



2014 Exhibition of School Planning & Architecture

UNO Soccer Academy High School

UNO Charter Schools, Chicago, IL





UNO Soccer Academy High School

An aerial architectural rendering of the UNO Soccer Academy High School. The school features a large, circular stadium with a red and white facade and a modern, angular main building. A large green soccer field is adjacent to the stadium. The school is situated on a green lot with surrounding streets labeled: ST. LOUIS AVENUE (EXTENDED), SOUTH HOMAN AVENUE, WEST 51ST STREET, and SOUTH TRUMBULL AVE. The background shows a cityscape with various buildings.

ONE OF THE MAIN GOALS OF THE UNO SOCCER ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL IS TO
CREATE A SCHOOL AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE. THAT CHANGE STARTED
WITH THE SELECTION OF THE SITE: **AN ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL LOT.**

To some, a vacant lot represents neglect. For UNO, it's a landmark of hope. It's a chance to **rebuild, refresh** and **renew** the spirit of an entire community. Like any good neighbor, the school sets a standard to which everyone can aspire. It reflects the collective pride of the community.

Think Big. Look Forward. Capture Spirit.

UNO Soccer Academy High School



Community Environment:

This is not just another high school. It's a catalyst for change. It's a labor of love for the parents, students, teachers, architects and builders dedicated to improving schools in underserved communities. December 2011 began a new design and construction project for a 960-student charter high school in Chicago's Gage Park neighborhood. The client: United Neighborhood Organization (UNO), a recognized leader in developing schools that meet the unique needs of overcrowded, inner-city communities. With 13 charter schools at the time in the UNO network, UNO was on a mission to create a national model for education that builds, improves and empowers communities.

This is a story about the shared ideals that brought the new UNO high school to life. It's a story about joining forces to use the power of architecture to transform education and revitalize communities. UNO schools use design to inspire neighborhoods and communities to be better than they already are.



The school embodies what UNO believes educational facilities should represent: ***The hopes and dreams of their local communities.***

While pedestrian connectivity and public open spaces are paramount, other features include:

High visibility to promote community engagement

Outdoor space used as a living, learning laboratory

A large community plaza & soccer field

Convenient access to public transportation

Connection to local parks & area schools

Minimized vehicular circulation, parking & other impervious surfaces



Learning Environment:

In 21st century learning, a school's language is becoming more inspirational than it's ever been. The interior approach to the UNO Soccer Academy High School achieves a welcoming and inspirational space through a lighter aesthetic—one that engages, educates and communicates on a global level. On the inside, the landscape is raw, and urban—like an art gallery—with bright pops of color hailing from furniture and graphic wall designs. There's no wall art hung on the perimeter glass walls: the real masterpieces are the priceless but free views of the surrounding community and Chicago skyline.



To accommodate different learning styles, project needs and collaborative study, the **Student Resource Center** provides a variety of private and group seating areas for information seekers, as well as state-of-the-art library resources and tech tools. Divided into four main zones, the space is entirely flexible—just like a 21st century library should be.

STUDY ZONE

Includes genius bars that are fully-wired and data ready

LOUNGE ZONE

A cozier haven for students to relax and revive

SEMINAR ZONE

Reserved for classroom instruction and larger gatherings

GATHER ZONE

Perfect for smaller face-to-face meetings



Learning Environment:

Maximizing every square foot per student to enhance efficiency was a considerable challenge for the UNO Soccer Academy High School design team, especially since circular design can make space planning less flexible. Instead of teacher-owned classrooms, for example, the high school features teacher collaborative zones. Teachers are constantly on the move, creating an energy in every space they occupy.



Learning Environment:

Soccer is beloved by the Hispanic community and an important tool for engaging students. During master planning on the adjacent Soccer Academy Elementary School, UNO worked closely with soccer organizations such as Chicago Fire to better understand the relationship between soccer and education. They examined case studies in both Mexico and Spain, which revealed a dramatic increase in both student learning and parental involvement when soccer facilities were integrated into educational campuses.



Learning Environment:

Classroom clusters feature graphic walls that speak to the curiosity of architecture and engineering. Vibrant colors correspond to each cluster, adding warmth and making wayfinding easier. And for a playful touch, plywood corner guards double as tackable surfaces with space for signage. Keeping with the soccer theme, the building is divided into six zones, each of which represents a world cup confederation. Stadiums, host cities and provinces are featured to further reinforce UNO's heart for the sport, as well provide a little added geography lesson.



OPEN DOORS TO OPEN MINDS.

The central outdoor courtyard located in the nucleus of the building is a living, learning laboratory that teaches respect for nature and doubles as an outdoor classroom. Breakout spaces located on all three levels inside the school also allow students to engage in group study, relaxed discussion and impromptu interactions with faculty.



Physical Environment:

The design is essentially a 'glass ring' partially shrouded by a striking metal panel. Playful and dramatic angles announce the main entry, gymnasium, and courtyard. As the central hub of the school and community, the courtyard features an energetic and welcoming glass façade linking the interior and exterior. Natural light is maximized to promote a heightened sense of community. Green design and efficient planning and construction are also incorporated.



Physical Environment:

The central exterior courtyard located in the nucleus of the building is a living, learning laboratory that teaches respect for nature and doubles as an outdoor classroom. The landscape balances green space with hardscape, while rock formations double as seating areas for students. Anchored by the courtyard, the entire building was inspired by the design of a geode rock—secure on the outside, but with a fractal structure on the inside. The exterior is very smooth and simple with red metal panels and glass, like a hard candy. But there is wondrous sparkle on the inside, with faceted glass that slopes in some areas. The effect is particularly evident from the courtyard perspective.



Physical Environment:

For UNO, the environment is like a second curriculum that stimulates the senses, awakens pride and accelerates learning in a college-bound culture. Space is an investment in everyone.

The UNO Soccer Academy High School's unique circular design promotes safety and connection, suggesting that all students are embraced in a cradle of trust and belonging. It's a flow zone that encourages students to experience more enjoyment, creativity and involvement in their environment.

A 24/7 building open at night and on weekends to the community, the high school affords students a dynamic environment with little time for inertia. Use of space is maximized throughout the day, creating a bustling, nimble stomping ground where active minds can flourish. Students and staff circulate around the center spine, activating an energy that whirls outside to the surrounding community.

2012 >

APR

MAY

JUN

File PD application

Fire protection review
Traffic & parking analysis
Meet with landscaping and CDDT about the Loop Ave expansionLate nights at the office
More late nights at the officeFoundation bid package
Steel bid package
Begin earthworkBegin site utilities and foundation
The Big Day: Planning Commission meeting
Obtain foundation permit

City Council approval

File for PD Part II (green building reviewed)
Obtain steel frame permit
Part II approvedBegin steel erection
Obtain green building permit

Curtain wall

JULY

AUG

SEPT

OCT

NOV

2013 >

DEC

WINDY CITY SPECS

School Opens
9.16.13



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

39 teaching spaces total
6 classrooms per grade (35 total)
39 programmatic spaces

Total square footage: 78,000

Planning Process:

The UNO Soccer Academy High School was conceived as a Planned Development (PD), and therefore required much more coordination with the City of Chicago beyond standard permitting and zoning. Getting a Planned Development approved is a complex process that has to be responsive to City requirements, as well as the Owner's goals, budget and schedule.



Planning Process:

Through collaboration between UNO and the design-builder, the concept for UNO Soccer Academy High School developed from a few key ideals:

ONE: Together we can build schools faster and cheaper without sacrificing quality or good design.

TWO: The only way to get a project done right is to roll up your sleeves and dive in. Move forward with strong leadership and constant contact.

THREE: Good school design has transformative and enduring power for everyone: students, teachers, parents and community members.



How Does the Planning Process Affect the Learning Environment?

ELEVATE THE EVERYDAY: Views of the Chicago skyline and the surrounding community inspire students to achieve their full potential while reinforcing their sense of belonging.

LIGHT LABS: Learning becomes transparent from the outside through abundant windows that maximize natural light, trigger the senses and arouse curiosity. By locating corridors along the largely glass perimeter of the building, the school is able to dramatically increase daylight and views inside the classroom.

HALL PASS: Administrative offices in the UNO Soccer Academy High School are placed at the main entrance for all to see, while teacher resource rooms are visible throughout the facility for easy drop-ins. Breakout spaces located on all three levels inside the school also allow students to engage in group study, relaxed discussion and impromptu interactions with faculty and staff.



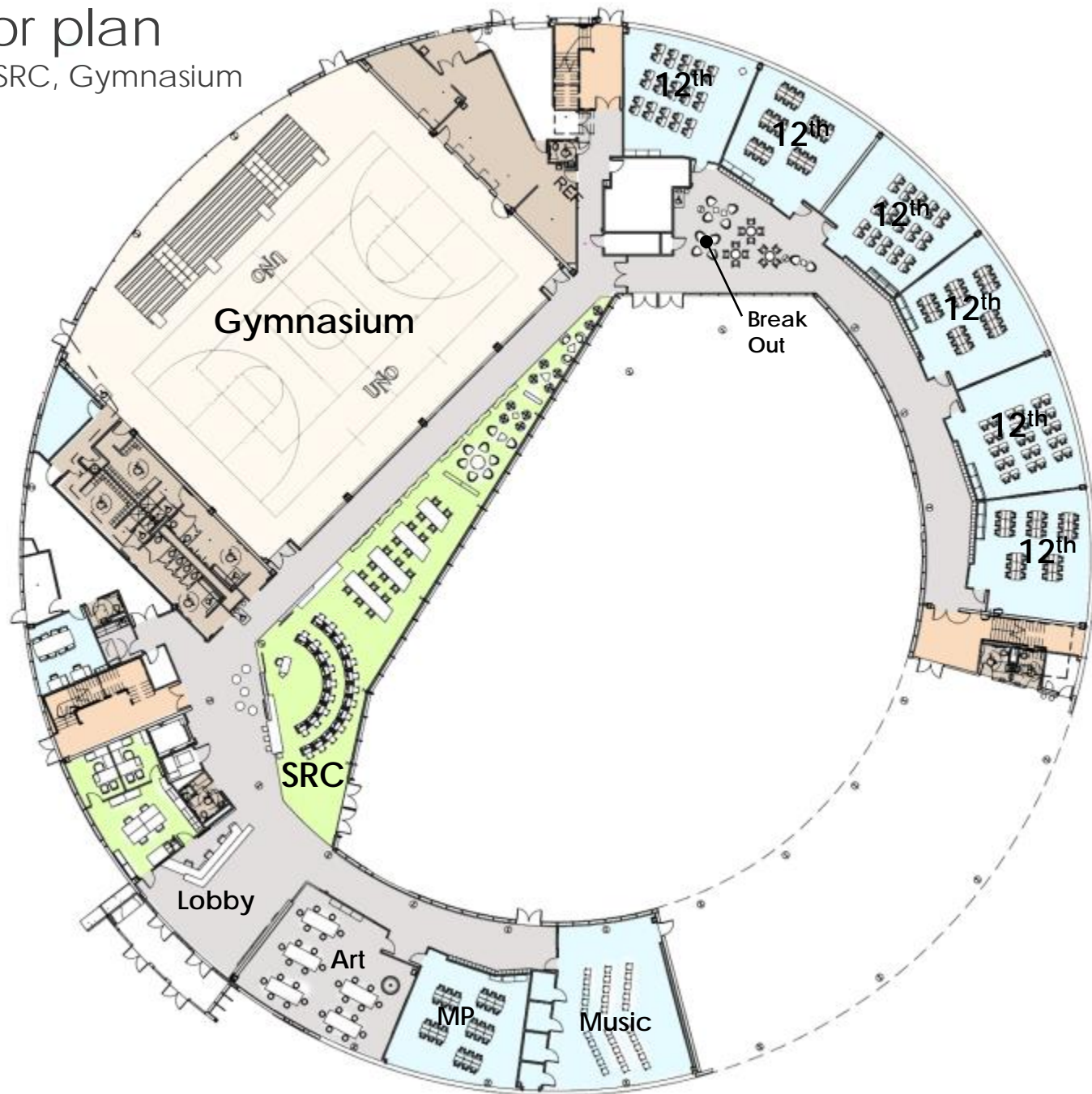
Methods used to ensure the final environment aligns with the Vision and Goals set during the planning phase:

A high school gymnasium creates a colorful canvas for kids. Part mess hall, part spirit space, part community center, the gym is 100 percent multi-functional. And the UNO Soccer Academy High School gym is no exception. But it's also a space with a rich design history. The original design for the UNO Soccer Academy High School master campus included a large athletic center, as well as a free-standing rectangular gym located outside the main circle that could double as a cafeteria. But when the site location for the school moved, the athletic center was no longer possible. The smaller gym was conceived to serve multiple functions while also providing a regulation sized basketball court, accommodating 140 more students in the building.

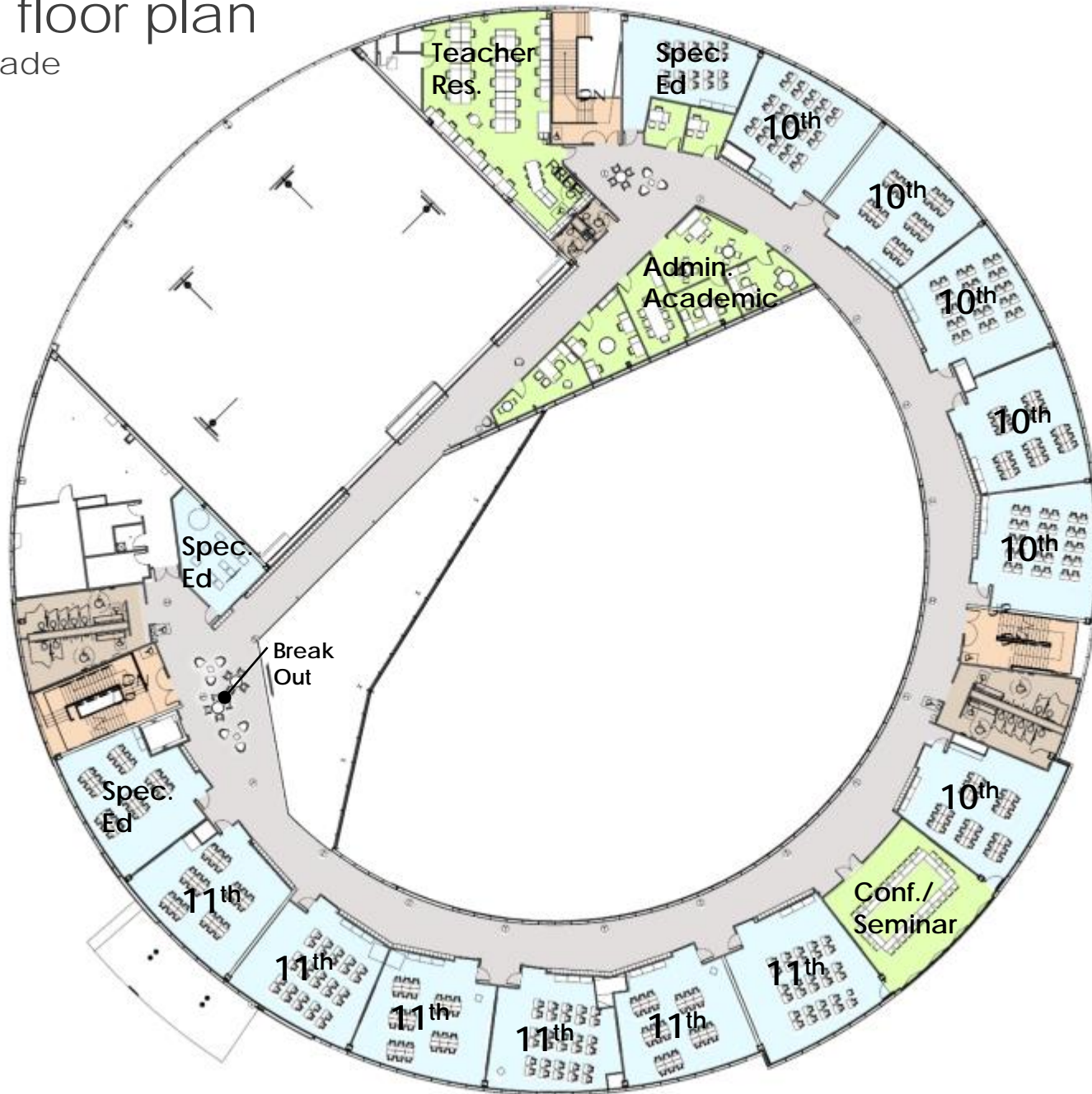
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First floor plan

12th Grade, SRC, Gymnasium

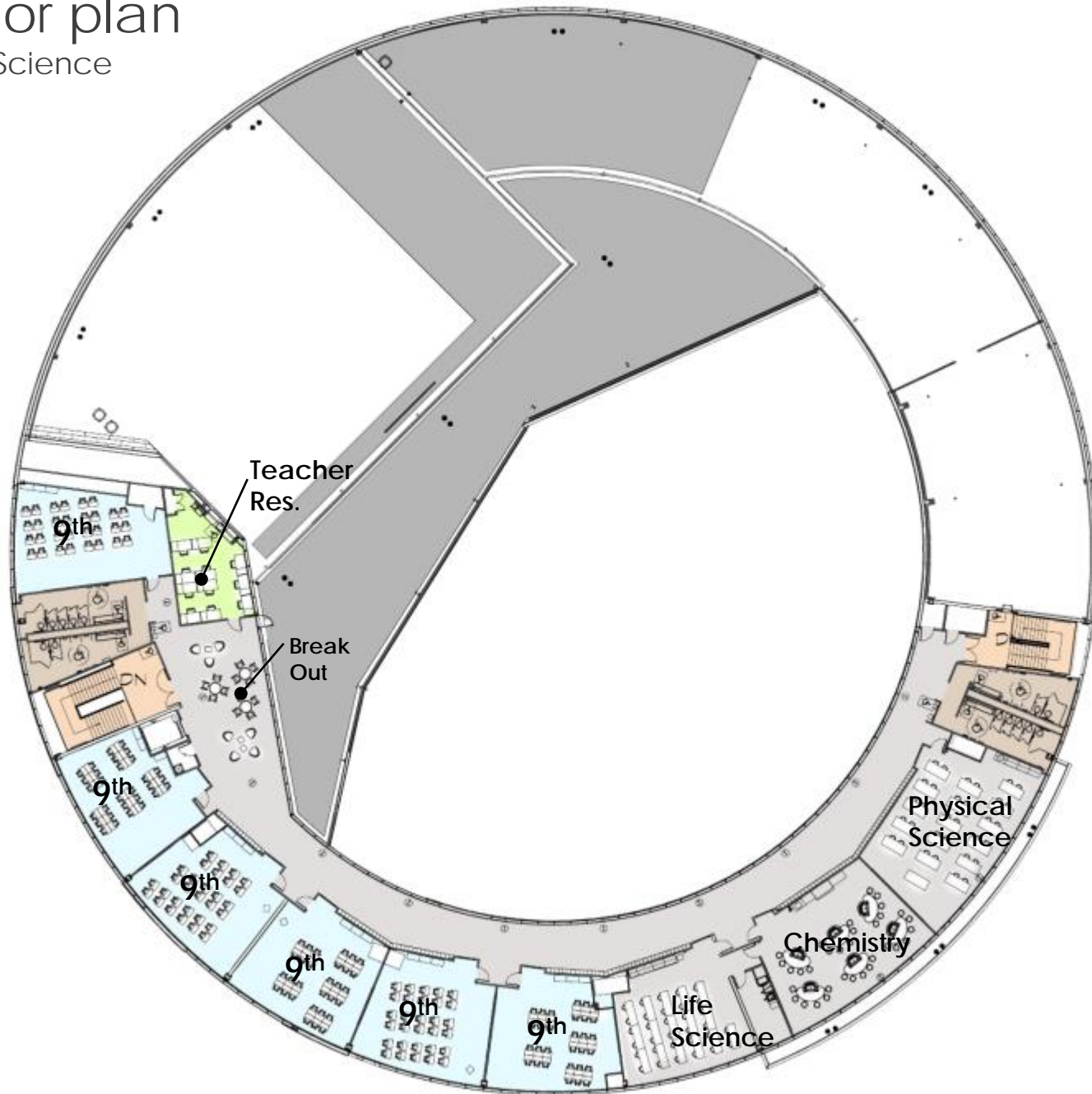


10th & 11th Grade



Third floor plan

9th Grade & Science



Submitting Firm:	Wight & Company
Project Role	Architect
Project Contact	Michael Lubbers, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Title	Creative Director
Address	211 North Clinton Street, Suite 300N
City, State or Province, Country	Chicago, Illinois USA
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Other Firm:	Primera
Project Role	MEP Engineering
Project Contact	Ken Pannuci
Title	Buildings Division Lead
Address	100 South Wacker Drive, Suite 700
City, State or Province, Country	Chicago, Illinois USA
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Other Firm:	Site Design Group, Ltd.
Project Role	Landscape Architect
Project Contact	Ernest Wong, FASLA, APA
Title	President
Address	888 South Michigan Avenue, #1000
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Other Firm:	Drucker Zajdel Structural Engineers, Inc.
Project Role	Structural Engineering
Project Contact	Carol Drucker
Title	Owner
Address	55 South Main Street, Suite 277
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Other Firm:	Terra Engineering
Project Role	Civil Engineering
Project Contact	Jamil Bou-Saab, PE
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Address	225 W. Ohio Street, 4 th Floor
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Phone	312.467.0123

Other Firm:	John Lyle & Associates
Project Role	Code Consultants
Project Contact	Rick Darche
Title	Principal
Address	180 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 3700
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Other Firm:	Pioneer Environmental
Project Role	Geotechnical
Project Contact	Jeffrey McClelland
Title	Vice President
Address	700 North Sacramento Blvd., Suite 101
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Phone	773.299.1942

Construction Firm:	Wight & Company
Project Role	Construction Manager
Project Contact	Ray Prokop, DBIA, LEED AP
Title	Vice President, Construction
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City, State or Province, Country	Darien, Illinois USA
Phone	630.969.7000

Exhibition of School Planning & Architecture Project Data

Project Name	UNO Soccer Academy High School
City	Chicago
State	Illinois
District Name	UNO Charter Schools
Supt/President	Jesse Estrada, CEO
Occupancy Date	September, 2013
Grades Housed	9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th
Capacity(Students)	960 students
Site Size (acres)	4.71 acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	77,088 sq. ft.
Per Occupant(pupil)	80 sq. ft./student
gross/net please indicate	77,088 gross/65,525 net
Design and Build?	Yes
If yes, Total Cost:	\$31,389,610
Includes:	Construction cost for high school and soccerfield as well as design build fees.
If no,	
Site Development:	
Building Construction:	
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	
Total:	\$31,389,610

Exhibition of School Planning & Architecture **Project Details**



Think Big. Look Forward. Capture Spirit.





“ The school belongs to the community, to the neighborhood. I’ve never seen a community support a school like this in my life. The parents and city are so supportive and respectful of each other.

IT JUST BLOWS MY MIND.”