Education Instilling a Brighter Future

Design of Green Strategies Beyond Architecture

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Department of Architecture & Landscape Architecture
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Software: AutoCAD, Impression, Revit & SketchUp

Theoretical Premise / Unifying Idea

"How can architecture foster the education of green strategies to reinforce future responsible ways of life?"

In order to pass along the knowledge of green strategies, we must first foster the education of a younger generation who will become the carriers of this knowledge. Reinforcing these strategies in an educational setting provides the foundation for this knowledge to be reused in the future throughout their daily lives.

We need to educate ourselves on green strategies and change the way we live in order to make a true impact on our surrounding environment. However, in order to sustain this knowledge, it is important to reinforce these green strategies to our younger generations to promote a "greener" way of life.

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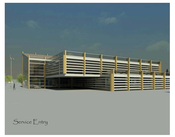
The overall design for this project was to create a flexible learning environment that would teach its users how to incorporate sustainable strategies within their daily lives by using the building's basic functions. Using this overall concept, along with LEED strategies, the building uses new techniques to ease the strain on our environment while teaching these innovative concepts to those children and adults that use it on a daily basis. It is my hope that these strategies would then pass along to be further used within other environments.



Service Entry

View from Bike Path

Exterior View of Main Entrance

Connection to Exterior Garden

Bus Route 18
Bus Stop
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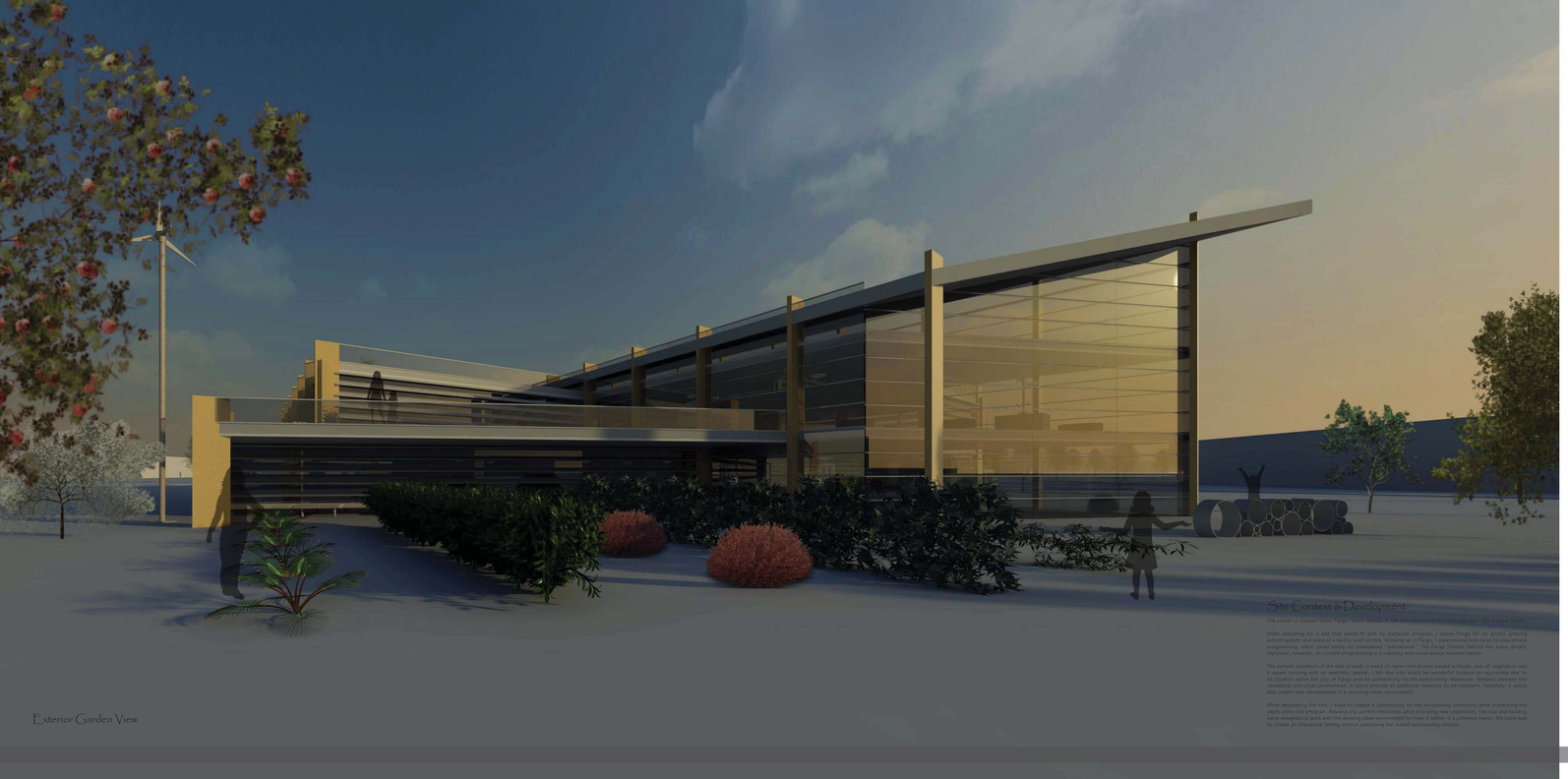


Exterior Garden View

Site Context & Development

The center is located within Fargo, North Dakota in the Downtown District, specifically on the corner of 13th Avenue South and 25th Street South.

When searching for a site that would fit with my particular program, I chose Fargo for its quickly growing entrepreneurial and medical sciences industries. Specifically, I chose the Downtown District because it is educational, entrepreneurial, and medical sciences oriented. Particularly, I chose 13th Fargo Human Diversity lab since greatly improved, however, its current programming is a capacity and could always become better.

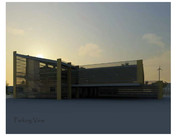
The current condition of the site is badly in need of repair with broken paved surfaces, lack of vegetation, and a vacant building with no aesthetic appeal. I felt this site would be wonderful location to rejuvenate and to its location within the city of Fargo and its connectivity to the surrounding resources. Nestled between the residential and urban communities, it would provide an additional resource to its members. Hopefully, it would also create new development in a declining urban environment.

While developing the site, I tried to create a connectivity to the surrounding community while protecting the users within the program. Reusing any current resources while providing new vegetation, the site and building were designed to work with the existing urban environment to make it better in a cohesive manor. My hope was to create an interactive feeling without disturbing the overall surrounding context.

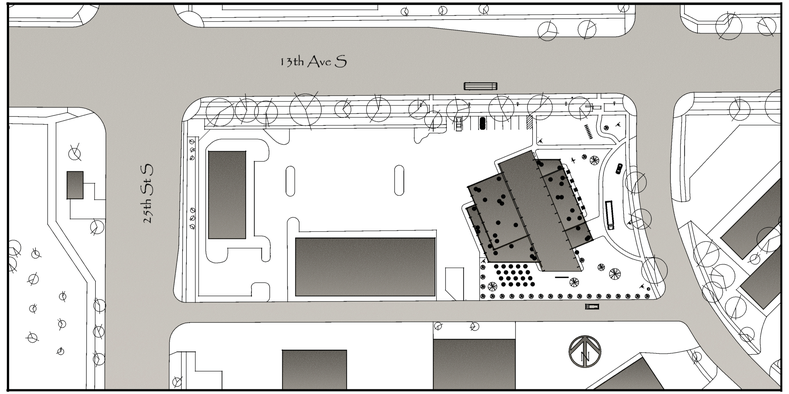
Garden Entrance

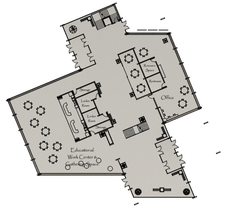
Street View

Garden Entrance

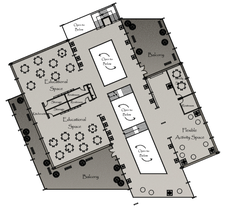


Parking View

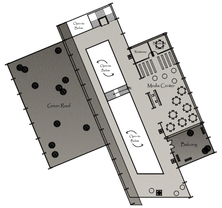




1st Floor Plan



2nd Floor Plan



3rd Floor Plan

Interior Balcony View

Design Intention

The goal while designing this educational activity center was to create a sense of place complied with positive reinforcement for children within an alternative educational environment. Within this environment, children are given the tools to live sustainably outside of the center, passing along this knowledge to others as well. The center is intended to be used by the local community as a gathering place for children during and after school hours. The center would provide a safe and educational environment for children to work and play when parents are unavailable. It would also be a resource to the school district providing another setting for alternative classes, strongly encouraging a connection with the natural environment.

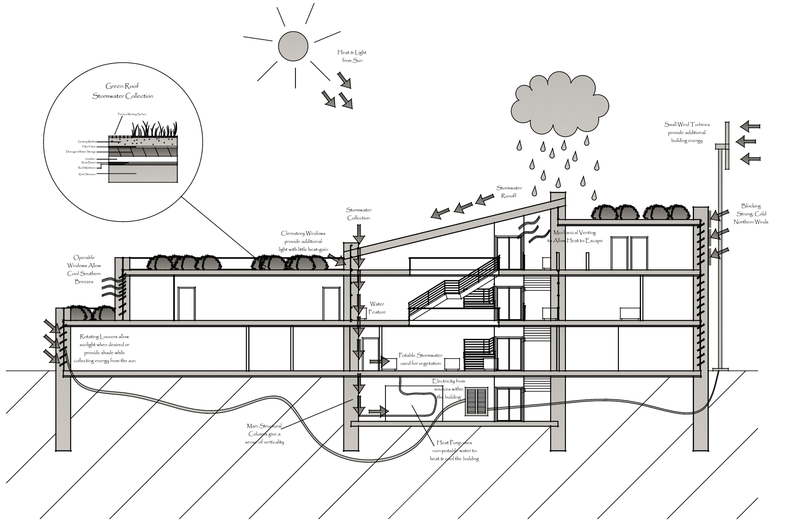
The spaces are designed to have a flexibility and openness, allowing for multiple activities and functions throughout the day. Primarily, the spaces include an office environment, classrooms, a large gathering space with a child friendly kitchen, an educational activity space and a media center, all connected to a large atrium and multiple outside spaces which are able to serve as gathering spaces as well.

With every design decision, I tried to incorporate sustainable practices that would benefit and enrich the lives of those within the building. Each structure from the collection of rain water to the use of solar panels would create an environmentally friendly building as well as provide a learning tool to those using its systems. The hope is that these practices would start be duplicated in the future for a healthier environment for all.

Media Center

View of Atrium

Classroom

Interior View of Main Entrance

Gathering Space