

School Organization: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

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Historical forces shaping the school's physical and social organization

- ▶ The one-room schoolhouse in early America.
- ▶ The growth of cities, immigration, and civic leaders' worry over inefficiency... the standardized 'school plant', a 'one best system' of schooling and facilities.
- ▶ Post-war housing boom, early suburban sprawl fueled by cheap energy and the lure of affordable homes. Some architectural innovations inside schools.
- ▶ Urban decline, white flight, fractured political support for school finance.
- ▶ Retrenching around school quality, standards-based accountability (now the *decline* of No Child model).

Recent developments: the evolving context and diversifying forms of schooling

- ▶ **Macro economic shifts: Rediscovering the central city, cultural pluralism, smart growth, and rising energy costs.**
- ▶ **In California, shifting politics around school finance, new urbanism, and greater equity in allocating school bond revenues.**
- ▶ **Rejection of the ‘one-best-system’: Rise of small and charter schools, integrating youths into the community, decline of the sacred or uniform classroom.**
- ▶ **Emerging empirical focus on whether *and* how new, or renovated, schools may boost teacher and school quality, and lift neighborhood economies (the case of LAUSD).**