An Educational Interaction within Nature

When the natural environment is such a big portion of the culture in a place, that connection should remain intact especially throughout a child’s life.

Design Objectives:
- Set an example for environmental design.
- Become a learning tool to show how the environment interacts with a building.
- Remain a flexible building used by not only the children but all of the community becoming a central point for a neighborhood.

Main Design Points:
- Large local limestone walls point directly at a nearby mountain focusing someone’s eye towards the beauty of nature.
- Orientated for optimum interaction with the ever changing mountain environment.
- Northern portion of building will be used by both the school and the community and can be closed off from the classrooms.
- Overall shape creates a protected courtyard for enjoyment of the children.

Mechanical Floor
-15 feet above ground level

Ground Floor
Event with ground level

Basement Floor
-3 feet below ground level

Second Floor
-15 feet above ground level

Third Floor
-18 feet above ground level

Fourth Floor
-21 feet above ground level

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Software Used:
Google Sketchup 8
Revit
Adobe Suites

Blue : Rain and snow collected and reused throughout the building
Black : Curved Roofs allow wind to pass over with limited disruptions. The wind then will create snow sculptures in the winter to study the aerodynamics of the building
Yellow: Sunlight utilized for lighting throughout the building. Metal roof also allows for reflected light to enter deeper into the building.
Green: Curtain wall systems allow maximum views out of the building for the students to take in the natural environment. This also allows for passive ventilation controlled by the people within the building.