

# 2015 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Cherry Crest Elementary

Category: New Construction

Bellevue School District

Bellevue, WA

# Cherry Crest Elementary



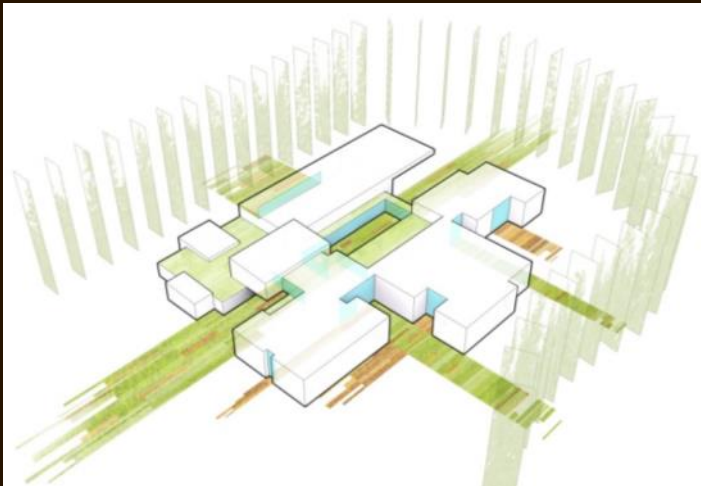


## Design concept - Site Weaving:

The building is nestled in the landscape.

Architecture and landscape engage in a dynamic relationship.

Landscape becomes part of the architecture.



Cherry Crest Elementary - Site Plan and Diagram







Welcoming  
Canopy

Wait  
Socialize

Entry Lobby  
Learning Stairs

Courtyard – Exterior  
Protected Foyer

Outdoor Play  
Social chit chat

## Community Environment:

Common spaces flow from the entry courtyard to an indoor lobby with the Learning Stairs, connecting to a protected interior courtyard.





## Community Environment:

Community has personalized school's common spaces for a variety of purposes, from the passport club to many community gatherings.







**Learning Environment:** School design blends formal and informal spaces to provide flexibility for a variety of educational and social uses for groups of all sizes.





### Learning Environment:

Shared spaces in each pod provide many opportunities for collaboration.

Every ground floor shared space has a direct exterior connection for curriculum enrichment in an outdoor setting.





**Physical Environment:** The central courtyard extends from the main lobby, providing an impromptu exterior foyer for community gatherings and a stimulating place for informal student play.





**Physical Environment:** The green roof above central courtyard is a quiet place at the heart of the school for outdoor learning, staff breaks and simply a peaceful spot for a relaxation and reflection.



## Planning Process: Clear Goals Through Consensus

A steering design committee comprised of teachers, administrators and parents worked closely with the design team to articulate the inspiring vision for the new school. Collaboration covered the spectrum from philosophical educational brainstorming to hands-on charrettes testing the concepts on a very tight site. Enthusiasm was palpable throughout the process, including at broad community meetings that engaged not only the parents and neighbors but a number of students as well. It was a fifth grader at one of those broad community meetings who immediately recognized the value of a green roof with a learning garden/ terrace at the heart of the school. The concept and design was set. Teachers have found the roof to be a favorite space for planning and socializing.

### Educational Goals:

- Blend formal and informal learning:

*Create a wide variety of spaces suitable for different student needs, one-to-one mentoring, small focus groups, individual study, formal and informal learning.*

*Provide good transparency and connection between the breakout areas and classrooms to foster collaboration.*

- Enhance an environmental curriculum:

*Extend learning outside via dedicated outdoor spaces; informal paths that encourage observations; purposeful landscape design that can teach storm water management through the path of water onsite; planting; and the history of the site by preserving the logs that had to be cut down.*





## Planning Process: Clear Goals Through Consensus

### Community Engagement Goals:

- Create a welcoming place that blends social and educational, formal and informal:

*Unusually high interaction of the school and community generated input in the planning process that required that the school design pays exceptional attention to provide spaces that foster serendipitous community and school interaction.*

### Experiential Goals:

- Incorporate the beauty of the site into the daily experience:

*“We love being on our site, but not being in the existing building”*

*– teacher and parent feedback on the previously existing school facility.*

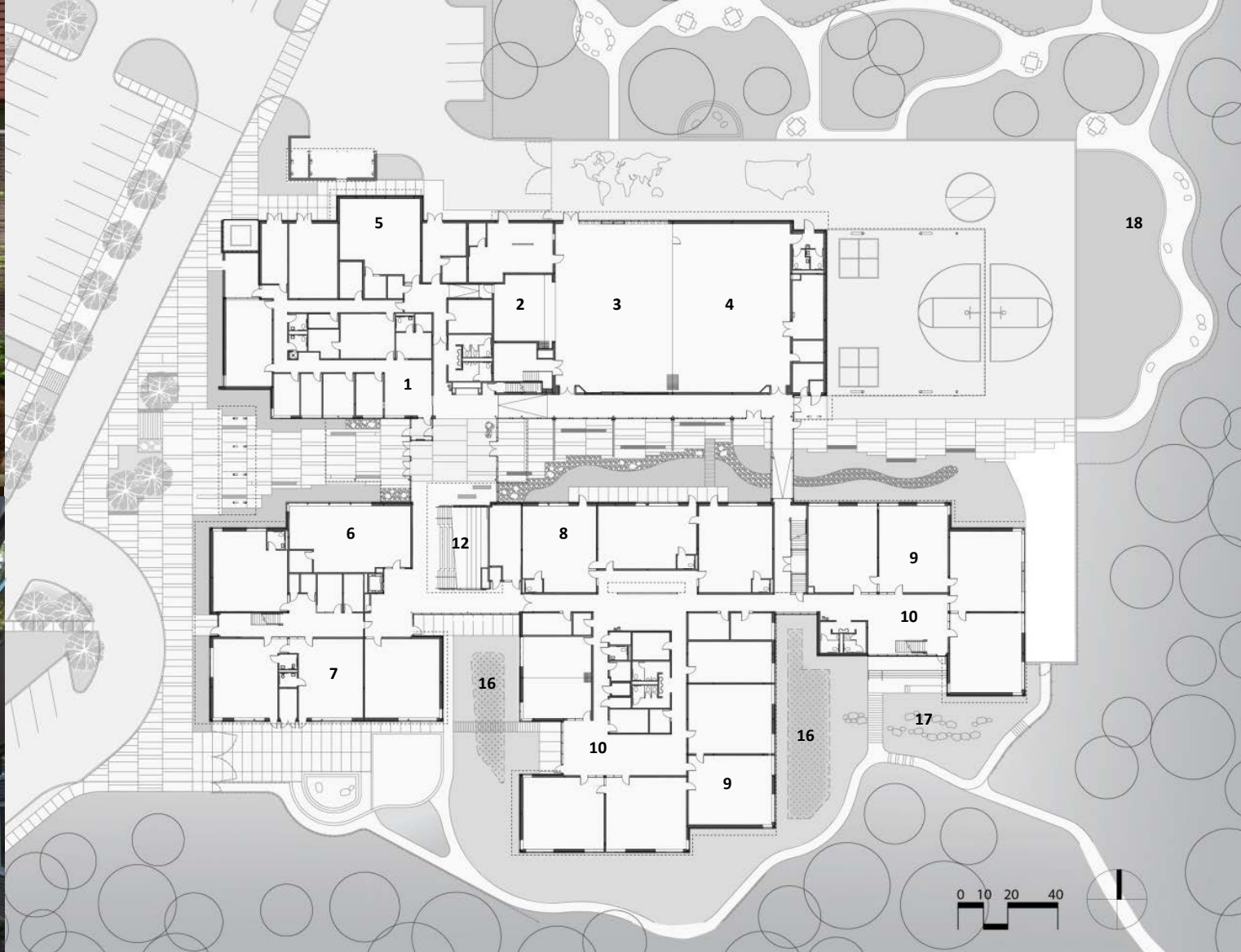
### OVERALL DESIGN MANDATE:

*As we synthesized the planning input from school educators and community members, it became clear that the new design needs to create a sense of being on the site as opposed to in the building.*



New school design defines a clear neighborhood path around the building.





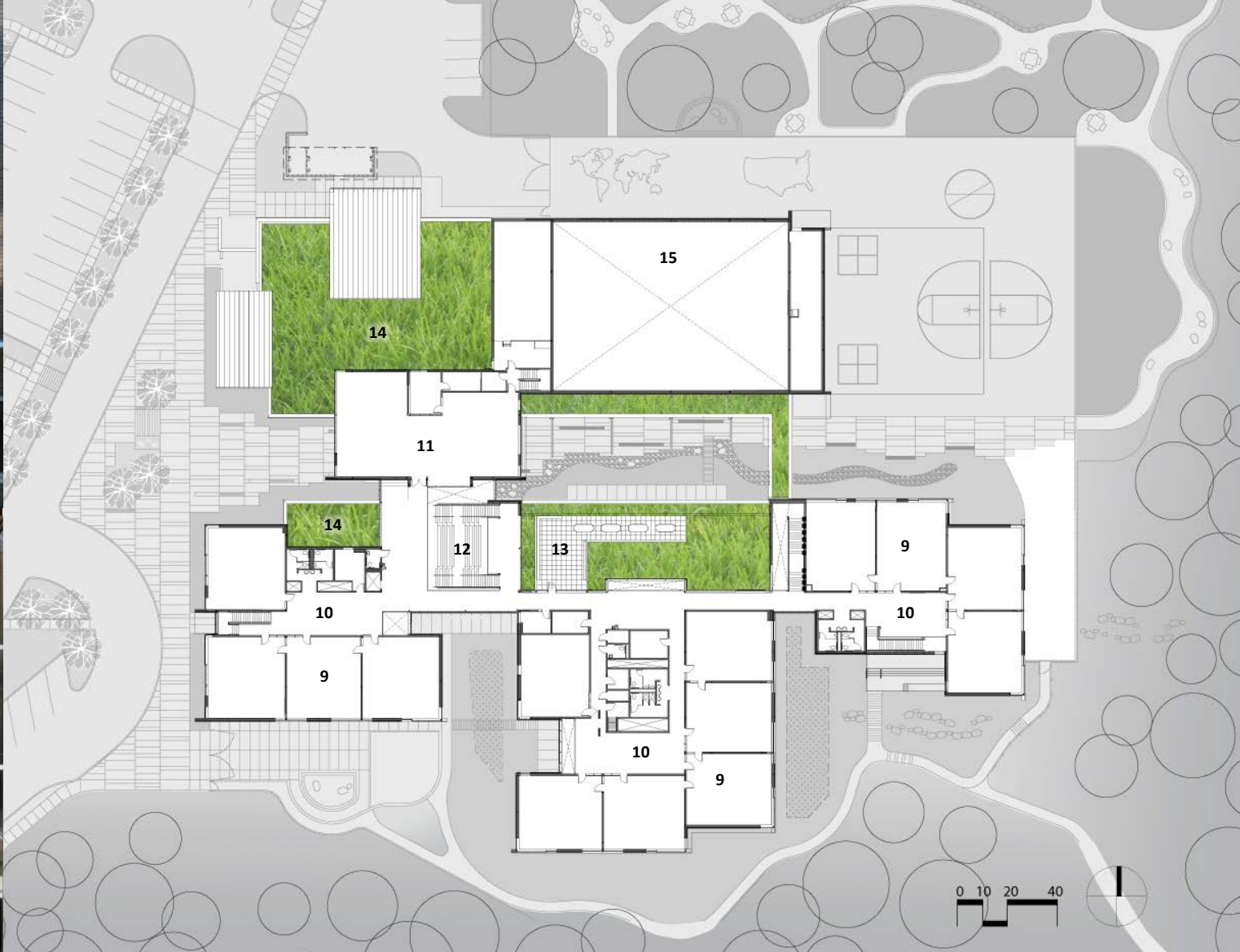
## First Floor / Site Plan

1	Administration	6	Art	11	Library	15	PVs on Roof (100 kW)
2	Stage	7	Early Child Care	12	Learning Stair	16	Rain Garden
3	Cafeteria	8	Kindergarten	13	Green Roof/ Learning Terrace	17	Outdoor Learning Steps
4	Gym	9	Classroom Pod	14	Green Roof	18	Outdoor Play Area
5	Music	10	Shared Space				



Public  
Social  
Academic



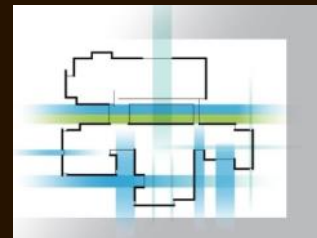


## Second Floor

- |    |                |    |                                 |
|----|----------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 9  | Classroom Pod  | 13 | Green Roof/<br>Learning Terrace |
| 10 | Shared Space   | 14 | Green Roof                      |
| 11 | Library        | 15 | PVs on Roof (100 kW)            |
| 12 | Learning Stair |    |                                 |

## Indoor/Outdoor Connection

Site flows through the building





# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Project Data

Submitting Firm :	NAC Architecture
Project Role	Architect
Project Contact	Boris Srdar, AIA, LEED AP
Title	Project Designer
Address	2025 First Avenue Suite 300
City, State or Province, Country	Seattle, Washington 98121
Phone	206.441.4522

Joint Partner Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Other Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Construction Firm:	Bayley Construction
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Michael Williams
Title	Project Manager
Address	8005 SE 28 <sup>th</sup> Street
City, State or Province, Country	Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone	206 621-8884



# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Project Details

<b>Project Name</b>	Cherry Crest Elementary School
<b>City</b>	Bellevue
<b>State</b>	Washington
<b>District Name</b>	Bellevue School District
<b>Supt/President</b>	Dr. J. Tim Mills, Superintendent
<b>Occupancy Date</b>	August 2012
<b>Grades Housed</b>	K-5
<b>Capacity(Students)</b>	550 students
<b>Site Size (acres)</b>	10 acres + 5 parks
<b>Gross Area (sq. ft.)</b>	76,950 GSF
<b>Per Occupant(pupil)</b>	140 GSF/pupil
<b>gross/net please indicate</b>	Gross
<b>Design and Build?</b>	N/A
<b>If yes, Total Cost:</b>	
<b>Includes:</b>	
<b>If no,</b>	
<b>Site Development:</b>	\$3,442,855
<b>Building Construction:</b>	\$19,367,265
<b>Fixed Equipment:</b>	N/A
<b>Other:</b>	N/A
<b>Total:</b>	\$22,810,120



## Learning Happens Everywhere:

Flexible informal spaces stimulate personalized use.

Physical environment and the learning environment are inseparable.



Band playing



After hours program



Whole grade gathering





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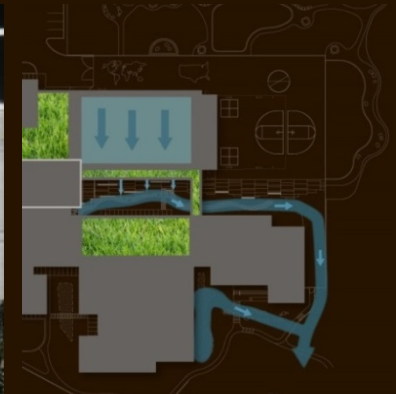
## Learning with the Environment

Sustainability plays a critical role towards both experiential and programmatic transformations. The design sets as its goal creation of a building and site that provide exceptional opportunities for environmental learning.

The holistic design strategies used throughout the school result in excellent energy performance (EUI of 13.86 ). They also participate in the educational process incorporating signage throughout the site and energy consumption monitoring in the lobby.



**The Path of Water** is an integral part of the site and building experience. From the green roofs to the creek in the courtyard, the path of water is woven into the natural drainage of the site.







The raingardens and path around the school are well used by teachers and students for educational purposes as well as by the community for enjoyment and exercise.







Create a sense of being *on the site*  
as opposed to *in the building*

The landscape becomes part of the architecture.

