

# permeable education

.....*creating a culture for learning*

Can educational spaces utilizing  
permeable architecture  
inform a culture of lifelong learning?

problem statement

what does an educational space look like?

what does it mean to learn?

what does it mean to be permeable?

## project typology

Center for Learning

## theoretical premise/unifying idea

Permeable spaces allow more people to engage and benefit from the amenities offered within a space. A permeable environment allows all community members to come together and recognize their mutual strengths. This recognition of ideas has the power to influence the culture of a community through the physical and intellectual movement between the built environment and the greater community.

## justification

In a survey by Civic Enterprises, an overwhelming 81% of high school dropouts said that “if schools provide opportunities for real-world learning (internships, service learning projects, and other opportunities), it would have improved the students’ chances of graduating from high school” (Bridgeland, 2006). By allowing this type of education to be accessible to a demographic broader than that of the traditional student, the culture of the community will be enhanced as ideas begin to move between the built environment and the community.

## statement of intent

## project typology

Center for Learning

## theoretical premise/unifying idea

Permeable spaces allow more people to engage and benefit from the amenities offered within a space. A permeable environment allows all community members to come together and recognize their mutual strengths. This recognition of ideas has the power to influence the culture of a community through the physical and intellectual movement between the built environment and the greater community.

## justification

In a survey by Civic Enterprises, an overwhelming 81% of high school dropouts said that “if schools provide opportunities for real-world learning (internships, service learning projects, and other opportunities), it would have improved the students’ chances of graduating from high school” (Bridgeland, 2006). By allowing this type of education to be accessible to a demographic broader than that of the traditional student, the culture of the community will be enhanced as ideas begin to move between the built environment and the community.

## statement of intent

## project typology

Center for Learning

## theoretical premise/unifying idea

Permeable spaces allow more people to engage and benefit from the amenities offered within a space. A permeable environment allows all community members to come together and recognize their mutual strengths. This recognition of ideas has the power to influence the culture of a community through the physical and intellectual movement between the built environment and the greater community.

## justification

In a survey by Civic Enterprises, an overwhelming 81% of high school dropouts said that “if schools provide opportunities for real-world learning (internships, service learning projects, and other opportunities), it would have improved the students’ chances of graduating from high school” (Bridgeland, 2006). By allowing this type of education to be accessible to a demographic broader than that of the traditional student, the culture of the community will be enhanced as ideas begin to move between the built environment and the community.

## statement of intent

what does an educational space look like?

what does it mean to learn?

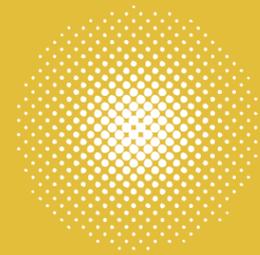
what does it mean to be permeable?



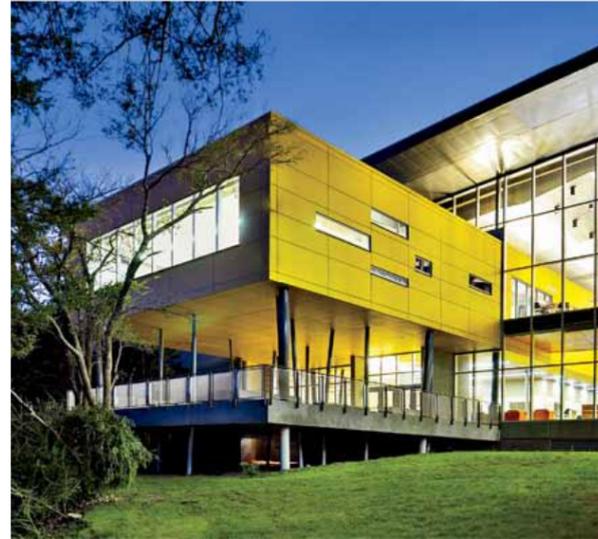
school + place



learning + place



permeability + place



what does an educational space look like?

School as a symbol for education and learning

School as structure

School as factory

School as place

Do we understand a building for what it is based on, its exterior, or by what occurs on the interior of the building?

school + place

what does it mean to learn?

“**Lifelong learning** is intentional, purposeful learning that people engage in throughout their lives to gain personal fulfillment and improve the quality of their lives.”

-Joanna Dunlap

learning + place

Alvin Toffler supports this idea in stating that **“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”** Lifelong learners are able to learn and adapt because they reflect on the quality of their understanding and seek to go beyond what they know.”

learning + place



what does it mean to be permeable?

**permeability:** the ability “to pass into or through every part of”  
“to penetrate through the pores, spaces, etc., of”  
“to be diffused through; pervade; saturate”  
(Online Etymology Dictionary, 2013)

permeability + place

## summary

“The 2010 Bruges communiqué and Europe 2020 strategy stress that **permeability** is a precondition for having ..... **education** and training systems that encourage **lifelong and life wide learning** (learning that takes place not only in schools, but also at work and in leisure time)”

(European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), 2010).

school + learning + permeability + place

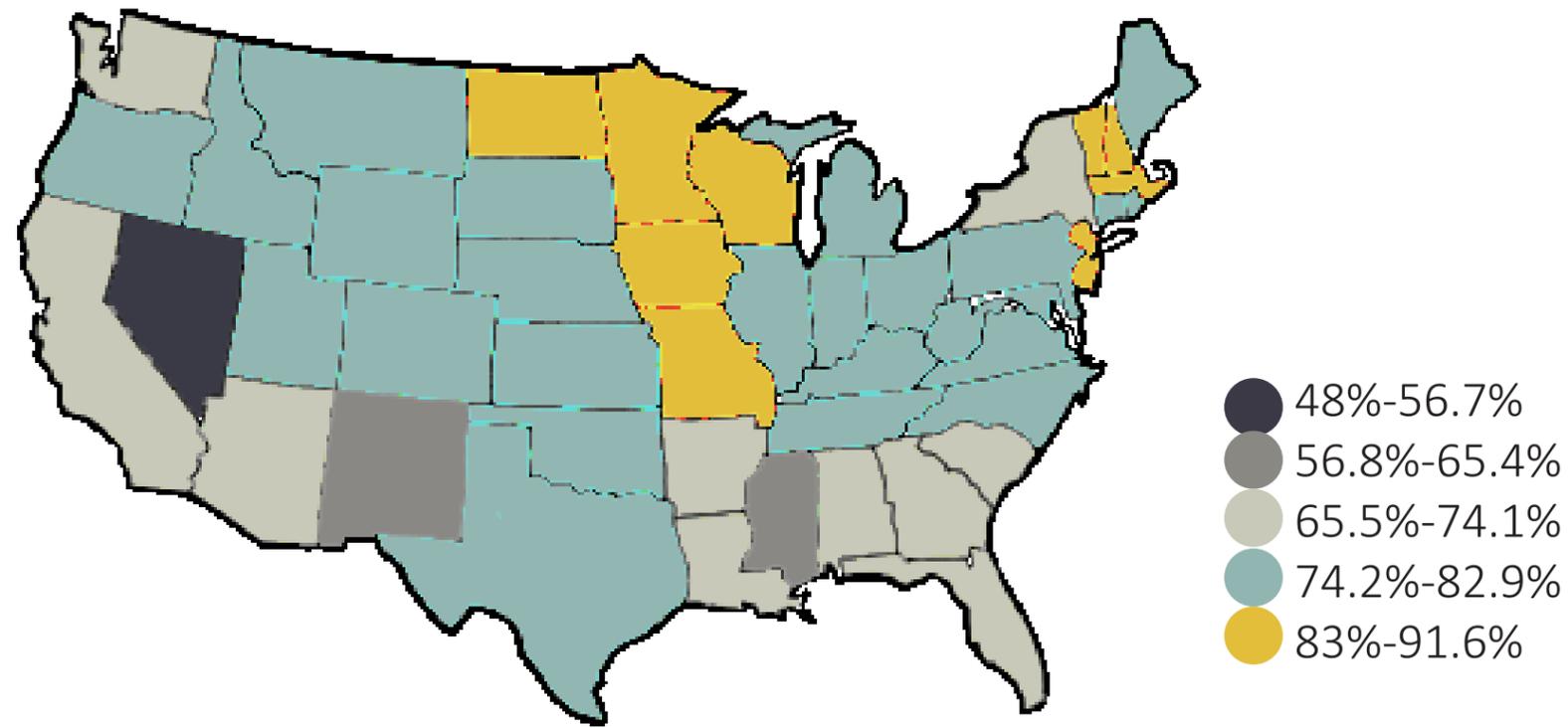
place



- population: 594,833
- largest city in the state of WI
- 30th most populous city in the United States



milwaukee



National graduation rate: **68%-71%**

Minority graduation rate: ~ **50%**

Wisconsin graduation rate: **90%**

Milwaukee graduation rate: **62.8%**

One of the highest achievement gaps in country. Graduation rates in Milwaukee:

**86%** white

**44%** African American

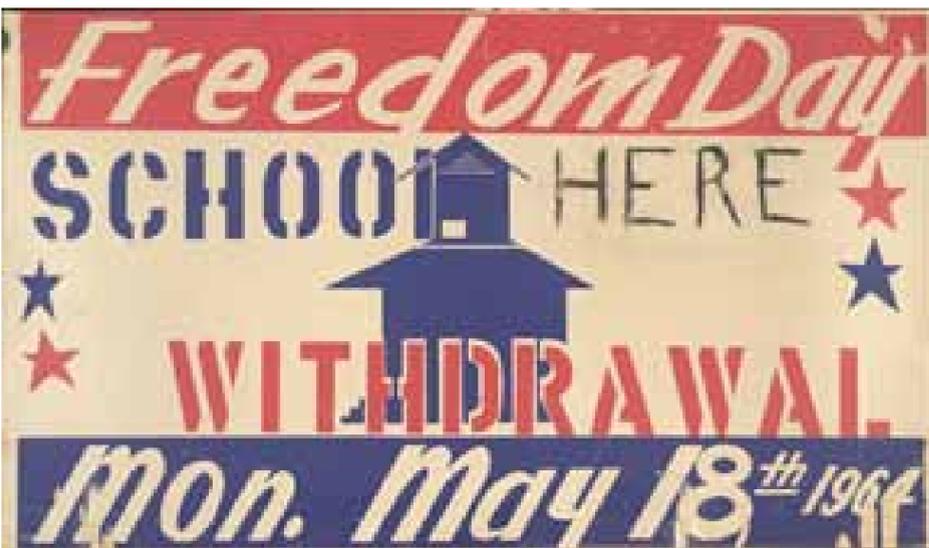
**48%** Hispanic

historical context-education



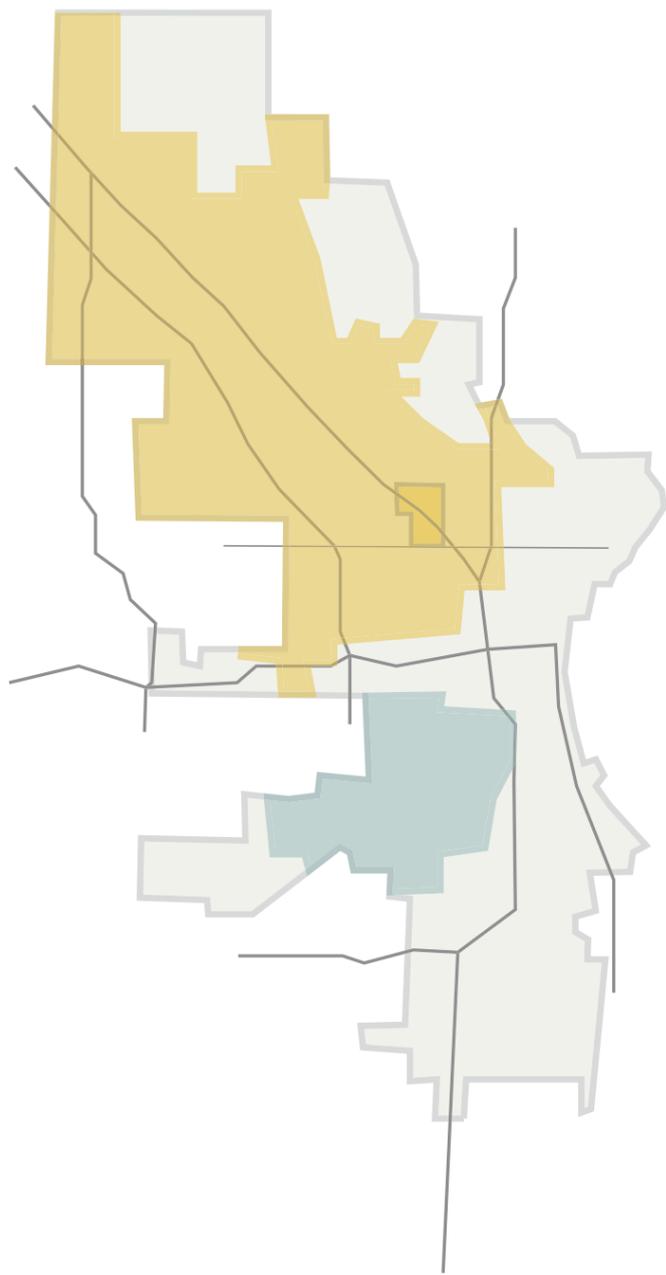
Change in city culture during the 1960s.

Neighborhood segregation and 'neighborhood schools'.



While unintentional, schools and neighborhoods are still vastly segregated by the 16th St Bridge. Neighborhoods on the north side of the bridge are still predominately African American, while the Southern side of the city is predominantly Latino.

education in milwaukee



key

- white
- black
- hispanic

Lack of basic life skills in current education system.  
Struggle between north and south side still persists.

A center that provides for the community's needs, not just another program trying to make the schools work but a school that actually works to bring people together, and has the power to change the future of that community.

education in milwaukee today

design solution

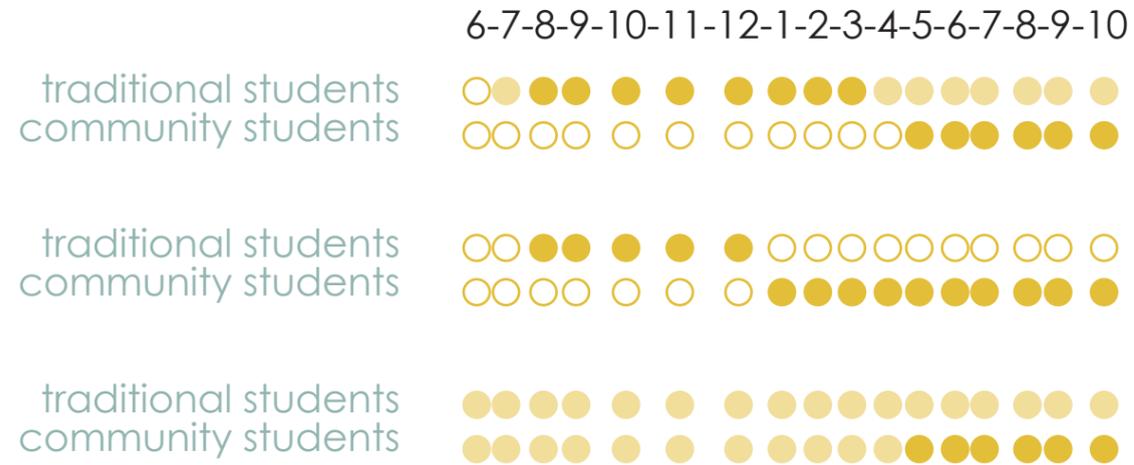
Park West Center for Learning

## life skills education

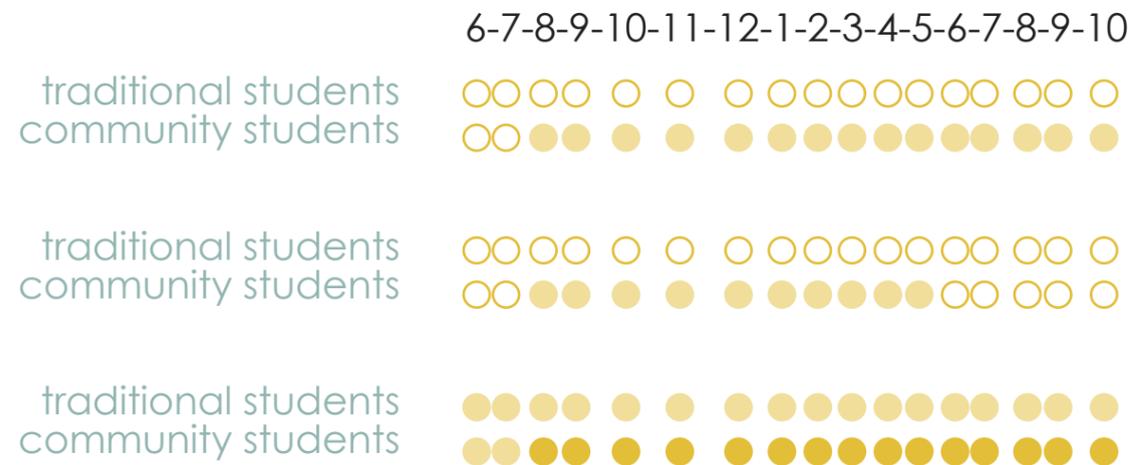
- flexible schedules
- self paced learning
- blended learning centers
- interest based learning
- students looking for an alternative option to traditional school
- a focus on skills for use after graduation:
  - financial literacy
  - culinary skills
  - personal and mental health
  - running a household
  - communication skills

## life skills

## user/spacial analysis- weekday



## user/spacial analysis- weekend



### KEY

- no access
- low use
- high use

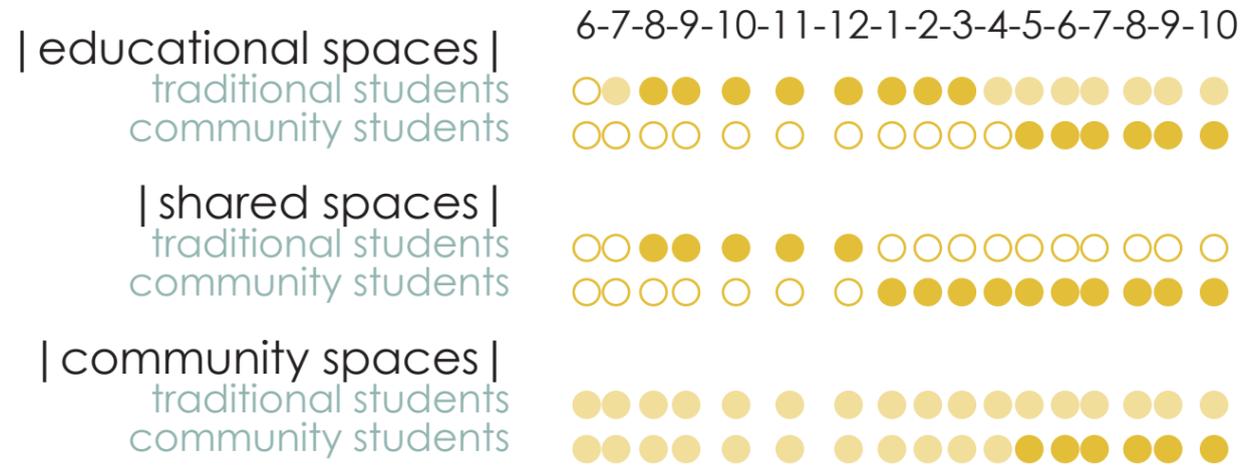
### traditional students

The 'Traditional' Student user group consists of youth in grades 9-12 (roughly 400-600 students).

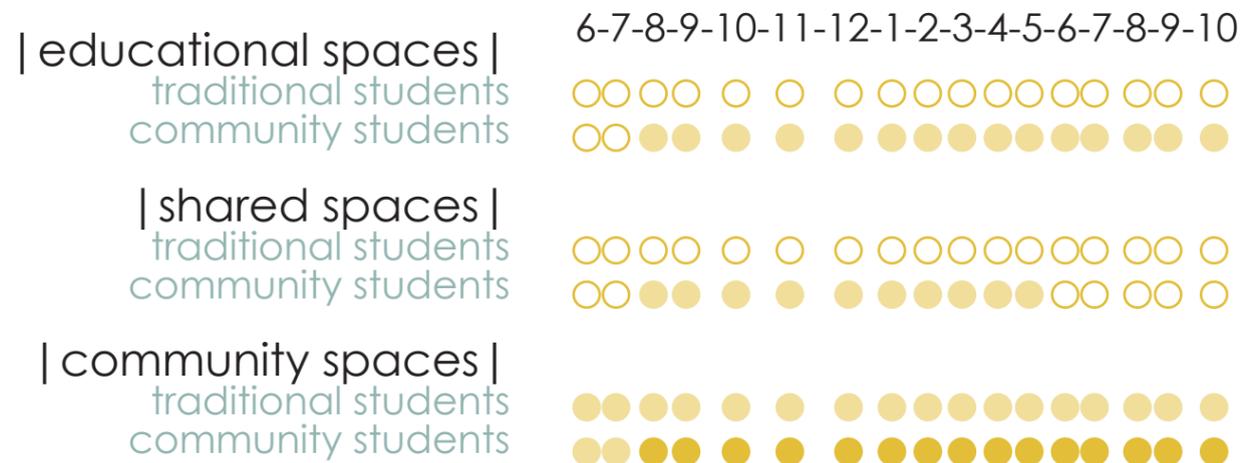
### community students

The Community Student user group consists of youth and adults in the community who have a desire to learn.

## user/spacial analysis- weekday



## user/spacial analysis- weekend



### KEY

- no access
- low use
- high use

### educational spaces

- classrooms
- offices
- breakout spaces
- social commons
- cafeteria
- health services

### community spaces

- classrooms
- offices
- breakout spaces
- social commons
- cafe

### shared spaces

- skills labs
- media center
- community garden
- auditorium
- gymnasium

# major project elements





north



east

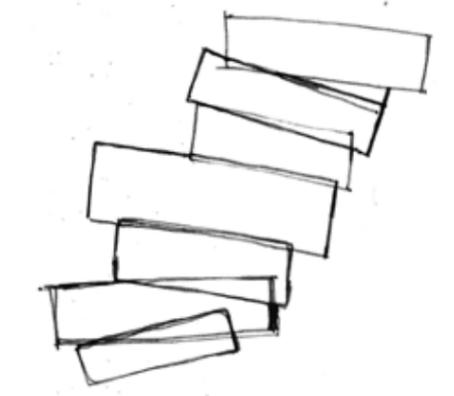
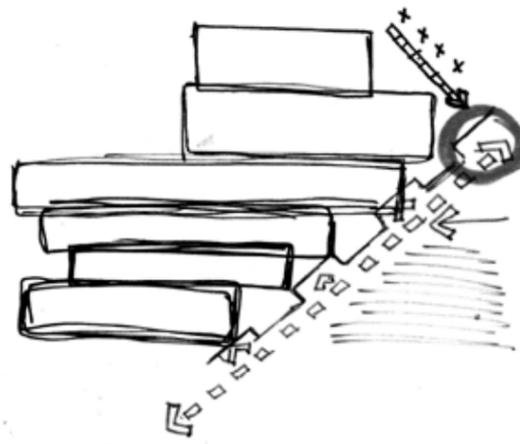
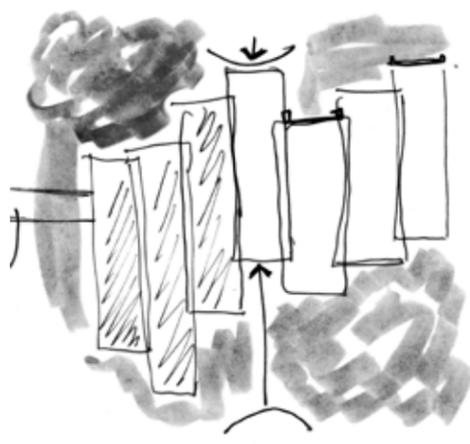
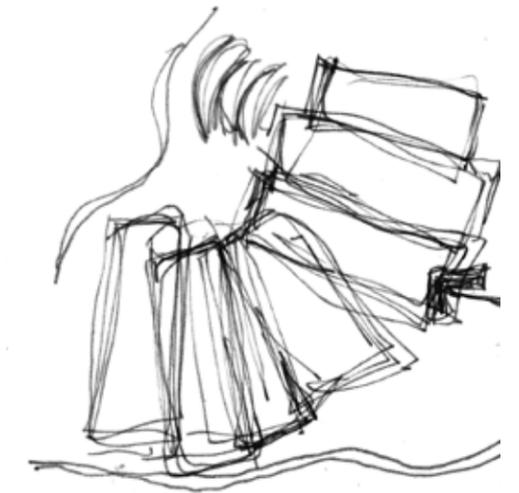
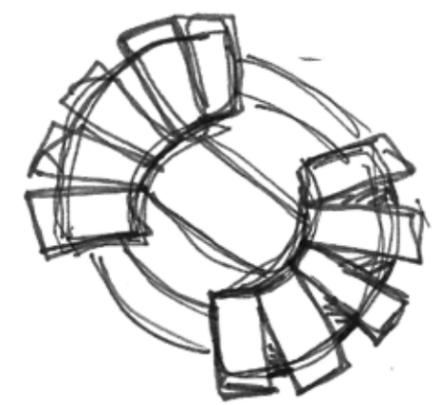
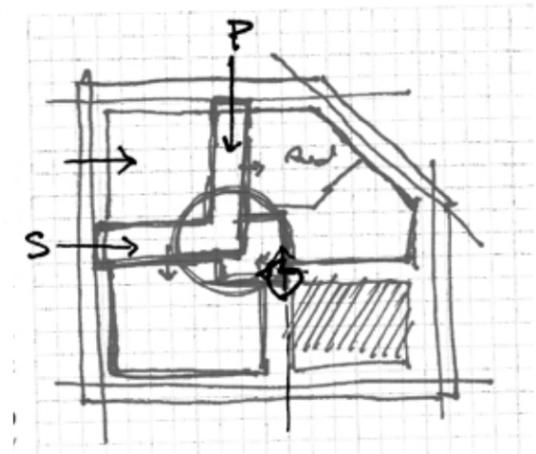
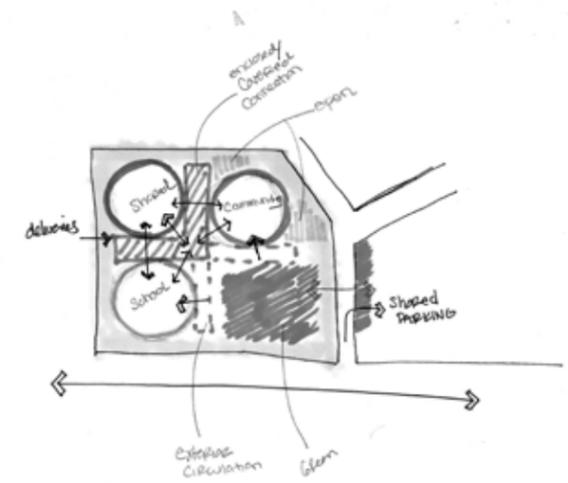
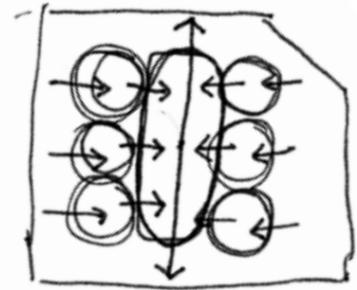
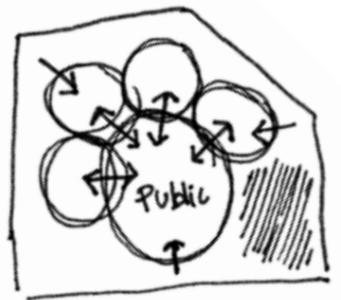
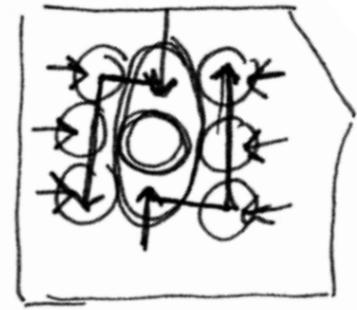
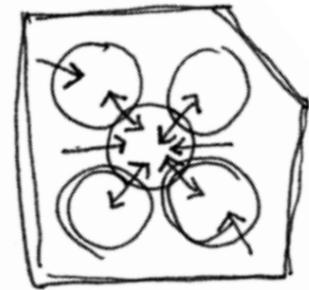
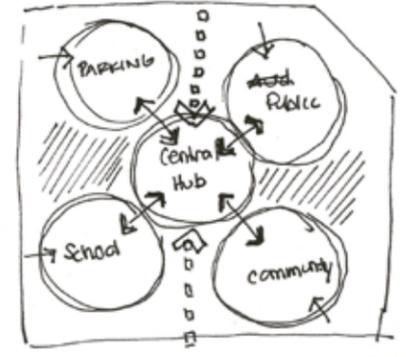
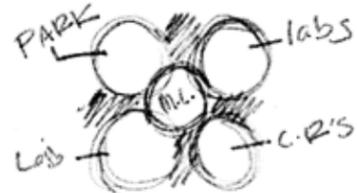
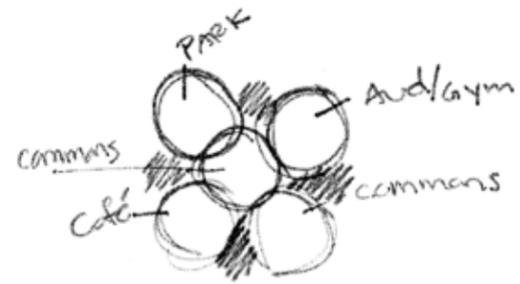


south

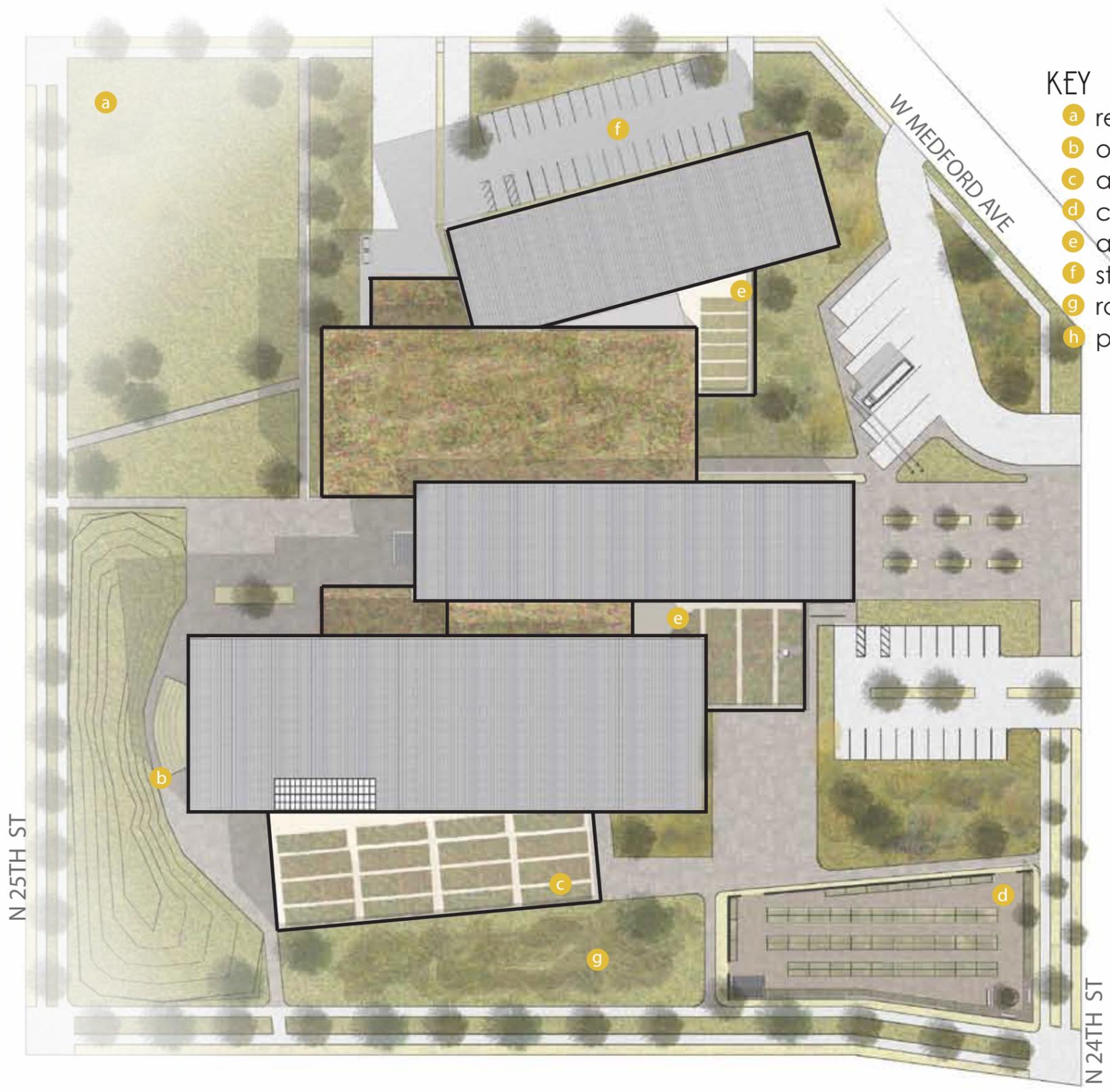
site



west



process



- KEY**
- a** rec field
  - b** outdoor amphitheater
  - c** accessible roof garden
  - d** community garden
  - e** accessible roof
  - f** staff parking
  - g** rain garden
  - h** parking ramp



site plan

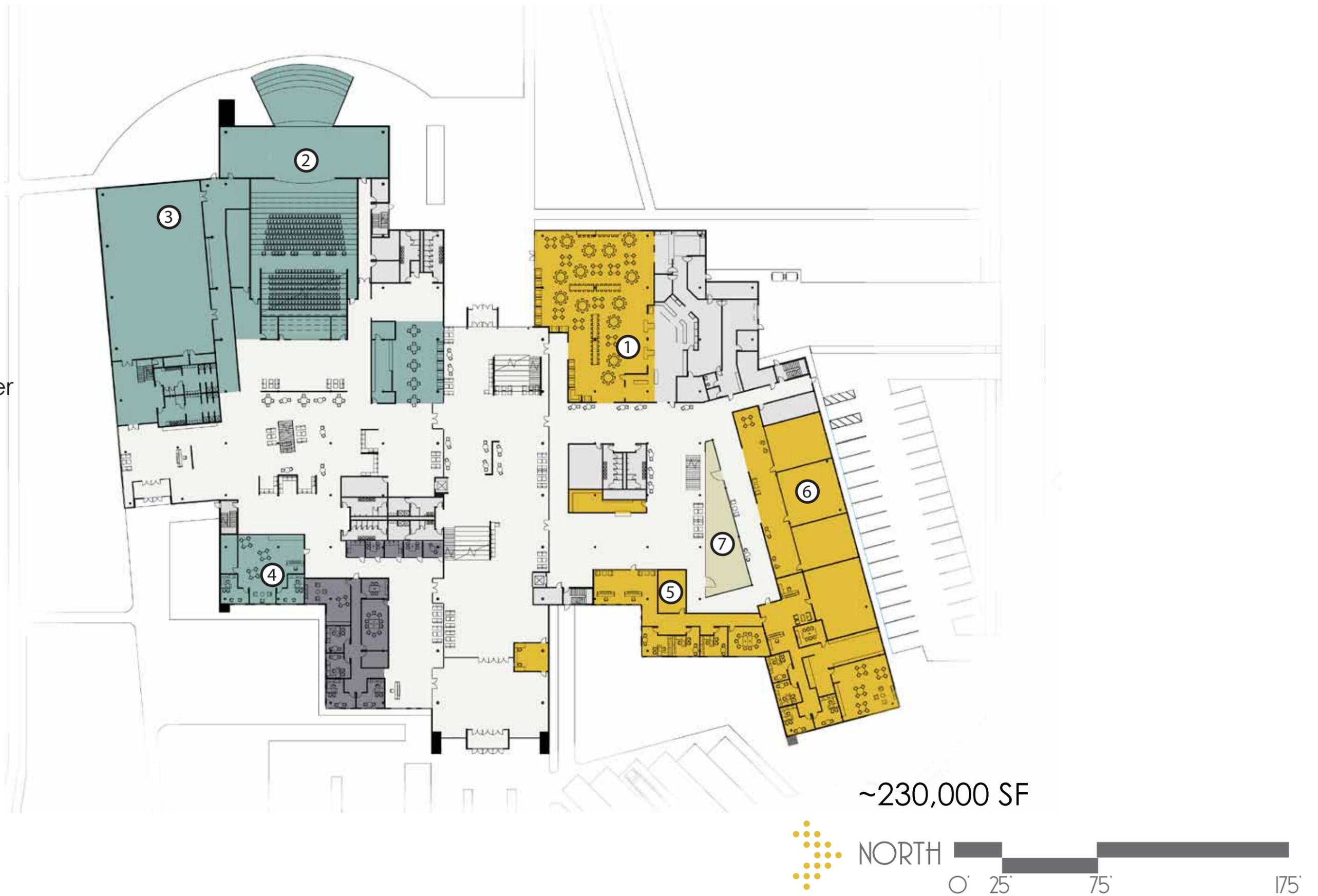


## COLOR KEY

- educational spaces
- community spaces
- shared spaces
- circulation
- service spaces

## 1ST FLOOR

- ① cafeteria
- ② auditorium
- ③ gymnasium
- ④ college/career center
- ⑤ main office
- ⑥ learning space
- ⑦ courtyard



first floor

~230,000 SF

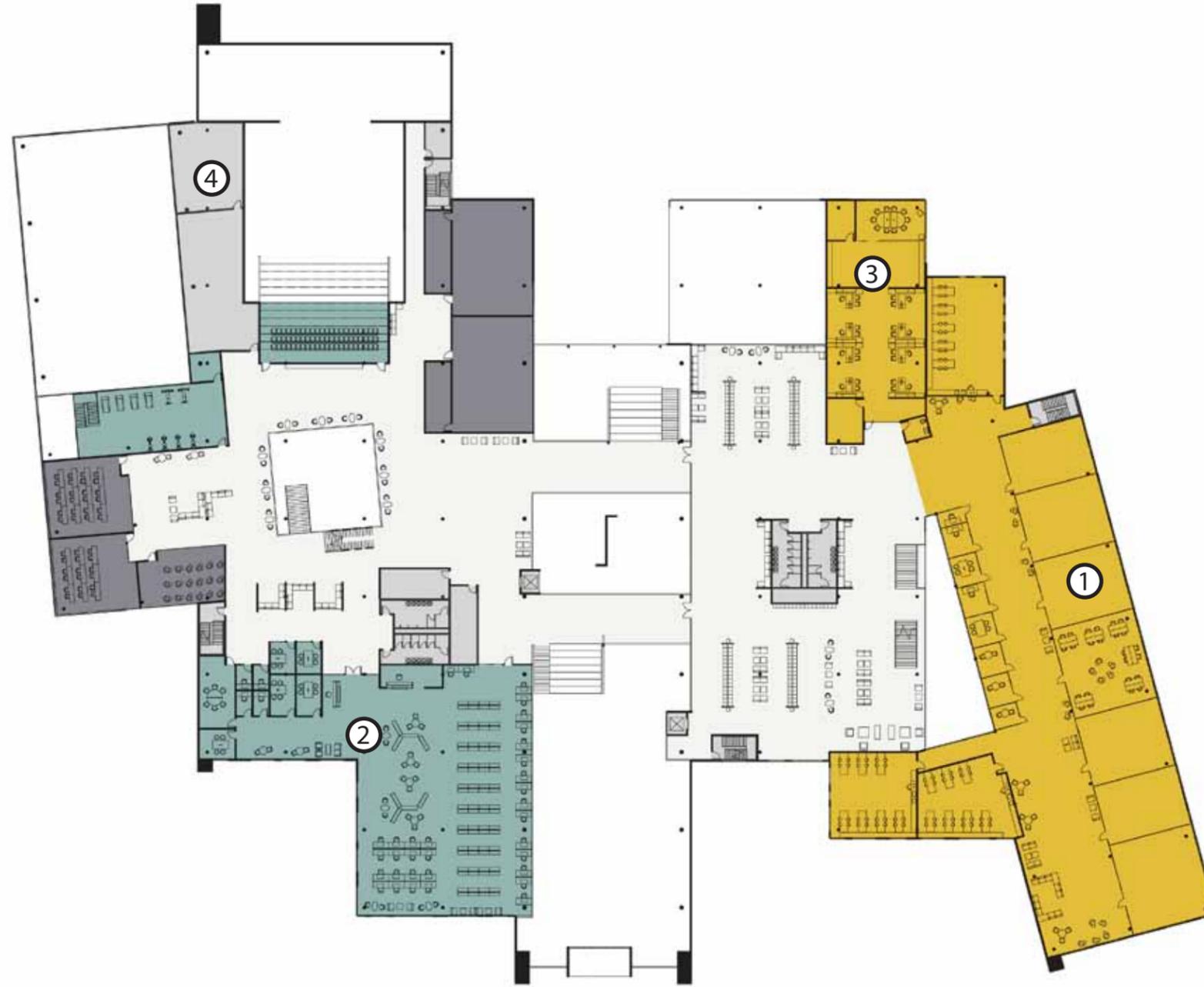


## COLOR KEY

- educational spaces
- community spaces
- shared spaces
- circulation
- service spaces

## 2ND FLOOR

- ① learning space
- ② media center
- ③ staff area
- ④ mechanical



second floor



NORTH

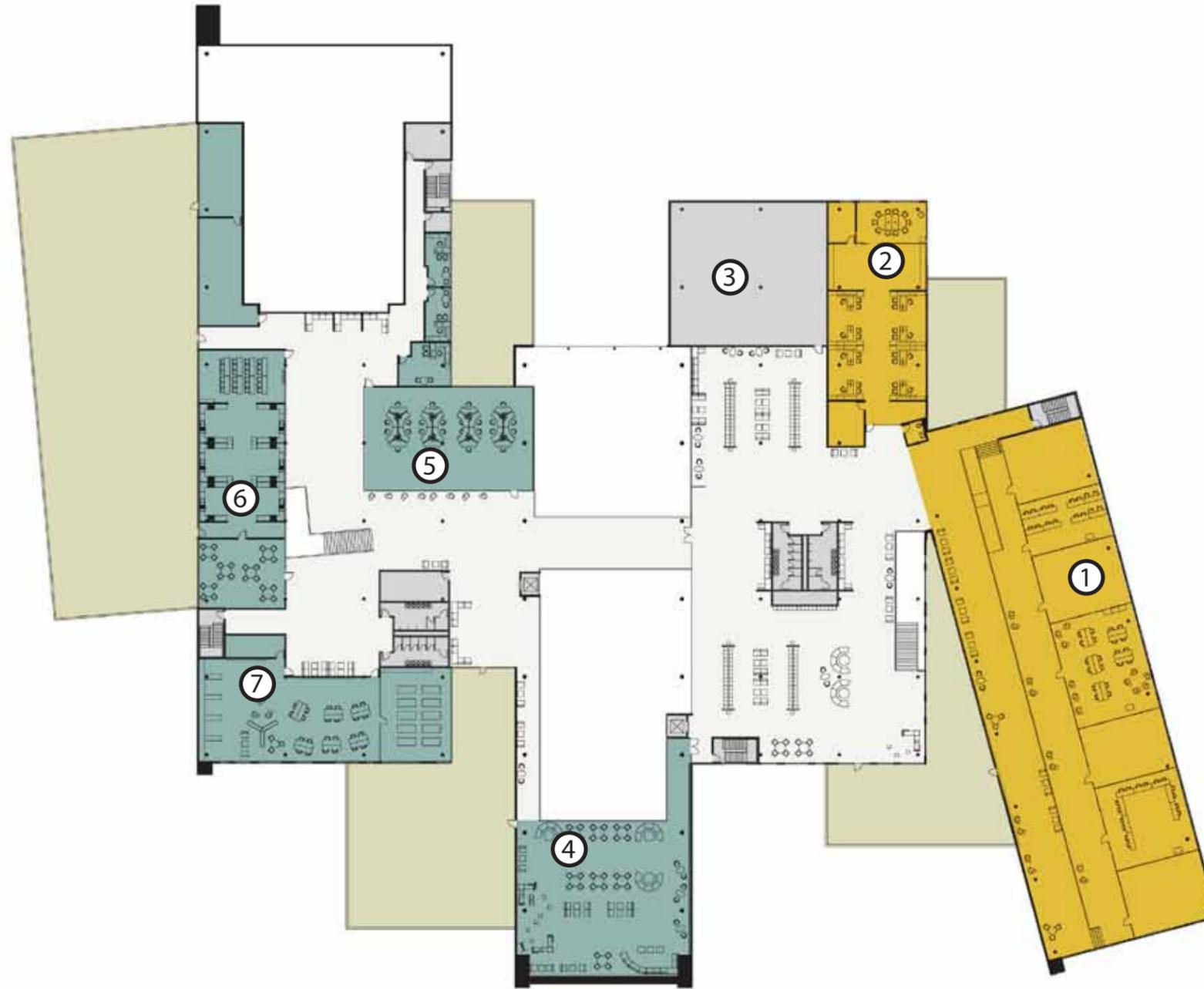


## COLOR KEY

- educational spaces
- community spaces
- shared spaces
- circulation
- service spaces

## 3RD FLOOR

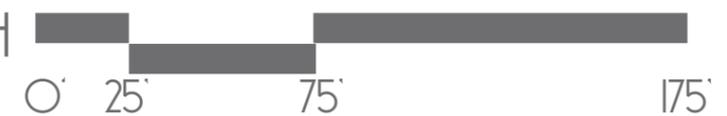
- ① learning space
- ② staff area
- ③ mechanical
- ④ the perch
- ⑤ finance lab
- ⑥ culinary lab
- ⑦ family health lab



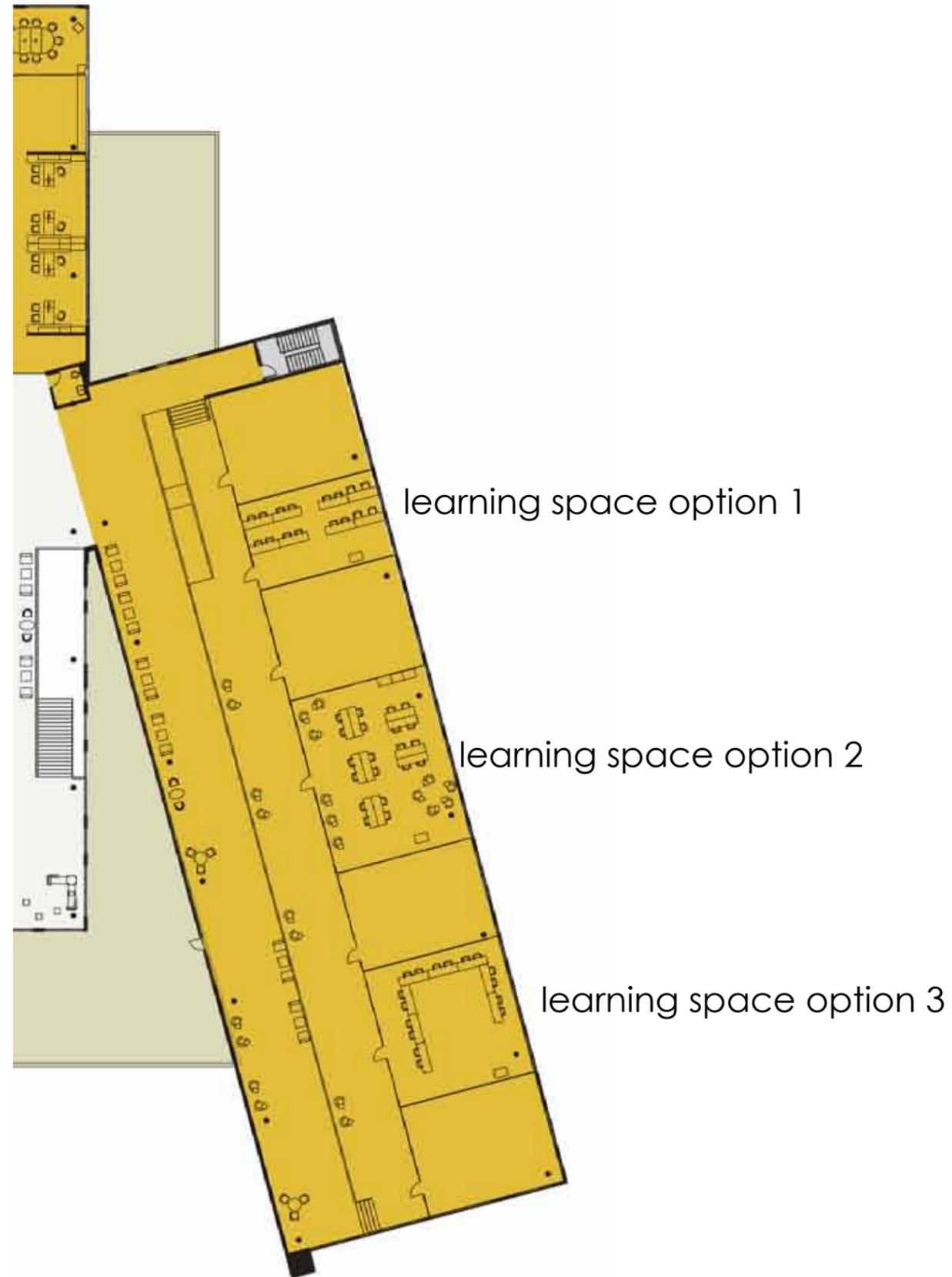
third floor

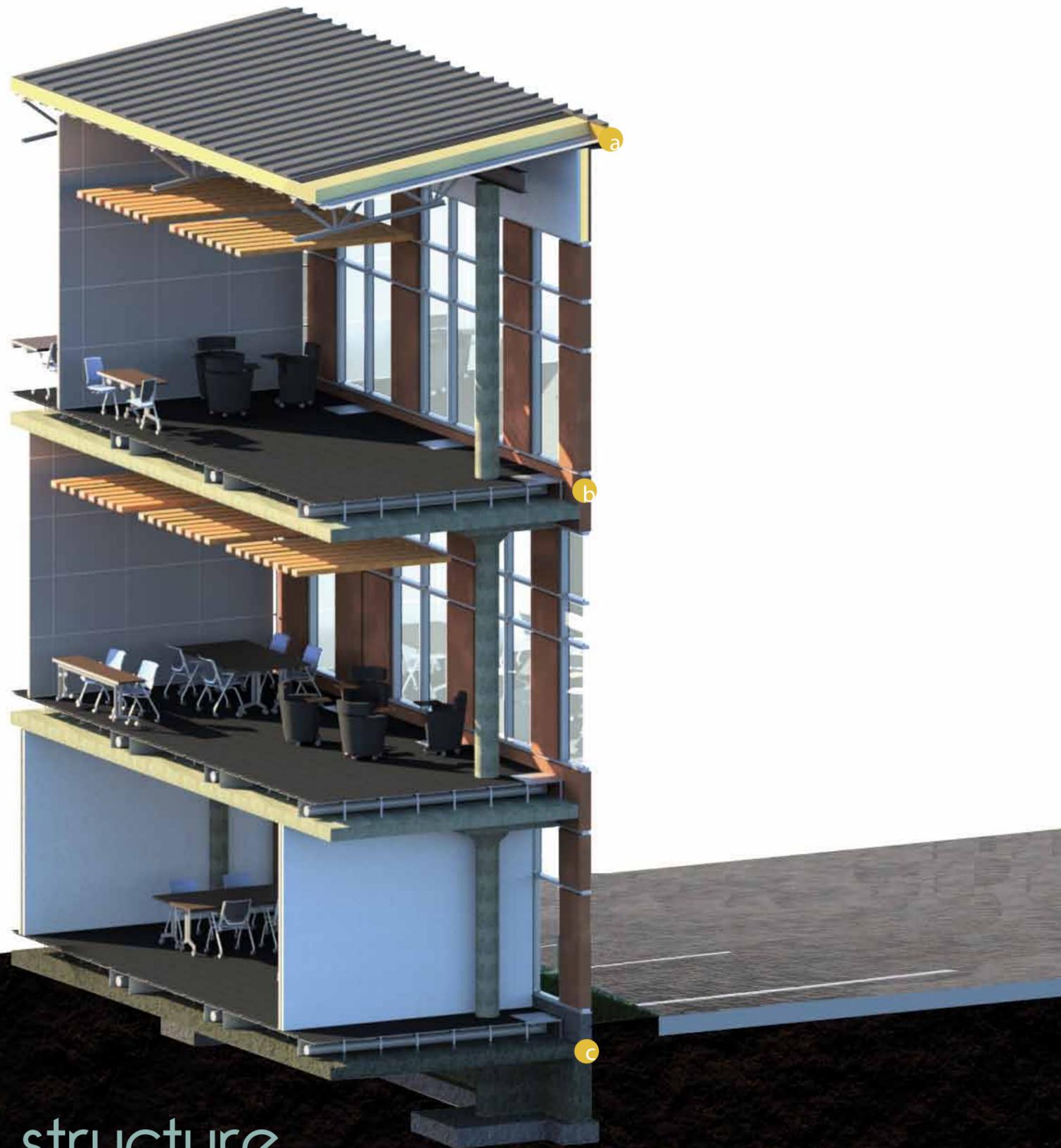


NORTH

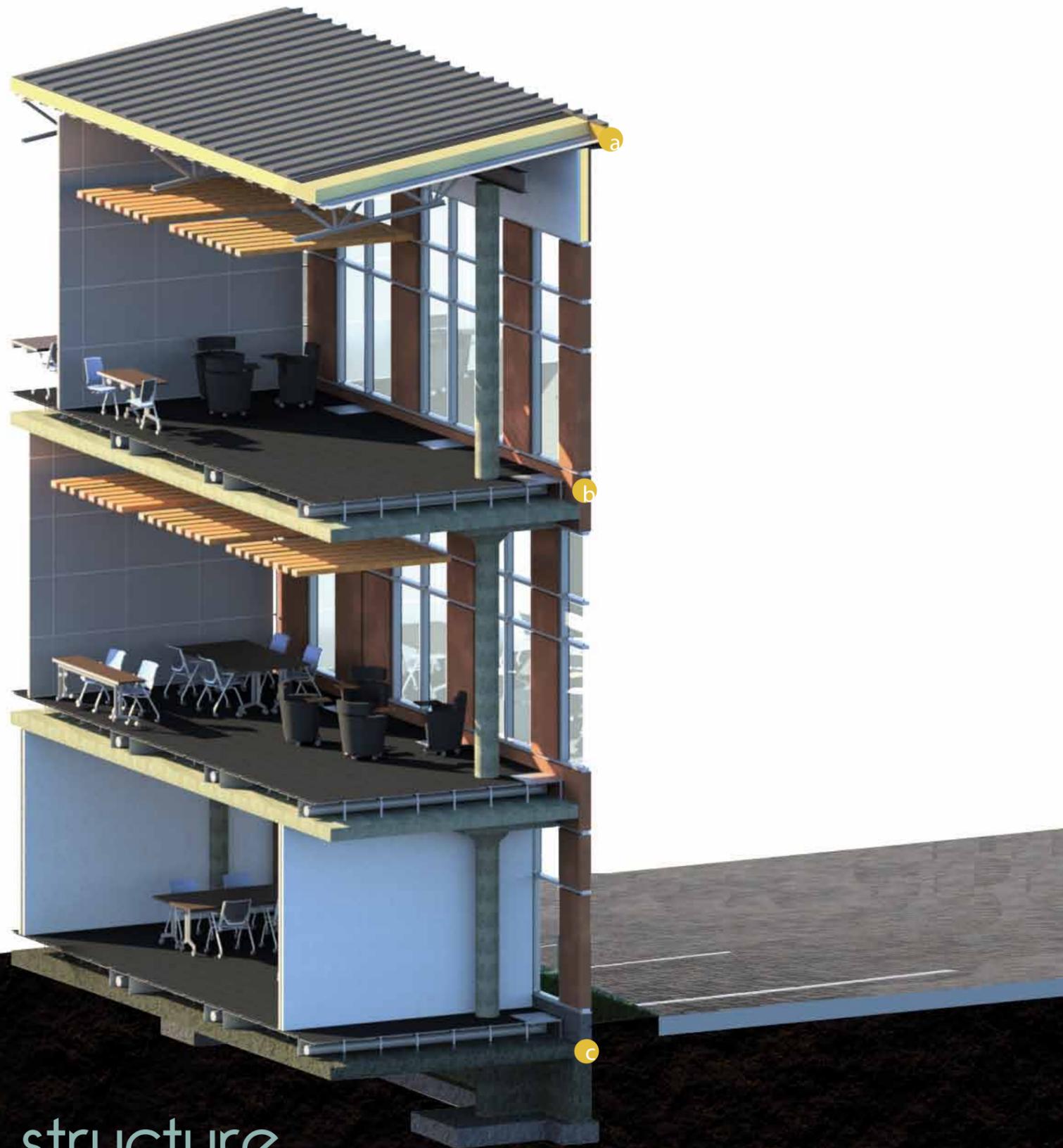


# learning spaces

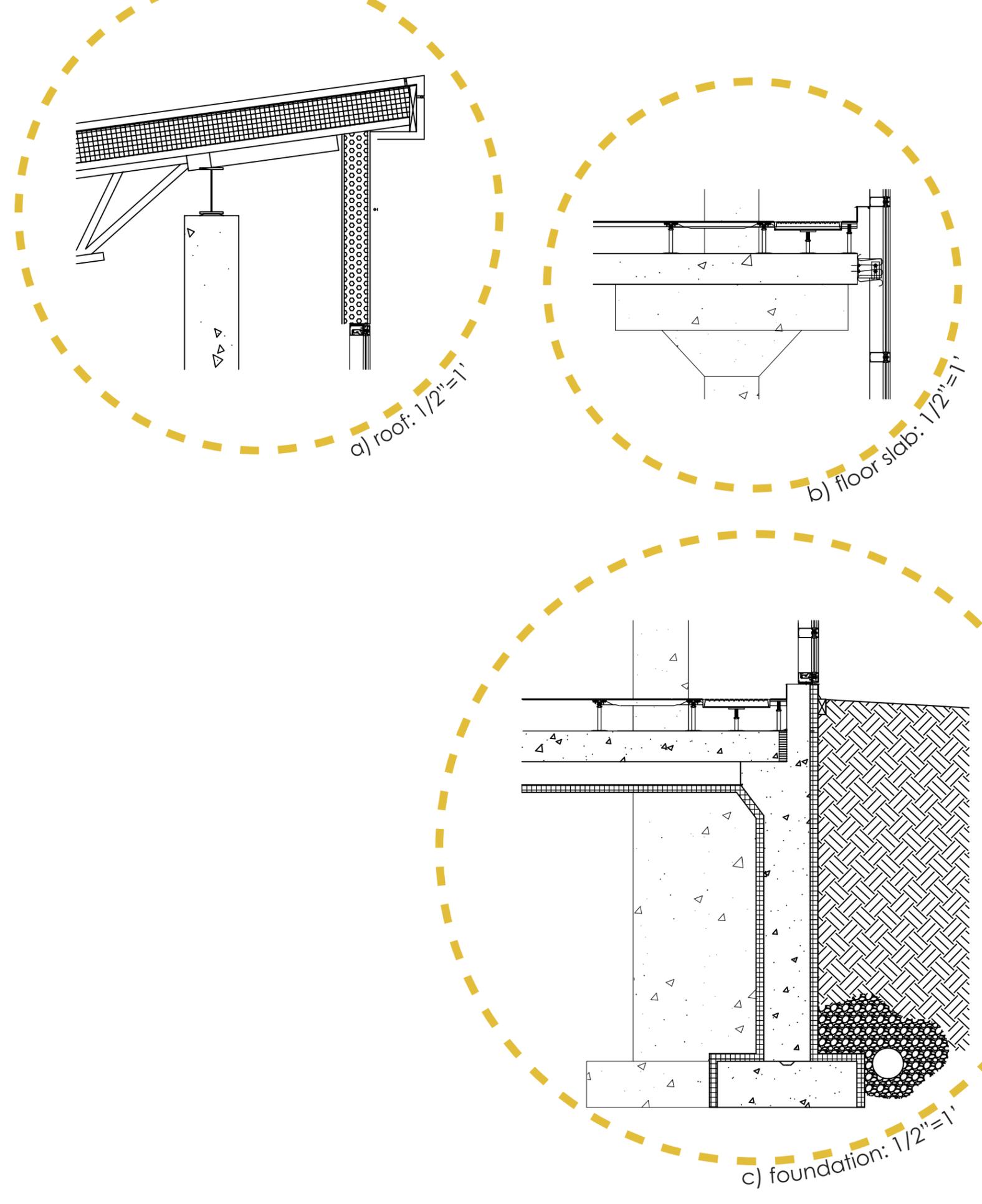




structure

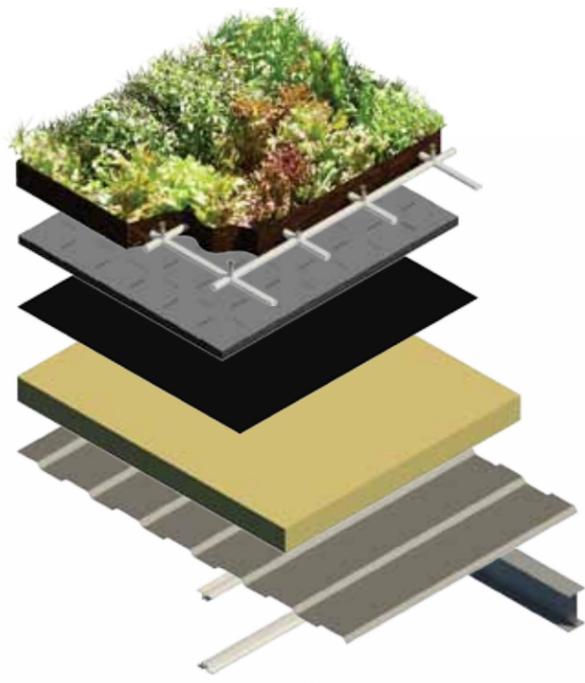


structure





section perspective

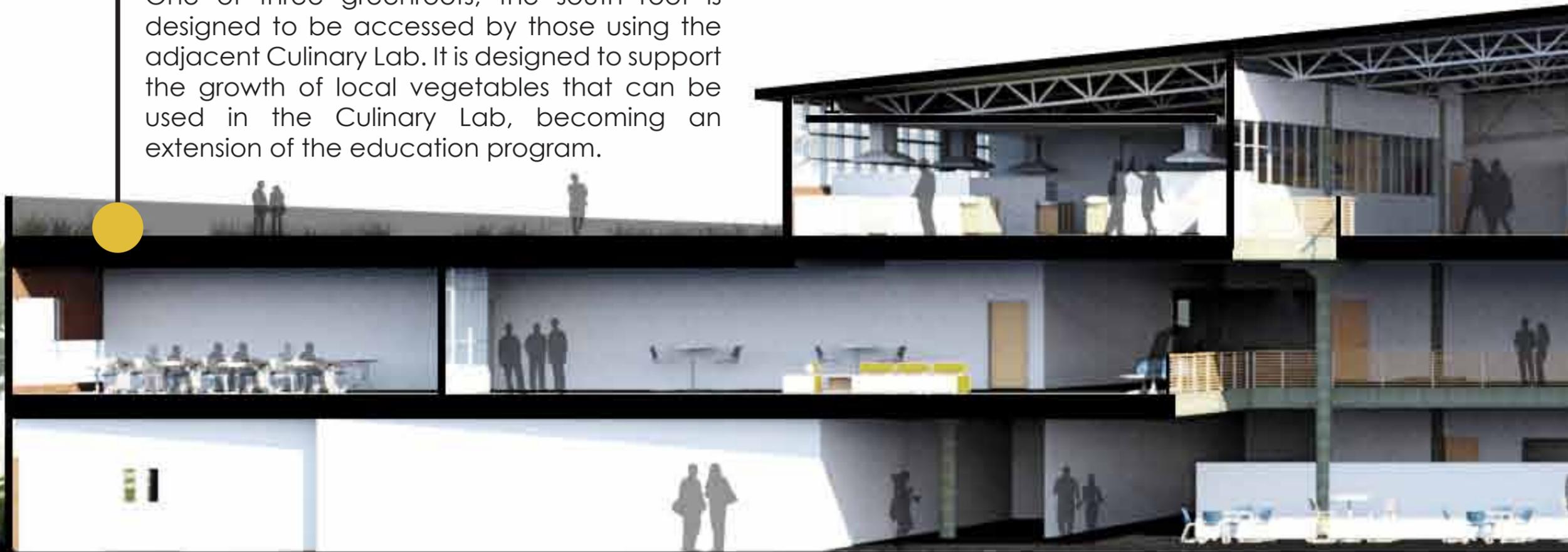


## green roof

One of three greenroofs, the south roof is designed to be accessed by those using the adjacent Culinary Lab. It is designed to support the growth of local vegetables that can be used in the Culinary Lab, becoming an extension of the education program.

## rain garden

The rain garden planted with native plants will help with stormwater management on the site. The space will also serve as a learning tool for students and community members.



section perspective



● natural light

section perspective



## views

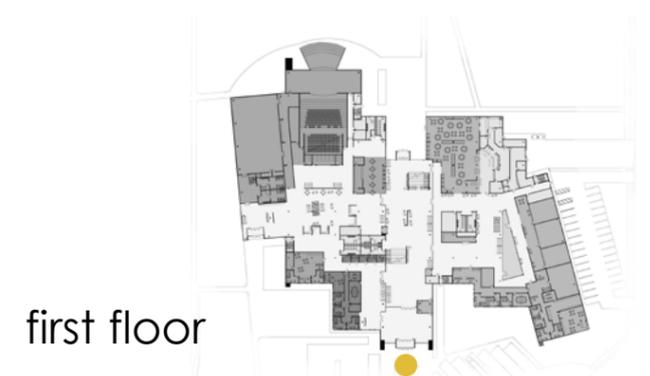
Over 90% of the regularly occupied spaces contain direct views to the outdoors.



section perspective



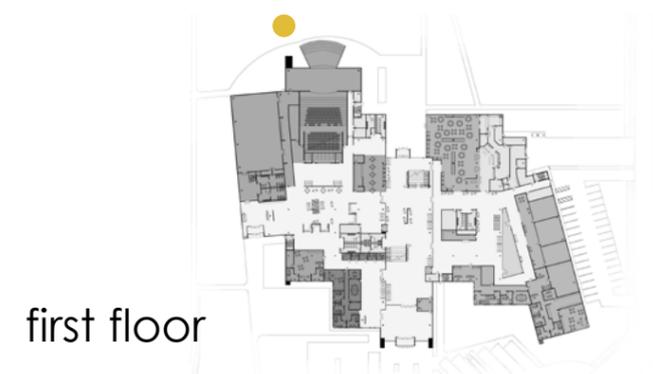
east entry



first floor



amphitheater



first floor



entry

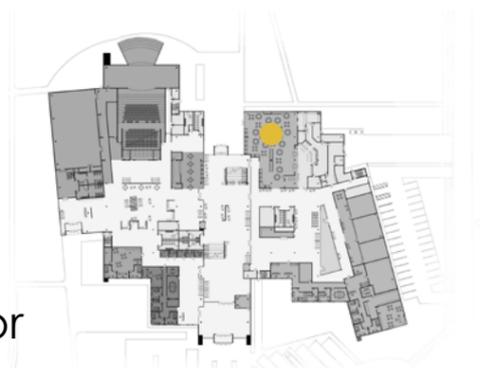
first floor





cafeteria

first floor





lounge

second floor





collaboration

second floor





learning space

second floor





the perch

third floor





# permeable education

.....creating a culture for learning

thank you