

2014 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Stratford Hall International
Baccalaureate School – Middle Years
Program

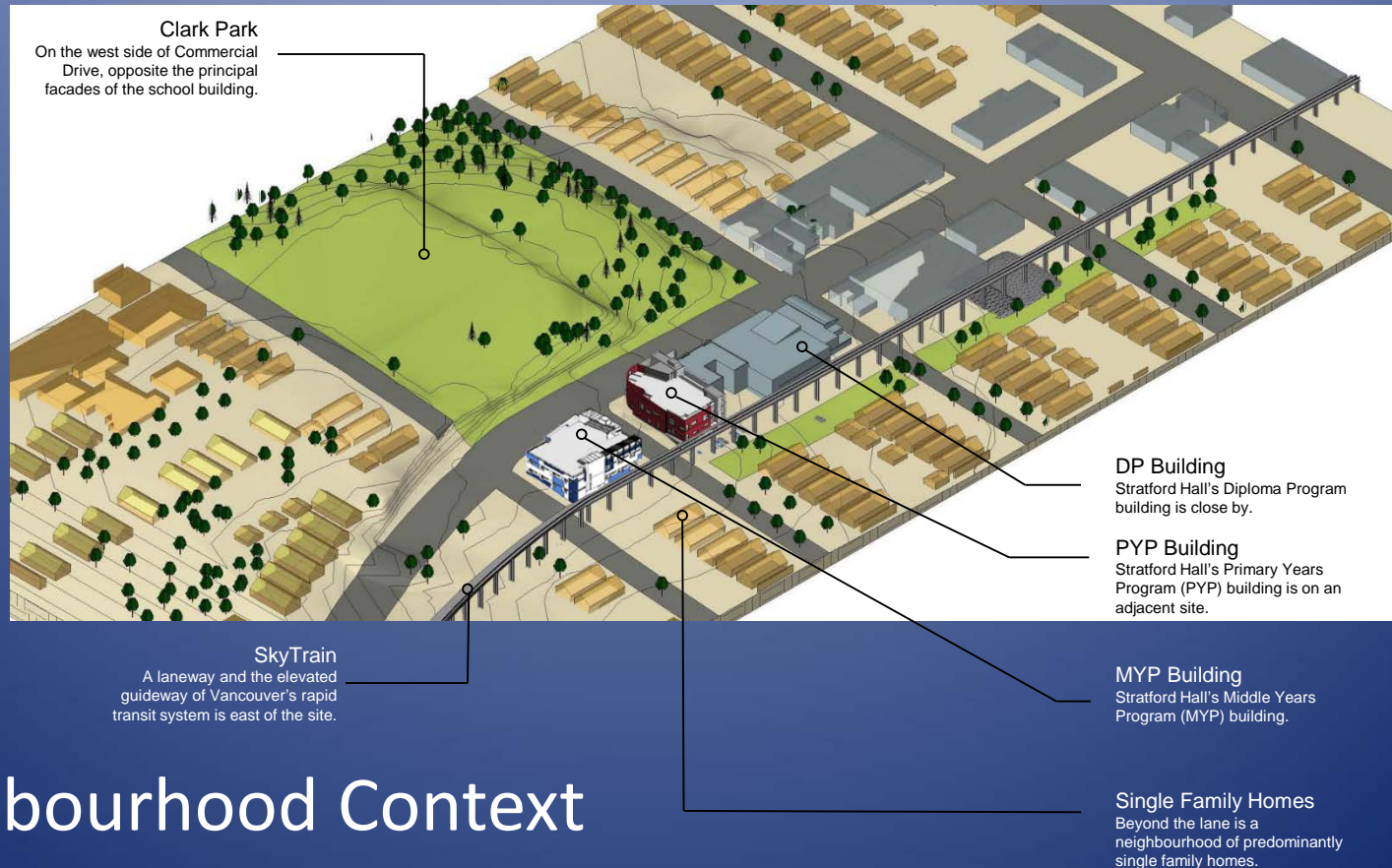
Independent School
Vancouver, British Columbia, CA

Stratford Hall International Baccalaureate School – Middle Years Program



Commercial Drive Elevation

Stratford Hall International Baccalaureate School – Middle Years Program



Neighbourhood Context

A Transparent Community

Community Environment: A high degree of transparency within the building supports International Baccalaureate learning goals, where passive supervision and observation of learning activities is ongoing. The glass-fronted learning studios also ensure direct views to the outside from all parts of the building while pleasantly flooding the interior with natural daylight. The “Atrium Commons” is an “in between” space which creates multiple opportunities for interaction between students and staff and fireplaces on each teaching level further de-institutionalize the school and create areas for quiet study and socialization in a more relaxed, domestic (homey) environment. Within days of opening the school, we discovered that the glass screens had become re-writable “stained glass windows” covered in colourful dry erase markings.



Fireplace Nooks

Community Environment: Each floor also features a fireplace with an assortment of soft furnishings surrounding it to create another node for casual interaction. The fireplaces are situated on an exterior wall and are centred in a large window opening. There was a very conscious attempt in the design of the space to “de-institutionalize” it and create an environment that was more homey, domestic and comfortable. The decision to utilize carpeting throughout the public areas, the use of a warm colour palette, the use of natural wood as well as domestic touches like the fireplaces imbue the school with a strong sense of home.



Learning Studios

Learning Environment: In the building, traditional notions of separate classrooms have been eliminated in favour of Learning Studios and small learning communities where students learn in a variety of ways. Learning Studios are both physically open to reconfiguration and recombination and visually open to the rest of the school community. Clustered in groups of two (Ground Floor) and three (Upper Floor), the Learning Studios can be combined into large spaces or separated to suit a particular educational need. The Learning Studios are wrapped around a central seminar room (or seminar room combined with Teacher's Prep Room) which provides another alternative learning environment.



The “Agora”

Learning Environment: The school encourages wide spread adoption of technology and it is very common to see students working individually or in small groups throughout the common areas of the school taking advantage of the wireless internet to complete class and/or distance learning assignments.

Wireless network/internet connections allow students to share documents and connect online throughout the building, in lieu of carrying heavy text books.



Neighbourhood Context

Physical Environment – Stratford Hall chose to occupy a commercially-zoned site in a very heterogeneous/urban context and to become a part of the local community and the city. The context, the relatively high value of the land and the prevailing form of development means that the form of the school is very non-traditional.

The gymnasium is located at the lowest level below grade, and a below grade mezzanine level houses a fitness area and service rooms. The ground and second floors feature the primary academic spaces: Learning Studios (classrooms), a Learning Commons (Library/Resource Centre), an administration office and boardroom, a science lab, a Teacher's common room, a Teacher's prep room and various support and circulation spaces. Finally, we chose to utilize the roof space of the MYP as an outdoor space for recreation and socialization.



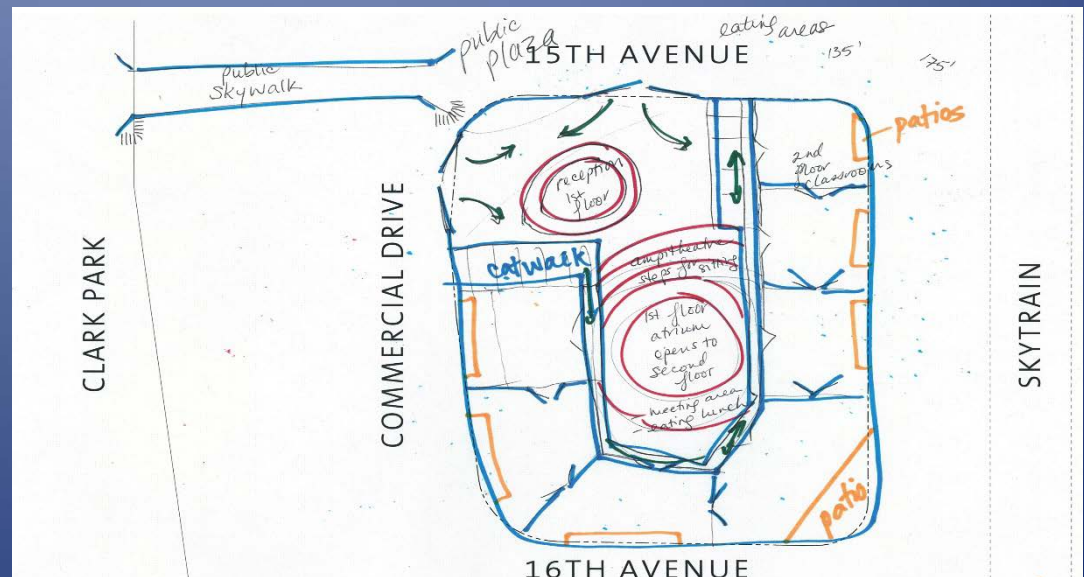
Interiors

Physical Environment -The application of modular and flexible furniture promotes a variety of learning environments and ultimate flexibility for learning communities. The Learning Studio clusters are arranged by grade level and by home room. Each small learning community of 22 students has ownership of a space within the Learning Studio clusters but they are also grouped by grade so that the students are part of a larger community of 44 grade peers. The flexible layout permits teachers to address multiple combinations of learning community. The smaller break-out rooms allow smaller groups of students to utilize the quiet spaces for project and group work.



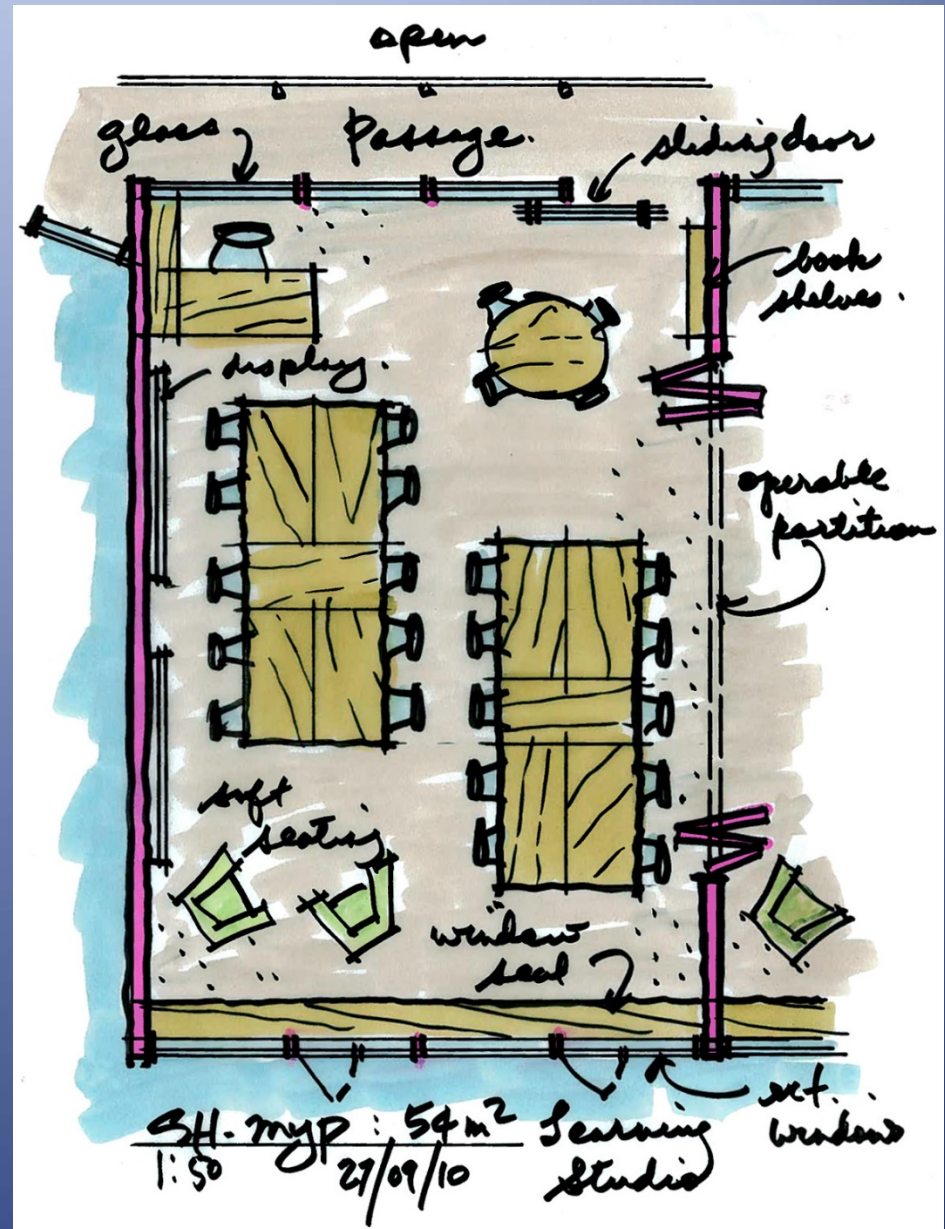
Student Charrette Sketches

Planning Process: We began the project with a series of charrettes featuring both students and staff. We set them a task (with minimum direction from the architect) to envision their ideal learning environment. We provided them with an empty site plan and a blank piece of paper and asked them to create their ideal school (on the site) and their ideal “learning module”. What was most striking about this process was the high percentage of sketches which featured a central, social “heart” of the school which became an important governing idea for our design.



Learning Studios Study

Planning Process: Our planning process focused initially on the individual “Learning Studio” (use image on the lower left of PG 4 on slide 11) which features a high degree of flexibility and allows reconfiguration of the space into modules of one, two or three Learning Studios. To address the requirements for spaces for quiet study and group projects, we used small seminar rooms located within each cluster of three Studios.



Floor plan – Ground Floor



Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Omicron Architecture Engineering Construction Ltd.
Project Role	Architecture, Development Services, Interior Design, Engineering and Construction
Project Contact	Kevin Hanvey Architect AIBC
Title	Principal / Director, Architecture (BC)
Address	Fifth Floor, Three Bentall Centre, 595 Burrard Street PO Box 49369
City, State or Province, Country	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Phone	1 877 632 3350
Joint Partner Firm:	N/A
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	
Other Firm:	Sharp & Diamond Landscape Architecture Inc.
Project Role	Landscape Architect
Project Contact	David Stoyko
Title	Principal
Address	2305 Hemlock Street
City, State or Province, Country	Vancouver, BC
Phone	604 681 3303
Construction Firm:	Omicron Construction Ltd.
Project Role	Construction Managers
Project Contact	Korey Roberts
Title	Director, Construction (BC)
Address	Fifth Floor, Three Bentall Centre, 595 Burrard Street PO Box 49369
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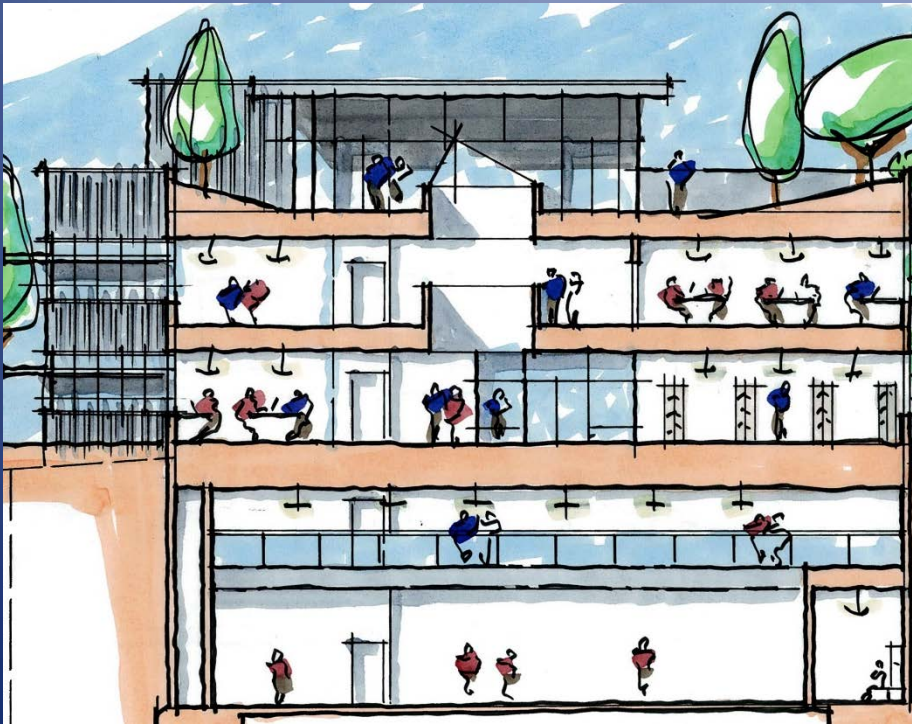
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Project Details

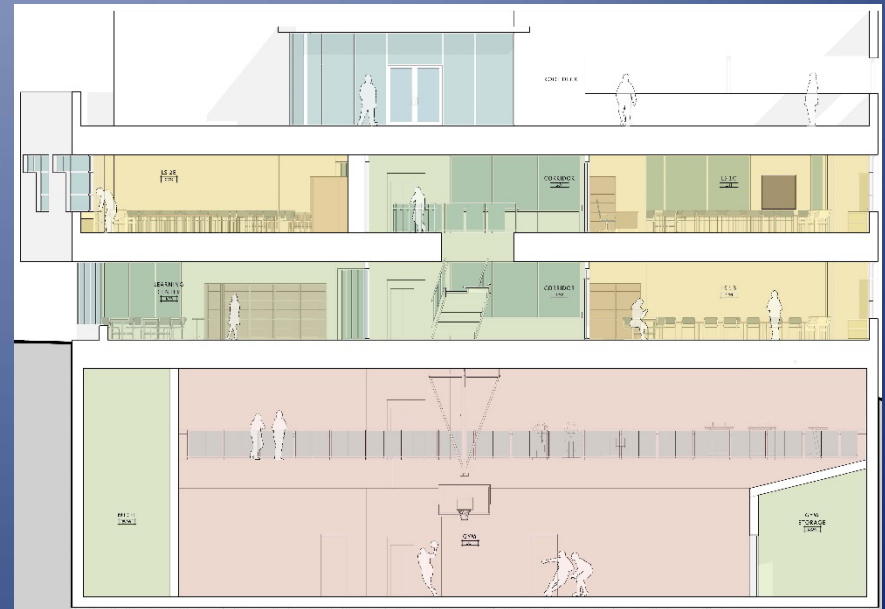
Project Name	Stratford Hall International Baccalaureate School – Middle Years Program
City	Vancouver
State	British Columbia
District Name	Independent School – not applicable
Supt/President	Dr. James McConnell (Head of School)
Occupancy Date	February 2014
Grades Housed	6 to 10
Capacity(Students)	220
Site Size (acres)	0.23 acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	31,500
Per Occupant(pupil)	145 sq.ft.
gross/net please indicate	gross
Design and Build?	Yes
If yes, Total Cost:	\$10.5 million (Canadian)
Includes:	site/building construction
If no,	
Site Development:	
Building Construction:	
Fixed Equipment:	by owner
Other:	
Total:	\$10.5 million (Canadian)

Supporting/Supplemental files/Images

- Section Study
- Revit Section



Sectional Concept Sketch



Building Section

Supporting/Supplemental files/Images

- Seminar Room
- Gymnasium



Supporting/Supplemental files/Images

- Science Lab
- Seminar Room



Supporting/Supplemental files/Images

- Roof Top Garden



- Roof Top Garden



Supporting/Supplemental files/Images

- Exterior Detail



- Northeast Corner

