On The Living Horse:
The Fargo Equine Hospital & Education Center

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Horses began as near-mythical creatures, something of which ancient people regarded with respect. As time went on, particularly during the industrial revolution, people began to equate horses with machinery. Today, horses are everything from farmhands to racehorses to pets, and new horse technology has revolutionized the world of horse care.

The Fargo Equine Hospital and Education Center is an equine veterinary hospital and learning center which is intended to help the public understand horses and horse health, helping people to take better care of their horses. The philosophy of Hans Geor Gadmer described health as a kind of equilibrium, and that healthcare should be a balancing act between art and science. That act is played out in the building as students, professionals, and enthusiasts learn more about the art and science of horse care.

The project is meant to provide the tools necessary for the project's ND/US horse population, but it is also meant to be a place where people can come to learn and get advice on how to care for their horses. The project is divided into small and large group gatherings as well as clinical and educational work, while outdoor spaces serve small horse training clinics and shows.

The role they [horses] have played in human societies since they were domesticated… has been so crucial that it is no exaggeration to say that the development of nations and cultures would have been quite different had they not existed.

-Catherine Johns

The building's structure frames the activities inside. Similarly, horse equipment - called tack - helps riders teach horses to move in a good frame - the posture which is most effective for horses carrying a rider. Good building structure provides a safe, effective frame for building use, while good riding form provides for healthy, beautiful equine movement.