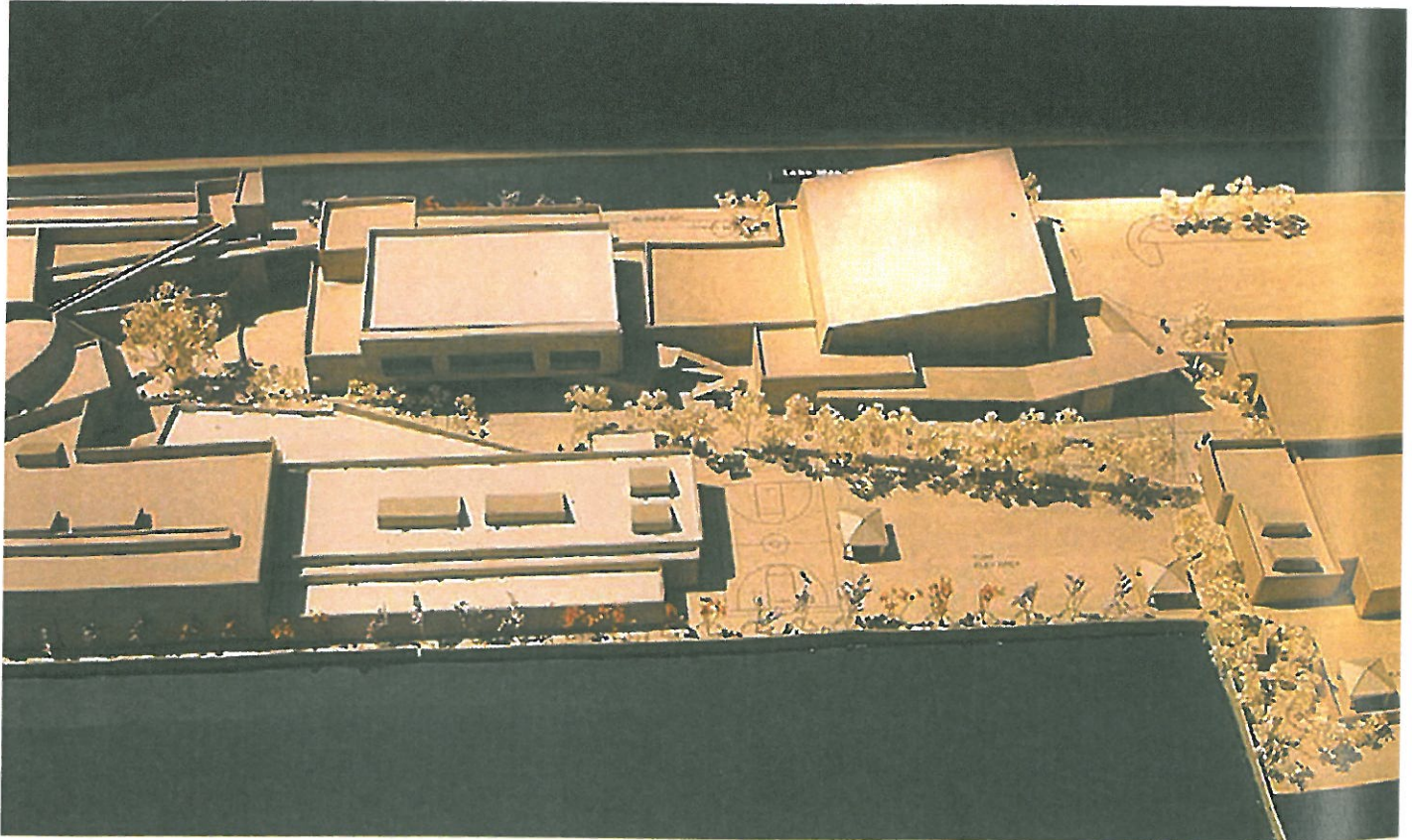


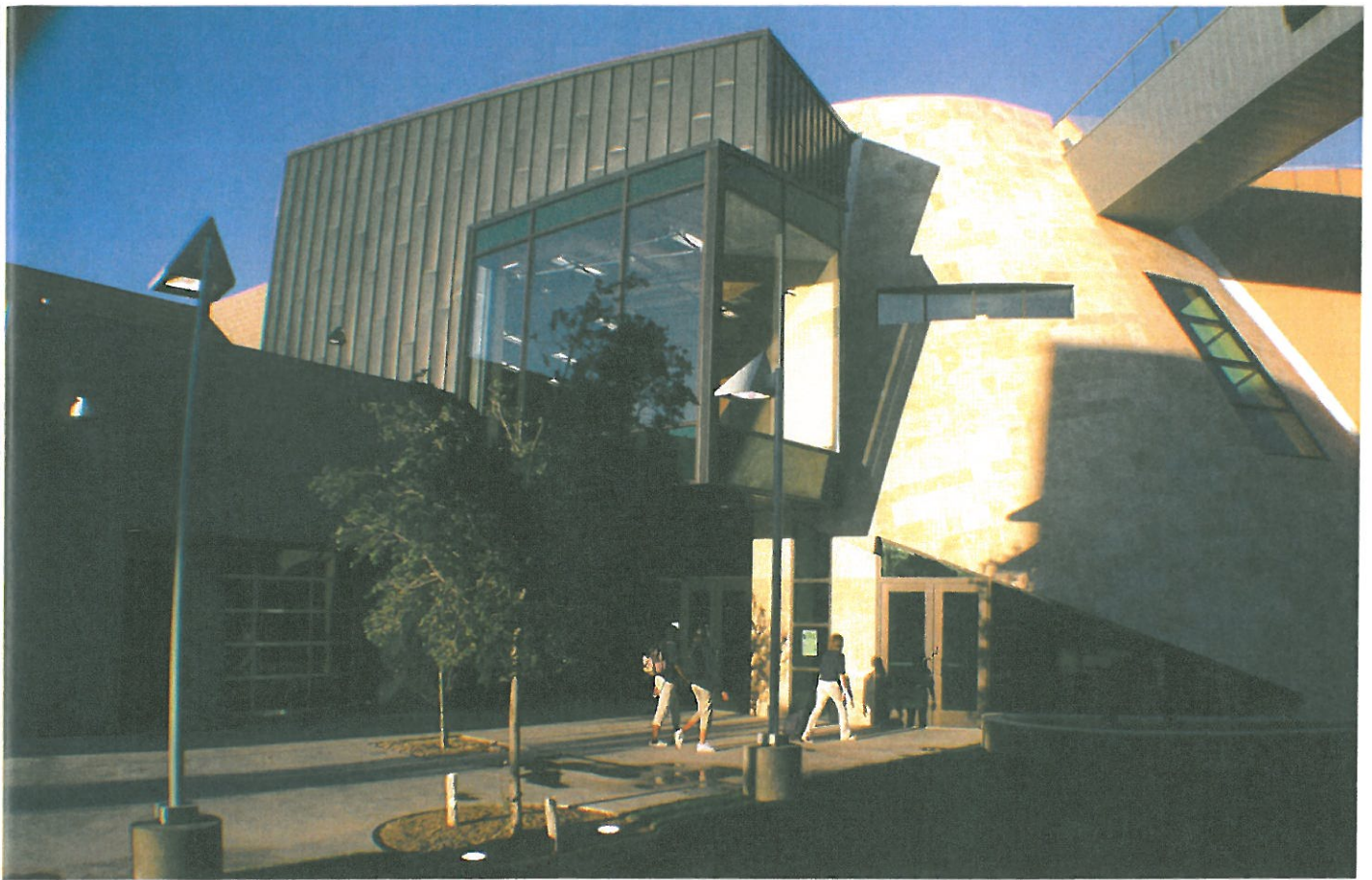
More than five years after its master plan was conceived, the Agassi Academy has become a full-fledged campus. The high school building now sits at the far west end of the 7.8-acre strip of land, where it serves as the ultimate destination for all students, not just the last four grades. The architects designed the campus as a linear journey from K through 12, getting this point across with "the placement of structures and the sophistication of materials, detailing and scale of the buildings." In other words, students "see where they are going and where they have been." Long before the high school was built, a "tree of life" served as a symbol of hope as well as the building to come. It now stands in the center of the courtyard, and students must pass by it before going inside. The high school commons furthers the journey metaphor, with a circular gathering spot on the floor beneath a rotunda that represents "the pinnacle and mountain the students are trying to climb toward graduation." This final step in the academy journey comes—literally and figuratively—upon the Commencement Bridge on the commons roof terrace. This final phase, which included a full gymnasium, completes a vision of the future for the students and is a beacon of hope for the at-risk neighborhood at Lake Mead and J Street. "It's an excellent example of good planning principles informing the architecture," the jurors wrote. "Aspiration added another less tangible yet more meaningful quality to a new school for low-income families."



ARPENTER SELLERS ARCHITECTS







The high school rotunda inside, out (above) and in the model (left)