

# 2013 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Wilkes Elementary School

Bainbridge Island, Washington

# Wilkes Elementary School





# Wilkes Elementary School



# Celebrate Community

## Community Environment

The north-end Bainbridge Island community is known equally for agricultural farming and beautiful beaches, and is still characterized by an environment of northwest natural. The overall strategy was to create a site that celebrates both nature and community. Wilkes is carved into the hillside at the base of a forested backdrop. Programmatic connections between Wilkes and a nearby working farm inspired the integration of student and community owned raised garden beds within the playground, responding to the values and ideals of the surrounding community while enriching educational program opportunities.





# Designing for Partnerships

## Community Environment

The library was identified as an important place for learning and community. As such, it extends to the east from the upper level, with transparency to the north to views of the main arrival area. This location allows the library to be easily accessible as a community gathering space. Music, the commons and the gym are located on a lower level, on grade with the open play areas and the field. These three core elements were co-located and designed to be an expanding venue for performance; now the largest on the island. The gym is designed to accommodate adult as well as student sports and recreation in partnership with the Bainbridge Island Metro Park and Recreation District.





# Commitment to Small Communities

## Learning Environment

Clusters of four classrooms intentionally break down the scale and create intimate communities of students with strong relationships to their teachers within the larger school culture.





# Foster Independence and Exploration

## Learning Environment

The flexible learning spaces are designed to be spaces for students to explore science or art, develop and exhibit project work, break-out into small groups for personalized learning or come together with multiple classes. To support project based learning, the project creates and connects spaces with transparency to allow educational opportunities to occur everywhere, support a range of learning styles, and blur the line between social and educational spaces. Structural regularity and clear spanned wings provides future flexibility.





## Facilitate Learning Everywhere

### Learning Environment

The classroom cluster arrangement fosters collaboration and connectivity, and creates opportunities for variation in scales of learning - from multi-classroom gatherings, to intimate individual experiences.

The classroom wings are joined by a circulation network that allows for several options for paths of travel, all of which open onto views of exterior learning areas.





## Embrace the Site

### Physical Environment

Emerging from the hillside on a steeply sloped site, the design for Wilkes Elementary visually knits the structure with the natural environment. Bars of classrooms alternate with exterior courtyards to provide natural daylight to all learning spaces. Within the school, students experience a seamless transition from classrooms to interior and exterior learning spaces, to play areas. Stretching further down the slope are planted gardens and athletic fields which link the learning spaces to the greater community beyond.

The building form sits quietly; clad in a dark brown-black brick to mimic the shadow line of the existing trees. The lower story is a combination of exposed concrete planted with climbing vines and interwoven with sloped grass planes.





# Fresh Air and Natural Light

## Physical Environment

The building spaces benefit from operable windows and non-toxic finish materials that contribute to a high quality indoor environment with an increased comfort zone. Indicator lights in the classroom notify occupants when the heating system has shut down and windows can be opened.





## Healthy Building

### Physical Environment

Several sustainable priorities were established through collaboration with the school district. These include outdoor education spaces, stormwater infiltration through bio-retention areas and wetland restoration, 100% porous paving, natural cooling, and maximizing the benefits of natural daylighting. Additional measures include triple pane windows in rooms with high percentages of glazing, ultra low-flow fixtures, an innovative L.O.S.S (Large On-site Septic System) designed to treat all waste water on site, air handling units with heat recovery, a hybrid heating system consisting of fifty 300' deep geothermal wells and a water to water heat pump with a small electric boiler to cover the peak heating loads and morning warm up, radiant floors throughout.





# Collaboration and Connections

## Planning Process

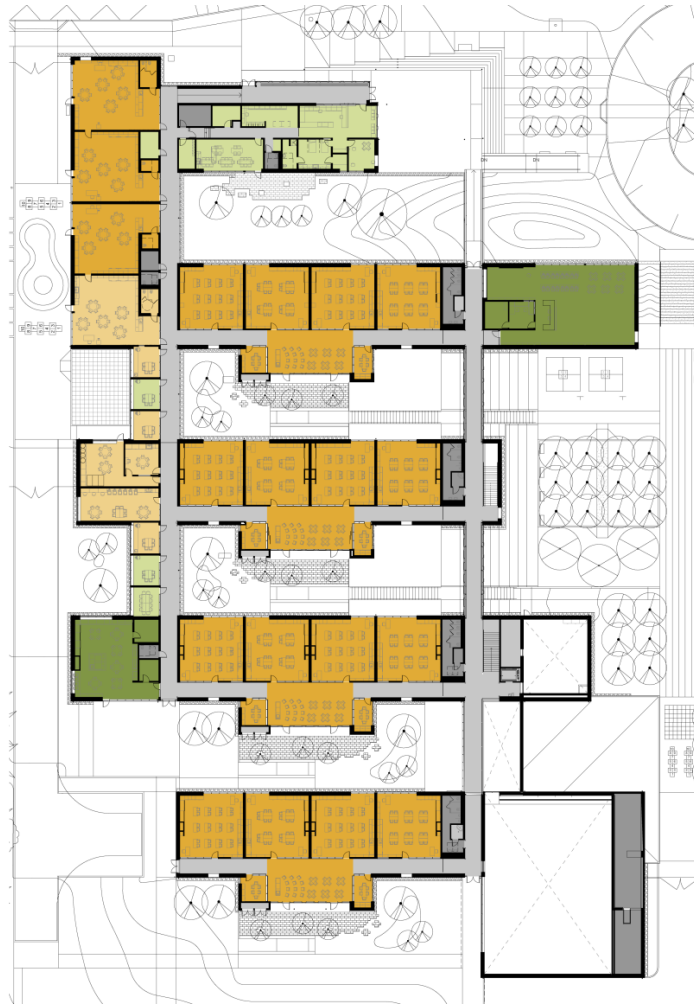
The design of Wilkes is based on the Bainbridge Island School District Master Plan and the guiding principles as developed with the staff and visioning committee.

- ::A building that teaches and learning spaces that facilitate collaboration
- ::A cohesive flow throughout with spaces to come together
- ::A strong connection to both community and environment
- ::A celebration of Wilkes history and place; be caretakers of the land
- ::An ease of maintenance and economy of means





# Floor Plans



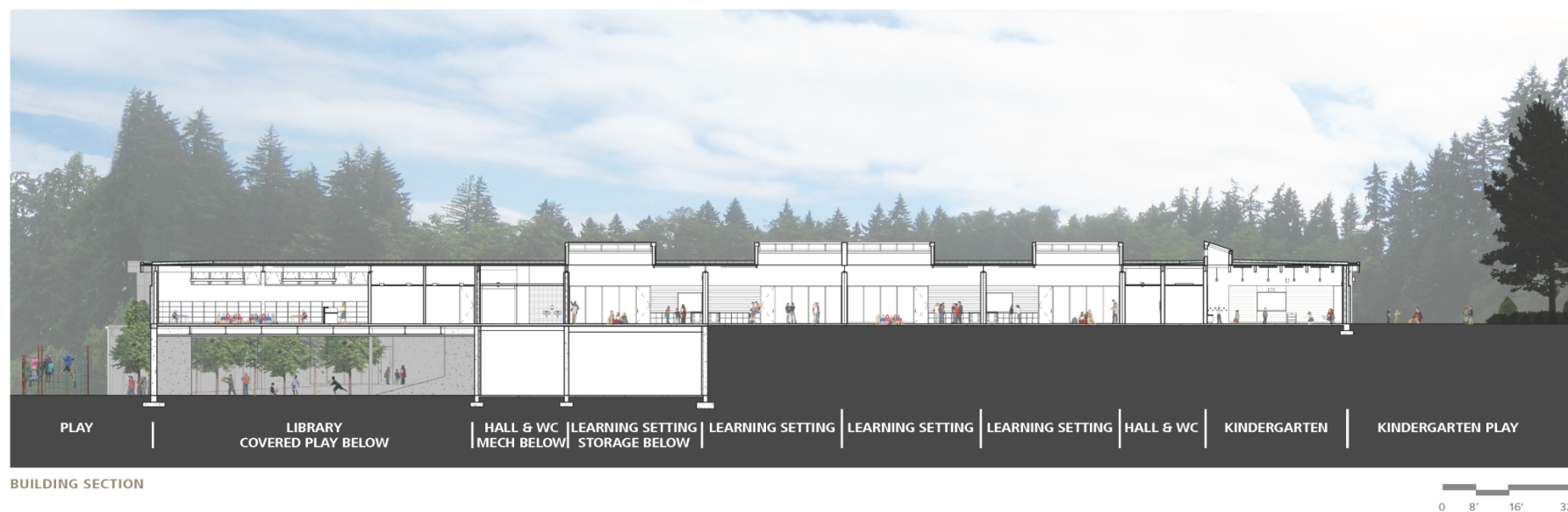
Upper Level

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Administration    | Gym                 |
| Classroom         | Cafeteria / Commons |
| Special Education | Circulation         |
| Library           | Support             |
| Music / Art       |                     |



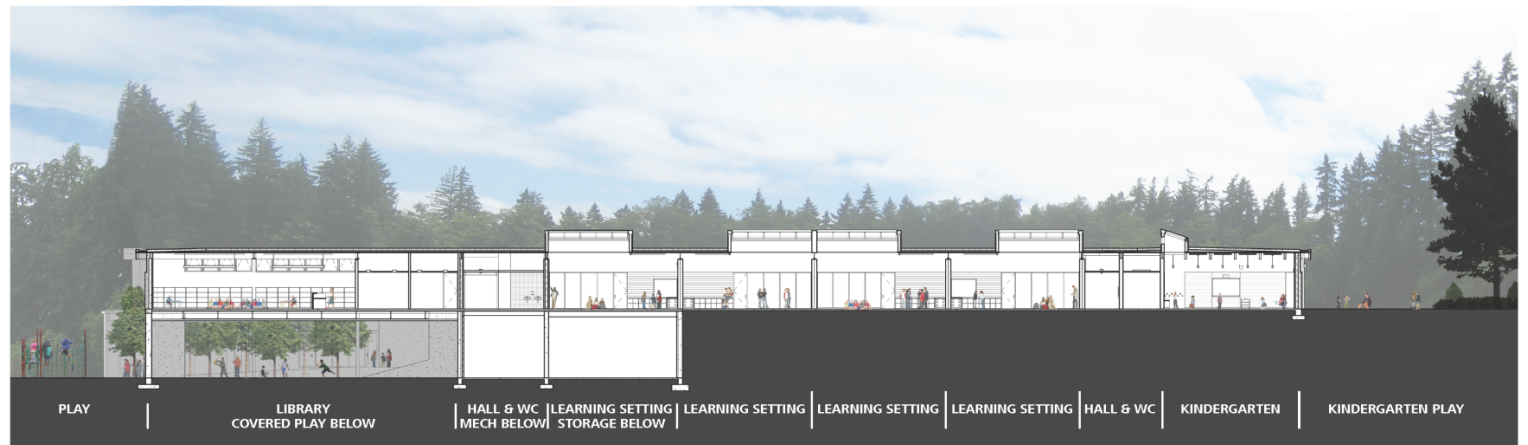
Lower Level

# Elevation + Section





# Section + Elevation



BUILDING SECTION AA

0 8' 16' 32'



BUILDING ELEVATION

0 8' 16' 32'



# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Project Data

|                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Submitting Firm :                | Mahlum                         |
| Project Role                     | Architect                      |
| Project Contact                  | David Mount                    |
| Title                            | Principal                      |
| Address                          | 71 Columbia Floor 4            |
| City, State or Province, Country | Seattle, Washington 98104, USA |
| Phone                            | 206.441.4151                   |
| Joint Partner Firm:              | Not Applicable                 |
| Project Role                     |                                |
| Project Contact                  |                                |
| Title                            |                                |
| Address                          |                                |
| City, State or Province, Country |                                |
| Phone                            |                                |
| Other Firm:                      | Not Applicable                 |
| Project Role                     |                                |
| Project Contact                  |                                |
| Title                            |                                |
| Address                          |                                |
| City, State or Province, Country |                                |
| Phone                            |                                |
| Construction Firm:               | Spee West                      |
| Project Role                     | General Contractor             |
| Project Contact                  | Doug Spee                      |
| Title                            | President                      |
| Address                          | 307 Bell Street #101           |
| City, State or Province, Country | Edmonds, Washington 98020, USA |
| Phone                            | 206.284.7733                   |



# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Project Details

|                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Project Name              | Wilkes Elementary School          |
| City                      | Bainbridge Island                 |
| State                     | Washington                        |
| District Name             | Bainbridge Island School District |
| Supt/President            | Faith Chapel                      |
| Occupancy Date            | August 2013                       |
| Grades Housed             | Pre-Kindergarten - Fourth         |
|                           |                                   |
| Capacity(Students)        | 450                               |
| Site Size (acres)         | 9.7                               |
| Gross Area (sq. ft.)      | 64,450                            |
| Per Occupant(pupil)       | 143 sf (gross)                    |
| gross/net please indicate |                                   |
|                           |                                   |
| Design and Build?         |                                   |
| If yes, Total Cost:       |                                   |
| Includes:                 |                                   |
|                           |                                   |
| If no,                    |                                   |
| Site Development:         | \$4 million                       |
| Building Construction:    | \$17.3 million                    |
| Fixed Equipment:          |                                   |
| Other:                    |                                   |
|                           |                                   |
| Total:                    | \$21.3 million                    |