All Students are Not Alike:
Accommodating Diverse Student Needs through Varieties of Learning Environments
Learning Objectives

• Learn ways to work with the size of a building to create varied learning experiences at different scales

• Examine the use of a diverse array of interior and exterior spaces to expand the range of activities and experiences for students

• Examine how the relationship between the building and site create meaningful learning opportunities

• Learn about the collaborative design process and discuss strategies for balancing competing stakeholder needs
Speakers

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Learning is not the same for every child
The Coolidge Corner Neighborhood
Where we started
The Organizing Concept:
central, shared spaces with academic wings
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central, shared spaces with academic wings
Academic Neighborhoods
Classrooms
Specialty Spaces
Project Areas & Small Group Rooms
Informal Social Areas
Outdoor Classrooms
Connecting with History
Light, Transparency, Color
Skills needed to Succeed in the 21st Century

Beautiful weather means we can sit outside during writer's workshop to write!
PreK friends visited the library for storytime and a tour today. They loved the view over the playground!
1. How can we create an outdoor environment that encourages important skills?

2. Which design elements can help improve students’ well-being & performance?

3. How could site design better address age specific needs and be more inclusive?

- Critical Thinking
- Creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration
Play is not the same for every child.
What are the benefits of play?

- More than physical activity
- Developmental
- Emotional
- Social
What are the benefits of connecting with Nature?

• Well Being
• Inspiration
• Experiential Learning
• Biophilia, The human bond with other species. (Edward O. Wilson, 1984)
Existing Play

-Disconnected across site
-Topographical separations
-Not accessible
Integrated Learning and Play Area
COMMUNITY COURTS
WATER PLAY
SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD WITH COCONUT INFILL
DEVOTION STREET
STRUCTURED PLAY
SPIRAL LOGS
DIGGING POD
FIRE LANE WITH MARKINGS FOR PLAY

Integrated Play/ Learning Plan
Can design help teach environmental literacy?

- Sustainability
- Conservation
- Resilience
- Stewardship
Learning Opportunities

- Natural systems/ the Water Cycle
- Sustainable Design
- Soil Function
- Plant Filtration
- Pollinator Attraction
Rain Garden
Rain Garden and Cafeteria beyond
Coolidge Corner School  @TheHiveInCC · 18 Sep 2018
We are loving watching the water pour from our roof tops to fill our rain garden with water on this super rainy day! 🌧️
School Garden: Existing Conditions
Pre-Construction Play Conditions
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM WITH NATURAL SEATING ELEMENTS
COMPOST BIN
PLANTER BOXES
WORK TABLE
RAINWATER COLLECTION BARREL
COMPOST BIN
TO DEVOTION ST.
TO HARVARD ST.
POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY SHRUB AND PERENNIAL PLANTINGS
COMMUNITY PATH
NATURE PODS
NEIGHBORING RESIDENCES
School Garden Redesign
Classroom View of the School Garden
Fall Planting
Vision for Nature Pod
School Garden

- Food growing areas
- Seating/Outdoor classroom
- Habitat areas
- Permaculture
- Pollinator shelters
- Native trees for attracting birds
- Immersion in nature
We ❤️ the thoughtful design and beauty of our garden! This log from the site shows the markings of a beetle that made its way through the tree. The pattern is repeated in the flowers planted behind it! We wonder what other patterns in nature our students will uncover here.
Analysis of 10 Outdoor Spaces

PLAY STRUCTURES
TURF FIELD
BASKETBALL COURTS
WATER PLAY
SPIRAL STUMPS
DIGGING AREAS
RAIN GARDEN
SCHOOL GARDEN
NATURE PODS
OUTDOOR TERRACES
Evening Community Destination
Reality