

2014 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

colusa education village

Colusa County Office of Education
Williams, CA

colusa education village



Community College

legend

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. community school | 6. shared support |
| 2. special education admin | 7. future expansion |
| 3. special education classroom | 8. play courts |
| 4. therapy suite | 9. playfield |
| 5. multipurpose room | 10. stormwater basin |



colusa education village



community: a school for all

Many people in Colusa County worked tirelessly to make the Education Village a reality. To expedite and encourage the Planning process - and the important ideas that would stem from it - we hosted an all-day charrette. This lively community engagement event sparked interest and support from a wide variety of participants - students, staff, administrators, community members, business owners, service organizations, and of course, the Superintendent and members of the County Board of Education.

Workshop discussions, centered on exploring the latest trends in education, were vibrant and purposeful. The end result of the charrette gave us a detailed picture of the campus' conceptual design; even "filling in the blanks" on the elements of building colors and fixtures; identifying, for example, those colors that are most calming to autistic children. Play equipment is especially important to the students at the Village, serving recreational and adaptability purposes.

community: engaging students in design process

Student art work was invited for submission and the student designs selected became part of the learning environment - as art glass panels placed throughout the school. A favorite panel is the “aquarium” window, featuring colorful tropical fish on a blue-water background.

Input from students is especially important; they can readily identify learning areas that may need improvement and may be over-looked by teachers or administrators. Working in a peer group setting, we encouraged their input and decision-making. And the design-related nature of the artwork submissions and brought about best results from the students, in a focused and structured timeframe.



learning environments: fun+safe learning spaces

Preschoolers with autism often share their classroom space with parents, who are learning the necessary skills to meet the needs of their children; an adjacent Observation Room aids in this learning process. The Autism classroom provides a “sensory wall” of various textures/materials and wide doors with automatic sensors.

Soft surfaces – carpet and sheet rubber - provide safe, quiet flooring. Door hardware is placed as high as possible, to minimize safety issues with “runners” - students who may bolt unexpectedly from the classroom. Medically fragile children experience a classroom environment that is quiet and sunlit, appealing to their sense of touch and sight and encouraging development of basic life skills.





learning environment: indoor+outdoor connections

Throughout the buildings and outdoor learning spaces, the environment evidences a variety of surfaces and textures, offering students real-world experiences (later encountered outside the school) in comfortable, compact settings. The smaller classroom courtyards include educational enhancements such as greenhouses, bicycle parking adjacent to classrooms, and outdoor learning and assembly areas.

The Therapy Room, adjacent to the Multipurpose space, is equipped with a wide variety of movement and play equipment, including a free-standing A Frame to help teachers and aides lift/move students, and a painted trike path that circles outside and back through the roll-up garage door.

physical environment: a village

The architectural forms of the Village are reminiscent of local barn and farm architecture, resembling houses on the prairie that would have been evident in the region more than 100 years ago.

Simultaneously, the campus buildings create both large and small community spaces that are filled with educational resources for students including: an interactive play area, and an assembly area filled with hands-on learning activities for students (sinks, work tables, innovative play equipment and surfaces).





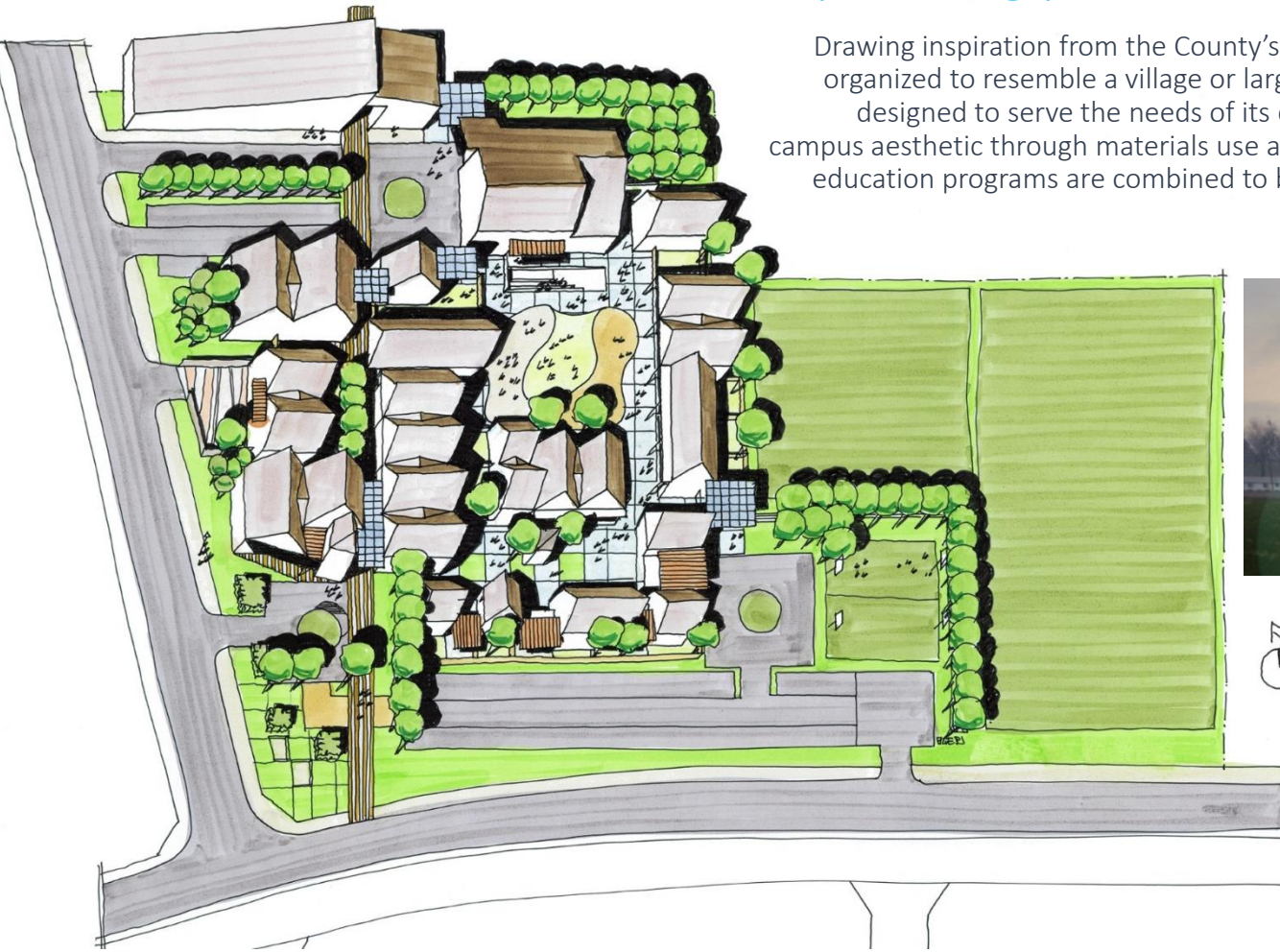
physical environment: central play area

The Central Play Area, bordered by the Multipurpose Building and Classroom/Administrative wings, is “floored” with a cushiony rubberized surface that gently steps up in height, to the center point. The height changes help students learn to navigate the uneven surfaces they may encounter outside a

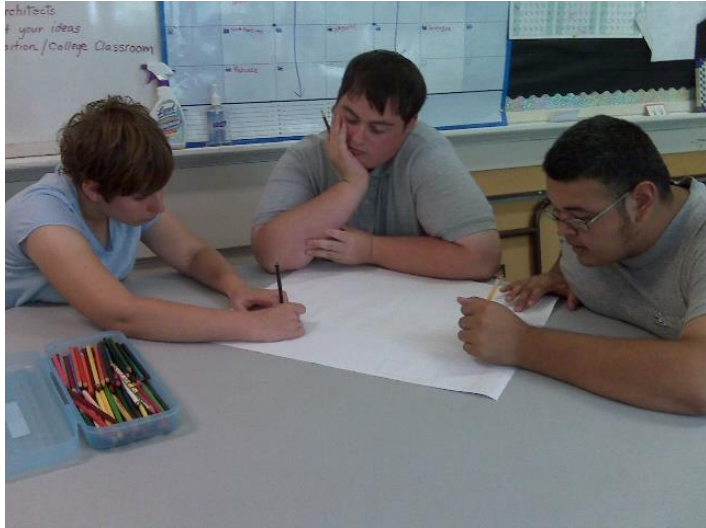
school environment. A plumbing bench doubles as a tetherball pole and spinning “cups” hold seated students as they twirl and sway, practicing balancing skills.

planning process: farmhouse inspiration

Drawing inspiration from the County's extensive farming industry, the campus is organized to resemble a village or large farmstead. Each "house" is individually designed to serve the needs of its department, while maintaining a cohesive campus aesthetic through materials use and scale. Clusters of "houses" with similar education programs are combined to bring a sense of unity throughout the site.



planning process: a community effort



The A4E team met with local community representatives and students from the Community School to have a design workshop. The workshop feedback helped us to identify the equipment most beneficial to students with physical disabilities; play experiences that would help them to navigate real-world situations and the challenges faced there.

Activity #1:

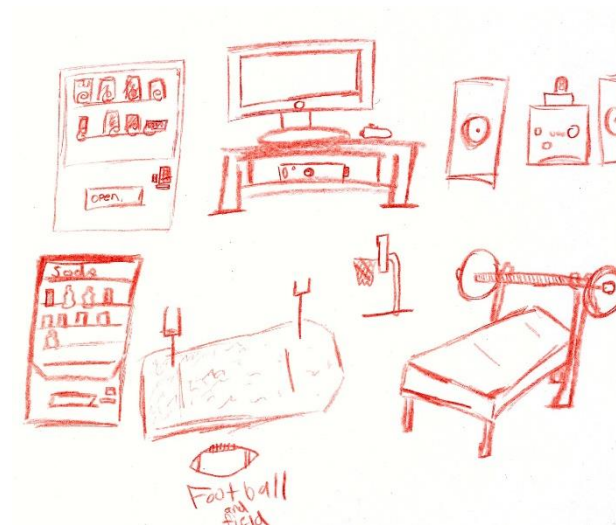
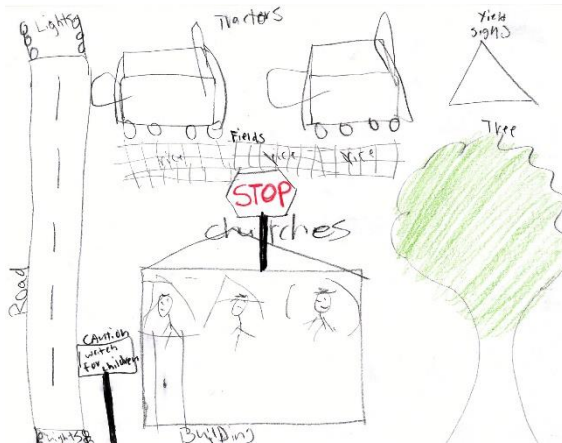
Students illustrate/describe their perfect day. During this perfect day, what equipment or spaces would be needed and what order would the activities occur. A number of ideas presented by the students can be utilized during the design development of the CCOE campus such as:

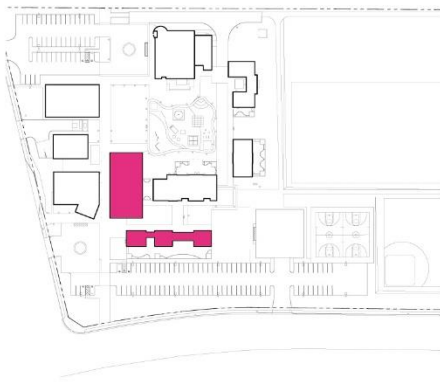
Library, Recording Studio, Weight Lifting & Physical Fitness Facilities, Lounge Area, Vending Machines, Art Space/Classroom, Football/Basketball/Volleyball, Rest Area, Water Fountain, Trees, School Bus

Activity #2:

Students identified various shapes and symbols present in Williams and Colusa that could be used throughout the new campus design. Students came up with Road Signage, Trucks, Rice Fields, Churches, Highways and Cattle..

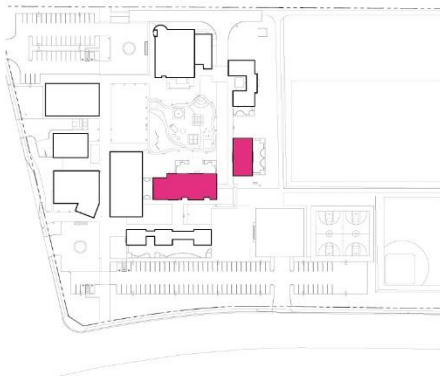
student sketches





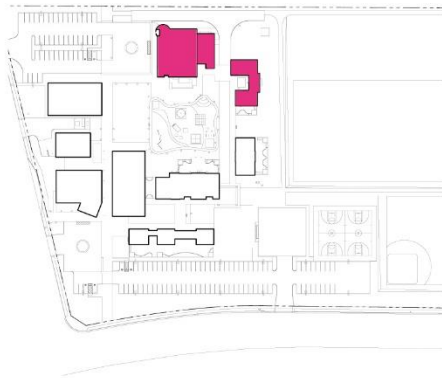
- STORAGE
- DATA, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRICAL, IDF, FSR
- RESTROOMS
- SMALL GROUP, STUDENT WAITING
- CONTINUATION, PRESCHOOL AUTISM, INFANT CLASSROOM
- OFFICE
- CONFERENCE ROOM
- LAUNDRY, JANITOR, CHANGING ROOM
- WORK ROOM, VOCATIONAL WORK ROOM



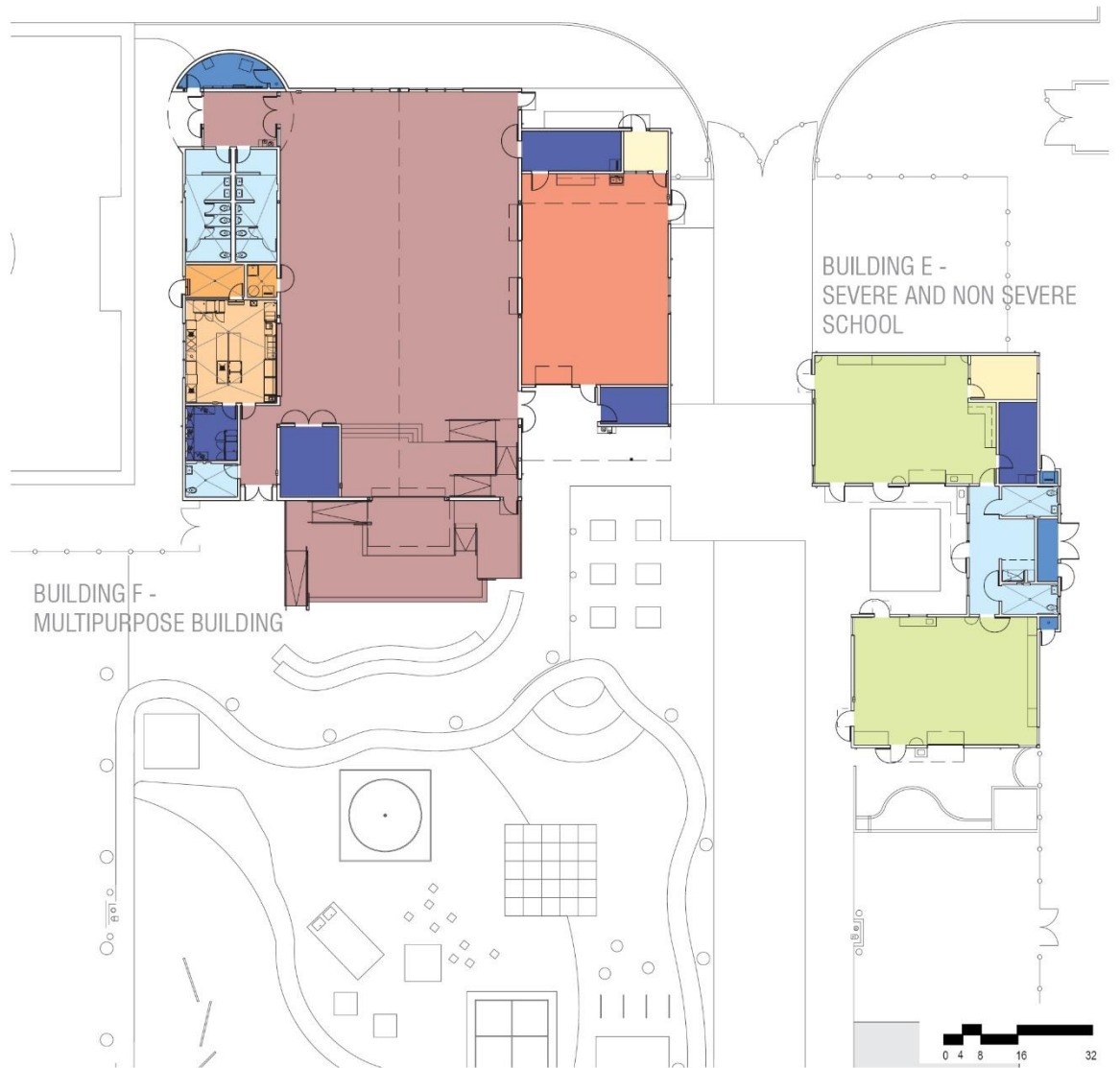


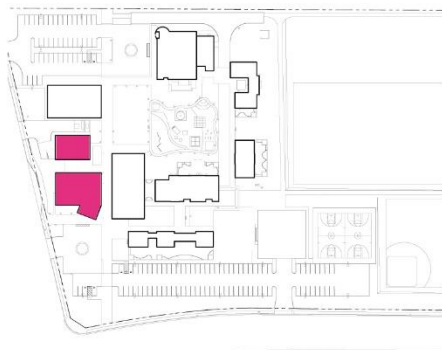
- STORAGE
- DATA, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRICAL, IDF, FSR
- RESTROOMS
- QUIET ROOM
- SMALL GROUP, STUDENT WAITING
- SEVERE, ADULT TRANSITION, LIFE SKILLS CLASSROOMS - BLDG B
CONTINUATION, PRESCHOOL AUTISM, INFANT CLASSROOM - BLDG D
- OFFICE
- CONFERENC ROOM
- NURSE
- LAUNDRY, JANITOR, CHANGING ROOM
- WORK ROOM, VOCATIONAL WORK ROOM
- GREENHOUSE





- STORAGE
- DATA, ELECTRICAL, IDF, FSR
- RESTROOMS
- MEDICALLY FRAGILE CLASSROOMS
- OBSERVATION ROOM
- KITCHEN
- LAUNDRY, JANITOR, CHANGING ROOM
- THERAPY ROOM
- MULTIPURPOSE ROOM





- STORAGE
- DATA, ELECTRICAL, IDF, FSR
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- KITCHEN
- LAUNDRY, JANITOR, CHANGING ROOM
- THERAPY ROOM
- MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

BUILDING H - MAINTENANCE AND STAFF SERVICES



BUILDING J - BUSINESS SERVICES



Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Architecture for Education, Inc
Project Role	Architect/ Designer
Project Contact	Gaylaid Christopher
Title	President
Address	65 N. Catalina Avenue
City, State or Province, Country	Pasadena, CA
Phone	626-356-4080

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:	Swank Construction
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	Gerald Swank
Title	President
Address	222 Bella Vista Road
City, State or Province, Country	Vacaville. CA 95687
Phone	707.446.8808

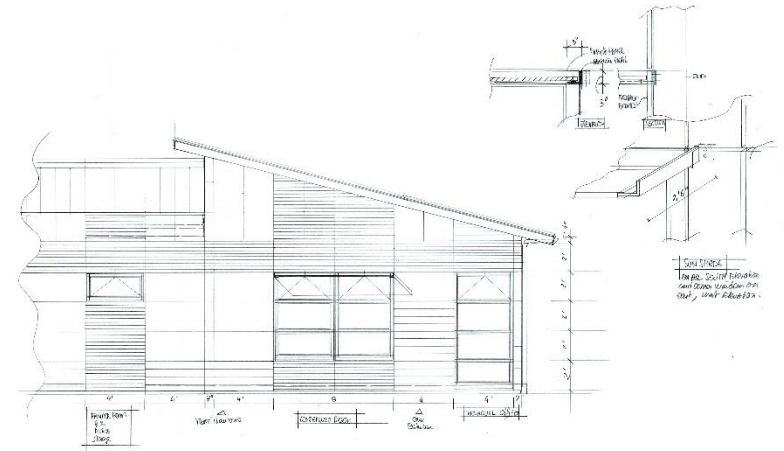
Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Project Details

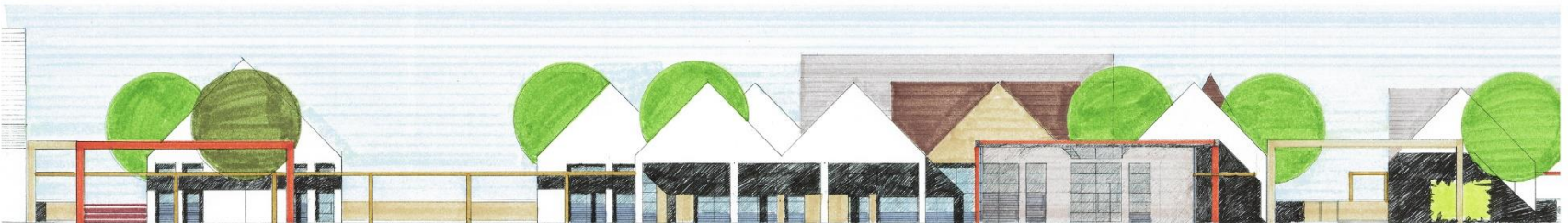
Project Name	CCOE Education Village
City	Williams
State	California
District Name	Colusa County of Education
Supt/President	Kay Spurgeon
Occupancy Date	June 2013
Grades Housed	K-12
Capacity(Students)	160
Site Size (acres)	11.61 (8.4 net)
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	31,249
Per Occupant(pupil)	195
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	No
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$ 2,324,919.00
Building Construction:	\$ 8,272,881.00
Fixed Equipment:	\$ 750,000.00
Other:	
Total:	\$ 11,347,800.00



typical classroom



elevation detail



elevation-circulation spine



elevation-E street and community college court

Concrete project counters outside of the classrooms invite art, science, and gardening projects to move outdoors.





The Multipurpose Building hosts gatherings large and small, served by a warming kitchen that will soon be converted to a full-service facility. A raised stage area opens to the central play area for outdoor performance use, as well.



