

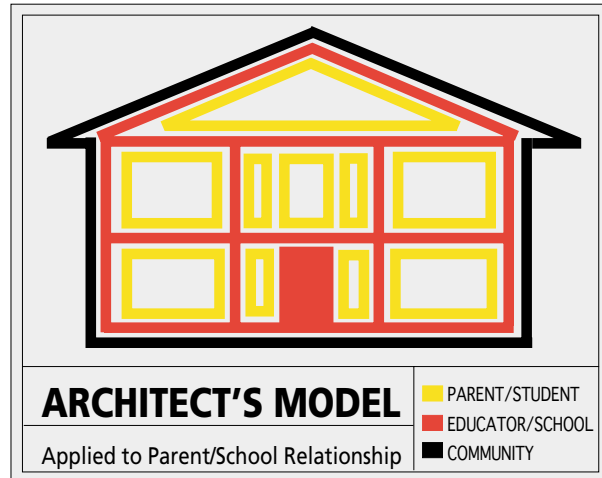
*Reinventing relationships*

# An architect's model applied to parent involvement

Parents are no longer willing to be bystanders in school improvement efforts. We are active participants in decision-making, bringing with us our concern for all children and the schools they attend.

As actions move us to restructure schools, we must reconsider our relationships with school districts. The relationship between an architect and client is akin to the one between schools and parents. Both are engaged in a process designed to result in a satisfactory end. Consider these similarities:

- 🏠 **Mutual respect** — Successfully building a mutually satisfactory product, client and architect must work together, respecting the responsibilities and decisions of each.
- 🏠 **Distinct roles** — One is the owner; the other the service provider.



- 🏠 **Unique, interdependent responsibilities** — One is the consumer and advisor to the process, providing the raw goods that make the project possible. The other has the technical skills to develop and execute the plan successfully.
- 🏠 **Joint decision makers** — Both the owner and service provider must reach conclusions, and at times compromise, to complete a project.
- 🏠 **Sharing goals for top quality** — All strive for excellence — parent, teacher and student — knowing the best materials and workmanship will yield a sound and functional outcome.