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HIVE: Higher Innovation Valuable Education

The SchoolsNext competition opened a door for my team members and me to design a school building that would be optimal for us as students. Throughout the process we went through many designs and concepts before reaching the point we are at now. The design process helped inspire our main goal of the school and our concepts.

To create a good building we went through multiple designs for our building that would work well for a school. We wanted a pleasant looking building that worked for safety and let in natural light. As we first began we had some really wild ideas that were just impractical for a school and as a building in general. Slowly we figured that the best thing we could do was make a small square building that is two stories with the second story having two classrooms then splitting into a balcony onto the roof of the first floor. This simple design inspired our main goal out of our school building.

The main goal we really wanted to achieve in a school building is the idea of learning retention for students. What this means is that a school is about learning information and processing it in a way that you will always remember. The idea of retention came to our group as we were simplifying our building. It made sense to have a simple exterior building and then an interior space that is designed to help student retain the information they learned. Within this process it became clear that retention was a giant goal. As students we have experienced many styles of teaching and acquired our own style of learning. However not all classrooms can cater to the individual learning style which in the end prevents the needed retention.

This problem really inspired the incorporation of the different learning styles, known as V.A.K or visual, auditory and kinesthetic learners. These are the three learning styles, each one will be incorporated into our building through the different classrooms we have. We figured creating three classrooms with individual goals to benefit the different learning style in the classroom would be best. This would allow students to retain the information in the best way for them. The greatest part about setting up the building in such a way is that it means on a day where a student has a lot of energy and wants to be moving and creating there is a classroom specifically pertaining to them, the Kinesthetic classroom. This will be the biggest classroom allowing for the movement needed. The Visual classroom will have more windows than the others but a fairly simple set up as to not be distracting but to provide natural light. The auditory classroom will be in a corner away from the other classrooms that way they are not distracted by the noise in the other classrooms. The ability to learn in the necessary way allows students to retain the information and get the best education possible which is the overall point of a school building.

Beyond just this concept we also thought of ways to keep our building green while still being educational and achieving the over all goals desired. Our green concepts stem from the structure of the building itself, the green space we are making is a balcony attached to the second story and on top of the roof of the first story. We will have a cover over the space that catches the falling rain water, which will go into watering the plant life underneath. The plants underneath will be native plants that will be admired and beneficial to learning. There will also be a little vegetable garden, in which the vegetables grown can be used for the cafe or in the science lab or even to give out to students. On the very top of the building we will have solar panels that will help gain energy for the centers lighting systems and a wind turbine will be built in the courtyard

that connects the buildings. The turbine will gather a little power that can also go towards lighting but will also be a good learning tool. The wood that is used in the building will come from certified forests. The concepts will allow the building to be green and also are used as valuable tools for learning.

Throughout our design we kept the layout very open and capable of changing as the school's needs changed. To show the ability of expansion in the buildings as well as the concept itself we designed two other buildings that fulfilled the desire for retention through the process of learn, do, teach. This concept is simple enough to understand. To retain information students should not only learn the information they should practice what they learn and then teach it to others. This is the best way to really fully retain what they learned. This was shown throughout three buildings. Our first building is the one that focuses on learning the information. The second building is designed for doing what has been learned and the third building is designed for teaching what has been learned. The idea of learn, do, teach is really great for retention as well because the execution of what you learned in practice helps you process what is actually happening and teaching really solidifies in the mind that you know how to do what you learned. The concept does not have to have the three buildings to execute and can stay in the original one building, it could also be expanded to even more buildings. This is something we really wanted to achieve with our concept is that it doesn't have to be tied to one style of building or place. To achieve the greatest education retention is the key. To retain the best use the different learning styles and learn do and teach.

The chance to design our own school building gave our team a challenge that seemed too much at points, however these challenges only made us think more deeply about the school systems and how we'd like to change them. As students we were able to create a school that we

would want to attend and for that the SchoolsNext competition opened a door for us to be inspired. Overall we are proud of the idea we created and the building we got to make and we hope that it inspires others to build and create too.