Mt. Pleasant High School – Student Center:
A Flexible Hub for a Changing High School Curriculum
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Attendees will learn how to create a student centered social space for high school students that mimics the higher education student experience.

Objective 2: Attendees will learn how to build flexibility into the design to adapt to changing pedagogy, culture, and technology.

Objective 3: Attendees will learn how to leverage an existing building that supports the changing needs of the district, campus, and its students.

Objective 4: Attendees will learn how to design a process that truly engages students, producing meaningful outcomes.
GOALS

Goal 1  “...integrate interior and exterior spaces to allow for programs and activities to flow seamlessly.”

Goal 2  “The modernized quads will act as an outdoor extension of the Student Center.”

Goal 3  “The Student Center will function as a space where learning and socializing occur simultaneously in an environment designed to embrace and welcome all.”

Goal 4  “The Student Center will be a place for many types of activities including study, informal gathering place, group project base, dining, student activities, presentations and events to name a few.”
Site Analysis

Opportunities:

- Connecting indoor/outdoor
- Re-think use of quads/performances/activities
- Potentially re-think entry sequence and quad edges

Challenges:

- Construction logistics – access to courtyards
- ADA Upgrades to existing facilities and site
- Concrete structure - limitations to changing
Design Process
CREATION OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ACCESS AND SCALE

GATHERING
THEATER: 450
MULTIPURPOSE SPACE: 300
CLASS SIZE: 350
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: 1400
PROJECT ASSEMBLY SPACE:
SCHOOL QUAD

GROUP SIZES
26-32 8:10 1
16-18 4:6

ALIVE, INVITING, ACCESSIBLE ALL DAY EVERYDAY!

PLACE FOR STUDENTS
RELAX, EAT (SMALL PLACE)

OPEN 7AM, 7PM
CONSTANT USE

EQUITY AND DIGNITY

STUDENTS FEEL OWNERSHIP
STEWARDSHIP OF PLACE
PRIDE OF PLACE
ACCOUNTABILITY
STUDENT CHOICE
STUDENT VIBE

TRUST
TRUST STUDENTS TO DO THE RIGHT THING
OPEN ACCESS
MANY WAYS IN/OUT
MAKE IT PRETTY

A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS
FIND DIGNITY
DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS FIRST
ADULT-LIKE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
QUALITY MATERIALS, LIGHTING, & TECH
CONFIDENT CULTURE
SPACE/DIGNITY
CHOICE
COMFORT
PERSONAL SPACE

COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

FEELS CONNECTED TO THE REST OF CAMPUS
VIBE OF STUDENT CENTER EXTENDED TO REST OF CAMPUS
DESIGN CONSISTENCY TRANS parent COMMUNITY

Serves entire community
Parents & community counseling
Draw staff, faculty & students together

SENSE OF COMMUNITY
WELCOMING

VERSATILE LEARNING AND SOCIAL SPACE

ZONES
QUIET AREA
NON-QUIET AREA

NOT GENERIC MULTI-PURPOSE
VERSATILE SPACE WITH INTENTIONAL PURPOSE
MOBILITY OF FURNITURE
STRATEGIC ACOUTIC DESIGN
FLEXIBILITY OF TECH
WARMTH SPIRIT

SPACE FOR CLUB MEETINGS WITH TECHNOLOGY
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS CULTURE

EAT WHERE YOU LEARN… NOT LEARN WHERE YOU EAT
ACCESS AND SCALE

How do you solve this with architecture?

GATHERING
THEATER: 400
MULTIPURPOSE SPACE: 300
CLASS SIZE: 350
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: 1400
PROJECT ASSEMBLY SPACE: SENIOR QUAD

ALIVE, INVITING, ACCESSIBLE ALL DAY! EVERYDAY!

PLACE FOR STUDENTS
RELAX, EAT (SMALL PLACE)

GROUP SIZES
26-32  8-10  1
16-18  4-6

OPEN 7AM- 7PM
CONSTANT USE
THE 5E’S

Student Center

Great place to study, eat and hang out!

1. Entice
   - What makes students naturally want to be there – to see and be seen?
   - What makes the student center a busy “hive” on campus?

2. Enter
   - What is it that creates a strong sense of welcome upon arrival?
   - What creates a “Wow! Factor” upon arrival?

3. Engage
   - What is it that draws students in to have meaningful engagement?
   - What makes it a non-hierarchical safe place to hang out – a place for everyone?

4. Exit
   - How does it create a strong departing impression enough to want to return?
   - What builds loyalty and excitement for this place?

5. Extend
   - What extends the user experience to make it a part of students’ daily experience?
   - What is it that creates a “HUB” for social, emotional, academic, and extracurricular engagement?
5. Extend

Extension of experience through social media, kiosks and through building.
GENERAL NOTES:
- CREATE A PLACE FOR STUDENTS
- RE-CREATE A HEART TO THE CAMPUS
- CREATE A VARIETY OF SPACE FOR STUDY, PROJECTS, AND INTERACTION

Mt. Pleasant High School - Floor Plan - Building 900

EXISTING CONDITIONS
ADJACENCY DIAGRAM

Student Center Technical Services

Collection

Group Study & Informal Lounge Areas

Student Center

Table Seating
Lounge Seating
Computer Seating

Learning Center

15 Seat Room
10 Seat Room

Offices

3 Offices
Student Waiting

Building Support

Copy Alcove

Entry

Café

Student Center

Restrooms

Accessible from all areas

Copy Alcove

Staff Workroom

Storage
Janitorial
Systems

Nest

Nest
EXISTING VS. NEW PROGRAM COMPARISON

**Total Building Seating**
- **Existing**: 189 Seats
- **Proposed**: 114 Seats + 25 additional chairs
- **Difference**: 28% MORE

**Collection Volume**
- **Existing**: 9500 volumes
- **Proposed**: 3500 volumes
- **Difference**: 63% LESS

**Office Space**
- **Existing**: 928 sf
- **Proposed**: 525 sf
- **Difference**: 43% LESS
1. Gathering and Project Based Learning

2. Social Centered

3. Social Highway
USER DISCUSSION – CHECK OPTIONS AGAINST GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MOVE FURNITURE

TAKING PRIDE

VISITING W/O REFERRAL

SAFE

NOT JUDGED/SCOLDED

COMFORTABLE ENVIRON.

(OUTDOORS VS.COLD)

GO FREELY TO ANY SPACE

(NO HIDING PLACES)

PRIVACY (FOR COUNSELORS)

(NO FISH BOWLS)

FOOD & DRINK: YES (NEED CUSTOM) → MICROWAVE

AVOID CLIQUES → SUPPORT!

UP, USE BY 9-10: SAFE

MORE NATURAL ENVIRON. =

LESS CLIQUE DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT

EQUITY

DIGNITY

FRIENDLY STAFF

FEW STAFF (<5)

CHARGING STATIONS

SELF-POLICING: “LIVE & LEARN”

LOSE SECURITY GATES
EVOLUTION OF DIAGRAMS BASED ON USER FEEDBACK

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3
LET’S GET DOWN TO IT...

“What option hits our guiding principles best?”

The past if you would define the future.

Confucius
DOT POLLING RESULTS

Clearly preferred option
Concepts worth incorporating
Didn’t resonate – Good to know

Takeaways
1. Don’t be afraid to let users impact design.
2. Create conversation based on agreed upon principles.
3. Listen to all perspectives – those that preferred Option 2 were given the opportunity to share how they would incorporate the ideas/spaces into the preferred option.
Design Outcomes
SITE PLAN

new flow introduced from student observation - stronger indoor/outdoor connection

diverse landscape with more cover

arced to allow for student flow around “porches”
FLOOR PLAN

- cafe - social center
- garage door
- office / study room, typ.
- study zone
- food prep area
- restrooms
- building support

North
The library wasn’t gone just re-visioned. We had to think about book integration.
Passive supervision was required to make the 7 to 7 approach work. Trust / Supervision balance was key.
Creating a social heart and a variety of seating was key in reaching all students; not just the extroverts.
FLOOR PLAN

Darker areas = quiet
Lighter areas = social

North

A

B

C

D
CEILING PLAN

Hexagon ceiling tiles

North

GARAGE DOOR
VARIATION OF STUDY EXPERIENCE

Perspectives

View from South Entrance

View from Kitchen
VARIATION OF STUDY EXPERIENCE

Perspectives

View to Study Lounge 1

View to Study Lounge 3
ENTRY EXPERIENCE
Perspectives

View from North Entrance

View to Baquet @ Office/Study 2
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Q+A