

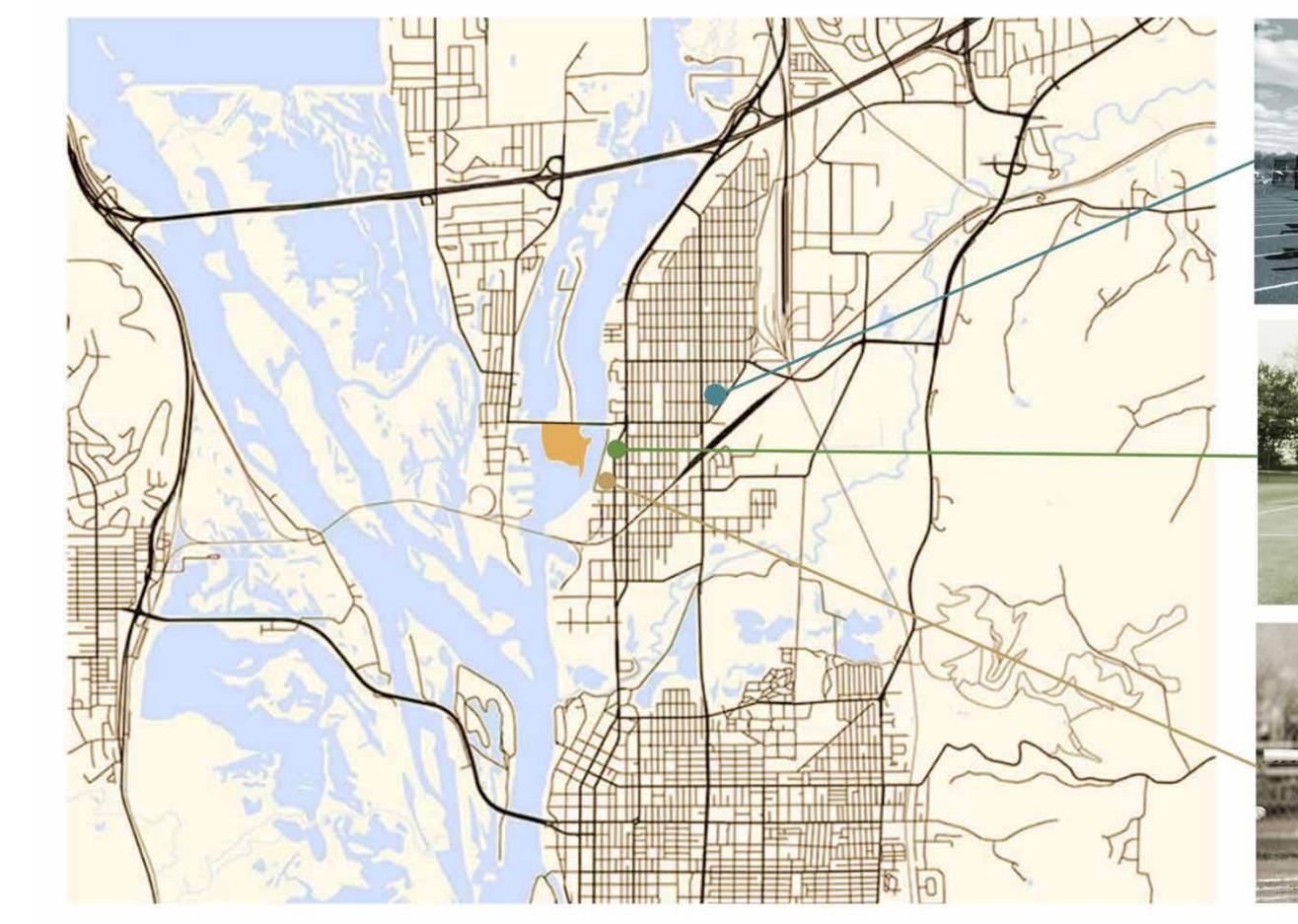


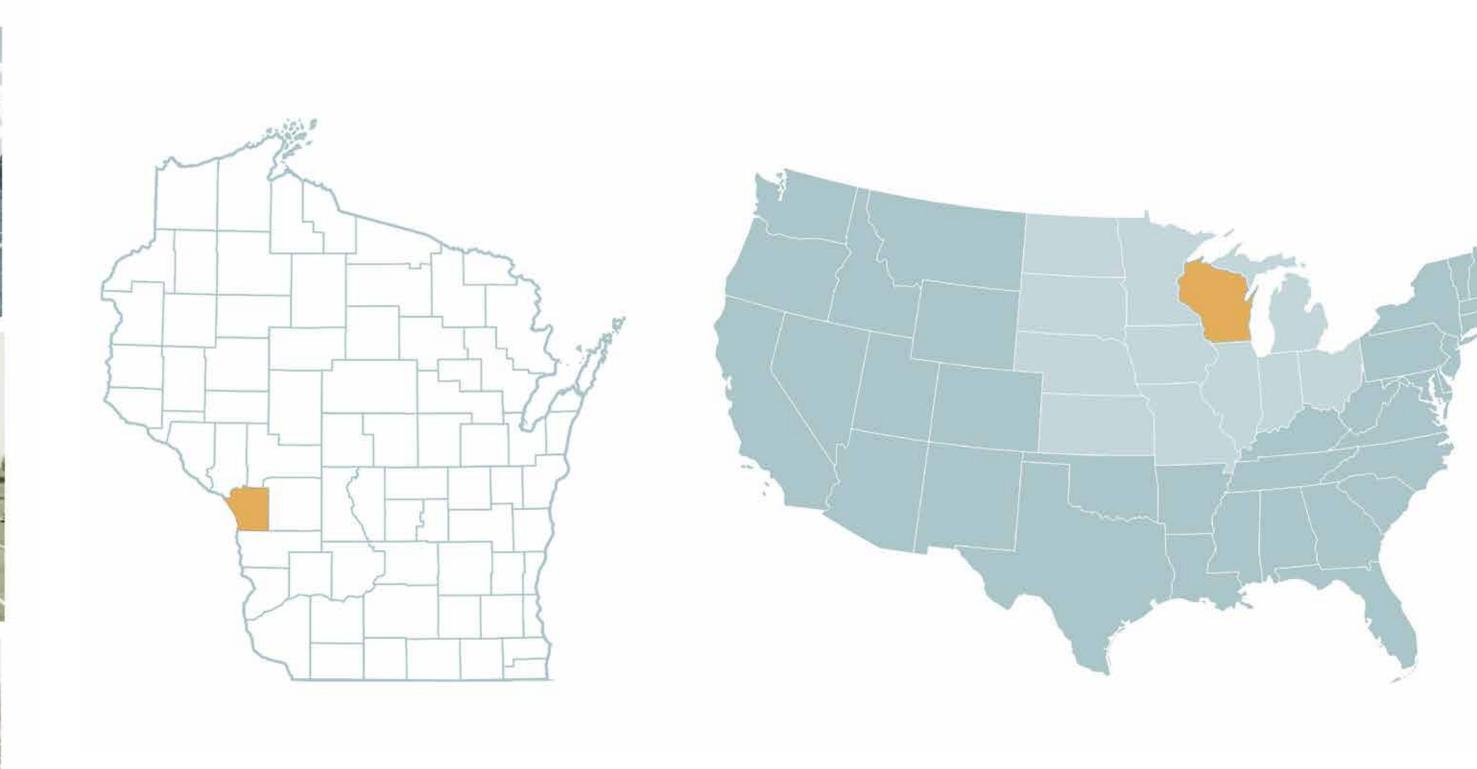
EMPOWERING YOUTH: THE POTENTIAL OF ATHLETICS



The influence of sports in modern society cannot be overstated. Not only are they a pastime, but they offer role models, money, and a chance at glory. For children, athletics can be a powerful tool in developing character and teaching valuable life lessons. However, society's attitude toward sports has shifted less from teaching youth and more towards entertaining parents. Kids today face enormous pressure of performing to the expectations they perceive from family, friends, and spectators, all while accepting that only the talented will receive society's recognition. This project seeks to use architecture to acknowledge the value of the athlete as a person, not just the records they set.

Beauty in architecture affirms the dignity and value of those who interact with the space; it's affirmation for the skilled athlete as well as the one just participating for fun. My thesis is all about encouraging the athlete's sense of self and connecting them to coaches, to parents, and to teammates. The building is designed to create a safe learning environment that focuses on character growth before technical skill by incorporating space to gather as well as compete. This intentional design will create an environment where relationships are fostered, inspiring and empowering the next generation.

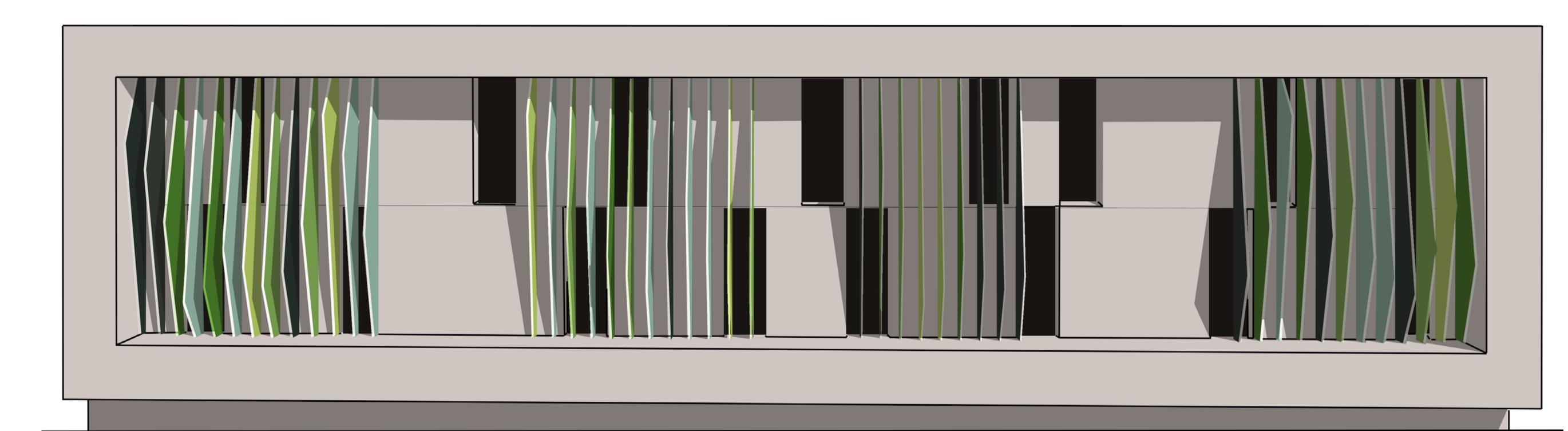




Site: La Crosse, Wisconsin

La Crosse, Wisconsin was an ideal site for a variety of reasons. To start, it exists at the intersection of two interstate highways and is less than two hours from Minneapolis and Eau Claire. There are also three universities in the city, which could potential provide opportunities for partnerships with college sports programs.

The specific site is located on an island on the Black River on the north side of town. The site is conveniently less than a mile from a track, softball field, and tennis courts that are open to the public.



One of the challenges of designing for sports is the lighting system. Direct sunlight can cause glare, which can be a major problem for athletes competing indoors, but lack of natural lighting gives the space an isolated, one dimensional atmosphere, as well as raising energy costs. This complex incorporates natural light by installing glazing on the north side of the building, as well as utilizing a system of vertical shading devices to further diffuse the light. These aluminum fins became a major element in the design, as both a functional shading system and a creative way to incorporate color and character. The panels run directly along the north edge of the fieldhouse, parts of the gymnasium and academic wing, and the south side of the dormitories (shown above).

Plan Key

- 1. Fitness Center
- 2. Gymnasium
- 3. Mechanical/Storage
- 4. Athletic Training
- 5. Locker Room
- 6. Multipurose Space
- 7. Servery
- 8. Food Services
- 9. Dormitories 10. Academic/Administration
- 11. Athlete Commons
- 12. Mezzanine 13. Roof Garden
- 14. Fieldhouse

