

2016 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Mt. Pleasant High School Student Center

Category: Design Concept

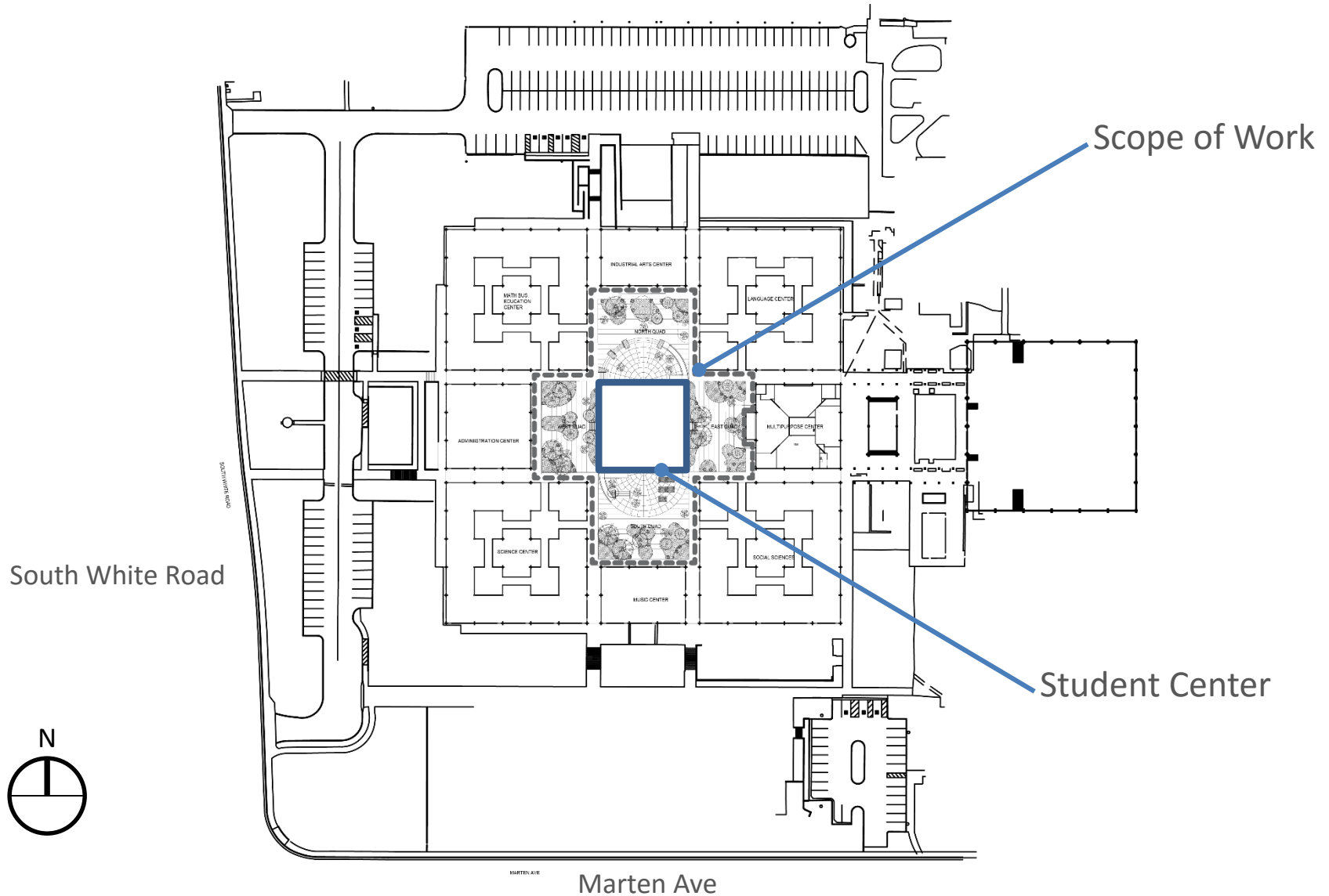
East Side Union High School District
San Jose, California

Mt. Pleasant High School Student Center



View of east quad

Mt. Pleasant High School Student Center



“Social Café”

Community Environment:

Sitting at the heart of Mt. Pleasant High School’s 1963 campus is an existing library, a concrete building with four quads surrounding it—one on each side. The renovated library will become a new Student Center focused on supporting and encouraging interaction within the Mt. Pleasant High School community. It is unique for a high school to invest resources in creating a student center, as this is a type more commonly seen at the college level. The Student Center is envisioned as a comfortable place for both faculty and students to meet informally and without hierarchy. The Student Center will be used for group study and projects, individual study and social functions. Additionally, this space will house four offices for the Mt. Pleasant High School community including the Athletic Director, Librarian, and Counselors.



View of “social café” looking towards north quad “porch”



View of “social café” looking from north quad “porch”

Building as “Billboard”

This joint-use of the space as an intersection of work place and Student Center is an important aspect of bringing the community together. The students and staff were engaged in the design process from the beginning, and some of the main desires expressed included: creating a place of equality and equity—a place for all students, a place to promote school pride, and a place that faculty need and want to visit to encourage more interactions between students and faculty.

The central location of the existing building to the campus makes it a natural gathering place for the Mt. Pleasant community. This central location also serves as the place to display school spirit by taping posters to the building. The idea of building as “billboard” will continue in a new integrated way at each entrance.



View of south quad illustrating use of outdoor projection for school pride

Layered Learning

Learning Environment:

The Student Center's primary function will be to support learning, connection of the Mt. Pleasant Community and creating a new center for the social and study needs of the campus. In addition to the primary functions of this building, the campus now has space for instruction on the "porches" which serve as outdoor learning spaces. In the interior, instruction is supported with spaces for students and teachers to connect. The larger, technology-enabled group areas can host discussions in the round or accommodate guest speakers to engage students.

Additionally, the new Student Center will promote peer-to-peer learning as students support one another in an environment created to accommodate their various study needs.



View of library integration and layered study spaces

Flexible Learning Spaces

The variation in spaces created to support the students of Mt. Pleasant High School is a reflection of their diverse student body. All types of learners – introverts, extroverts, social learners or individual studiers – will find a home in the Student Center. The mix of open, social environments and small niche study places will ensure that all students can find a place to advance their education. The spatial flexibility and variety is supported by writeable surfaces for brainstorming and state-of-the-art technologies like flat screens for group collaboration, all adaptable for future changes in technology.

The study rooms and offices will be outfitted identically, to ensure flexibility between these uses depending on staffing at the high school.



View of quiet study zone and flexible offices and study room

“Social Porches”

Physical Environment:

The Student Center has been designed in a sophisticated way, but also reflective of the informality of coffee shop culture. Unique design elements like the colorful hexagon ceiling and carpet concepts enliven the space with intrigue and complexity. Additionally, we integrated the existing Library functions within the Student Center via built-in casework shelving for the book collection attached to the study/office room, book drop location and checkouts.

At the heart of the Student Center is the “social café” which has a large family-style table and presentation wall that may become a true café in the future, but for now will serve as the mixing zone for all who visit, supporting the goal of an informal interaction space.

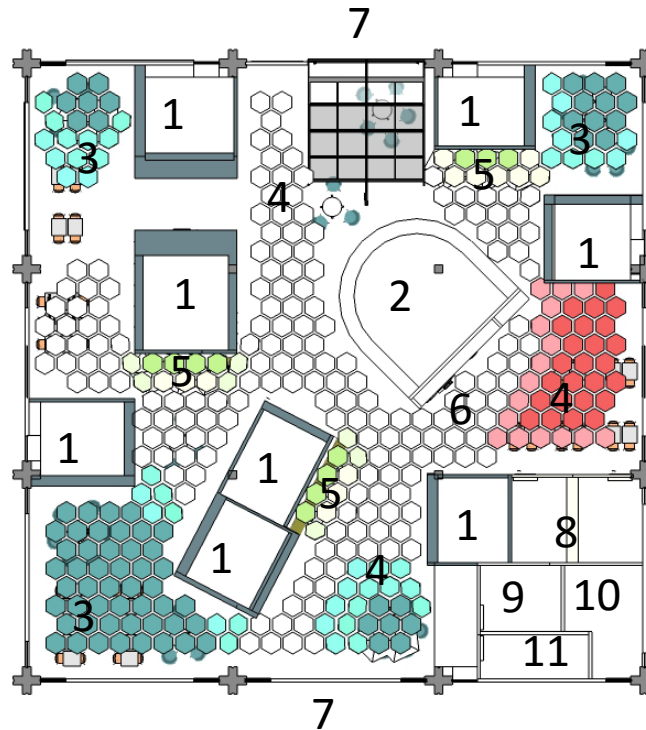


View of north quad “social porch” and exterior bulletin board

Complete Transformation

The vibrant and beautiful material colors, integrated lighting, and casework create an interior environment that students and staff will take pride in and want to maintain. This Student Center will be a sophisticated and comfortable space for all.

The exterior remains intact with minor interventions. This means the building will remain an integrated part of the campus and maintain its original 1960's character; consistent with the rest of the campus. We also avoid unnecessary augmentation to the structure for a true sustainable strategy in re-using an existing building to achieve new goals that is supported by a newly envisioned series of quads and a fresh and exciting interior.



Reflected ceiling plan showing variation in study zones

Key Notes:

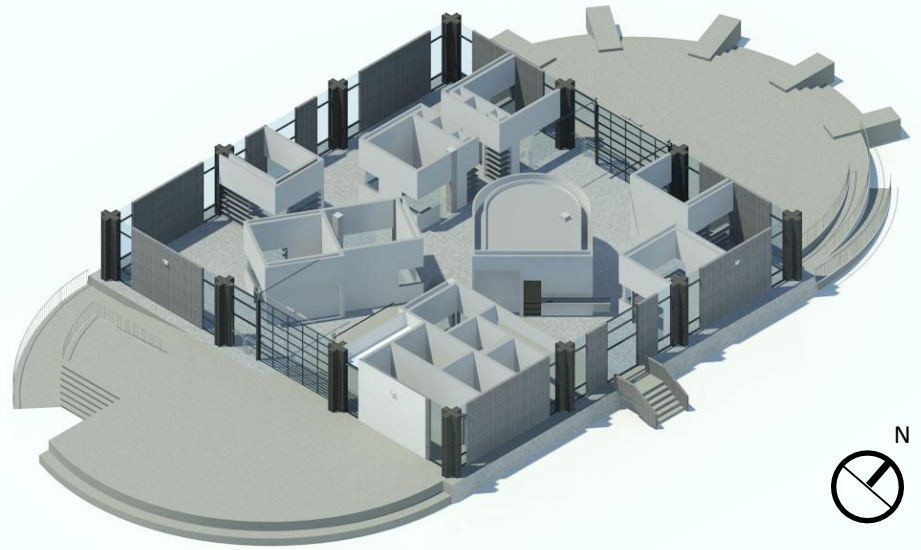
1. Flexible Office or Study Room
2. "Social Café"
3. Quiet Study Zones
4. Social Seating Zones
5. Banquette Seating
6. Copy Center
7. Entries – New Garage Doors
8. Restrooms
9. Janitorial Closet
10. IDF
11. Electrical Room

Collaborative Outcome

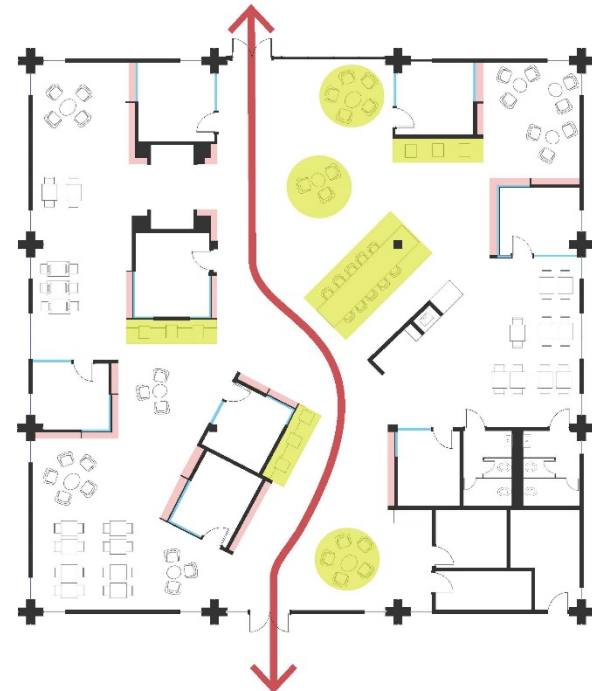
Planning Process:

We worked with a Building Committee that included students, parents, faculty, staff, administrators and District personnel from Programming through initial meetings in Design Development. We engaged the group in open discussions, dot polling exercises and presentations. Our group on average had 3 to 4 parents and averaged 10 to 15 students joining the faculty, staff and administrators at the school.

This same group met two times in Schematic Design and once more in Design Development prior to the summer break. All-in-all we have had five meetings with our users since February to set the goals, vision, program and design of the Student Center: a comprehensive process that will continue through post occupancy.



Axonometric showing north and south "social porches" and renovated interior



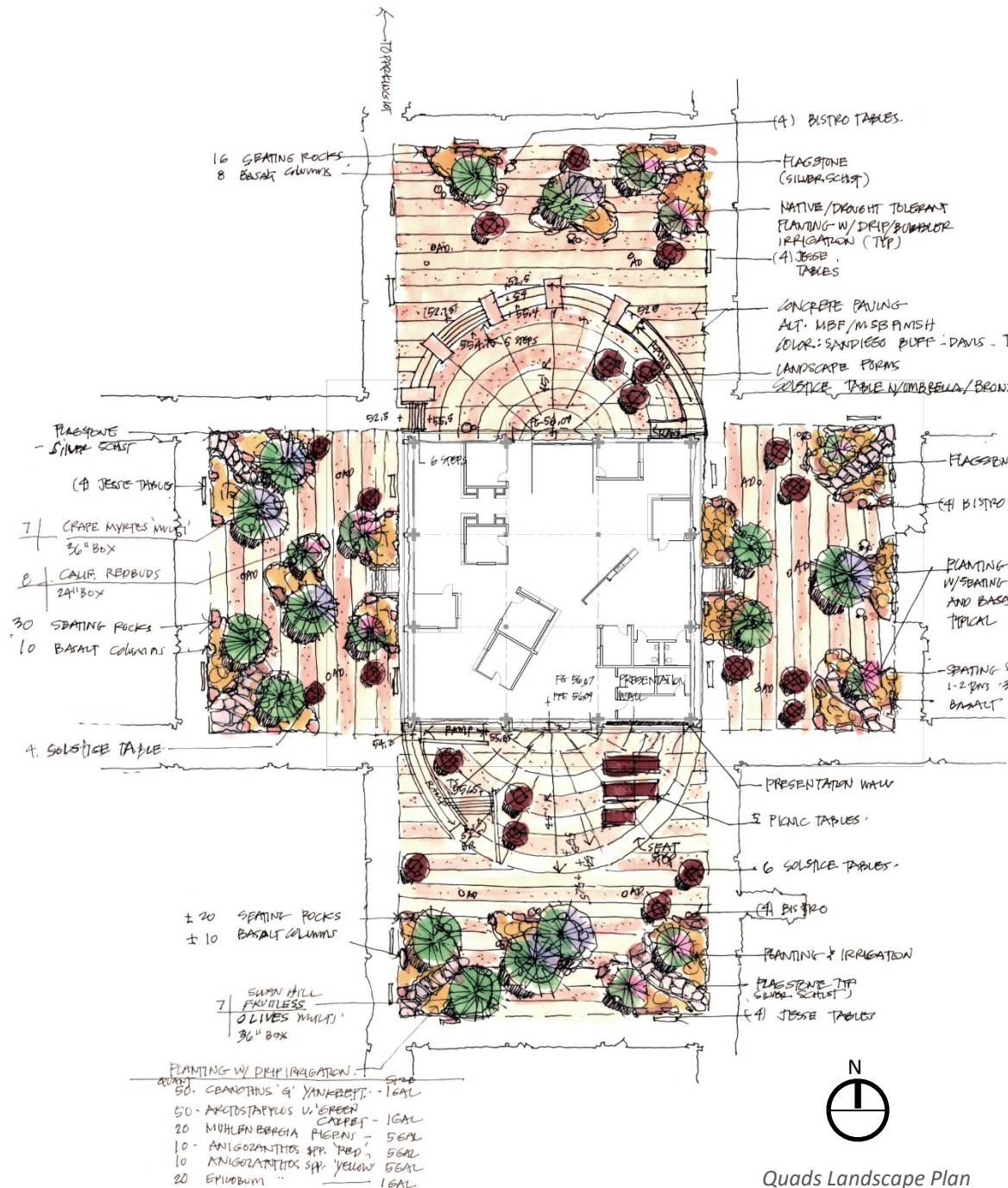
Plan diagram showing reorientation of main entries and social zones

Reimagined Campus Center

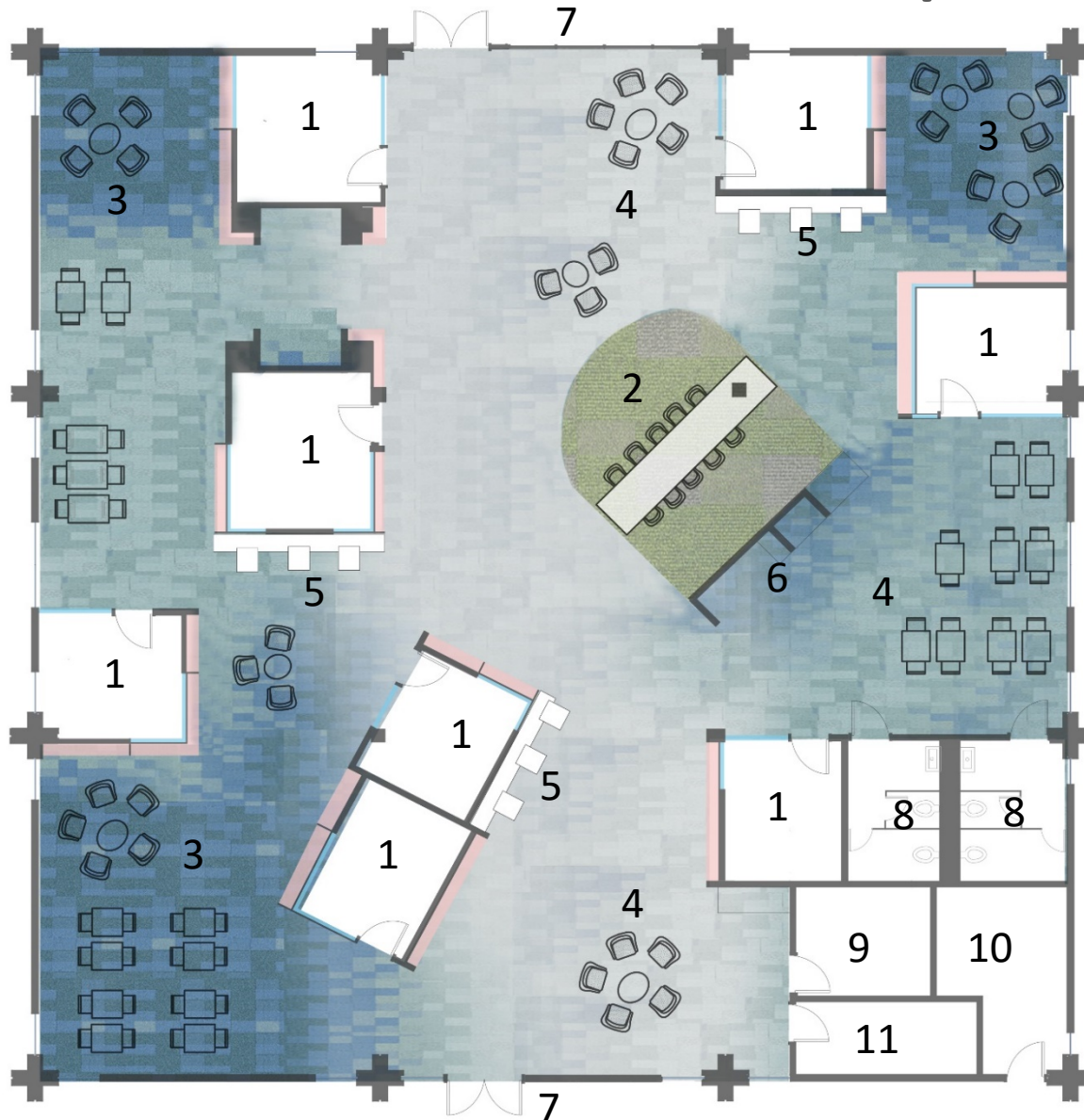
Planning Process:

The surrounding quads will be renovated along with the existing structure. As part of the new vision for the Student Center, the entries are being reoriented from primary east-west entries to north-south entries. This reorientation decision was made based on studying student arrival/flow into the campus and from feedback from our users saying that traffic flow is primarily from the north.

Reimagining the Library as a Student Center will create new opportunities for interaction between students and teachers. It will enable students to study and work on projects into the evening, as many don't have adequate places to study at home or elsewhere in the community.



Floor plan



Key Notes:

1. Flexible Office or Study Room
2. "Social Café"
3. Quiet Study Zones
4. Social Seating Zones
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6. Copy Center
7. Entries – New Garage Doors
8. Restrooms
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10. IDF
11. Electrical Room



Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Gould Evans
Project Role	Prime Architect
Project Contact	Robert Baum
Title	Principal
Address	95 Brady Street
City, State or Province, Country	San Francisco, California
Phone	415.503.1411 ext.1111

Joint Partner Firm:	Carducci & Associates
Project Role	Landscape Architect
Project Contact	Vince Lattanzio
Title	Principal
Address	555 Beach Street
City, State or Province, Country	San Francisco, CA
Phone	415.447.5214

Other Firm:	
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	

Construction Firm:	Gilbane Building Company
Project Role	Contractor
Project Contact	Alex Morrison
Title	Senior Project Manager
Address	1798 Technology Drive, Suite 120
City, State or Province, Country	San Jose, CA
Phone	408.438.0411

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Project Details

Project Name	Mt. Pleasant High School Student Center
City	San Jose
State	California
District Name	East Side Union High School District
Supt/President	Chris D. Funk
Occupancy Date	N/A
Grades Housed	9-12
Capacity(Students)	400
Site Size (acres)	0.80 Acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	7,056 SF
Per Occupant(pupil)	17 SF
gross/net please indicate	gross
Design and Build?	No
If yes, Total Cost:	
Includes:	
If no,	
Site Development:	\$1,000,000
Building Construction:	\$3,000,000
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	
Total:	\$4,000,000

Mt. Pleasant High School Student Center



View from interior of flexible office or study room