



SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES HIGH SCHOOL

Saint Martin is a Catholic coeducational high school located in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio. The school was founded in 2003 as a response to a survey of resident need in the neighborhood. The school is located in an area that is poor and predominantly a minority population and the administration is focusing on ways in which the school can be a larger partner in the surrounding neighborhood, providing health services, meeting spaces, and distance learning for adults as a way to improve the social framework in which their students live. In order to provide funding for the students, who all are living in households below the poverty line, a partnership was developed with local businesses. Students job share and work one day a week in local businesses throughout the city of Cleveland, and the businesses fund the students tuition.

The administration, staff and architects engaged in a collaborative process to assess student + teacher need and design a new high school dedicated to supporting a differentiated and cooperative project based learning pedagogy. The goals of the engagement or programming process was to first understand emerging trends and theories related to collaborative learning, and discover integrated ways of engaging facility to support student based learning opportunities. Second, develop the strategies necessary to understand community need and best practices for developing the facility into a community supportive environment. The following principles guided the building design:

- Education spaces supporting critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication;
- Flexibility of furniture to allow for a variety of grouping formats and lesson types;
- Establish learning zones for collaboration, making, and independent learning;
- Flexibility in space to accommodate large group projects

- and grade level projects;
- Integration of technology;
- Teachers as facilitators including collaborative work spaces for teachers;
- Wellness spaces + wrap around services to provide care for the whole person + the surrounding community;
- Develop the school as the center of the community through collaborations with the local government and neighborhood groups to provide community meeting spaces, wellness and learning opportunities.

The completed building realizes the goals established by the guiding principles. Entering on the ground floor the students are presented with a large informal seating area and an open three story glass and steel staircase orienting them to the building and visually connecting all floors of the building. A reception desk welcomes students to the Commons, a bright open space with flexible seating and a stage for presentations. On the instruction floors, instruction spaces surround a learning commons that will provide the opportunity for flexible learning zones supporting student directed learning.

LOCATION

The school has been operating since 2003 in a school building originally constructed as a K-8 facility and was a challenge for the high school age students to use. Additionally, the traditional style of double loaded corridors did not meet the project based pedagogy of the school.

BUILDING

The building is a multi-phase project construction on Phase I began in 2016 and Phase II was completed in 2021.

PHASE I - Construction 2016-2018

AREA - 44,000 SF

COST - \$13.8 Million

PHASE II - Construction 2020-2021

AREA - 32,000 SF

COST - \$8.4 Million

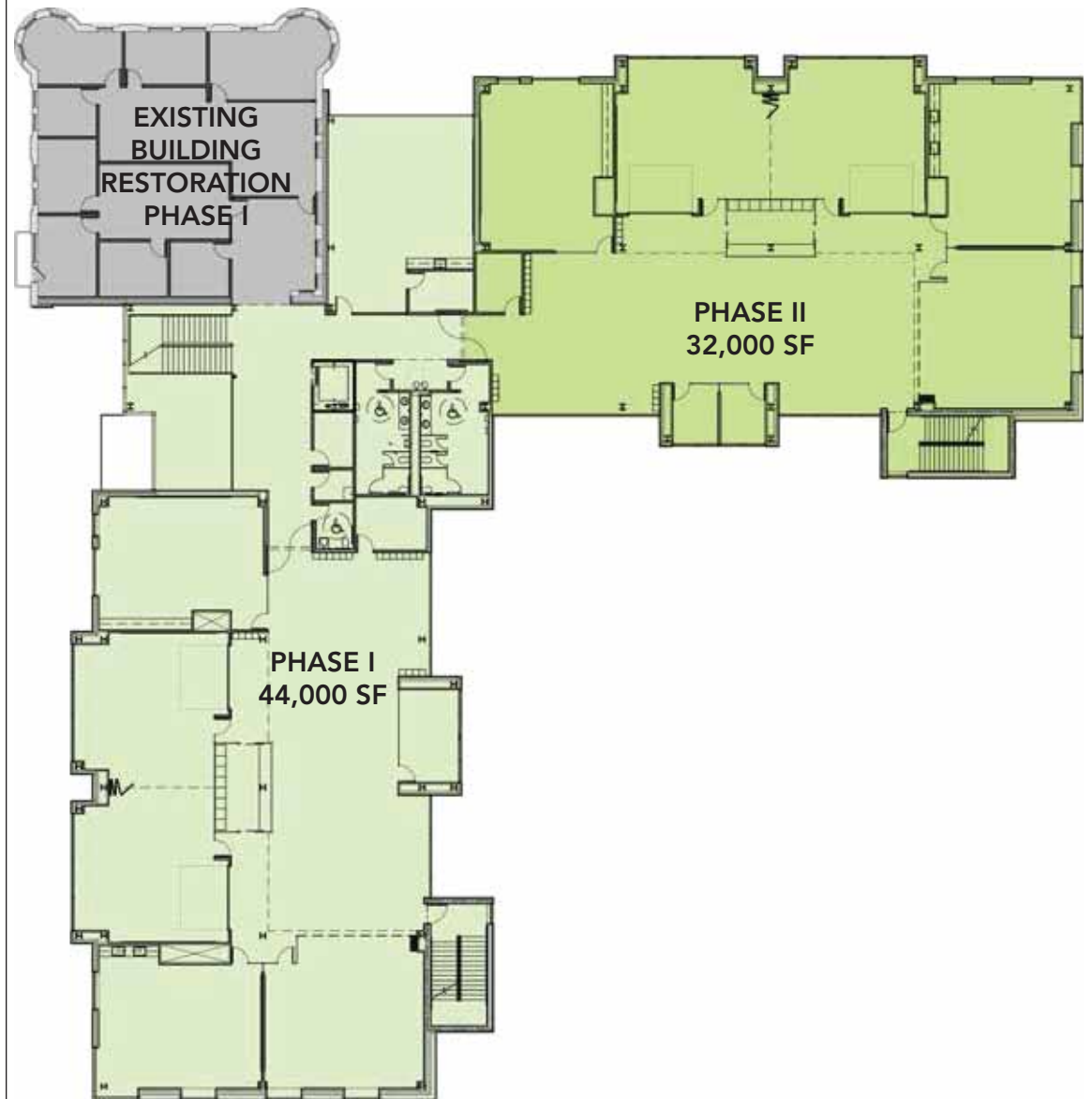
OCCUPANCY

STUDENTS - 420

FACULTY - 80

SCOPE

- Restoration of a Local Historic Register Building for Art + Music Rooms, and Offices.
- Construction of a two 3-Story Wings surrounding the historic building.
 - » Student Commons
 - » Full Commercial Kitchen
 - » 16 Learning Studios,
 - » 1 Maker "Da Vinci" Studio
 - » 4 Learning Commons
 - » 4 Teacher Collaboration Areas
 - » 8 Small Group Rooms
 - » 12 Reading Nooks
 - » Chapel
 - » Health + Wellness Clinic
 - » Outdoor Classroom + Collaboration Areas
 - » Rain Garden Ecosystem
 - » Sustainable Features meeting LEED Silver requirements



scope of work|budget **2**

educators + design professionals test concepts



educators discussing function + use



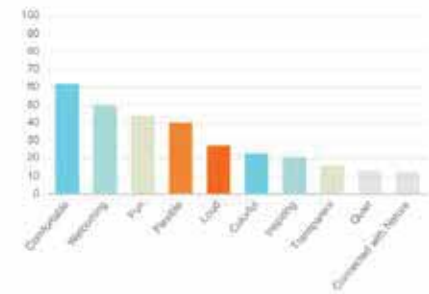
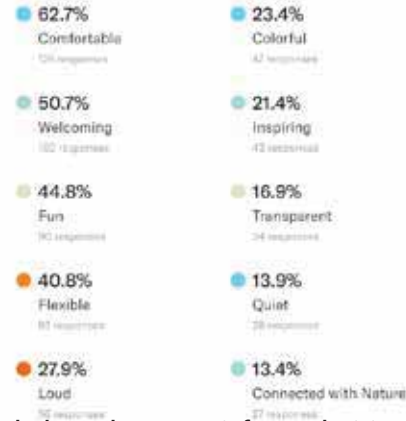
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + TEACHER WORKSHOPS

The Project Team worked collaboratively with the Saint Martin community in a process to evaluate the pedagogy and student learning styles involving Administration, Staff, Board Members, Parents + Students Community Leaders, and Other Stakeholders to gain input and consensus. In addition, we employed online surveys and project blogs to provide many avenues for input.

Student + teacher workshops clarified initial concepts and provided a forum to discuss best practices in education to ensure the planning aligned with school values and project goals.

Which words best describe the characteristics of the Learning Commons?

Add a short description here to share the key thing you learned from this question



feedback through surveys informs decision making

critical tools for a successful charrette



establishing key goals



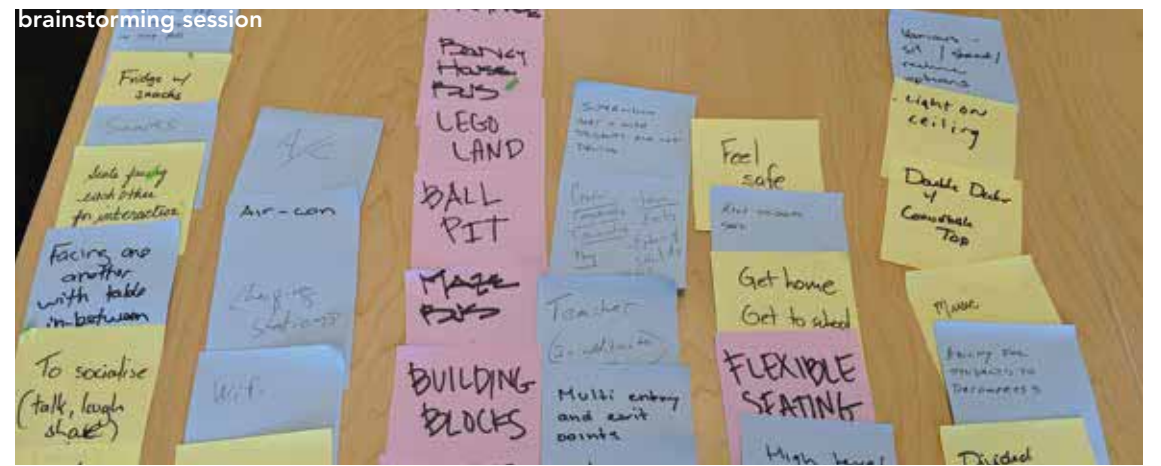
establishing project principles



working through priorities



brainstorming session



VISION + GOALS

Saint Martin de Porres High School prepares students for post-secondary success in education and work through a mutually transformative learning experience sustained by 21st century skills (communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking), good work habits and a commitment to justice and peace. Saint Martin de Porres High School prepares their scholars for lifelong success in a multicultural society by embracing diversity to build a strong, equitable and inclusive learning community.

The School supports student success through the following:

- Focus on the academic growth of each student;
- Guiding its young women and men to post-secondary and career pathways that will enable meaningful participation in Cleveland's transformation;
- Serving as an anchor institution in the St. Clair-Superior Neighborhood;
- Establishing long term sustainability through a commitment to its people, planet and prosperity;
- Invite students to actively participate in a challenging, rewarding and joyful community learners;
- Provide students with the opportunity to reflect on their development to increase self-awareness and autonomy;
- Find appropriate evaluation tools that will enable the systemic use of qualitative and quantitative data to personalize goal-setting and track personal and academic achievement;
- Create spaces that enable teachers to thoughtfully plan and interact with students according to their individual need;
- Innovate to provide programs that meet the individual needs of its top students, those who struggle, and all those that fall in between;
- Provide its students with adult mentors that will feed their passions and increase the interests of its students.

PEDAGOGY + DESIGN

In order to align the curriculum and ensure the learning spaces supported their vision, studioTECHNE and the school leadership spent a week at Harvard's Graduate School of Education working with visionaries in the field of education to review future trends + best practices as it related to the design of the new building. The focus of the visit was to discover ways

in which instruction and instructional spaces provide barriers to learning.

The building is designed to support teachers and students in a student directed project-based curriculum where students have the opportunity to think in depth and actively apply learning to build knowledge. The school required flexibility and variety of instruction spaces where teachers become facilitators, leading students through a process where they engage in thinking, problem solving, making, leadership, collaboration, and project-based learning.

PLANNING + DESIGN

The facility was planned around one primary goal — to improve the experience of learning by supporting collaboration, digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills required by students to thrive in today's world. We are architects, but more importantly, we are change agents advocating for creative learning communities.

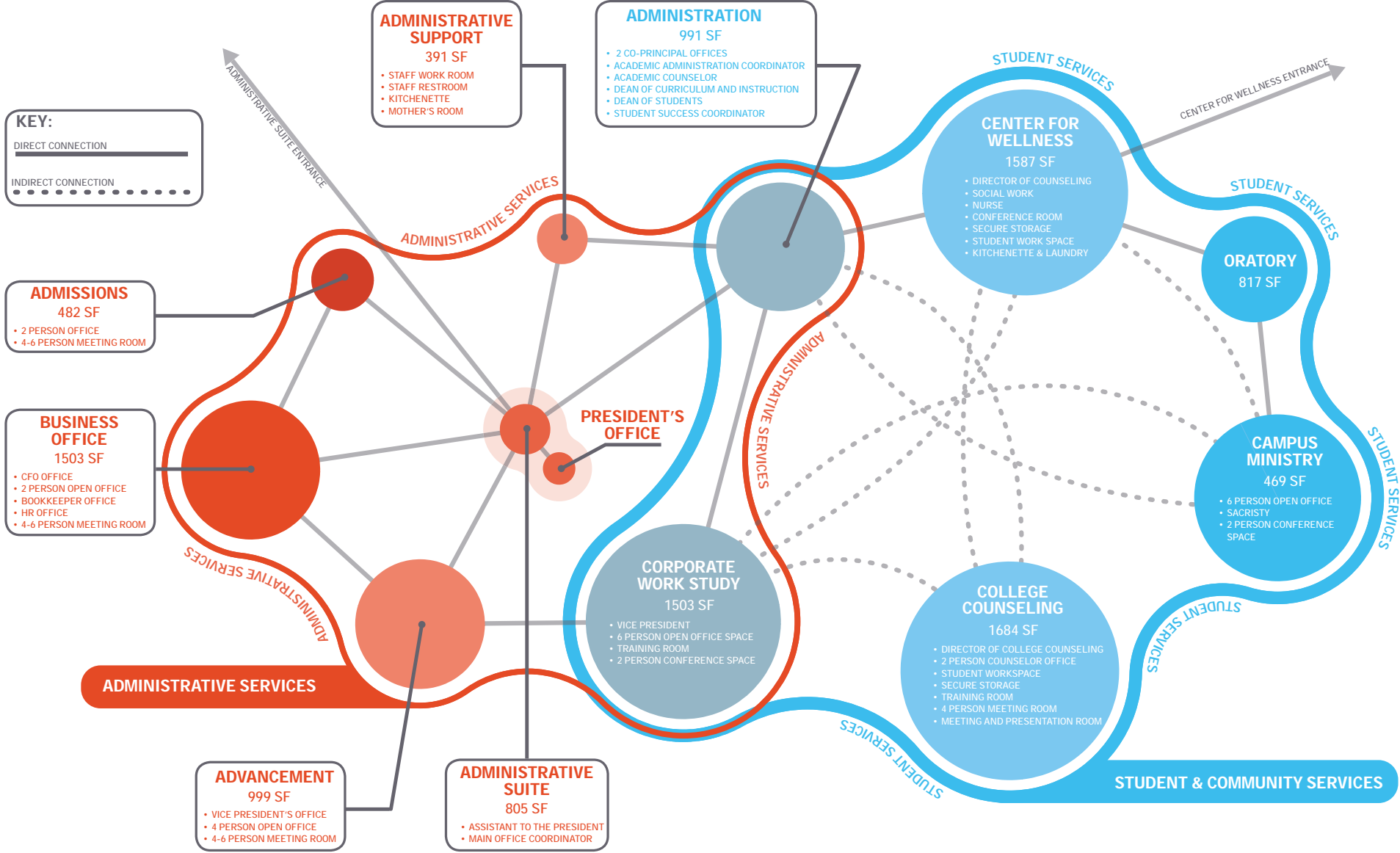
We approach every project with innovative strategies based on 21st century learning principles where students master content while producing, synthesizing, and evaluating information from a wide variety of subjects and sources. Students demonstrate the three R's, but also the three C's: creativity, communication, and collaboration.

The design of the learning spaces focused on "learning occurs everywhere", and spaces were then developed to support the type of learning students need to be engaged with to learn.

DESIGN FOR THE WHOLE STUDENT

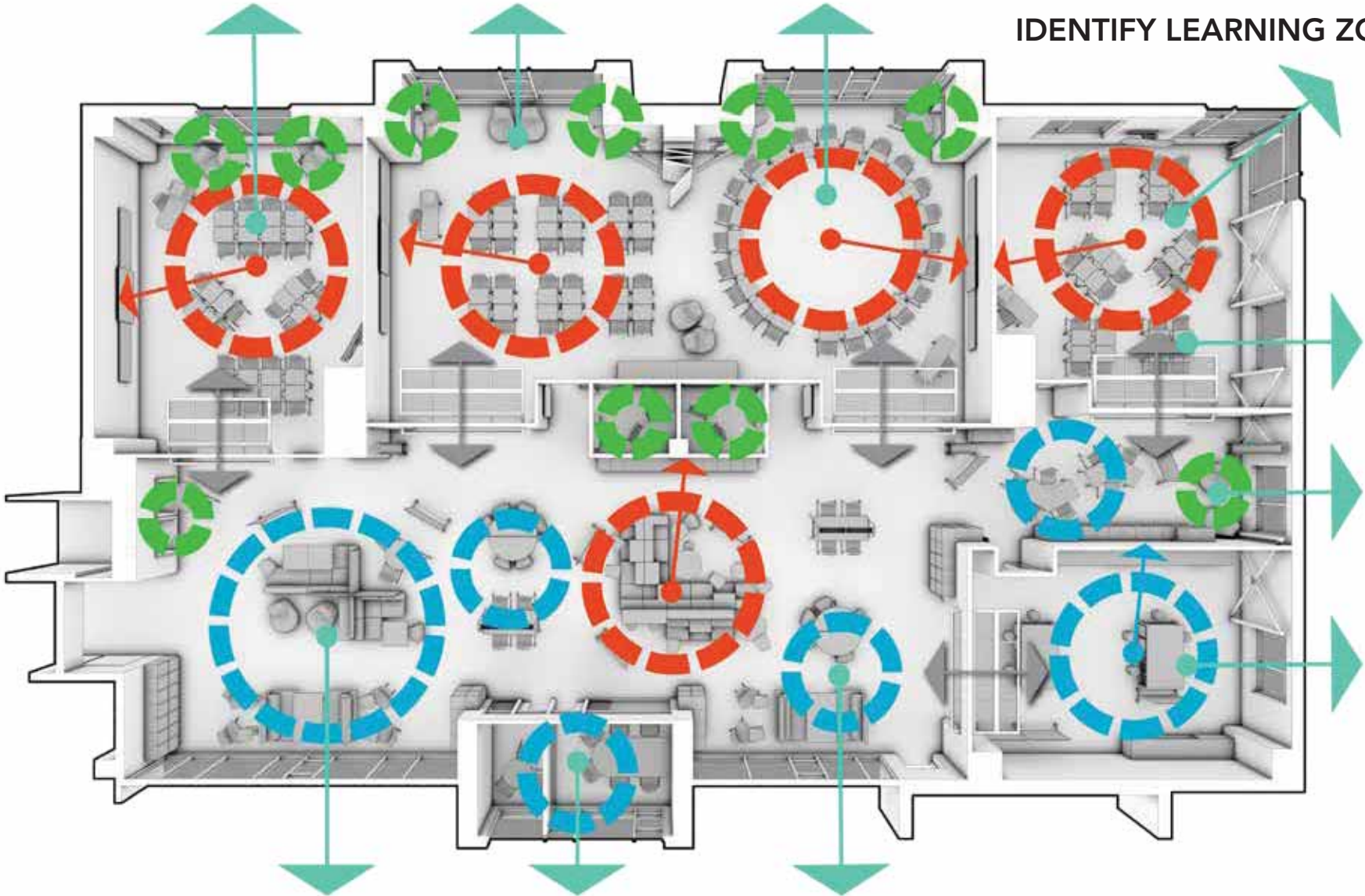
Knowing that students only spend part of their day at the school, Saint Martin sought ways to support the families of the students as well as the community. A partnership with a local hospital brought funding for a health center accessible on nights and weekends. The clinic allows students, their families and members of the community to receive health + wellness check-ups, mental health and wrap around services. The school is unconditionally committed to the students success the clinic allows them to include all of the regular daily activities critical to the healthy development of all children and families.

ORGANIZE PROGRAM FOR ADJACENCY

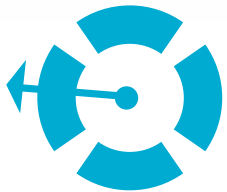


DEFINED COMMUNITY NEED - SOCIAL + CURRICULUR

IDENTIFY LEARNING ZONES



SPACES FOR LEARNING FROM AN EXPERT (campfires)



SPACES FOR SHARING + COLLABORATING (wateringholes)



SPACES FOR FOCUSED THOUGHT (caves)



EXPANSION OF SPACES INTO COMMONS LRG. PROJECT SUPPORT

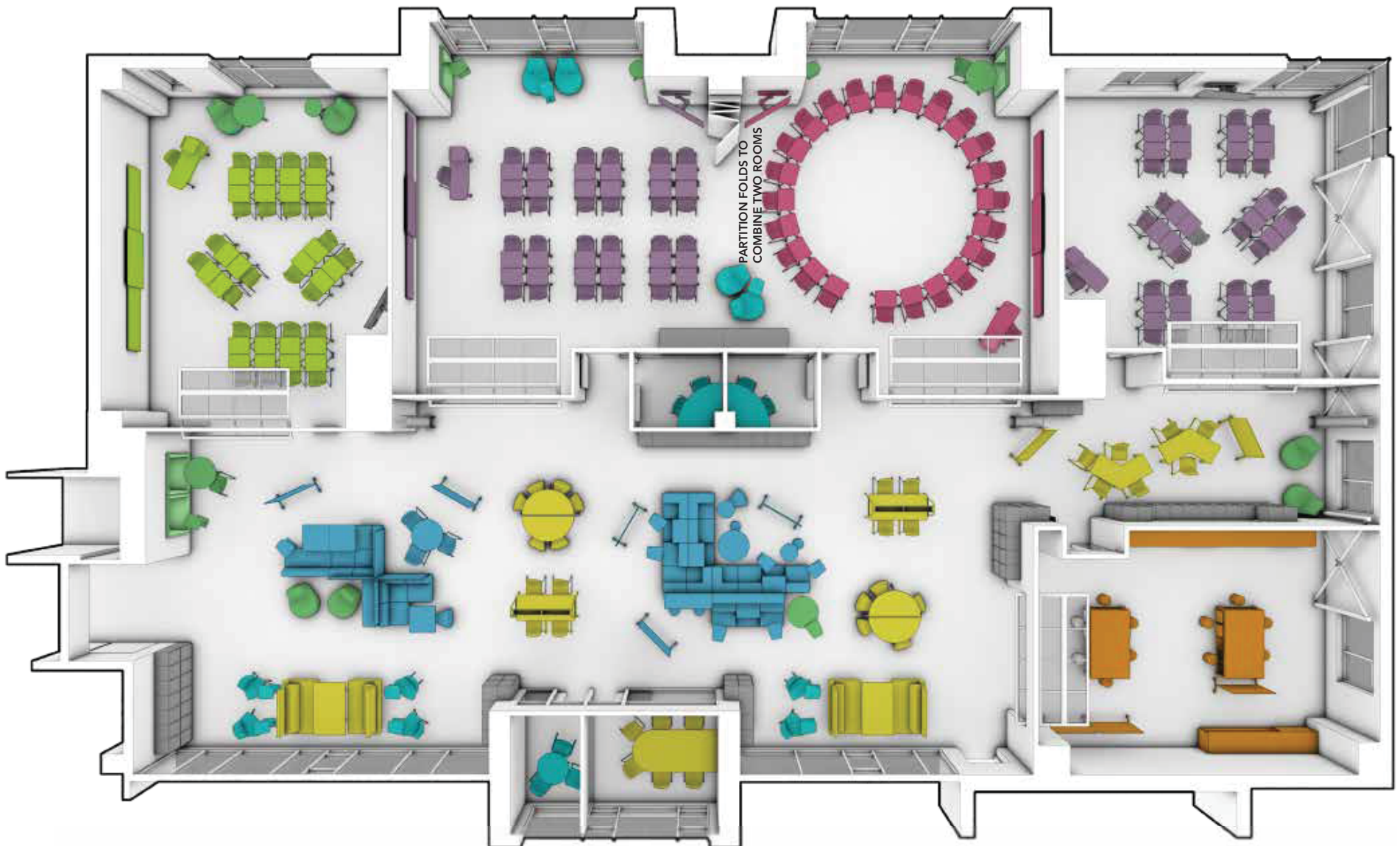


ACCESS TO VIEWS + DAY-LIGHT

ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS CURRICULUM

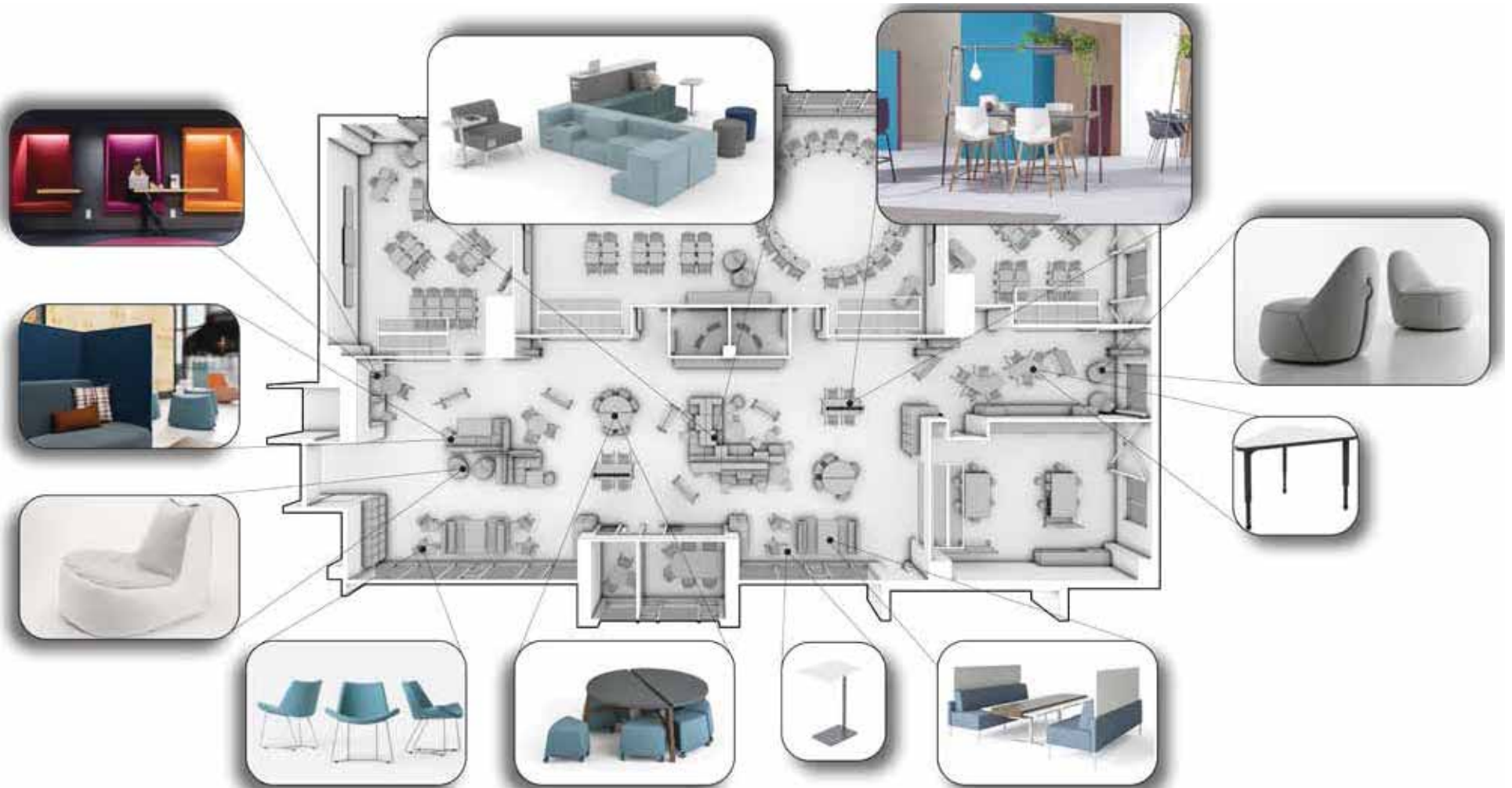
Saint Martin de Porres High School

DIFFERENTIATE THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



- GUIDED INQUIRY
- INFORMATIVE LECTURE
- SOCRATIC DISCUSSION
- SMALL GROUP
- PEER TO PEER COLLABORATION
- LARGE GROUP COLLABORATION
- INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION
- DISCOVERY MAKING

ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS LEARNING MODALITIES



ENVIRONMENT IS CUSTOMIZABLE BY THE STUDENTS

INSPIRING + MOTIVATING

“Education and training are the keys to the future. A key can be turned in two directions. Turn it one way and you lock resources away; turn it other way and you realize resources and give people back to themselves.”

-Sir Ken Robinson

Students find inspiration and meaning when the educational space respects them as learners and can be experienced as meaningful. The spaces designed for Saint Martin de Porres provides the opportunity for engaged learning in spaces they can adjust and change to meet their needs. Spaces support the variety of ways in which they need to engage their subject matter, informed lecture, peer to peer discussion, small and large group interactions and independently for deep learning. Additionally the building provides support for them as a complete person. Spaces in the Wellness Suite allow a student who needs to isolate from the community to reflect or recovery from a difficult situation. Outdoor spaces support a connection to nature and access to fresh air and sunlight in a neighborhood where it is not always safe for them to be outdoors. Overall, the Saint Martin Community is inspired by the abundant natural light and openness of the building and the knowledge that the community believed enough in them to construct this wonderful place.



main entry stair



wellness center booths



students utilizing the learning commons



students meeting in the main commons



SITE PLAN

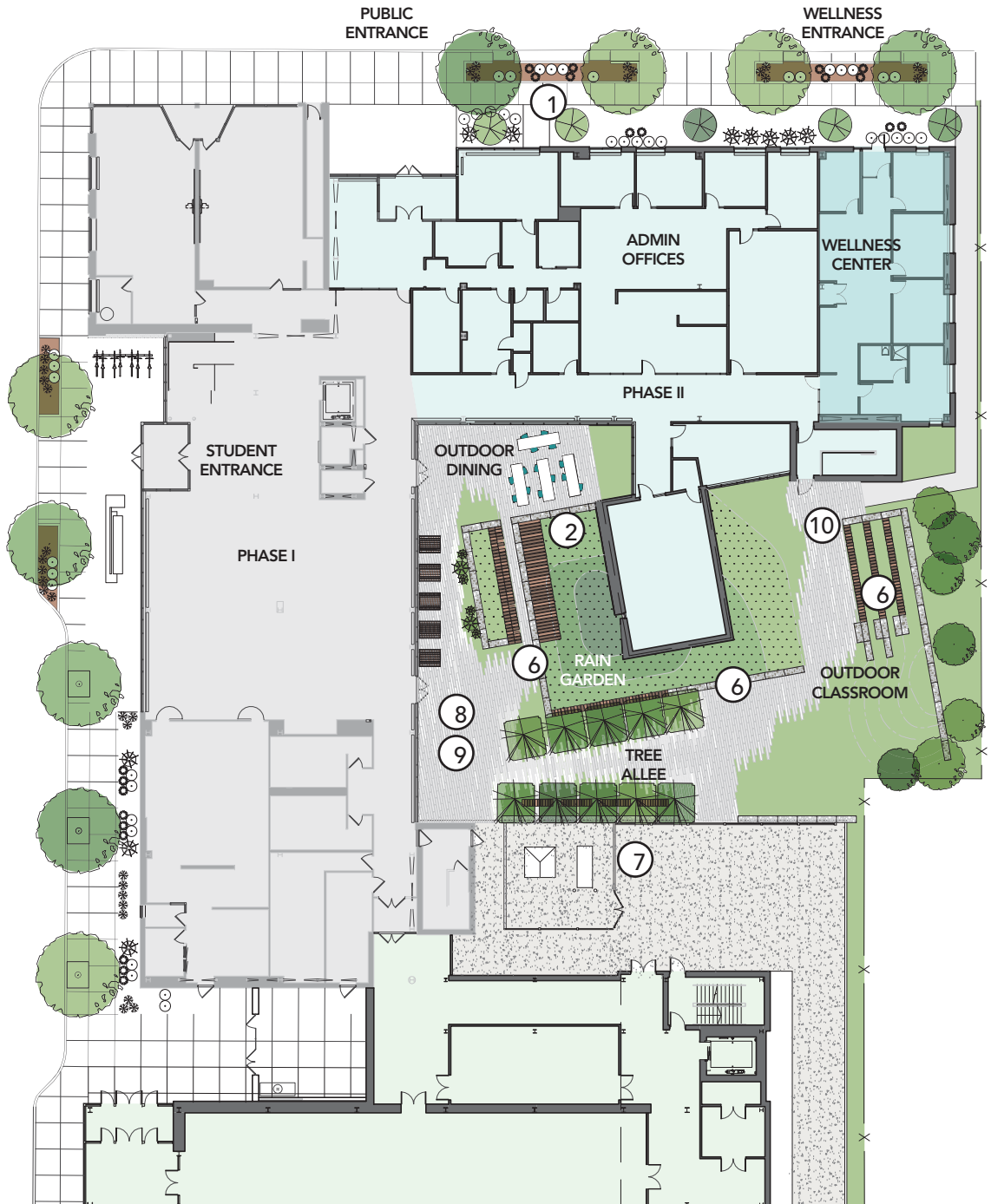


BUILDING EXTERIOR



BUILDING EXTERIOR ST. CLAIR AVENUE

Saint Martin de Porres High School



PROPOSED COURTYARD MATERIALS



1 Corten Steel Planters



2 Corten Steel Grass Edging



3 Inset Grass



4 Site Lighting - Courtyard; Lumenpulse Inground Recessed Light



5 Site Lighting - Courtyard; Forms + Surfaces Light Column w/ Perforated Shield



6 Custom Gabion Benches



7 Custom Gabion Site Walls



8 Field Pavers



9 Field Pavers



10 Crushed Limestone

CONTEXT - SITE DETAILS



OUTDOOR EDUCATION SPACE



3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM - INFORMATIVE LECTURE SET-UP



3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM - SOCRATIC DISCUSSION SET-UP

Saint Martin de Porres High School



CLASSROOM SHOWING INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION NICHES

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STUDENT COMMONS - LARGE GROUP COLLABORATION AREA

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STUDENT COMMONS - SMALL GROUP + PEER TO PEER AREAS

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SCIENCE + DISCOVERY STUDIO

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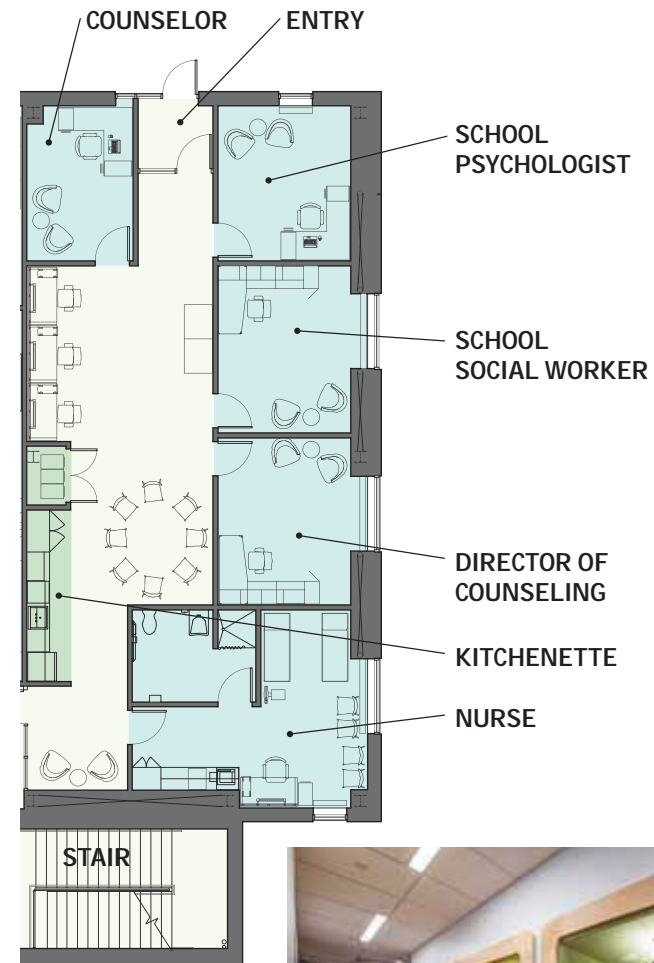
CONCLUSION

The project began with the following principles:

- Education spaces supporting critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication;
- Flexibility of furniture to allow for a variety of grouping formats and lesson types;
- Establish learning zones for collaboration, making, and independent learning;
- Flexibility in space to accommodate large group projects and grade level projects;
- Integration of technology;
- Teachers as facilitators including collaborative work spaces for teachers;
- Wellness spaces + wrap around services to provide care for the whole person + the surrounding community;
- Develop the school as the center of the community through collaborations with the local government and neighborhood groups to provide community meeting spaces, wellness and learning opportunities.

Through an intensive process that focused on the students as whole individuals a program emerged that brought educational goals together with the social well being of the students and their families. The main student commons hosts monthly city council meetings and a variety of other community functions; the wellness suite extends its hours to evenings and weekends so that families can receive the care and services they need.

Educational spaces are flexible, are focused on student centered learning and support a variety of learning objectives and modalities. 100% of the students graduate, 90% of graduates directly enroll in college, the class of 2020 earned over \$6 million in scholarships. The building is a small part of this success, its role is to provide a supportive environment and prepare the students for the learning environments they will encounter at the college level.



THE WELLNESS SUITE + STUDY PRIVATE STUDY AREAS