

# 2013 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Milan Center for Innovative Studies

Milan, Michigan

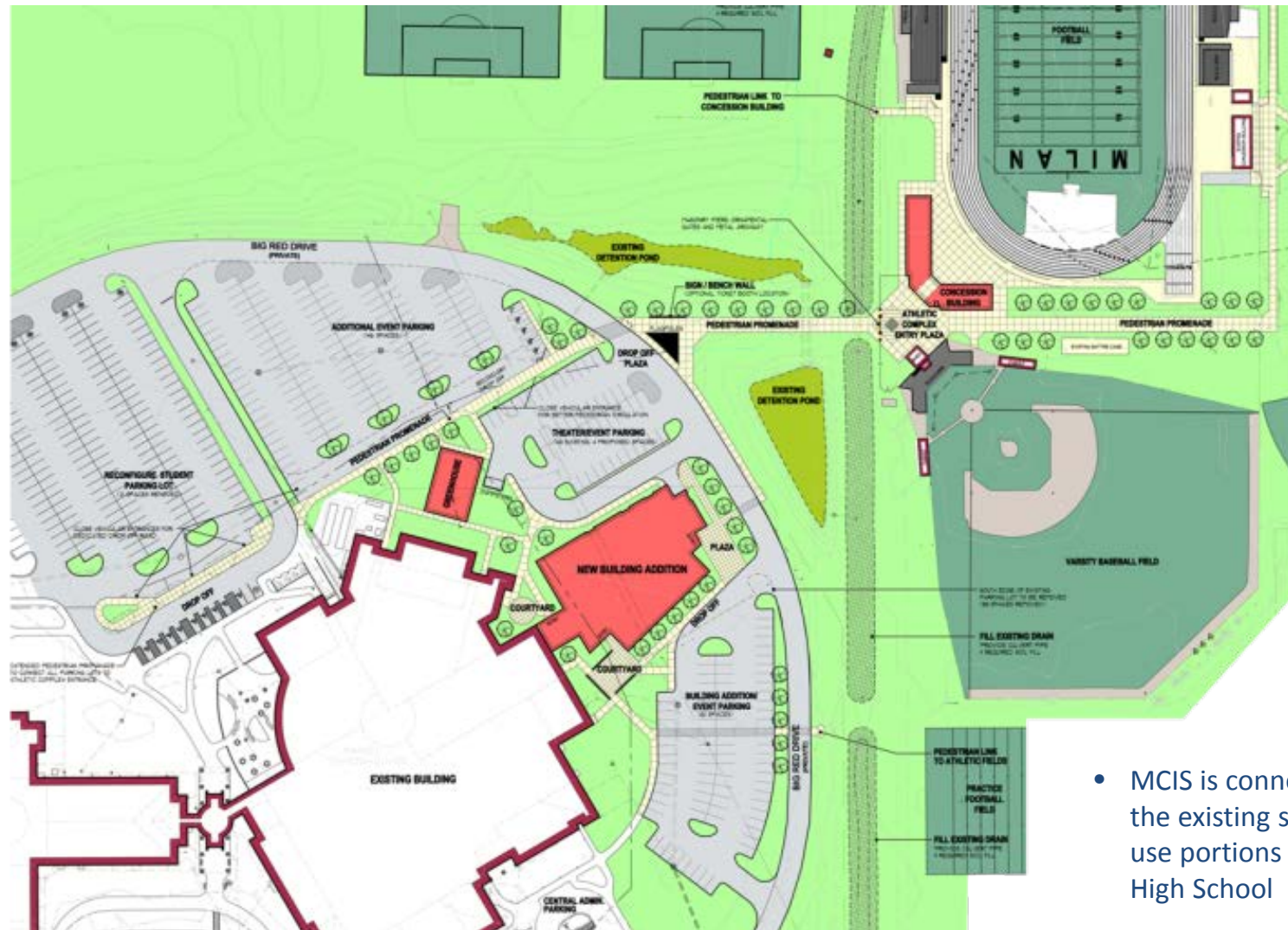
Fanning Howey

# Milan Center for Innovative Studies





# Milan Center for Innovative Studies



- MCIS is connected to the existing shared use portions of Milan High School

# Innovation Zone

**Community Environment:** It is not every day that you learn how to build a solar-powered boat. But for students at the new Milan Center for Innovative Studies (MCIS), this is just one in a series of unique learning opportunities meant to prepare them for the job market or higher education. The 23,000-square-foot addition to the existing high school acts as a project-based learning environment specifically for Seniors. The heart of the space is the Innovation Zone, an open gathering space that is the nexus of interaction within the educational community. The Innovation Zone encourages spontaneous connections among students and staff. After-hours, the space serves as a multifunctional collaboration venue for community groups.





## Grand Stairs

### Community Environment:

While no teacher or class “owns” any space within the Center, the building is configured to create a sense of community. The Grand Stair, located in the Innovation Zone, serves as a hub of connections. Each morning, students gather on the stairs to talk about the day’s activities, before breaking up into their project teams.

"I get goosebumps watching the students leave the Stairs and dissolve into the space," says the Director of MCIS.





# A Lab for Every Occasion

**Learning Environment:** The school's project-based curriculum requires students to have access to a wide range of real - world learning environments. The first floor is a mix of specialized labs, each designed to provide a different set of resources. The adjacency of space and visual connections between areas allow students to flow easily from one space to another throughout the course of the day.



## EXPLORATION LAB



## LEARN LAB



## DESIGN LAB



## TRANSITIONS LAB



## Breakout Spaces

**Learning Environment:** A variety of breakout spaces allow project-based learning to occur naturally. The center of the Innovation Zone includes soft seating and café-style seating located just outside the student-run store. On the second floor, students gather in Pod Bays, located just outside the administrative office. The Pod Bays are equipped with docking stations for displaying projects and have become so popular that students line up before school opens just to get a seat.

"The Pods are great for collaborating. They are perfect for group projects or just hanging out." – MCIS Student





## Transparency

**Physical Environment** — Because students move spontaneously from space to space, security was a key concern. The design uses open configurations and glass walls to provide visual control of all learning areas. The extensive use of glass also adds to the sense of collaboration and connectedness among students and programs.





## Daylighting and Sustainability

**Physical Environment** — Sustainability is a strong emphasis of the Center's project-based curriculum. Extensive use of windows and interior glass allows for the harvesting of natural day lighting and introduction of borrowed light into the labs. MCIS includes a new 3,500-square-foot greenhouse. The space supports skill development in the rapidly growing field of sustainable agriculture. Water supply for the green house irrigation will be harvested to reduce water loss and manage run off from the structure.

"The extensive use of glass and the sense of openness allows us to maintain visual security of the entire Center."

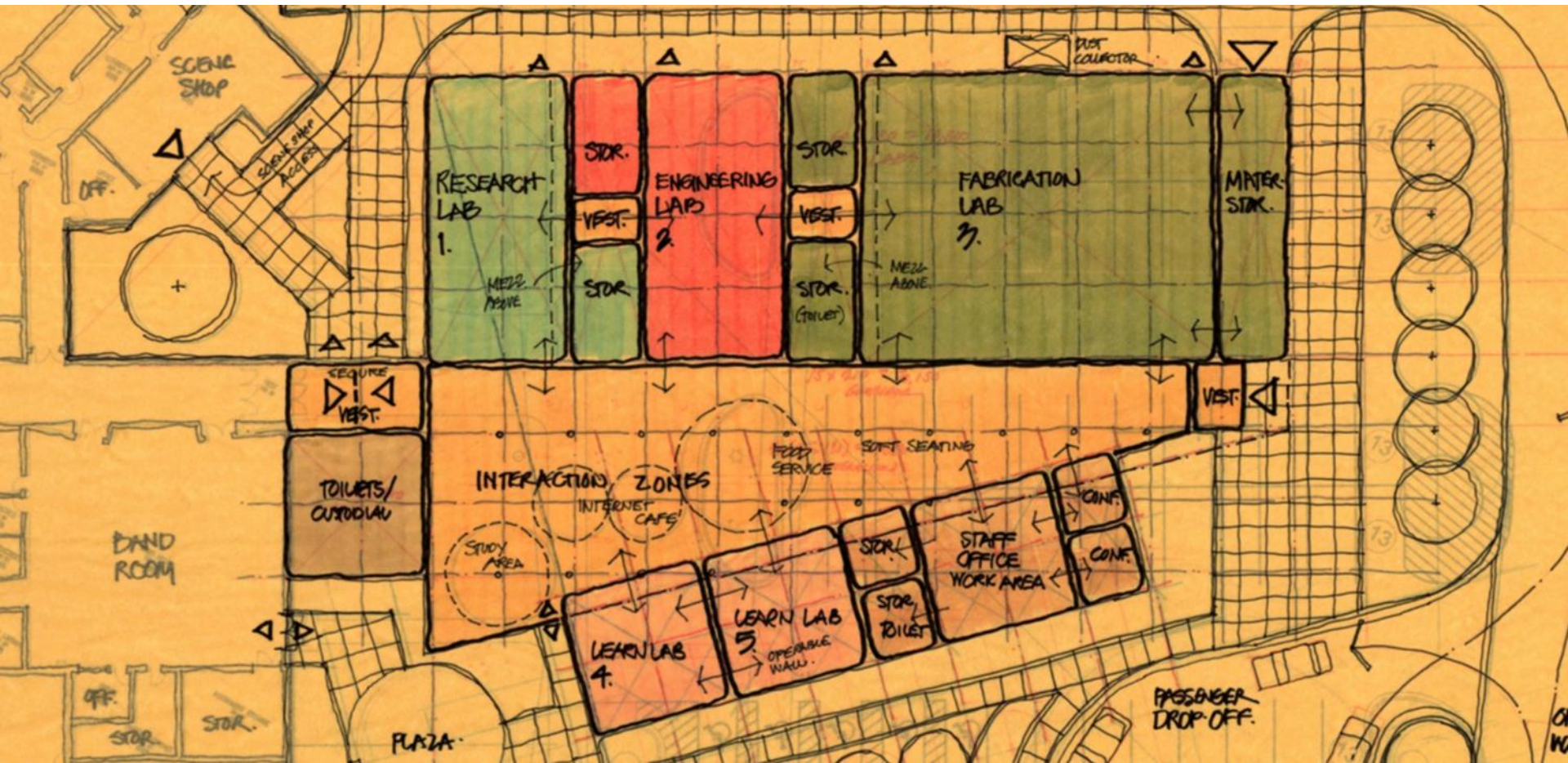
-Director of MCIS





## From Everyday to Cutting-Edge

**Planning Process:** MCIS was originally planned to be a vocational education wing. However, district administrators soon began to investigate a cross-disciplinary, project-based curriculum. A multi-day charrette involving district staff kicked off a year-long planning process, which included staff interviews and tours of other schools across the country. Design conceptualization and programming took place simultaneously, with each effort informing the other. The multi-dimensional planning process also included curriculum development and teacher and staff training by Dr. Thom Markham.





## “This Is Disneyland for Me.”

**Planning Process:** During planning and design, MCIS reached out to a variety of local businesses to discuss potential partnerships. For example, Ann Arbor SPARK, a non-profit organization focused on workforce development, will teach classes at the school.

The Center is an entirely new learning environment for the District and community, and has received rave reviews from staff members, as well as representatives from other school districts.

“Seeing the students come in every morning, watching the magic happen—this is Disneyland for me,” says the Director of MCIS.



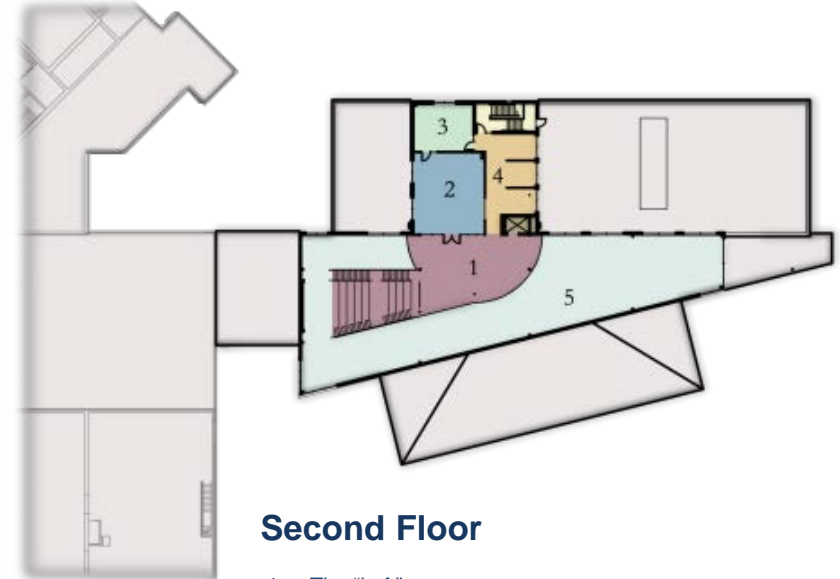


# Floor plan



**First Floor**

1. Studio "A" – Senior Transitions
2. Mechanical/Electrical
3. Technology
4. School Store
5. Science
6. Studio "B" – Exploration Lab
7. General Storage
8. Studio "C" – Design Lab
9. Production Lab
10. Tech Support
11. Office
12. Collaboratory 1
13. Collaboratory 2
14. Storage
15. MCIS Innovation Zone
16. Conference Room



**Second Floor**

1. The "Loft"
2. MCIS Offices
3. MCIS Team Room
4. POD Bays 1-3
5. Innovation Zone



# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Fanning Howey
Project Role	Architect of Record
Project Contact	Misty Raatz
Title	Project Manager
Address	28001 Cabot Drive, Suite 110
City, State or Province, Country	Novi, MI 48377
Phone	248.848.0123

Joint Partner Firm:	Barton Malow Technology
Project Role	Technology Designer
Project Contact	Paul Twigg
Title	Project Manager
Address	26500 American Drive
City, State or Province, Country	Southfield, MI 48034
Phone	248.436.5832

Other Firm:	Plante Moran CRESA
Project Role	Owner's Representative
Project Contact	Paul Wills
Title	Education Sector Leader
Address	26300 Northwestern Highway
City, State or Province, Country	Southfield, MI 48076
Phone	248.223.3500

Construction Firm:	Clark Construction Company
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Gary Steller
Title	Project Executive
Address	3535 Moores River Drive
City, State or Province, Country	Lansing, MI 48911
Phone	517.372.0940



# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Project Details

Project Name	Milan Center for Innovative Studies
City	Milan
State	Michigan
District Name	Milan Area Schools
Supt/President	Bryan Girbach
Occupancy Date	August 2012
Grades Housed	12
Capacity(Students)	180
Site Size (acres)	80
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	23,000
Per Occupant(pupil)	128
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	243,000
Building Construction:	5,257,000
Fixed Equipment:	253,039
Other:	1,474,047
Total:	7,227,086



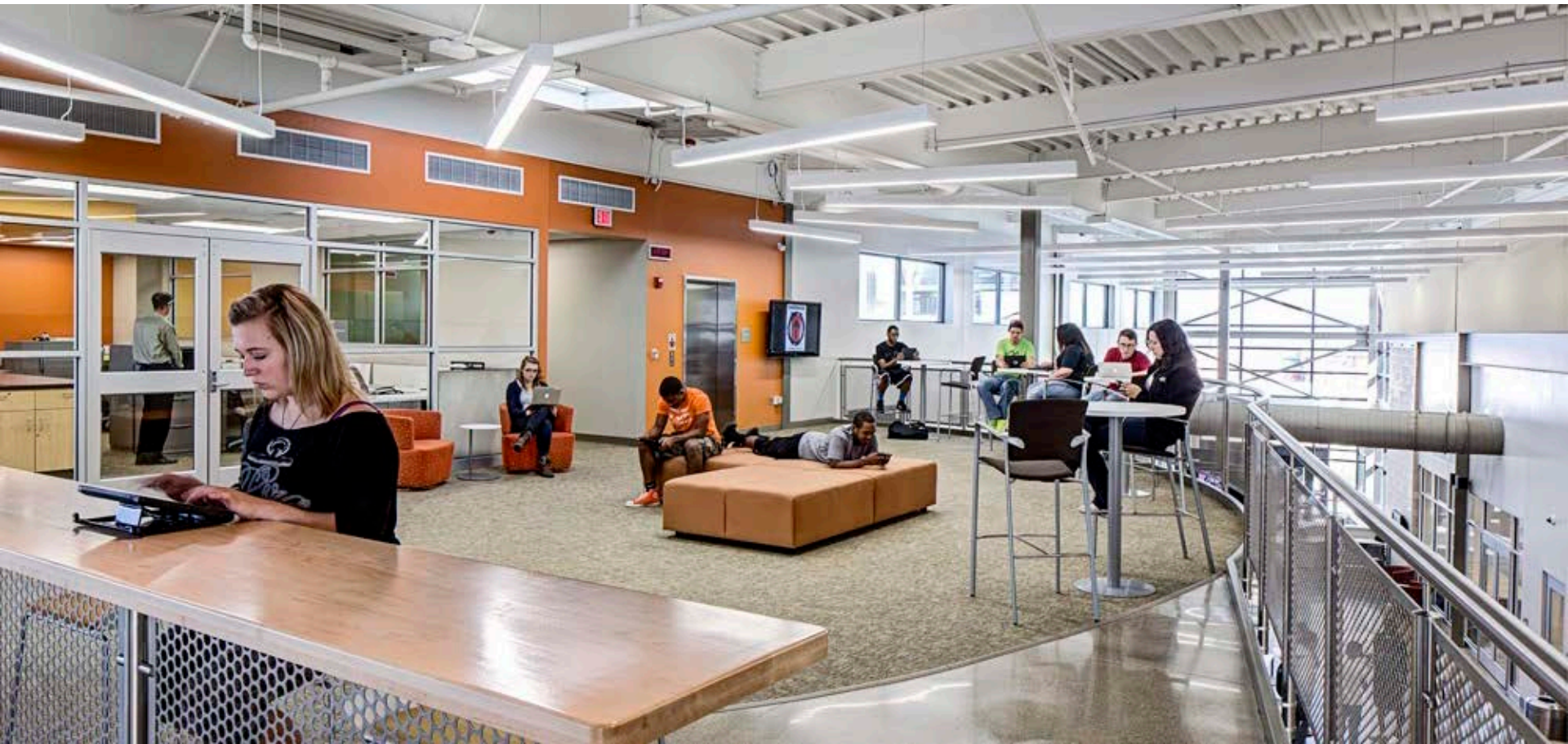
# Supporting Images



The Grand Stair is used as an amphitheater for all-school presentations. During a recent project, students gathered on the stairs to debut their concept and marketing videos.



# Supporting Images



“One of the great things about MCIS is that the learning environment is fluid.”

MCIS Director

# Supporting Images



The second-floor conference room provides teachers with direct visual control of the Pod Bays.



# Supporting Images



The Exploration Lab includes a project area with video monitors to display teacher- or student-led demonstrations.