Problem statement
How can architecture promote living in harmony, with our natural environment, in order to ensure a healthy level of overall wellness for the occupant?

We are currently living in the technology era yet the current public school system in the United States is still modeled after the industrial revolution. The old model of public education has long past its era. We need to embrace new technologies to enhance the potential of the future generation.

The plan of action for this new alternative high school, will focus on a ‘learning revolution’ as opposed to education reform (which in many ways is an attempt to fix a broken system with the same methods that broke it). With the help of new technologies and software, teachers are able to become a ‘guide on the side’ instead of a ‘sage on the stage.’ This method of teaching is more inert to our natural way of learning. Humans are engineered to learn by more than just auditory leaning.

We are no longer in the industrial revolution yet the practice of making buildings still follows the Victorian method of structures, and the industrial revolution’s thirst for mass production. At best, building technologies of today, can only be carbon neutral. Architecture must look towards being carbon negative, in order to ensure the wellness the occupants.

Program
The proposed structure will house an alternative high school in the heart of downtown Chicago. The spaces in the new building will be ever changing and dynamic, so the space adapts to the user instead of the user adapting to the space. The structure will be able to house a learning curriculum focuses heavily on project based learning. In turn the projects are distributed throughout the community, to keep with the ‘city beautiful’ movement.