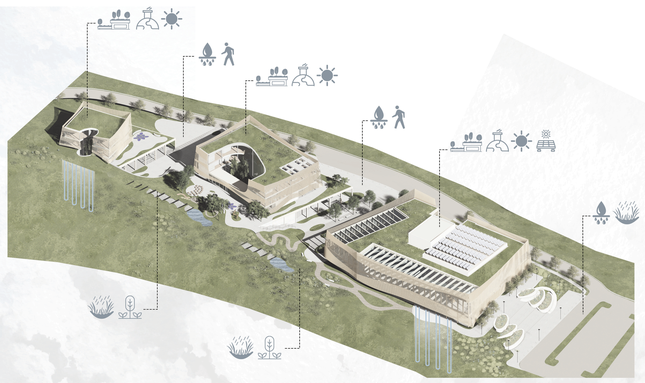
ELYSIAN

INSPIRE LEARN CREATE

The child, a creature of uninhibited curiosity that can take on the world without fear of being contradicted, punished, or wrong. As children age, they are siphoned through an educational system that drains their creative spirit by placing artistic endeavors on the bottom of the disciplinary hierarchy. Consequently, the ability to think critically and originally is educated out of them; and thus, the once open-minded, uninhibited child does not have the skills to be creative. Education in the arts at a young age is also proven to enhance cultural exposure, social harmony, emotional expression, resilience and empathy; key underpinnings of a healthy society.

This thesis proposes a magnet school that will be a sanctuary for the practice of arts and the process of creativity to prepare children to address global issues of our times creatively and with humanity. Designed to inspire children to be curious and housing spaces for holistic education with platforms to create and share work with the community, this school reaches beyond a truly holistic education to bring people together. Combining the typologies of a museum, school, library, and performance center; students can explore and make mistakes while learning through the arts, which will guide them to be resilient, creative people and members of society.



SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

BUILDING

To insulate the buildings, improve energy efficiency of mechanical equipment, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, both extensive and intensive green roofs are implemented in the buildings' designs.

Two vertical Geothermal heating and cooling systems are installed on site to provide air conditioning within the building. this strategy is both environmentally and economically sustainable due to its low life cycle costs.

The lack of mature trees on the site and its situation on a large, exposed butte allow for able amounts of daylighting to be utilized for the school's daily functions and thereby not rely on excessive electricity.

HARDSCAPE

The architecture is placed in a greenfield, which would be able to easily absorb rainwater naturally. the school's many plazas are paved with pervious material to allow rainwater to absorb into the landscape and relieve stress on the stormwater systems.

Vehicular traffic is delegated to the Eastern edge of the site while the plazas between the pavilions and the meadows along the Western ridge are dedicated to the pedestrian.

LANDSCAPE

The steep slope of the site hastens the flow of water runoff. Incorporation of built bioswales and terraced, perforated berms along the road direct excess water runoff away from the buildings and act as natural barriers.

Green spaces on the site are populated with natural, regional vegetation as a means to limit irrigation, manage storm water, and introduce the architecture into a preexisting ecosystem.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

The core purpose of this project is to foster the creative spirit within every child it serves. Therefor, their wellbeing, safety, and happiness is the guiding compass for the architecture.

Each space is designed to be in constant engagement with one or many art forms; through elements of lyrical repetition, movement, or natural beauty.

Each of the children enrolled in the school will be exposed to the expertise of qualified instructors while occupying spaces that stimulate creative thinking and active listening. The building serves as a catalyst for a holistic education taught through the lens of the arts.

Close proximity to nature is proven to increase the creative and cognitive functions of humans; therefor, the architecture is designed to be in constant communication with natural elements, either through direct visuals or building materials.

Members of the local community will have the opportunity to engage with the functions of the school. Parents of enrolled children, guest instructors, and local college students are able to gather to enjoy students' work.

The large structure is designed to have a minimal impact on its surrounding environment by incorporating sustainable building strategies and responsible site integration.

Dance & Theater Lobby

Art Studio

Childcare Lobby

Southeast Perspective

EXTENDED SITE PLAN

SITE PHOTOS

SITE SELECTION

PROJECT LOCATION: BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

The location for the project was chosen based on a number of factors, including proximity to existing infrastructure, institutions, and nature. Additionally, the site must deliver an aparent sense of natural beauty that could be utilized to the advantage of the architecture.

The site is situated atop a large butte overlooking the Missouri River Valley; it is narrow in form as it is flanked by two substantial landforms, a grove to the east and a raveen to the west. The large portion of the site used for the building masses features an elevation change of seventy feet from its highest point to its lowest.

LEVEL B1

1. VISUAL ARTS TECH HALL
2. MECHANICAL

FIRST LEVEL

1. NORTH DAKOTA HALL OF ARTISTS
2. INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION HALL
3. EXHIBITION LOBBY
4. MECHANICAL
5. EAST PLAZA
6. CENTRAL PLAZA
7. THEATRICAL & DANCE LOBBY
8. CAFETERIA
9. EXHIBITION SPACE
10. PERFORMANCE HALL LOBBY
11. PERFORMANCE HALL
12. STORAGE & SET SHOP
13. LOADING DOCK
14. DRESSING ROOM
15. ADMINISTRATION

SECOND LEVEL

1. MECHANICAL
2. STORAGE
3. PUBLIC LIBRARY & CAFE
4. NORTH PLAZA
5. MUSICAL & VISUAL ARTS LOBBY
6. FACULTY
7. GATHERING
8. COURTYARD
9. CAFETERIA
10. OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
11. PLAYGROUND
12. WATER RETENTION FEATURE
13. GYM & DANCE STUDIO
14. CLASSROOM
15. OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

THIRD LEVEL

1. PLAY AREA
2. CHILDCARE FACULTY
3. PLAYGROUND
4. STUDY LOUNGE
5. CLASSROOM
6. FACULTY
7. REHEARSAL SPACE
8. MUSICAL STORAGE
9. PRACTICE ROOMS

FOURTH LEVEL

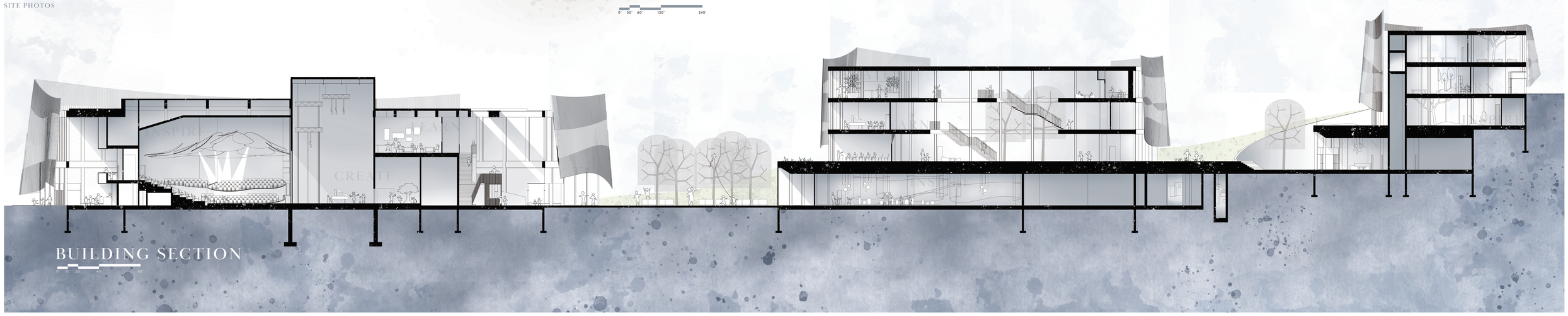
1. CHILDCARE DROPOFF
2. CHILDCARE LOBBY
3. LEARNING SPACE
4. CLASSROOM
5. FACULTY
6. ART STUDIO
7. EXHIBITION SPACE

FIFTH LEVEL

1. SLEEPING AREA
2. QUIET SPACE

BUILDING FLOOR PLANS

0' 30' 60' 120' 240'



BUILDING SECTION

0' 10' 20' 40' 80'