



DOROTHY MARTINEZ ELEMENTARY

LITTLE ELM, TEXAS

Rapid growth in Denton ISD required opening three elementary schools. Dorothy Martinez Elementary in Little Elm reflects that urgency through a reimagined learning model shaped by a collaborative visioning process. Rather than isolated classroom wings, the school is organized around a unified core where the library, dining, and courtyard converge—creating a flexible, shared space that allows learning to flow across grades.

The exterior reinforces this idea. Clad in King Klinker America **Black Beauty** thin brick, the façade uses American Imperial size (19 5/8" × 2 1/4" × 9/16") installed vertically to elongate proportions and draw the eye upward. The deep tone and vertical rhythm of Black Beauty appear to convey calm, strength, and aspiration, mirroring the school's emphasis connection.

By pairing a community-centered core with the striking presence of Black Beauty thin brick, Dorothy Martinez Elementary creates an open, accessible environment that supports curiosity, collaboration, and belonging. The project received the Gold Award in the 2025 Brick Architecture Awards.

THIN BRICK BREAKDOWN



Black Beauty | American Imperial Size

PROJECT TEAM

Architect: Pfluger Architects

Developer: Balfour Beauty

Distributor: Acme

Thin Brick Manufacturer: King Klinker



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