

2013 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

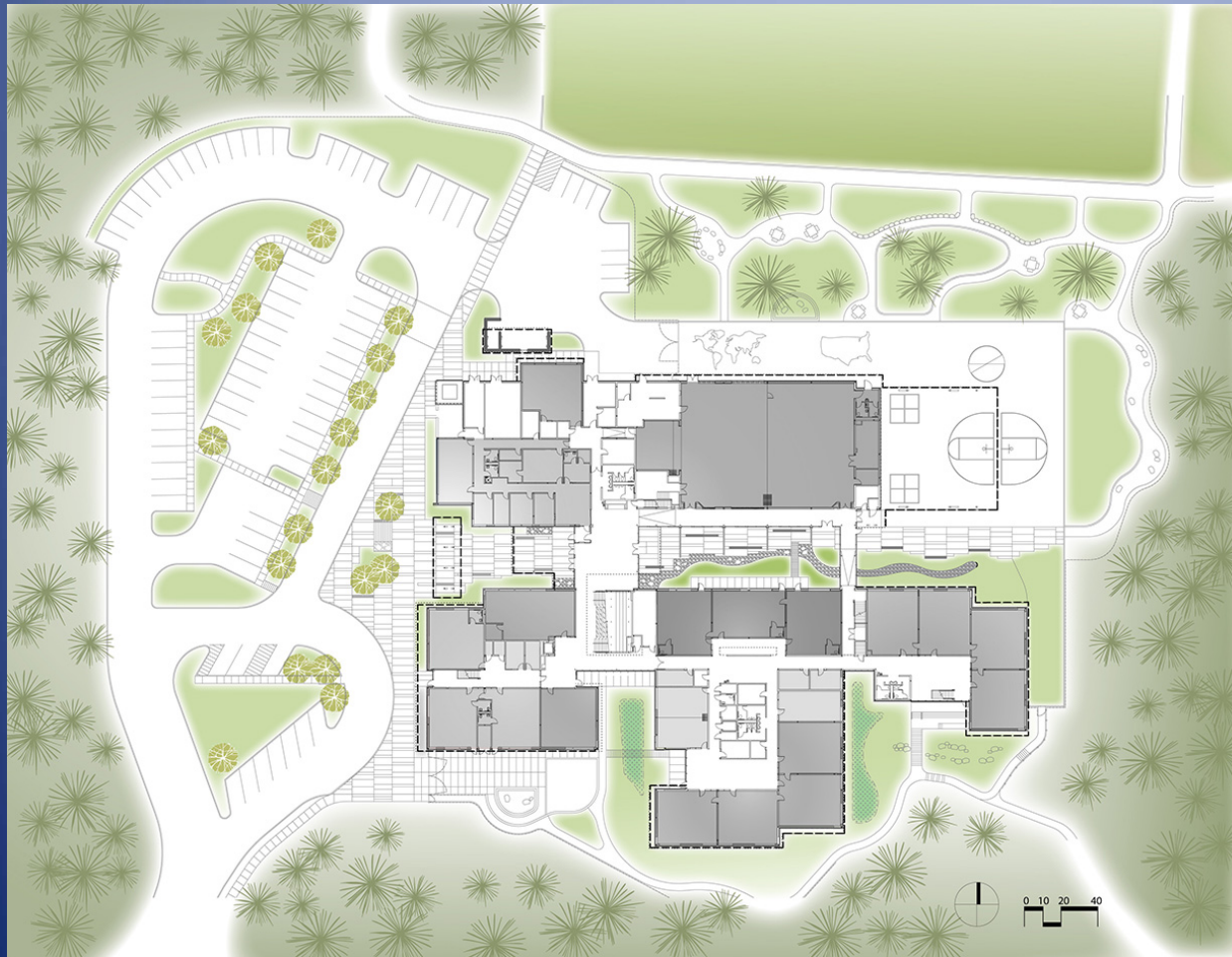
Cherry Crest Elementary School

Bellevue, Washington

Cherry Crest Elementary School



Cherry Crest Elementary School



Site Weaving:

The design concept intertwines the site and building in a continuous flow, inside becoming outside.

Education extends throughout the site

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

Community Environment:

The site and building design reflect the values of exceptionally engaged parents and community members. Landscaping, canopy and the entry courtyard create a welcoming exterior foyer for informal gathering and community events.



Community Environment:

The entry courtyard flows into an interior lobby with ample space for a multitude of community-based events to take place. The Learning stairs off the main lobby serve as an educational and social hub at the intersection of the academic and public areas.



Learning Environment: Learning with Nature

The concept of site weaving enabled many educational spaces to take full advantage of the site's beauty. A green roof with learning garden connects users with the entire expanse of the wooded perimeter.



Learning Happens Everywhere

Learning Environment: Learning with Nature

Shared and break out spaces have direct connections to the outside, including relationships to the outdoor learning areas. Interior and exterior transparencies enhance the feeling of the school as a community and as a place in harmony with its exceptionally beautiful natural setting.



Physical Environment: Bringing the Beauty of the Natural Setting into the Daily Experience

Physical and visual connections between the break out spaces and the exterior learning areas engage students with the natural environment.



Physical Environment: Bringing the Beauty of the Natural Setting into the Daily Experience

Extending from the main entry lobby, the central courtyard provides an impromptu exterior foyer for community gathering in the adjacent cafeteria/gym, while also serving as a stimulating learning and playing space for the students.



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 the 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 as well.

Educational Goals:

- Create spaces that foster collaboration:

Provide good transparency and connection between the breakout areas and classrooms.

- Provide opportunities for learning with nature:

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.

- Provide spaces for individual/small group learning:

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



Planning Process: Clear Goals Through Consensus

Community Engagement Goals:

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

Provide spaces that foster serendipitous community and school interaction.

Environmental Goals:

- Create plenty of opportunities for environmental learning:

Take advantage of the natural setting to create additional educational opportunities – stimulate students' awareness of the environment.

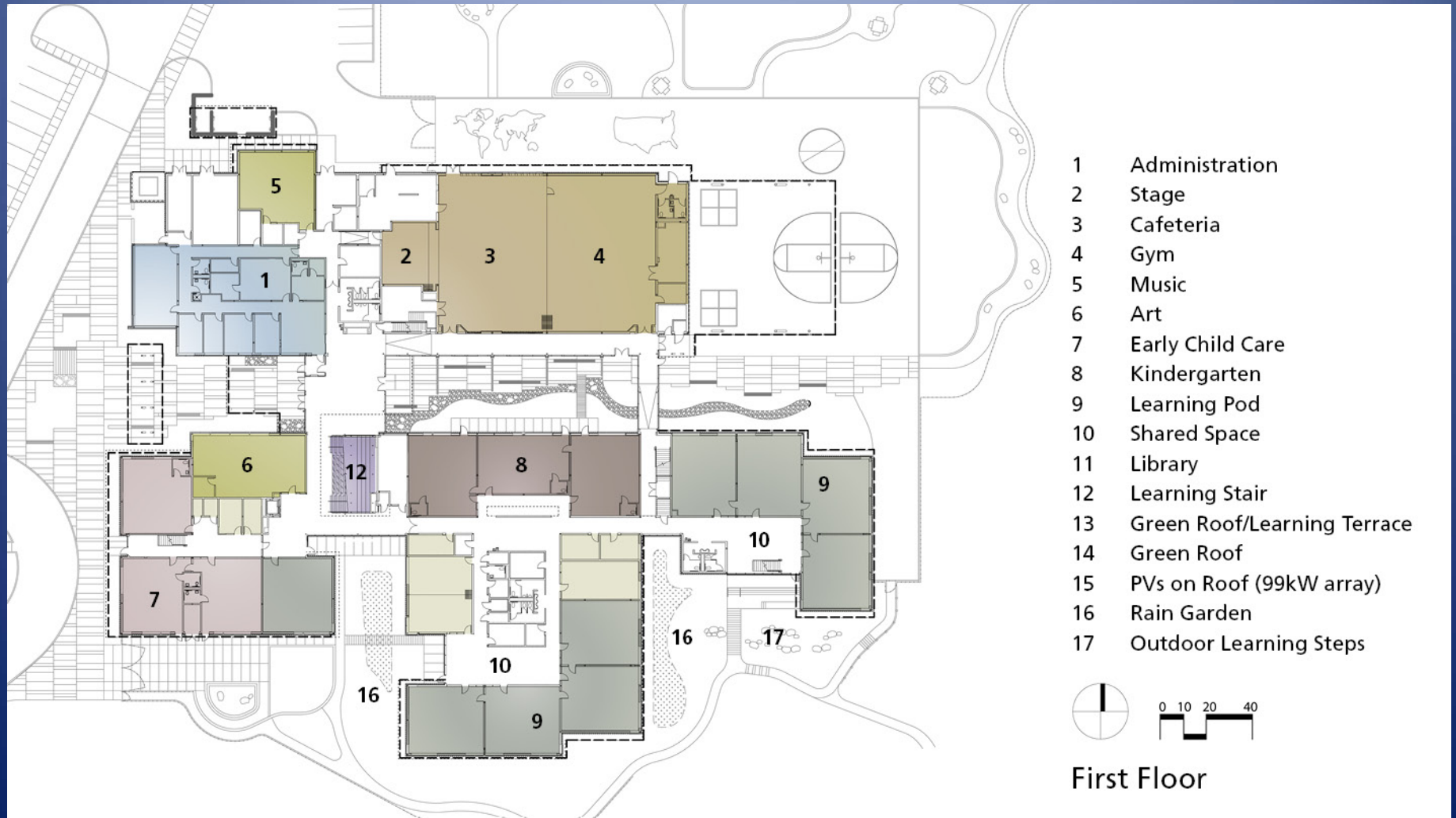
Experiential Goals:

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

"We very much like being on the site, but not being in the existing building" – a teacher and a parent summarizing the opinion of many from the school community about the older existing facility which was replaced.



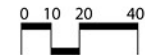
Floor plan



Floor plan



- 9 Learning Pod
- 10 Shared Space
- 11 Library
- 12 Learning Stair
- 13 Green Roof/Learning Terrace
- 14 Green Roof
- 15 PVs on Roof (99kW array)



Second Floor

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	
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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 th Street
City, State or Province, Country	Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone	206 621-8884

Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Project Details

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

Learning stairs blend formal and informal, educational and social. The space has been used for large grade-level gatherings and presentations, PTSA events, impromptu teacher and parent meetings as well as for small group or individual use. The space is comfortable for a couple of people in a study or reflection mode, as well as for a group of seventy.





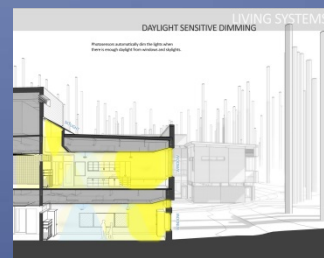
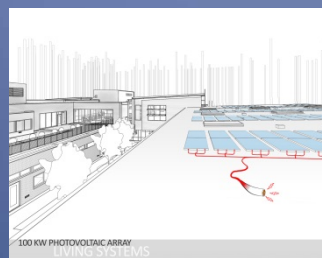
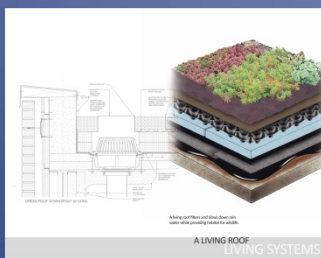
The Library has a prospect location on the second floor above the main entry lobby. Reclaimed wood from the site forms a small group reading area.





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. The building and the woods are intimately connected through the site weaving concept, creating the feeling that you are never far from the woods.





The new school is also a model of a highly efficient building on a small site. Ground source heat pumps, super-insulated walls, highly-efficient heat recovery, ample daylighting and 100 kW PV array contribute to achieving an EUI of approximately 18 in the first year of operation. Signage throughout the site and an energy monitoring panel in the entry lobby provide opportunities for teachers and the community to engage sustainability in the educational realm.

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 life of the site.

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

