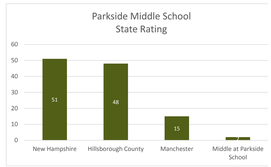
Manchester Tutoring Center

A Stimulating Learning Environment

Socrates said it best "Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel." (Meyerhoff) When stimulating the brain and its creativity in learning one needs to focus not on how to drive information in, but instead excite and inspire. The premise for this thesis is in focusing on the topic of space and how it can encourage creativity and advance a person in their learning pursuits. In doing this, one must look at different aspects of space such as acoustics, natural light, spatial organization, and the movement through the space.

The design of this thesis is a Tutoring Center set in Manchester, NH, a city with some of the lowest test scores in the state of New Hampshire. The main element of my design is the atrium space in the heart of the building that brings the students together and creates an environment of shared knowledge and techniques in learning. Students from grade K-8 with the different intelligences of linguistic, logical-mathematical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, musical, interpersonal, intrapersonal, naturalist should all find accommodations in this tutoring center to help them learn in their preferred manner.



Parkside Middle School and Gossler Park Elementary School have some of the lowest tests scores in the city of Manchester and are located in the neighborhood of my site.

The building is placed on an unused park in the east part of the city a couple blocks from the Merrimack River. The park is located well in the community, with a mix of single family housing and a large hospital boarding its site, but lacks interest to draw people into its space. So along with the Tutoring Center, the remaining site will be redesigned into a park more suitable for the neighborhood and Tutoring Center; giving the children, as well as families and those working in the nearby hospital, a place to both play and relax.

Existing Site Photos

1

The existing park is filled with large trees on the north side of the site perfect for the new park. It also leaves an open site for the building placement.

2

The neighborhood is filled with single family homes, perfect for people to walk to the site.

3

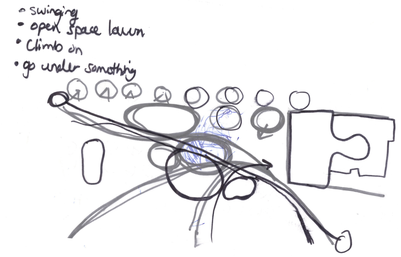
A main problem with the current park is the lack of interest in drawing people in. This light-post is the current parks center focus and personally I think it is lacking in appeal.

4

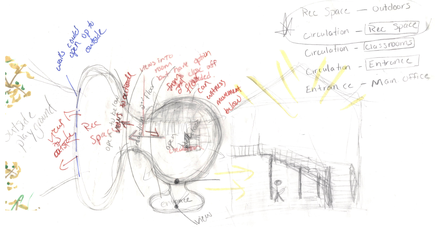
The catholic school across the street has a beautiful church connected with its site that serves as a viewpoint and icon for the neighborhood.

Process Work

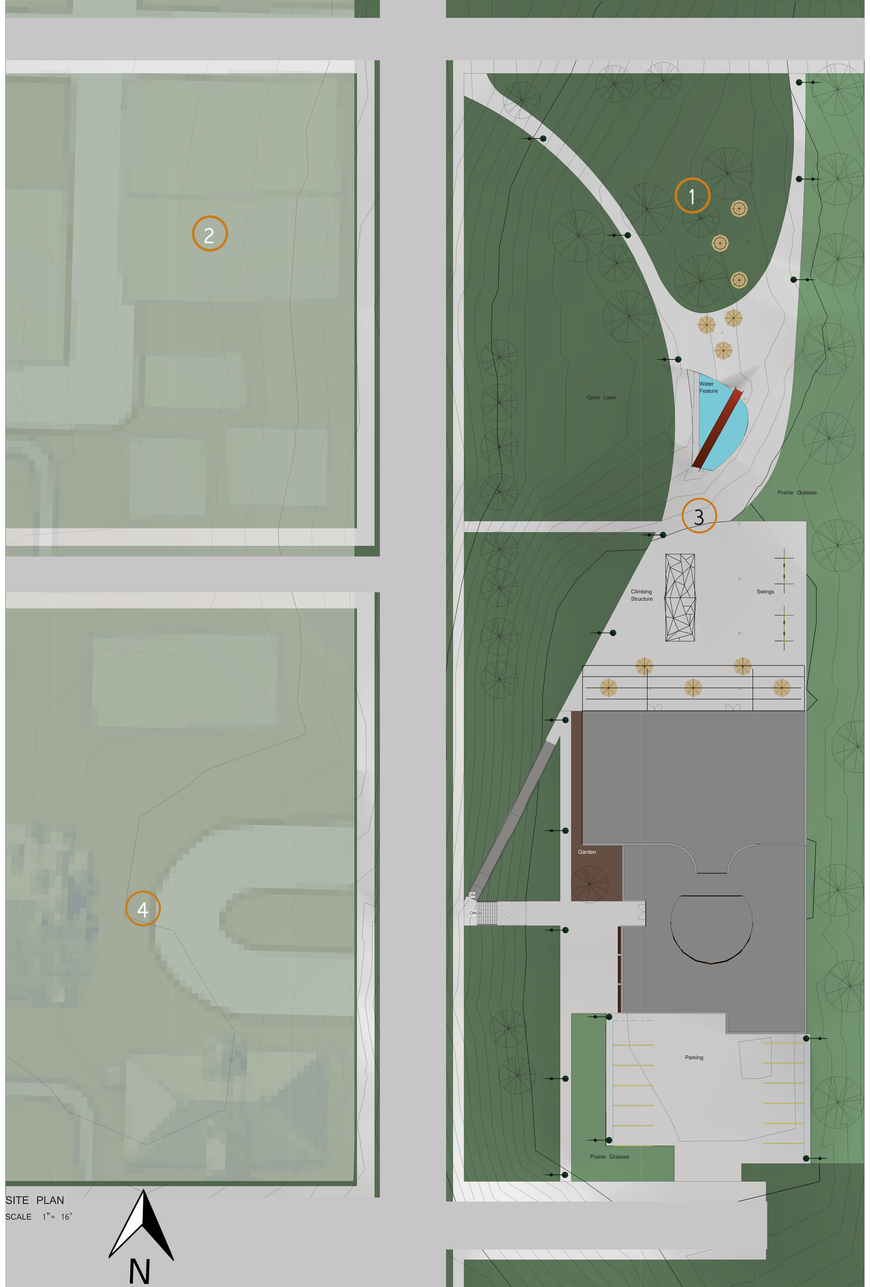
Socrates said it best
"Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel."



Process Park Sketch
Collaborated with Landscape Architect student, Jordan Gedrose



Studying Spatial Connections in Building



Furniture

The Smith System Flavor Chair lets the student move side to side and backward. They can also sit on the chair forward, sidewards or backwards comfortably. Utilizing systems like this gives students better outlets for energy and enhances health.

The Smith System UXL Crescent Table is ideal for the tutoring center because it offers a wide range of options for students. They can work alone at the tables, or pair up at them. The table shape is also designed to be arrange into a group setting and along a curvy line for viewing purposes.

A ENTRANCE VIEW

C CLASSROOM VIEW

E HOME EC/LOUNGE VIEW

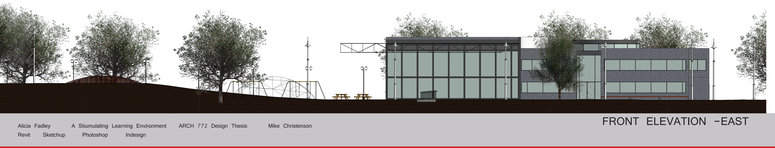
F ART STUDIO VIEW

B ATRIUM VIEW

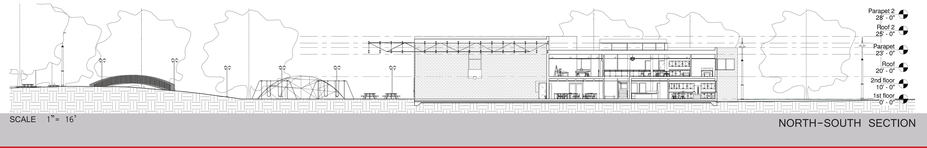
D 2ND FLOOR ATRIUM VIEW

G GYMNASIUM VIEW

H PARK VIEW

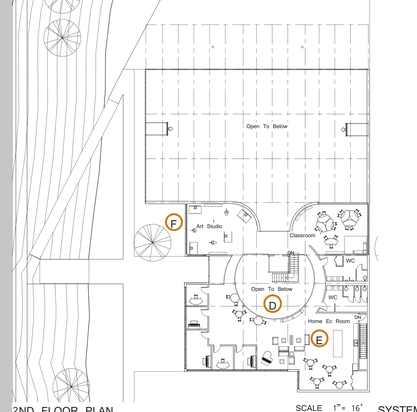


FRONT ELEVATION -EAST



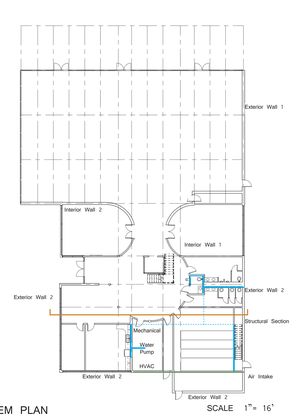
SCALE 1"= 16'

NORTH-SOUTH SECTION



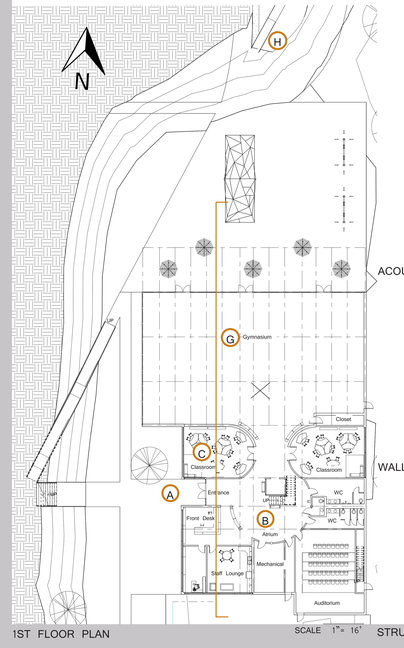
2ND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1"= 16'



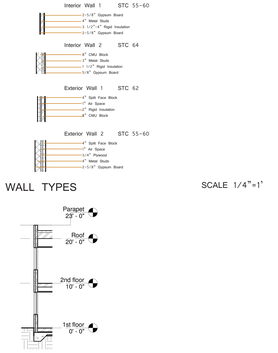
SYSTEM PLAN

SCALE 1"= 16'



1ST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1"= 16'

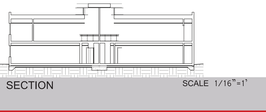


ACOUSTIC WALL TYPES

SCALE 1/4"=1'

WALL SECTION

SCALE 1/8"=1'



STRUCTURAL SECTION

SCALE 1/16"=1'

Alicia Fadley A Stumulating Learning Environment ARCH 772 Design Thesis Mike Christenson
Revit Sketchup Photoshop Indesign

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