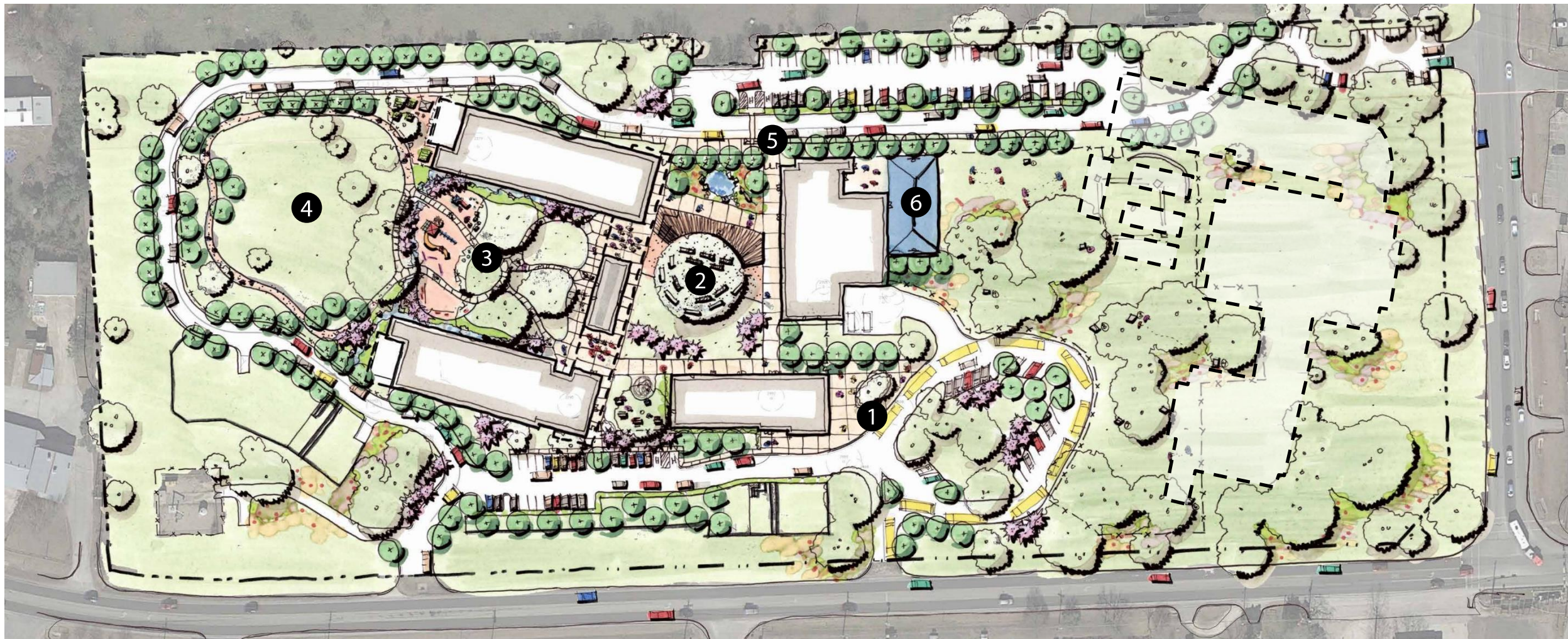


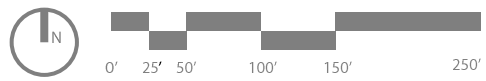
MENCHACA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

AUSTIN, TX





- 1** Bus Drop-Off
- 2** Heritage Tree Courtyard
- 3** Learning/Play Courtyard
- 4** Field/Running Trail
- 5** Parent Drop-Off
- 6** Shaded PE Play Yard

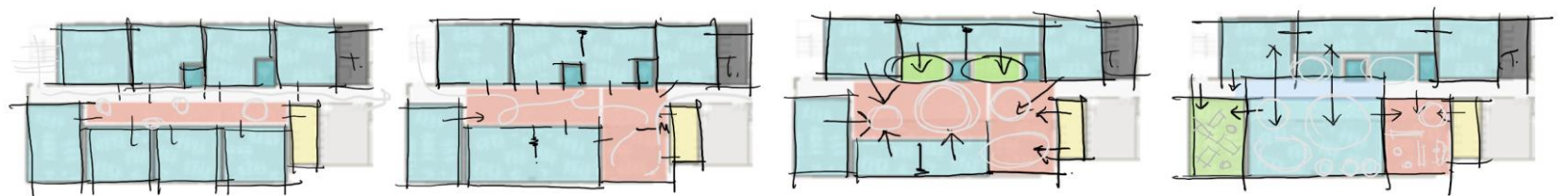


This 98,500 SF elementary school for 880 students was built while the existing school remained operational. The grassland site is on the edge of the Hill Country in a growing area of South Austin. design evolved through an extensive process that engaged teachers, parents, students, and neighbors. The design focused on preserving the natural beauty on campus to maximize a connection with nature and reimagine the urban learning experience.



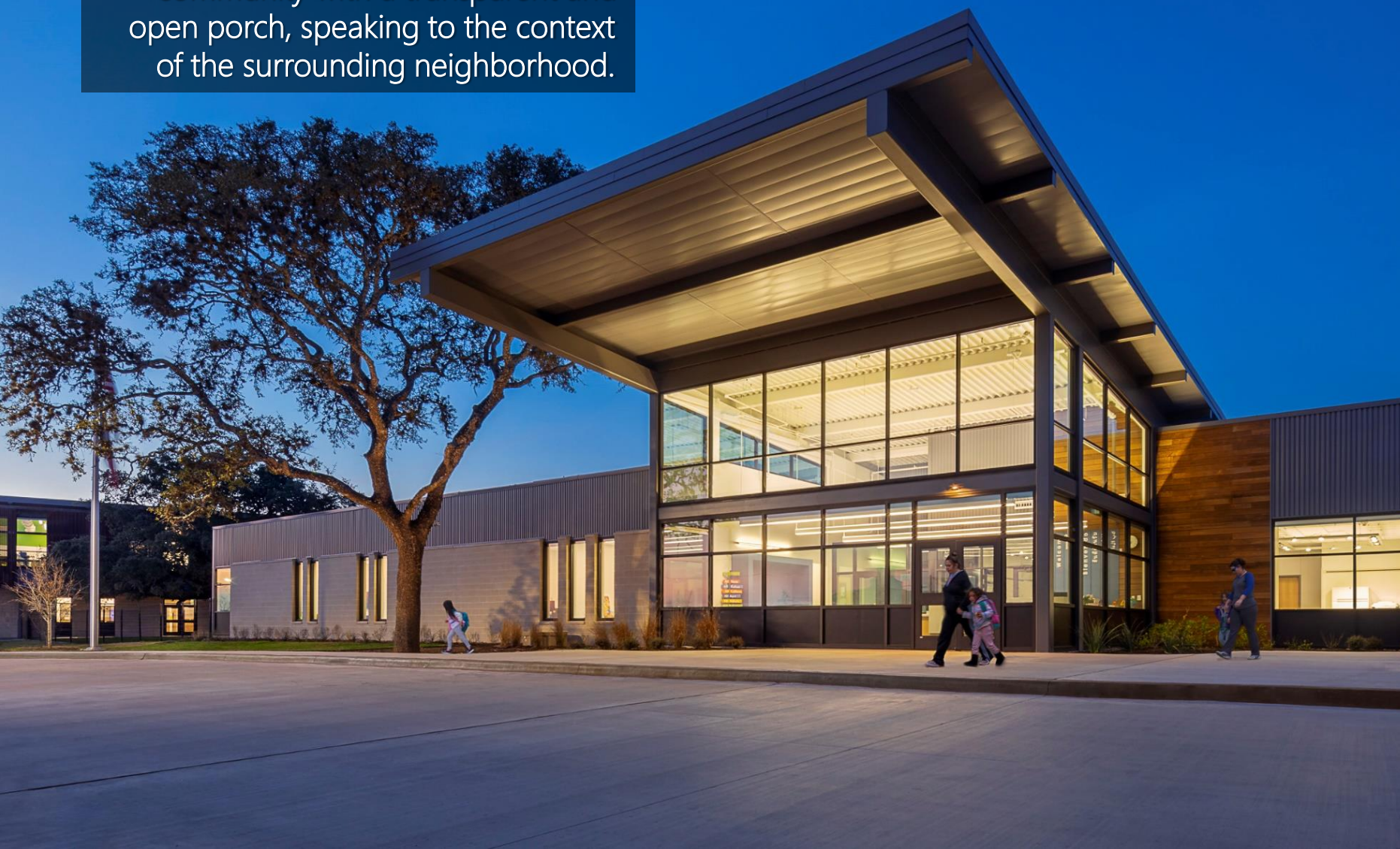
	STORAGE/UTILITY/ELEVATOR		CO-LAB
	FITNESS SPACE		STUDIOS
	DINING COMMONS		SMALL GROUP ROOMS
	KITCHEN		MAKER SPACE
	VISUAL ARTS		PLCC
	MUSIC		COMMUNITY SPACE
	TOILET ROOMS		MEDIA RESOURCES
			ADMINISTRATION

The Learning Village | A Flexible and Transformational Space



COMMUNITY

The Campus is nestled into existing Oak Trees and welcomes the community with a transparent and open porch, speaking to the context of the surrounding neighborhood.



Multi-lingual signage creates a welcoming entry and represents languages spoken within the school community.



COMMUNITY

Two large courtyards are connected by covered outdoor learning spaces, one for passive outdoor learning and the other for active & imaginary play.



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The campus is organized into Learning Villages bridged on the second level by an open Library. Maker Spaces cantilever towards the tree canopy while Art Workshops spill onto the courtyard below.



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Learning Village is a collection of studios, collaboration and small group rooms with adjacent professional learning spaces, allowing for students to learn anyway, anywhere.



The four Learning Villages are named after native trees on campus. Wood grain representing these trees is used as a pattern on glazing.

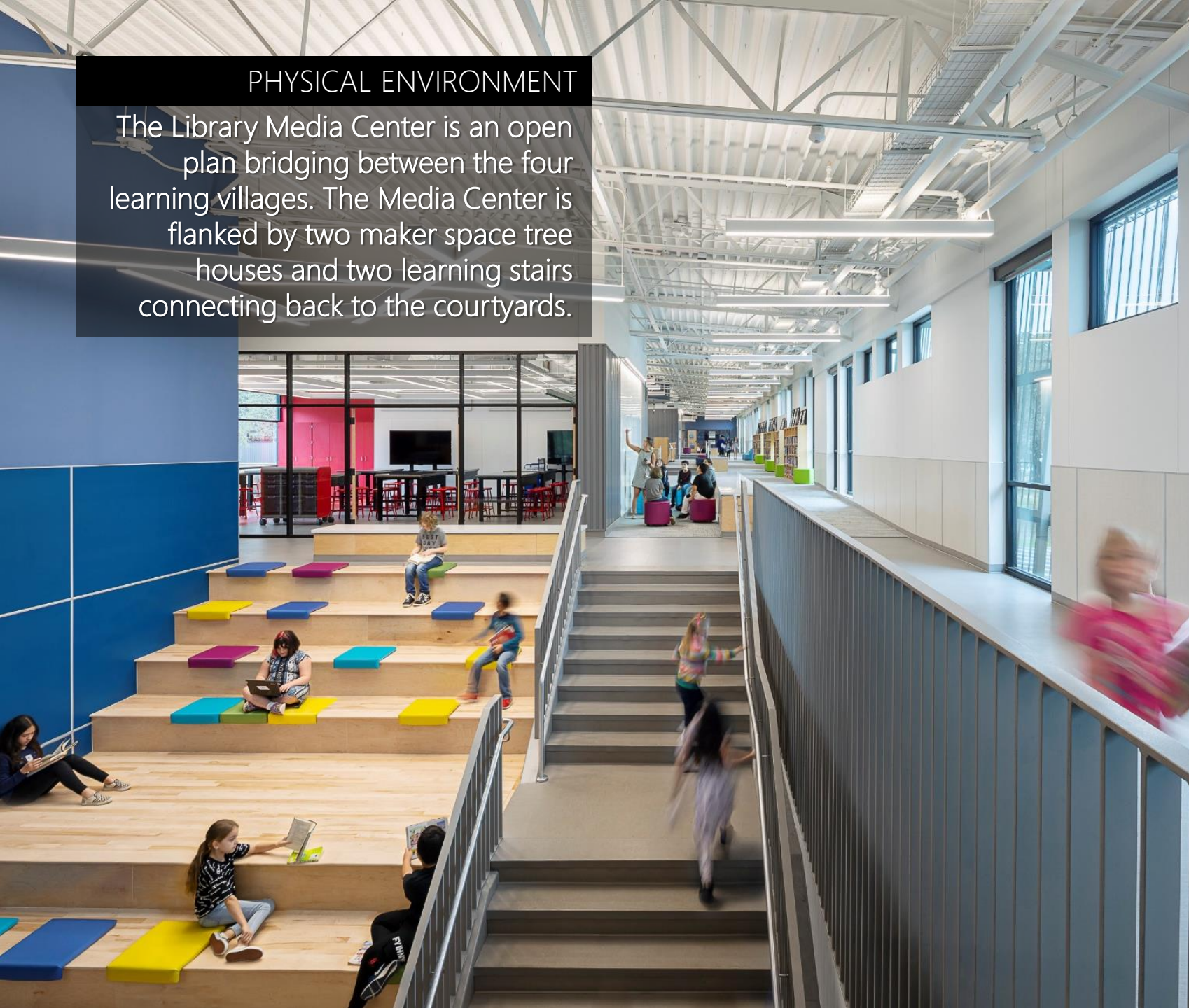


ELM	WILLOW	CYPRESS	OAK
1	1	2	2



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The Library Media Center is an open plan bridging between the four learning villages. The Media Center is flanked by two maker space tree houses and two learning stairs connecting back to the courtyards.

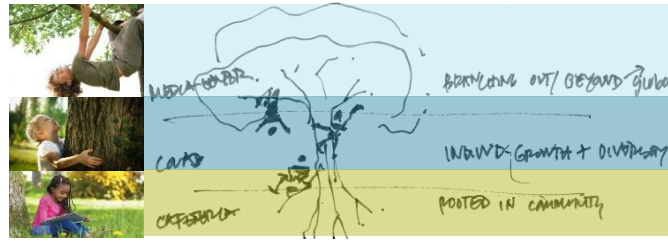


PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

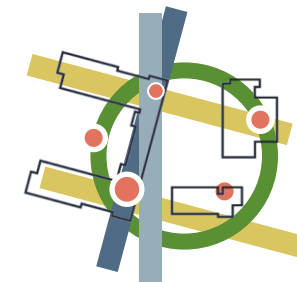
Student health and wellness is improved with views to the outdoors and the incorporation of mindful moments to support social and emotional learning opportunities (a mindful labyrinth maze outside, quiet rooms, and restorative spaces).



PLANNING



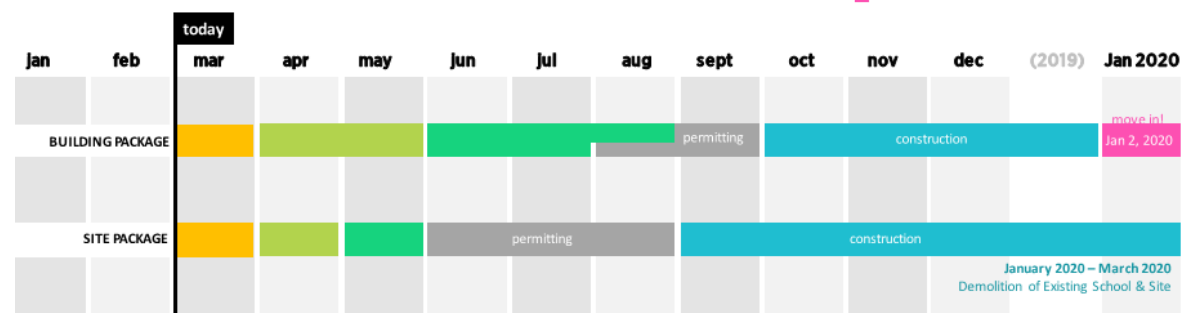
A 15-member committee participated in visioning exercises, site and campus tours and 20+ design meetings. Activities included “design your own campus” where common strategies between groups included maximizing the site’s natural assets, controlling scale from the street, and clustering studios into learning hubs. The common appreciation for native landscape and desire for connectivity and diversity drove the design.



Students were included in multiple design charrettes.

OVERALL PROJECT SCHEDULE

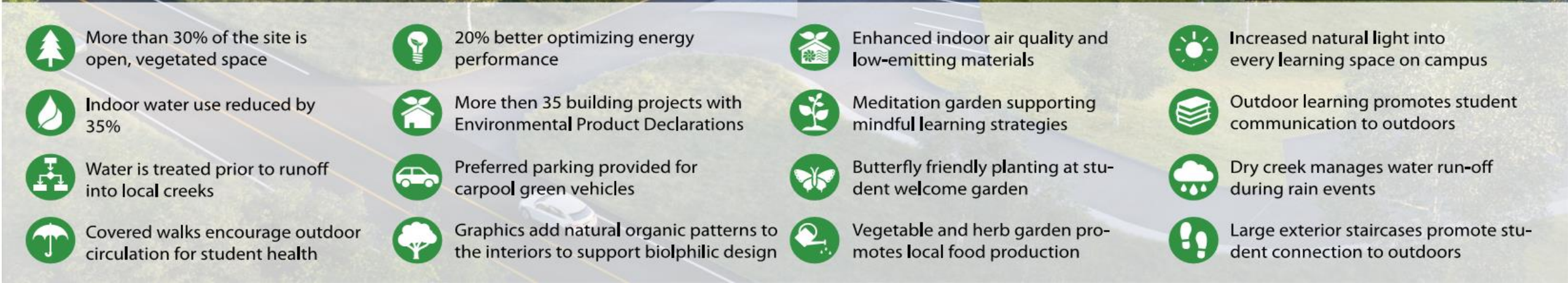
















- SCHEMATIC DESIGN
- DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
- CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS
- PERMITTING
- CONSTRUCTION
- OCCUPANCY



[illegible]

SUSTAINABILITY & WELLNESS

Aggregated feedback informed design: A color-coded recording of goal setting revealed the community's affinity for the natural environment and student connection to nature (green and dark green colors).

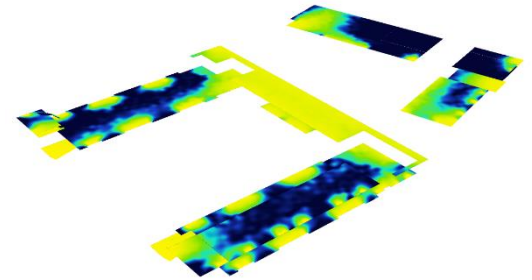
- 
 -  More than 30% of the site is open, vegetated space
 -  Indoor water use reduced by 35%
 -  Water is treated prior to runoff into local creeks
 -  Covered walks encourage outdoor circulation for student health
 -  20% better optimizing energy performance
 -  More than 35 building projects with Environmental Product Declarations
 -  Preferred parking provided for carpool green vehicles
 -  Graphics add natural organic patterns to the interiors to support biophilic design
 -  Enhanced indoor air quality and low-emitting materials
 -  Meditation garden supporting mindful learning strategies
 -  Butterfly friendly planting at student welcome garden
 -  Vegetable and herb garden promotes local food production
 -  Increased natural light into every learning space on campus
 -  Outdoor learning promotes student communication to outdoors
 -  Dry creek manages water run-off during rain events
 -  Large exterior staircases promote student connection to outdoors

RESULTS

73% agree the new facility supports the changing instructional practice of the modernized school, developing students' collaboration, creativity, and communication/connection.

—May 2022 Post-Occupancy Survey

A daylighting study in schematic design resulted in a screen for shade. Design for solar orientation contributed to a 53% energy reduction while maintaining abundant natural daylight and views, a key planning committee design goal. .



97% of users are satisfied or very satisfied with direct views to nature and access to natural daylight.

