

Narrative



[SchoolsNEXT Design Competition](#)

Currently our classroom is our shop. This interferes when we have to do two projects at once. The machines have to work around tight areas due to the crowded space. There are lockers in the hall but they are too small for the projects and gear we make and use. On the flip side, the space is well lit allowing for everything to be very visible and easy to find. Another good thing is the whiteboards around the room which help us write/draw what we are planning and adapt as we need.

Envisioning a new building for this program is exciting. Here is a narrative written by Yaroslav Fenich, a 4th year Building Construction student that describes “a day in the life” in the building:

“As I enter the main door, Wright says ‘Hey Yaro’ from the middle of the area. Already I can tell it's gonna be another action packed day. The sun coming through the skylights above illuminates the whole area as though it's suggesting to have a great day. It's test day. Wright is up on the catwalks as the 4th yrs get prepared to frame 4 walls. Each wall has its own opening whether that's a door or window. We all gear up and get the tools from the tool storage. I as crew lead bring up the plans on the rollable smart screen. We quickly identify the materials needed to get everything framed out. The roles and purpose behind them is clear and concise. As I watch everyone get everything set up, I see the future. Not just the 2 hours ahead, but I see the future in construction. Right here in front of me working.

The end of the day is upon us and we have 3 of 4 walls framed out and ready to go. We stop work early to get everything cleaned up. Brooms are grabbed, garbage bins for cutoffs are coming our way, and everyone is cleaning up. With our jobsite clean, we circle up for the debrief of the day. For the first part, it's just us students talking about what we can do next time to make things a little more efficient, and a little easier. We discuss what needs to be done when we come back again. For the last part Wright comes down from the catwalk to give a few tips and point out what we did well and what needs to be better.

As everyone scrambles for backpacks and personal items, I stand and take a good look around at the people I get to work with, the opportunity presented to me in this space. I begin to walk out, pause to look back one more time at what we have

accomplished. Wright calls out ‘See ya Yaro’. The sunlight was right to suggest that today is a good day.”

In our first meeting together, we discussed the most important changes and additions that needed to be incorporated into the new building. As we toured the site where the new classroom would be built, we took note of site adjacencies, sun paths, and possible access to the entrance. We decided the main goal of the project was to create a space for the Building and Construction class that would be large enough for them to work on projects that would not have been possible before, and to have a flexible space meeting all of their requirements.

When sketching the site plan, we scaled the drawing to $\frac{1}{4}'' = 6'$. We noted that the daycare was next to the site and that there was a bordering fence around the edges of the property. Using our scaled site sketch, we sketched a mass model on the site that would be a large enough space for the classroom and fit the boundaries of the site. We settled on a mass with the dimensions 120'x60' with two floors.

As the architects, we began sketching the site plan and bubble diagrams as possible layouts for the new design. The design we initially settled on had a large workshop, a building woodshop upstairs and a finishing woodshop downstairs, a classroom upstairs, and a large storage area downstairs. Changes were made after a meeting with the students and the classroom was moved downstairs, a locker area was added, and the tool storage was combined with the finishing woodshop. Additional things were added throughout the process such as a retractable catwalk, large garage doors, lots of windows, and a driveway for semi trucks to drop off materials.

We moved on to create a physical model out of cardboard and a Revit model to envision the space better. With renderings and a 3D model of the new workshop, we were able to find flaws, make edits, and present our ideas. With the Revit model, we were able to add solar panels, skylights, an entrance that catches the eye, and a green roof. In the end, we were left with a design that fulfilled the needs of the Building and Construction students and would be a place of great advancements for the future.