The traditional model of school design is the single-loaded corridor. Spaces are separated and divided by a long narrow hallway. There is limited interaction and collaboration. This organization was modeled after Ford’s assembly line.

The model to the right has modified the traditional model and has organized the spaces around a collaborative area. Increased interaction among peers and those of other ages has been found to have a profound impact on the learning environment.

This final model represents the model used for this solution. By organizing the learning spaces on a radius around the collaborative area, circulation is decreased and there is more overlap amongst classrooms. By placing all the learning spaces with southern exposure, daylighting has been maximized in the spaces utilized most.
Integration of Urban Agriculture into the Modern Elementary Education Curriculum

What if we could create social change with the schools we build? What if we could build these schools with local partners, and not so deep into our tax payers wallets? Schools have been built largely the with the same models for over 100 years. These models are outdated and lack creative thinking.

Schools are expensive projects, but they serve a very important population. By looking for strategic local partners, we can build better schools that target local challenges.

This school partners with local food corporations of the Minneapolis area to build a school incorporating the growing, harvesting and preparation of food into the curriculum. This solution creates great new hands on lesson opportunities and fosters stewardship.

As a by-product of this immersion program the children of the school will benefit from the fresh produce that they may not be offered at home. Similar to a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) distribution, the students will bring home produce to share with their families on a regular basis. The goal of this school is to reach beyond the buildings boundaries.

The goal of this project is not only to show one specific model and solution, but to illustrate the potential in any community to face any issue when looking at what local partners are there to help.
Integration of Urban Agriculture into the Modern Elementary Education Curriculum

ARCH 772 Design Thesis

Ryan Gram
Advisor: Ganapathy Mahalingham

Software Utilization: Revit, Autocad, Sketchup, Maxwell, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign