

A high-angle, circular view looking down into a large, multi-level atrium. The structure is characterized by a complex wooden radial framework that supports multiple levels of walkways and balconies. The central area features a large, circular skylight. The overall design is symmetrical and radial, with warm wooden tones and integrated lighting creating a modern architectural aesthetic.

Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

2013 Exhibition of School
Planning and Architecture
Indianapolis, Indiana



Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

recreating the hub in the heart of the city

Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

Recreating the Hub...

Originally built in 1955, Abbotsford Senior Secondary School formed the central community hub for the city. 55 years later, this aging, outdated facility found itself with declining school population in a tumble-down historical core of a city 7 times the size and in desperate need for revitalization.

With the School Board's vision for the school to again become the community hub within 21st Century models, and "neighborhood of learning" site for the inner city students and families, the decision to partially replace the school, upgrade and renovate the newer portions, and revamp vehicular flow became reality.

Site Plan



Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

Celebrating together...

City officials and School District staff partnered together to add the Sweeney Neighborhood of Learning Centre as part of the new school.

As a key to revitalizing the downtown core, this partnership engaged numerous civic, community, school and neighborhood learning center stakeholders in the process, creating a sense of ownership and relevance for school and community needs.



*Sweeney Neighborhood
of Learning stair tower*



School opening September 2012

Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

Gathering community...

By combining resources in joining Abbotsford Senior with the Abbotsford Community Library and Sweeney Neighborhood Learning Centre, students and their community are now drawn together.

Various levels of community were consulted in naming the school, library, learning center, play fields, and even the community art piece that uniquely celebrates the area.

Community Library & inspirational artwork



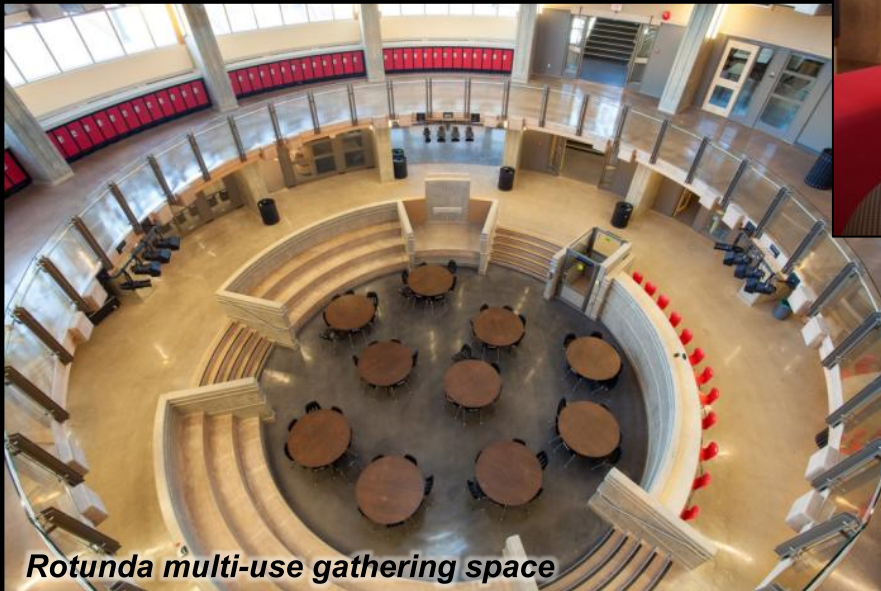
Joining school and community libraries



Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

Beyond the classroom...

Inviting, bright gathering pockets, pull-out spaces and corridor seating areas allow learning and social break-out in various sizes, styles and locations on all floors.



Rotunda multi-use gathering space

Creative openings connecting these spaces with teaching opportunities allows for instruction in 21st Century teaching methods, and allows for future change.



Pull-out space & common area



Seating areas near main entry

Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

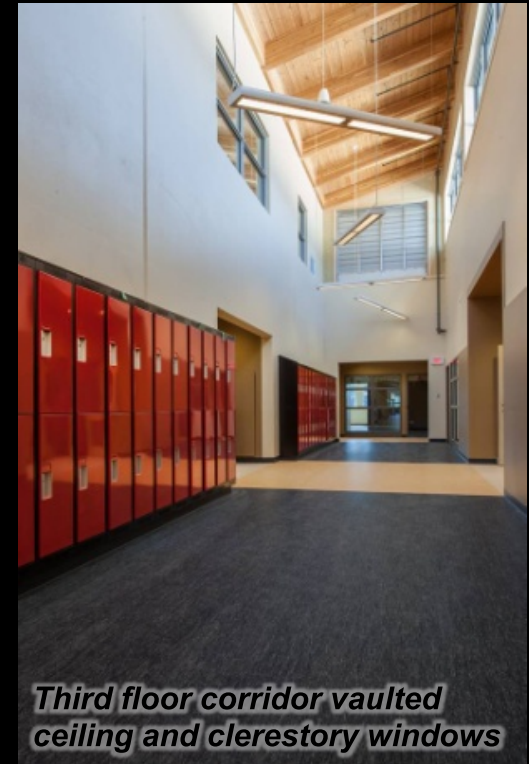
Successful learning...

Wide corridors allow ease of flow, accessibility for all students, including those with physical limitations.

Interesting colours, materials and textures were selected for creatively shaped teaching spaces and inspire students, while acoustics were considered to enable conversation and thought to coexist beyond the traditional classroom.



School Library



Third floor corridor vaulted ceiling and clerestory windows



Corridor light wells & wood inlay ceilings

Digital presentation centres and learning kiosks educate students on the geothermal and green initiatives at gathering locations.



Open corridors & seating

Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

Adaptive Instruction

Science super lab, “guide from the side” computer lab, vocational facilities including wood shops, hairdressing studio and a teaching kitchen allows for more in-depth and specialized teaching, preparing students for real-life application. Links between rooms accommodate teacher and student collaboration, while overhead doors and adjacent multi-purpose space extend the classroom beyond traditional walls.



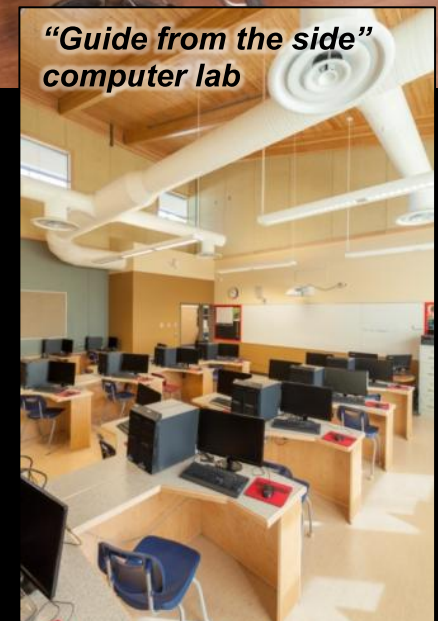
Hairdressing Studio



Science super lab

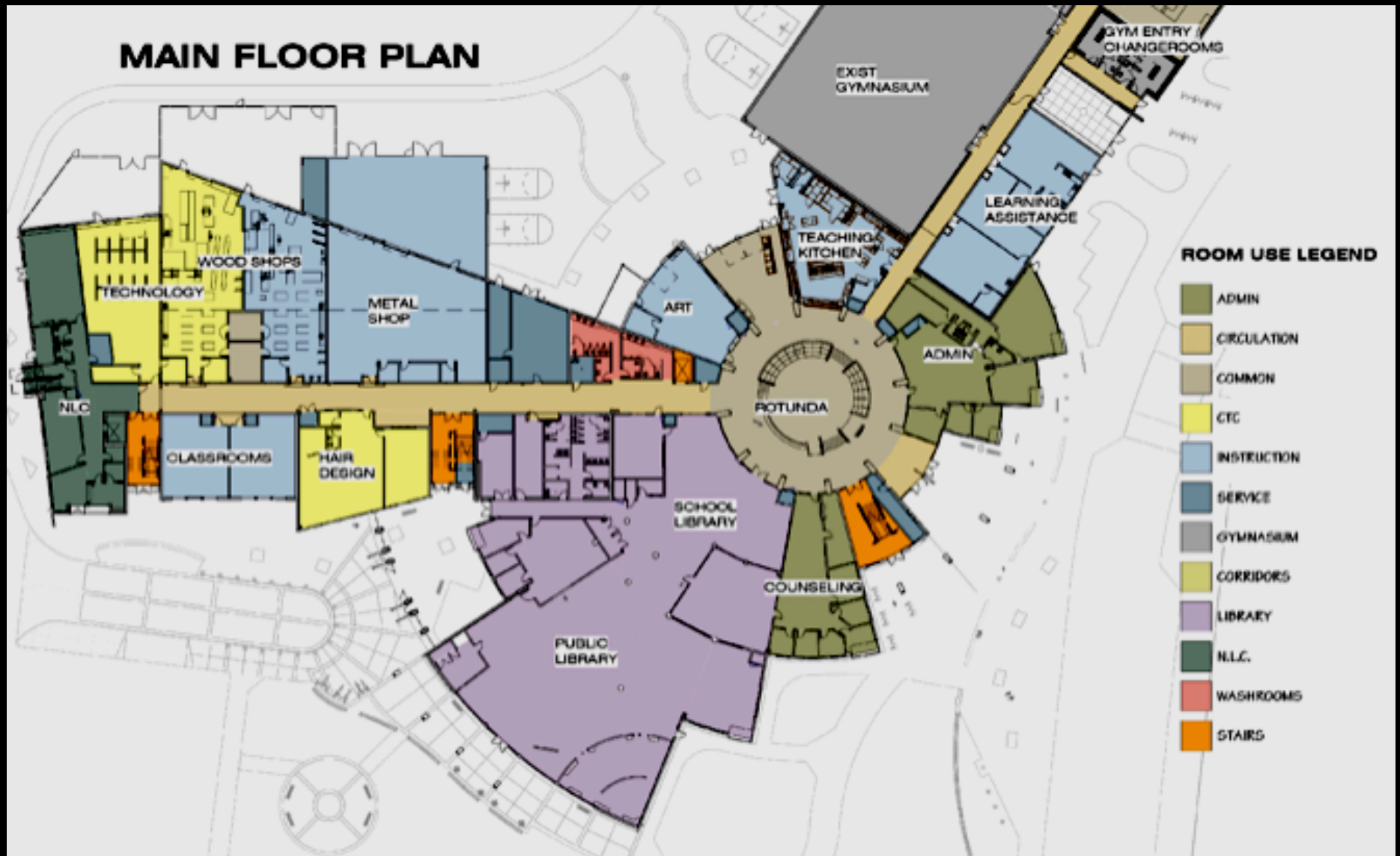


Interconnected rooms

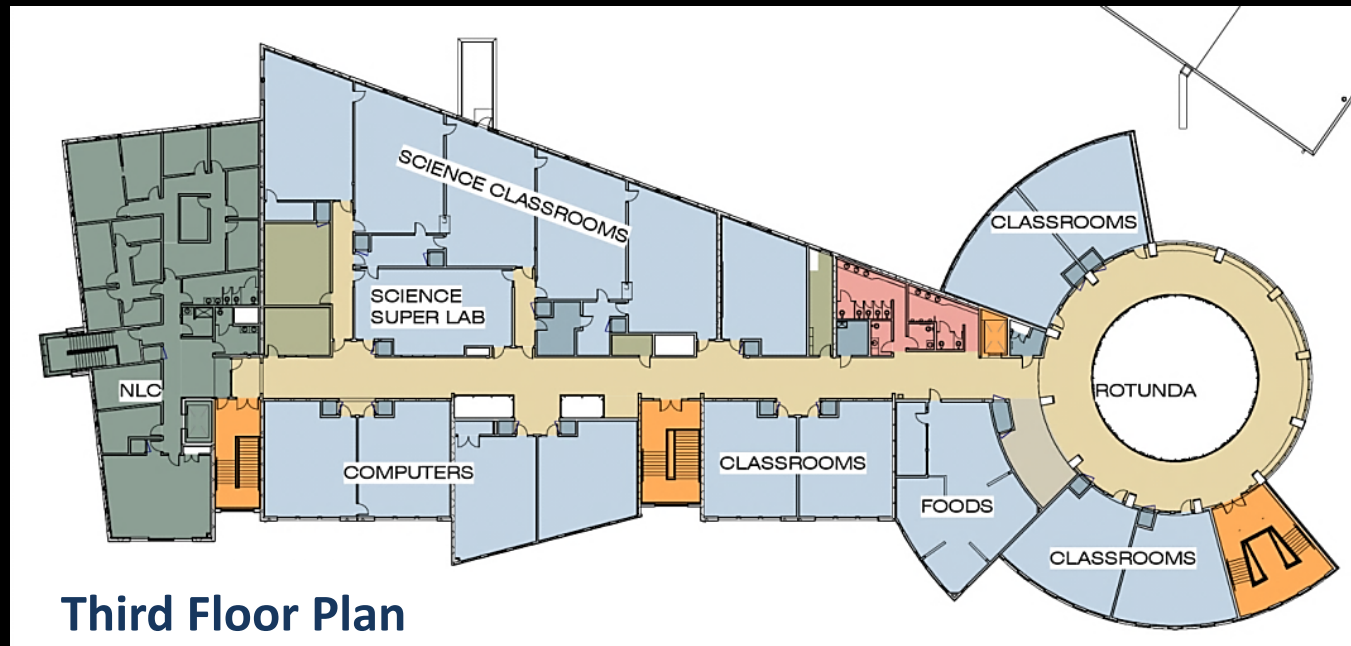
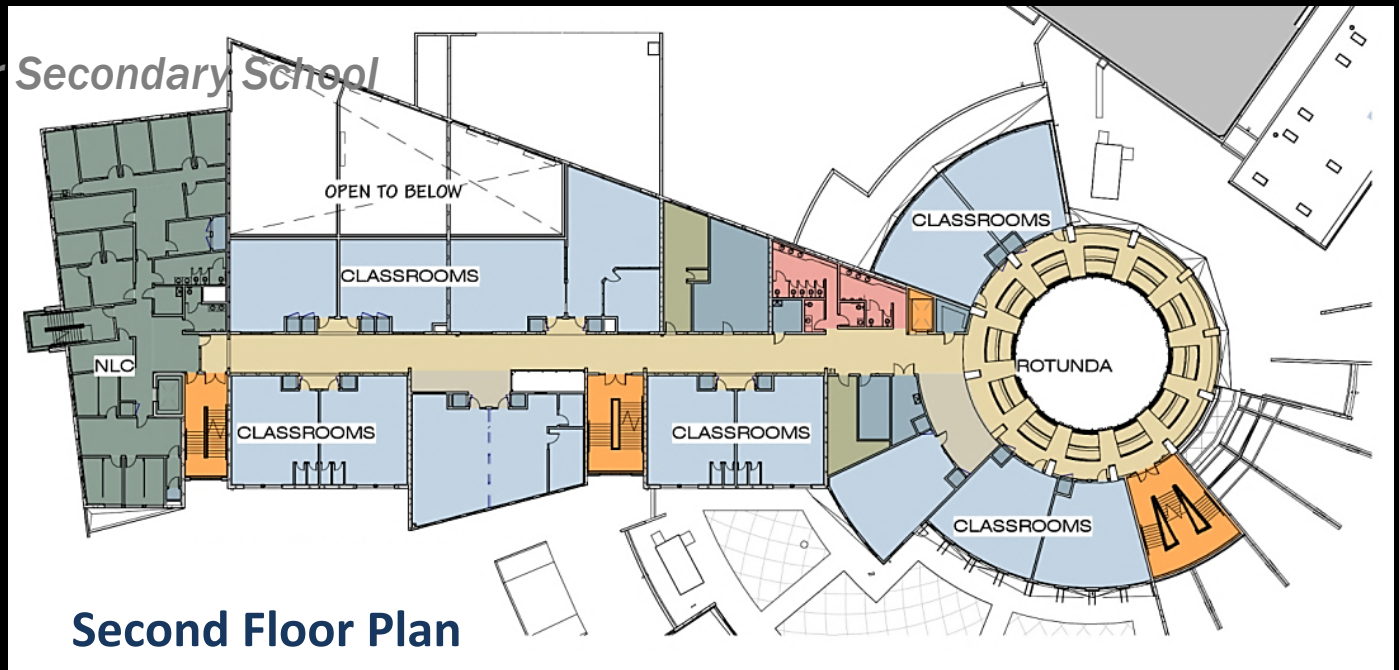


“Guide from the side” computer lab

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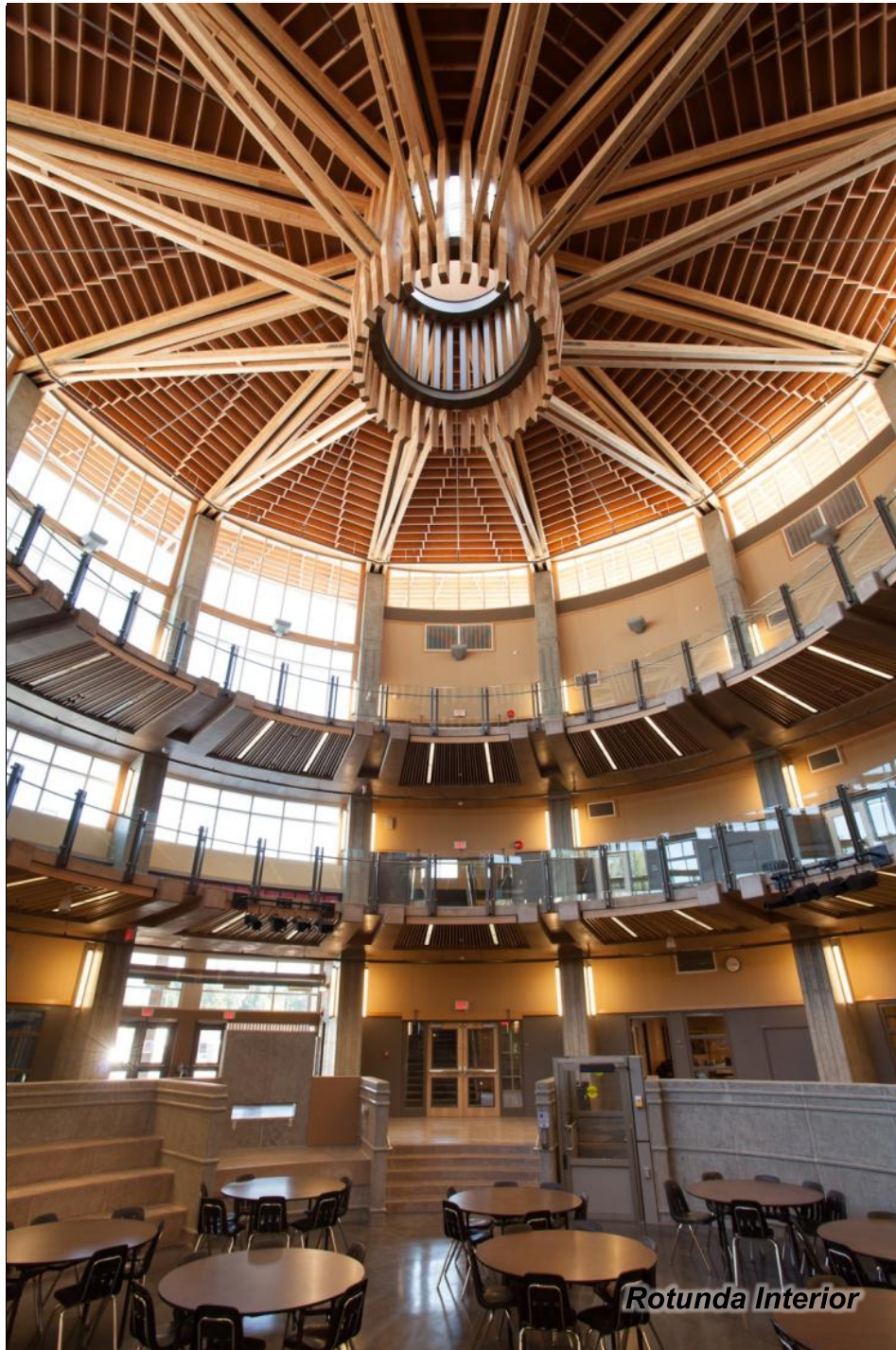


Abbotsford Senior Secondary School



ROOM USE LEGEND

- ADMIN
- CIRCULATION
- COMMON
- INSTRUCTION
- SERVICE
- GYMNASIUM
- N.L.C.
- WASHROOMS
- STAIRS



Rotunda Interior

Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

Inspiring success...

Architecturally, the building radiates from the school's central cohesive gesture, a 3-story cast-in-place concrete, steel, glass and wood rotunda. This inspirational, finely detailed, wood-roofed structure provides a bright programmatic focal point, with corridors and communal spaces radiating out concentrically.

Exposed concrete walls, columns and cantilevered coloured concrete ring slabs with glass railings create an interesting play on light and firmness to the space.



*Full-height glazing
around the rotunda*

Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

Inspiring...

Following BC's Wood-First Act, significant amounts of wood are featured with glulam beams and purlins, timber decking for the roof, exterior heavy timber loggia, accent beams, wood panels and grids used throughout the building. The 3-story structure was constructed out of wood framing.



Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

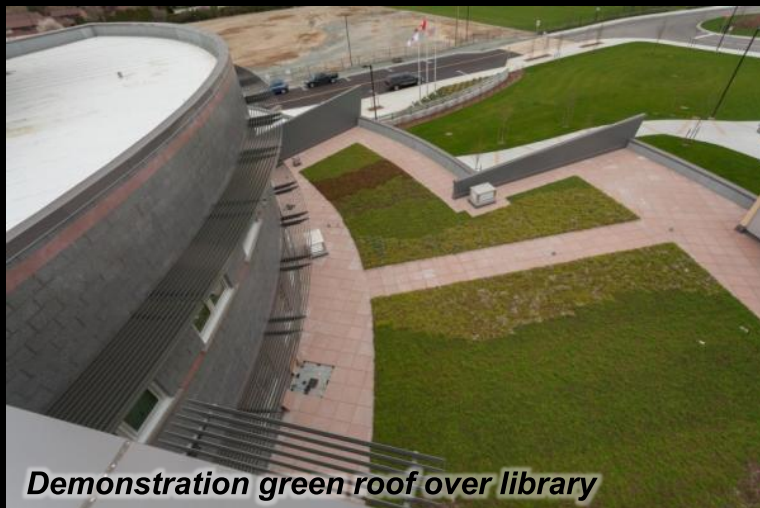
Beyond Gold standards...

Surpassing Abbotsford School District's goal, achieving LEED Gold certification & going beyond provides a valuable example to the students and community in sustainability and appropriate use of materials, systems and building elements.

Geothermal educational center and classroom



Green-initiative signage throughout site



Demonstration green roof over library

A unique stand-alone classroom built completely within and around the geothermal/mechanical plant, plus digital presentation centers and learning kiosks at gathering locations throughout the school, are direct teaching tools where all LEED and green systems used in the school are replicated and explained for the students and public.

Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

Sustainability in action...

- green roof and high albedo roof surfaces
- extensive daylighting and natural ventilation
- natural material selection including stained and natural concrete floors
- exposed wood and steelwork
- low-VOC paints
- low-flow water fixtures
- recycled material content in floor coverings and furnishings
- all glulam beams salvaged from the original demolished building reused as seating in the new facility.



Refinished truss roof structure in existing gym



Reclaimed timbers used for benches in rotunda



Exposed geothermal exchange system for viewing



Solar shades over windows

Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

Achieving the dream...

On-time and on-budget, the partnership of City officials and user-groups, all levels of School District personnel, architects, engineers, construction managers and community stakeholders made the vision of drawing the community back together as a vitalized central hub of revitalization for learning and growth a reality.



Counselling area



Natural lighting used extensively

Following the school district's mandate to keep kids in school, students are now thriving, the Neighborhood Learning Centre is full of community groups and the Community Library is open for all ages.



Inviting landscaping draws the community in