

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

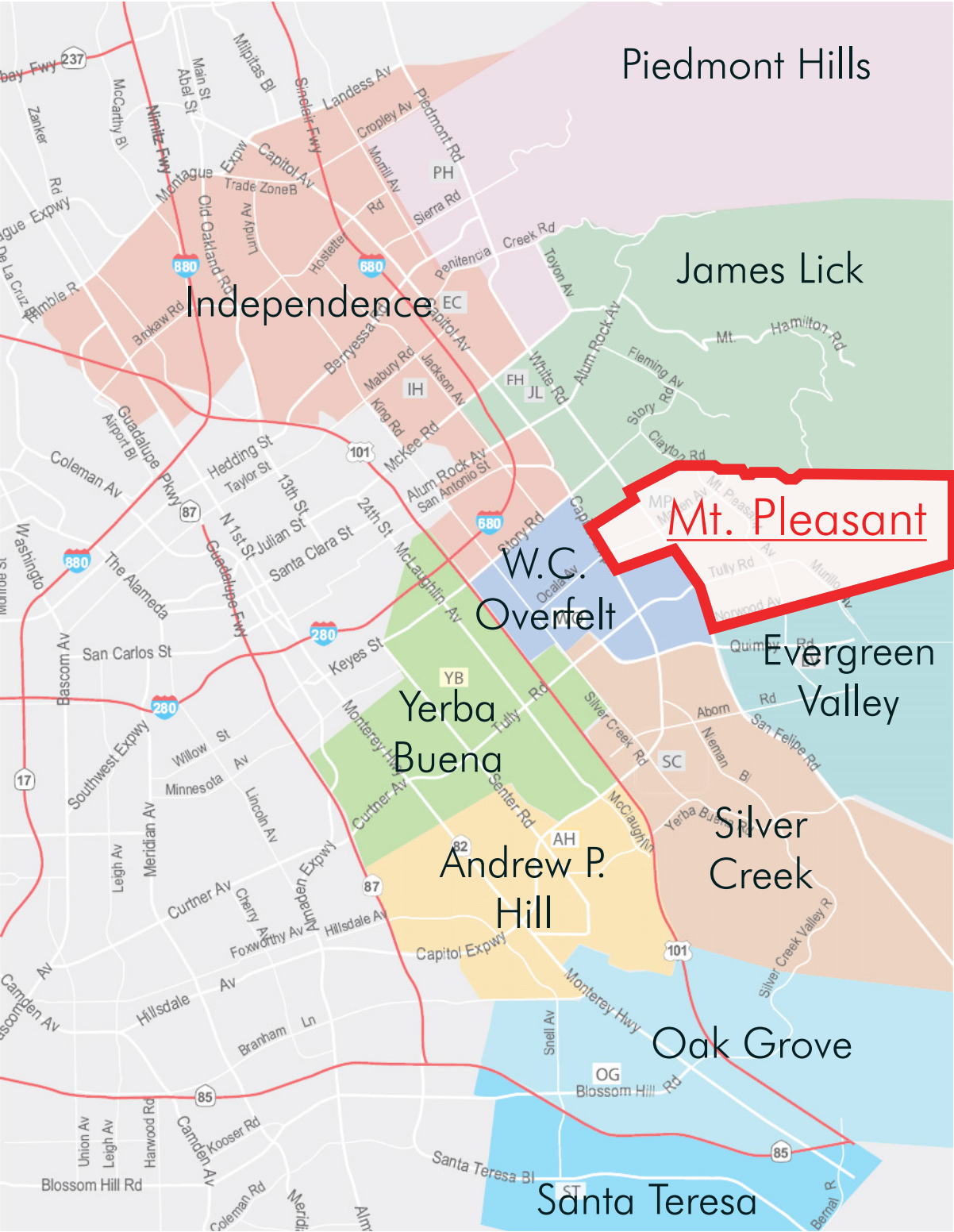
Attendees will learn how to design a process that truly engages students, producing meaningful outcomes.

CONTEXT

Context Map of the San Francisco Bay Area



East Side Union High School District Map



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."

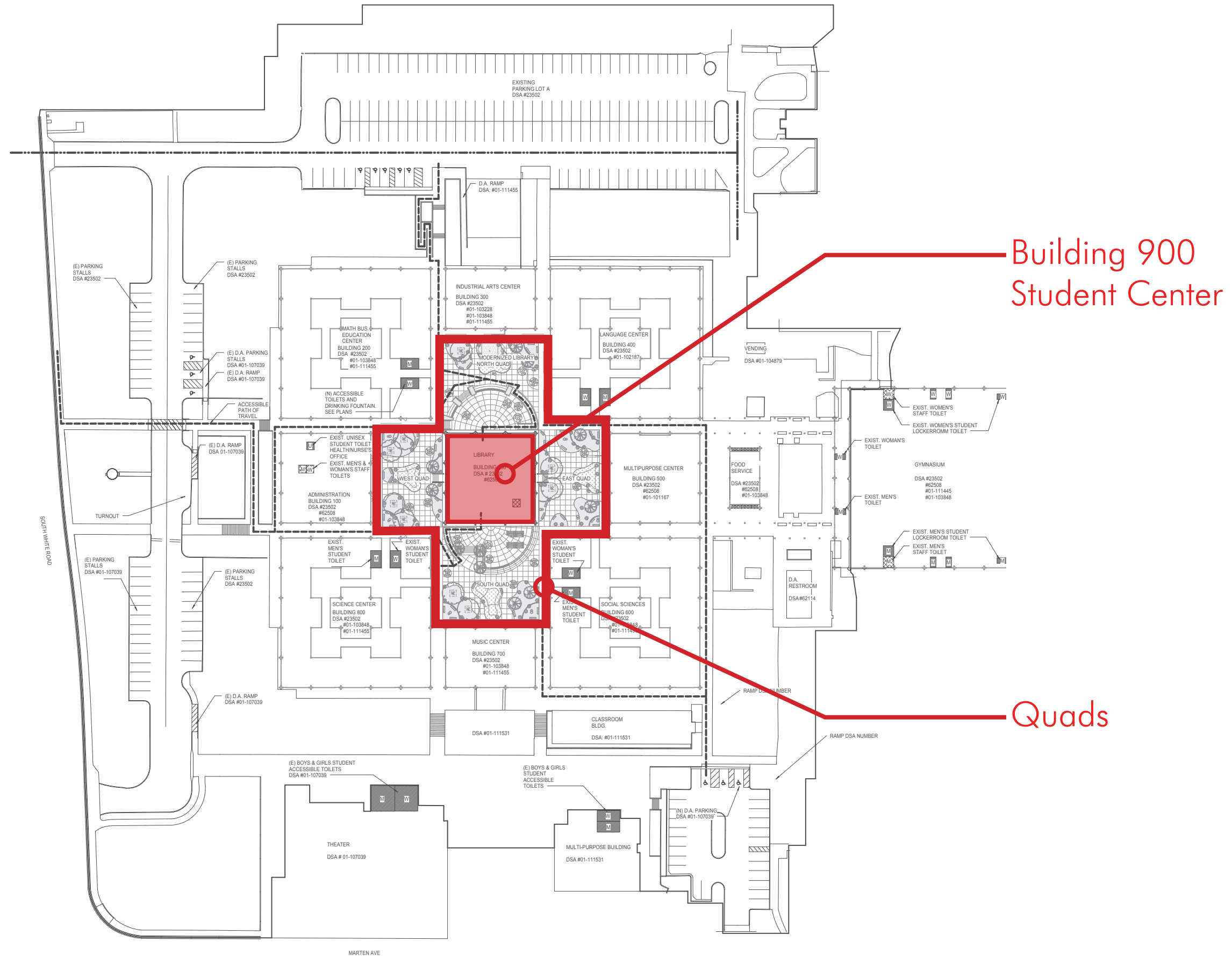
Goal 3

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

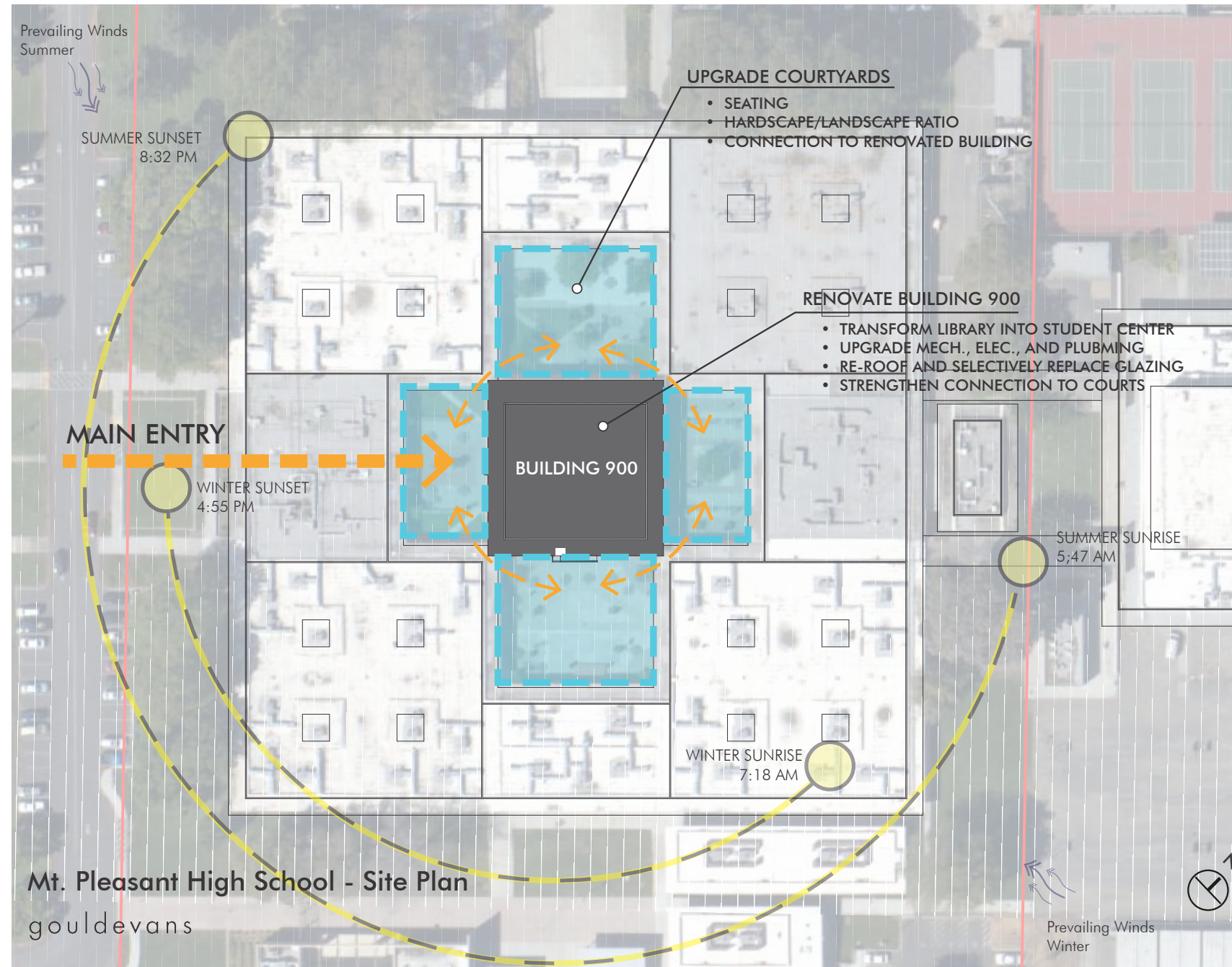
Goal 4

"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."

CAMPUS MAP



SITE ANALYSIS



Opportunities:

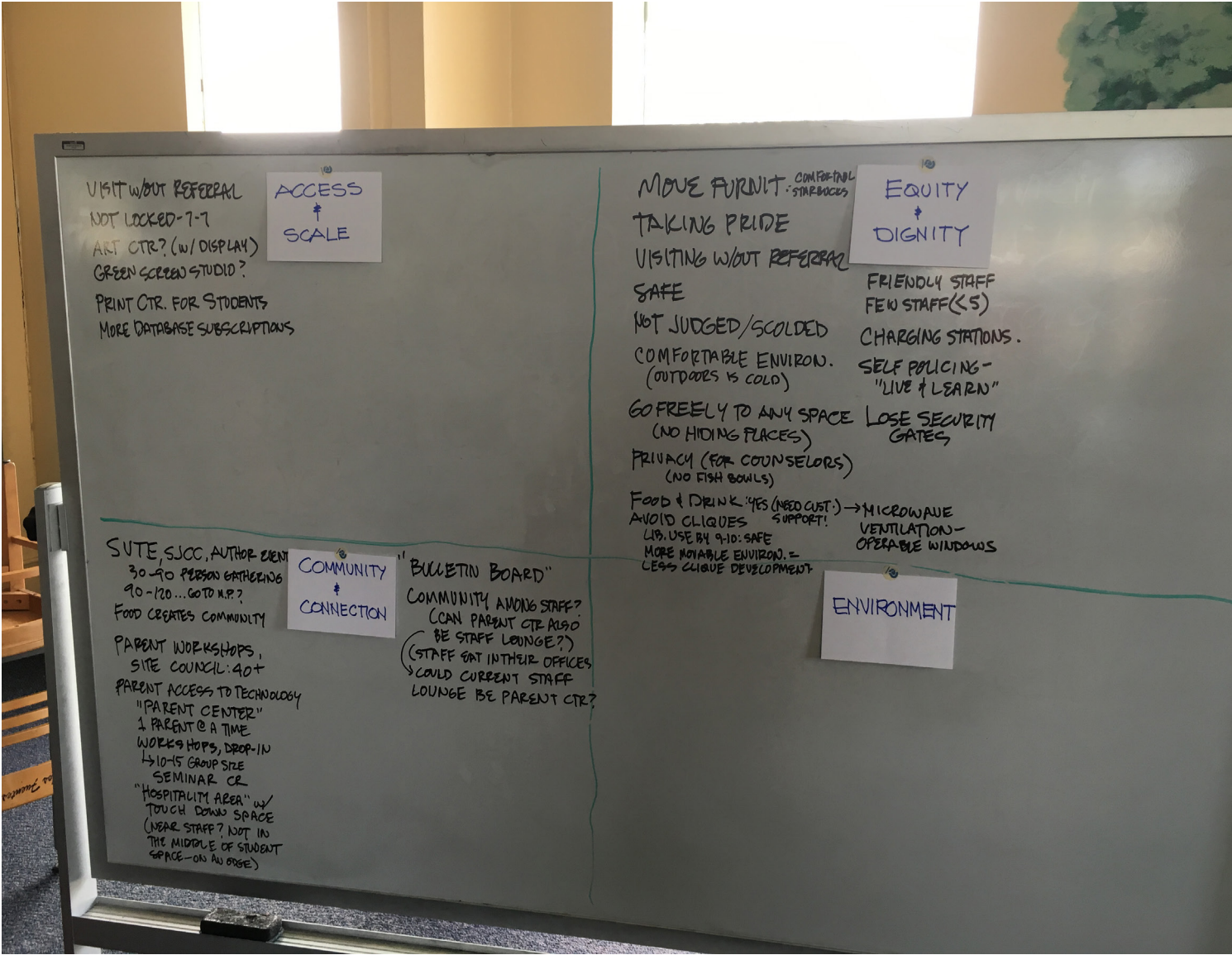
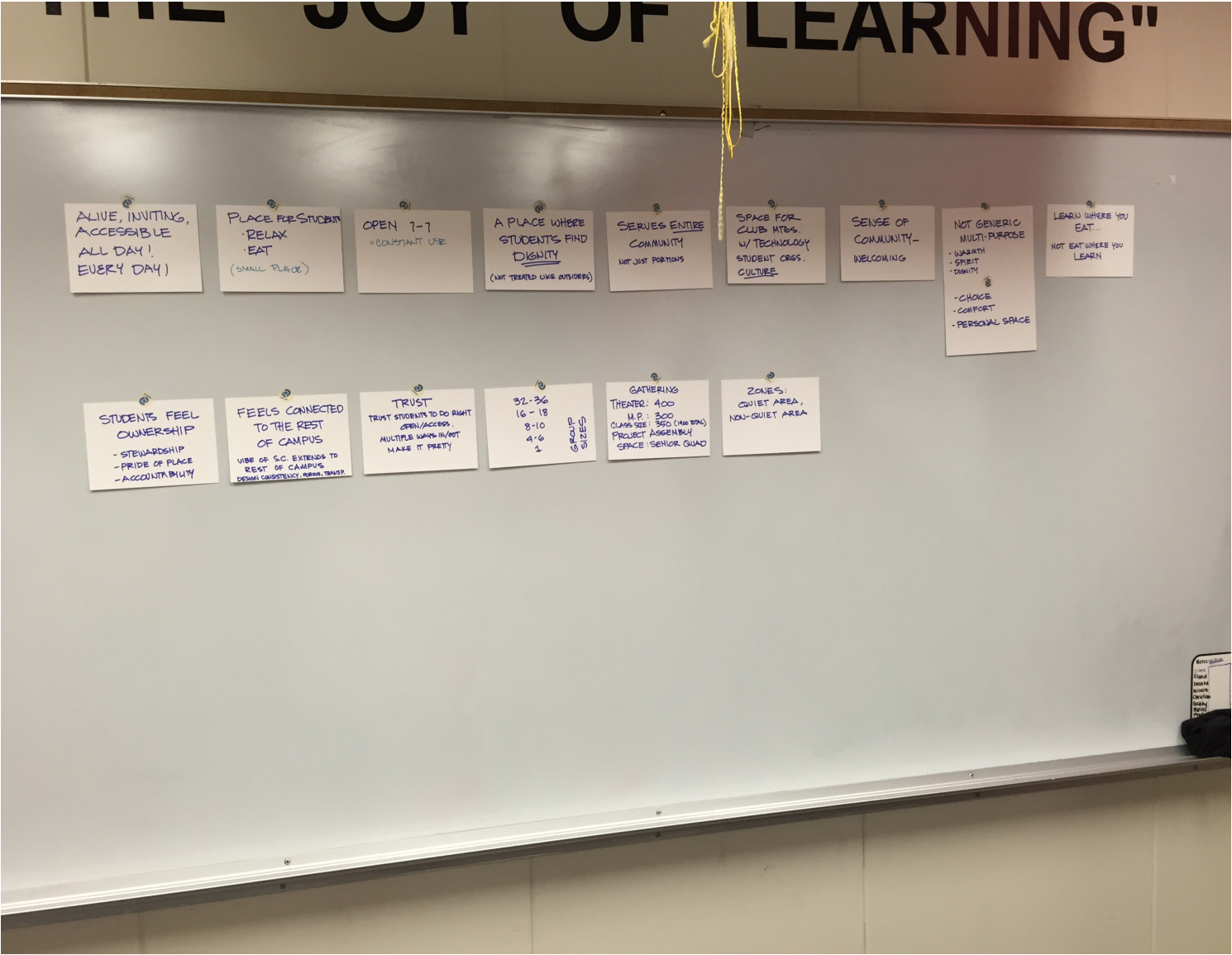
- Connecting indoor/outdoor
- Re-think use of quads/performances/activities
- Potentially re-think entry sequence and quad edges

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: 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

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
MULTIPLE WAYS IN/OUT
MAKE IT PRETTY

A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS
FIND DIGNITY

DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS FIRST
ADULT-LIKE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
QUALITY MATERIALS, LIGHTING, & TECH
CONCIERGE CULTURE
SPACIOUSNESS
CHOICE
COMFORT
PERSONAL PSACE

COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

FEELS CONNECTED TO
THE REST OF CAMPUS

VIBE OF STUDENT
CENTER EXTENDED
TO REST OF CAMPUS

DESIGN CONSISTENCY
POROUS
TRANSPARENT

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

SPACE FOR CLUB MEETINGS
WITH TECHNOLOGY

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
CULTURE

NOT GENERIC
MULTI-PURPOSE

VERSATILE SPACE WITH INTENTIONAL PURPOSE
MOBILITY OF FURNITURE
STRATEGIC ACOUSTIC DESIGN
FLEXIBILTY OF TECH
WARMTH
SPIRIT

EAT WHERE YOU LEARN...
NOT LEARN WHERE YOU EAT

ACCESS AND SCALE

How do you solve this with architecture?

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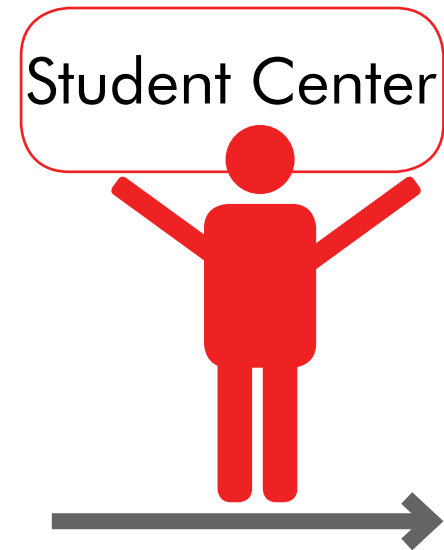
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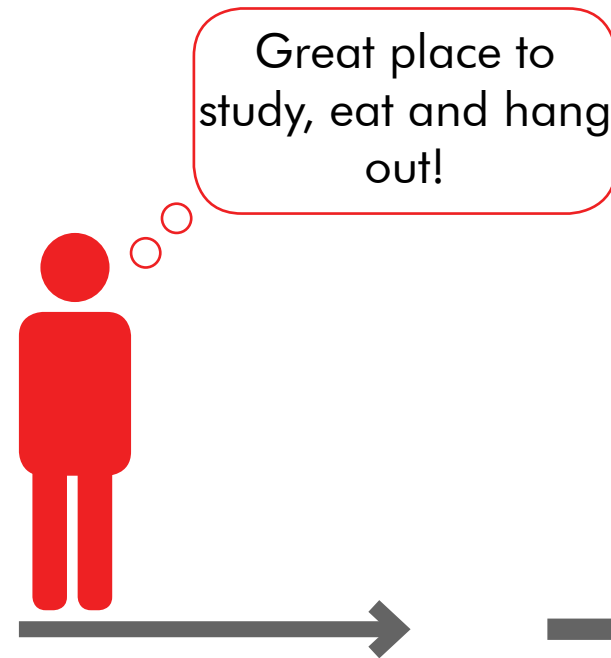
THE 5E'S



1. Entice

What makes students naturally want to be there – **to see and be seen?**

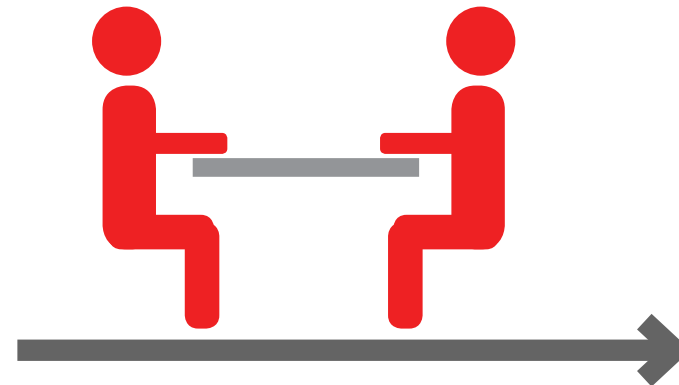
What makes the student center a busy **"hive" on campus?**



2. Enter

What is it that creates a **strong sense of welcome** upon arrival?

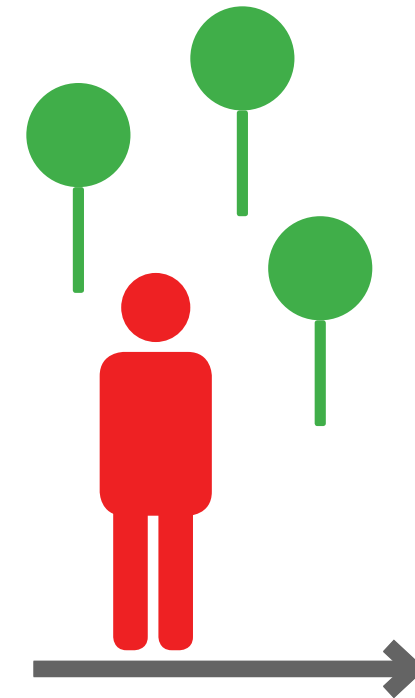
What creates a **"Wow! Factor"** upon arrival?



3. Engage

What is it that draws students in to have **meaningful engagement?**

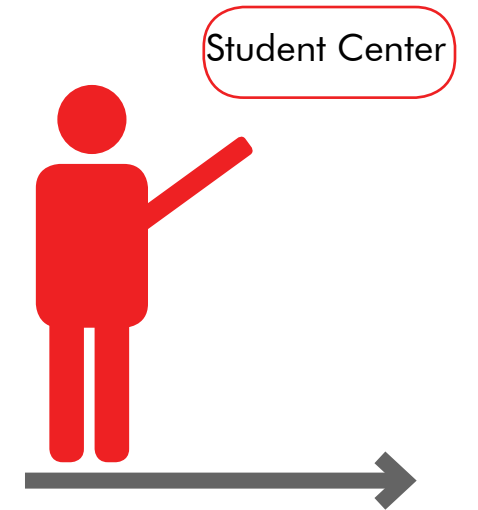
What makes it a non-hierarchical safe place to hang out – **a place for everyone?**



4. Exit

How does it create a **strong departing impression** enough to want to return?

What **builds loyalty and excitement** for this place?

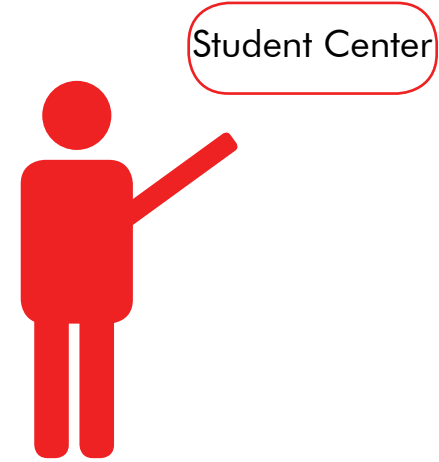


5. Extend

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?**

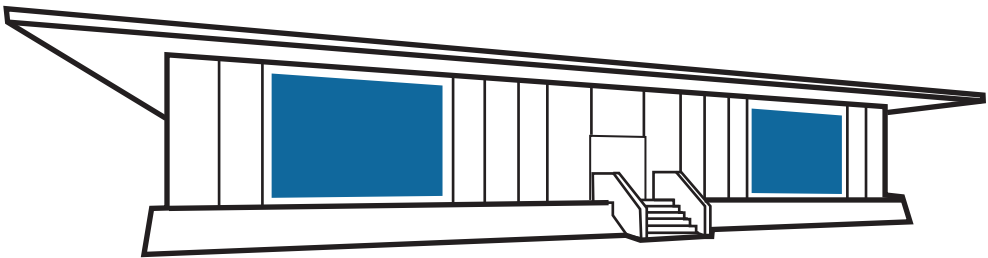
EXTEND



5. Extend

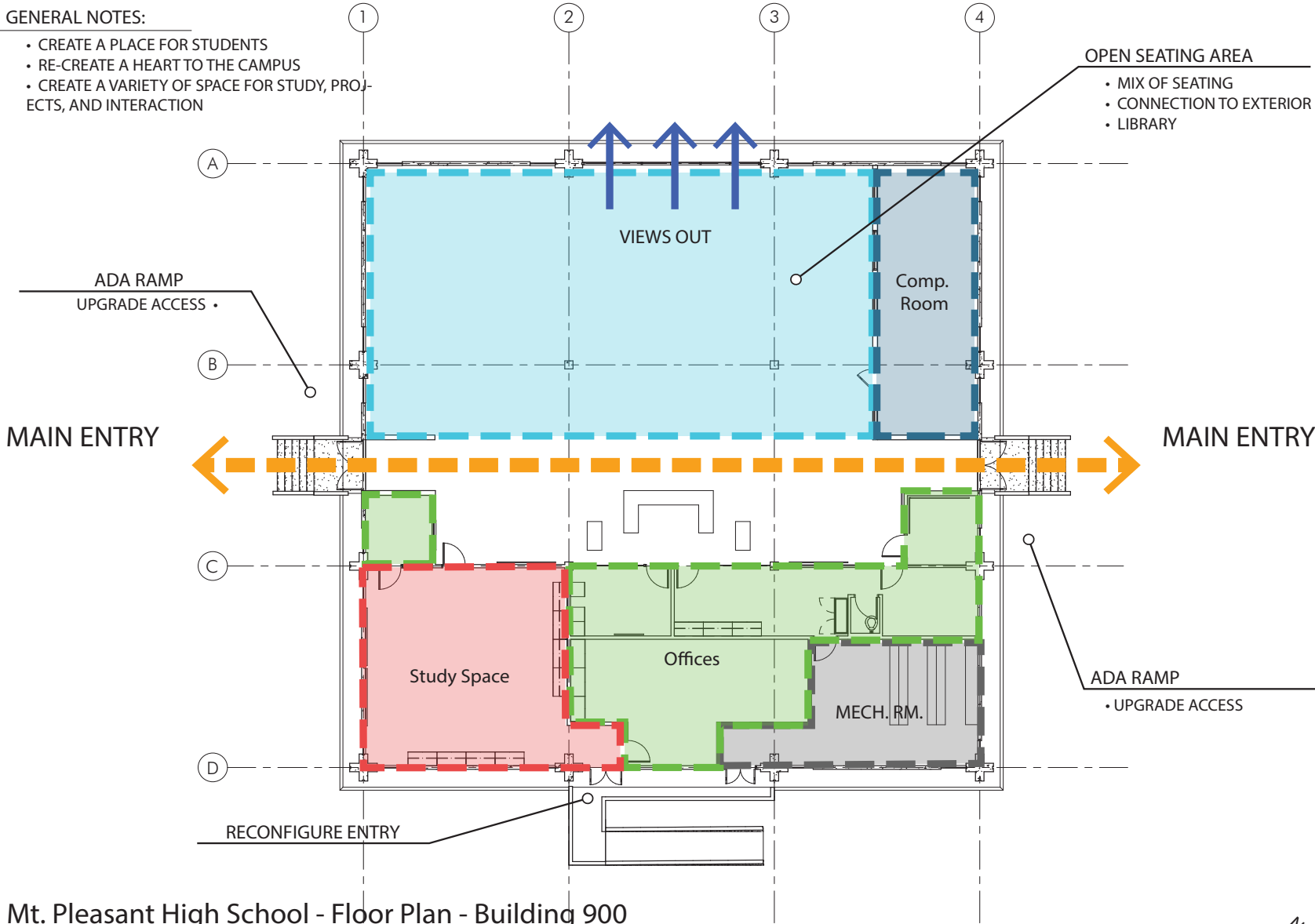


Extension of experience
through social media, kiosks
and through building.



Building as Billboard

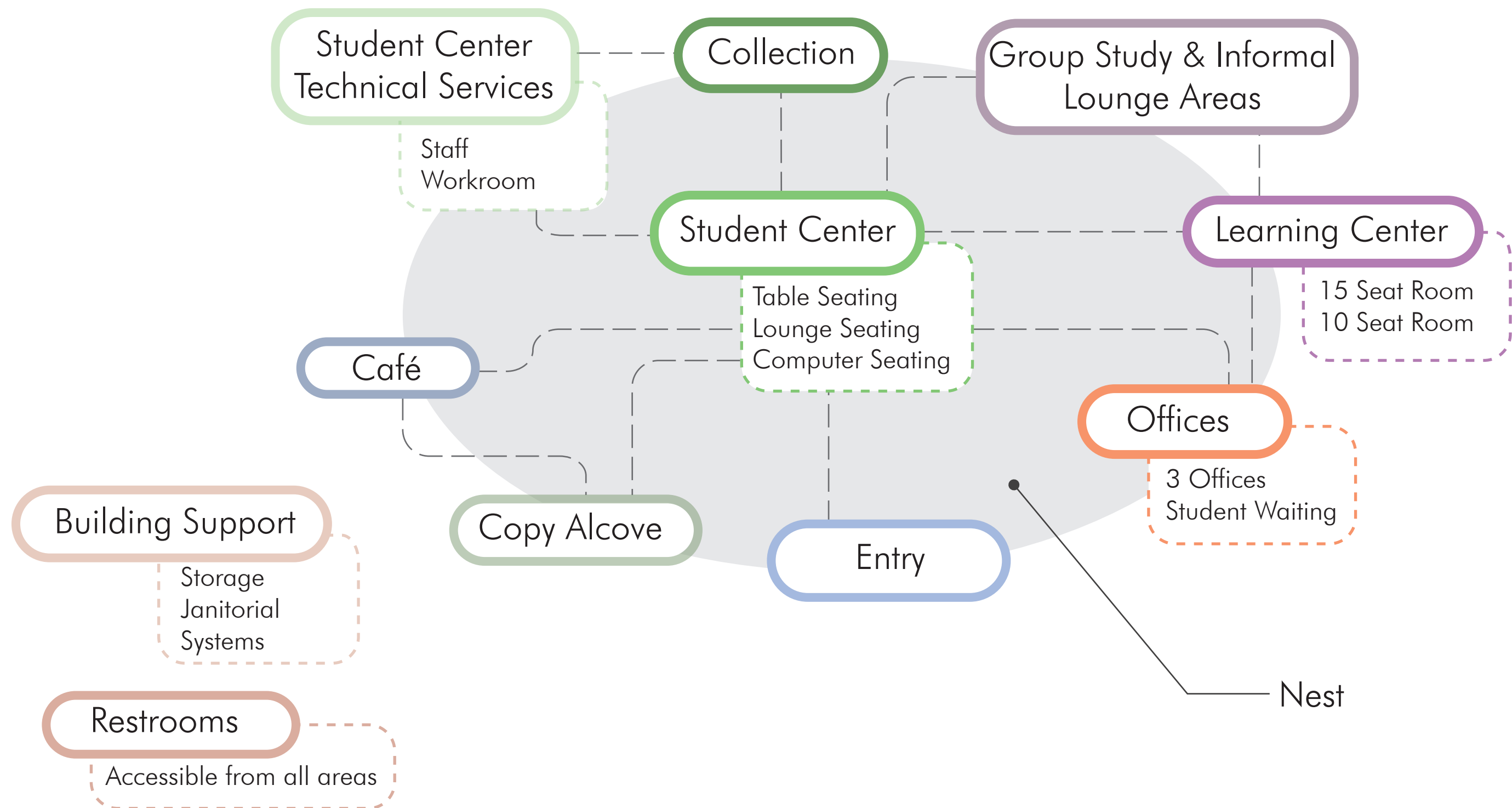
EXISTING CONDITIONS



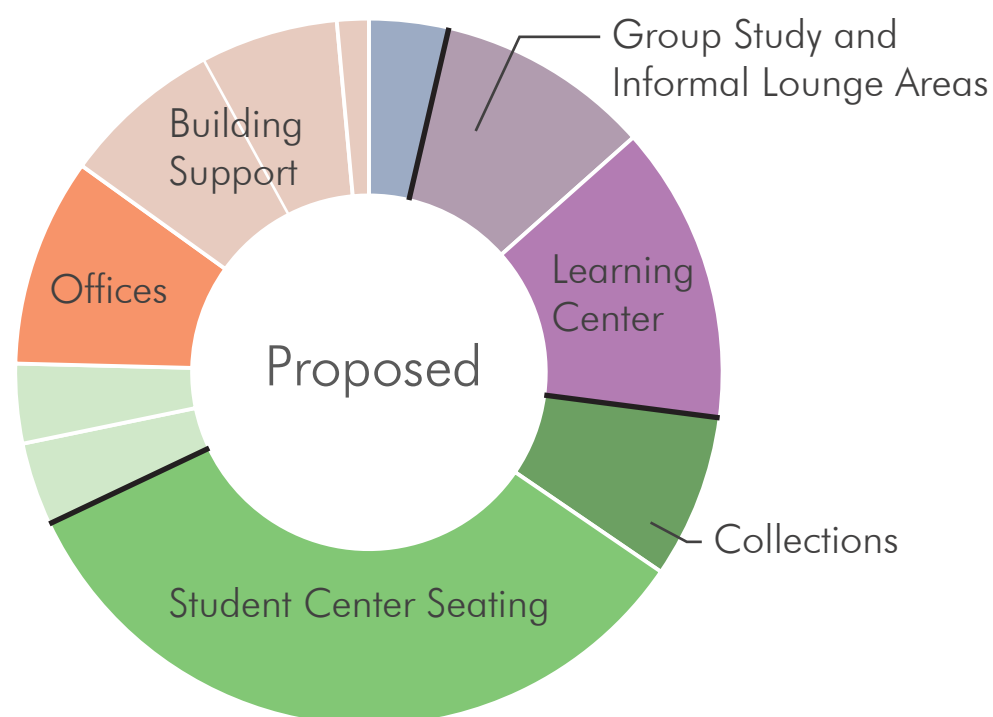
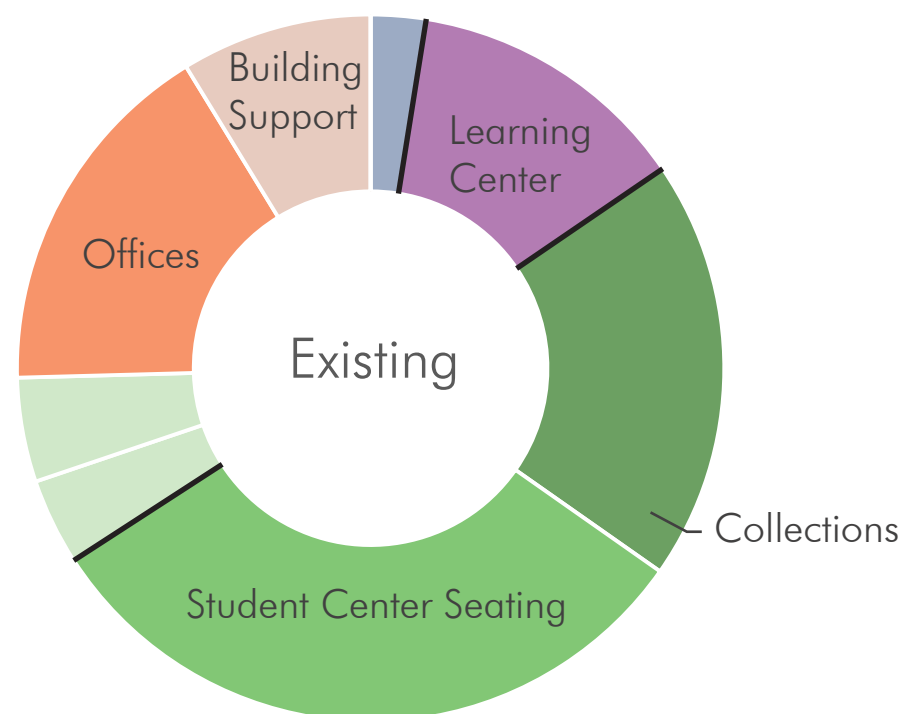
Mt. Pleasant High School - Floor Plan - Building 900
gouldevans



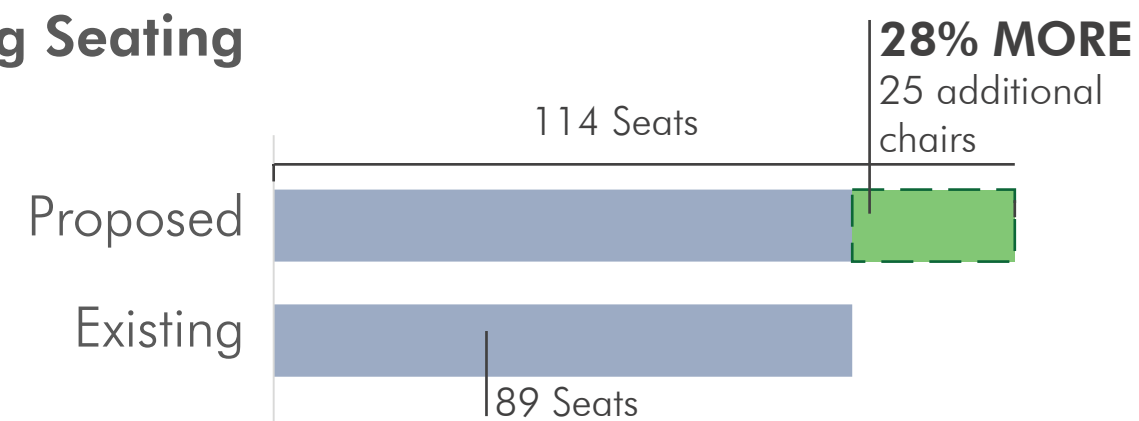
ADJACENCY DIAGRAM



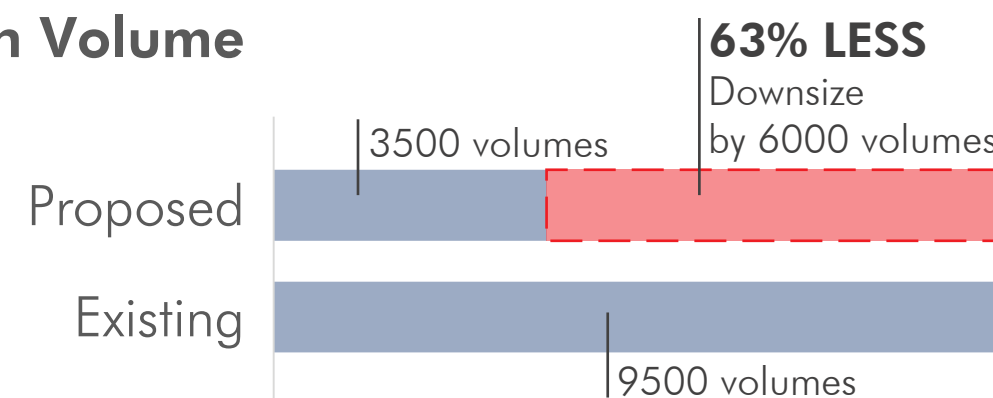
EXISTING VS. NEW PROGRAM COMPARISON



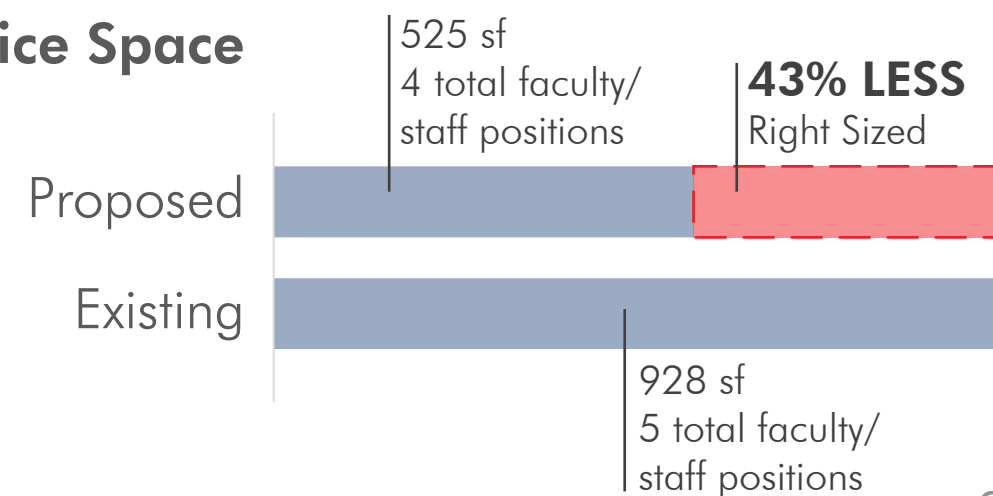
Total Building Seating



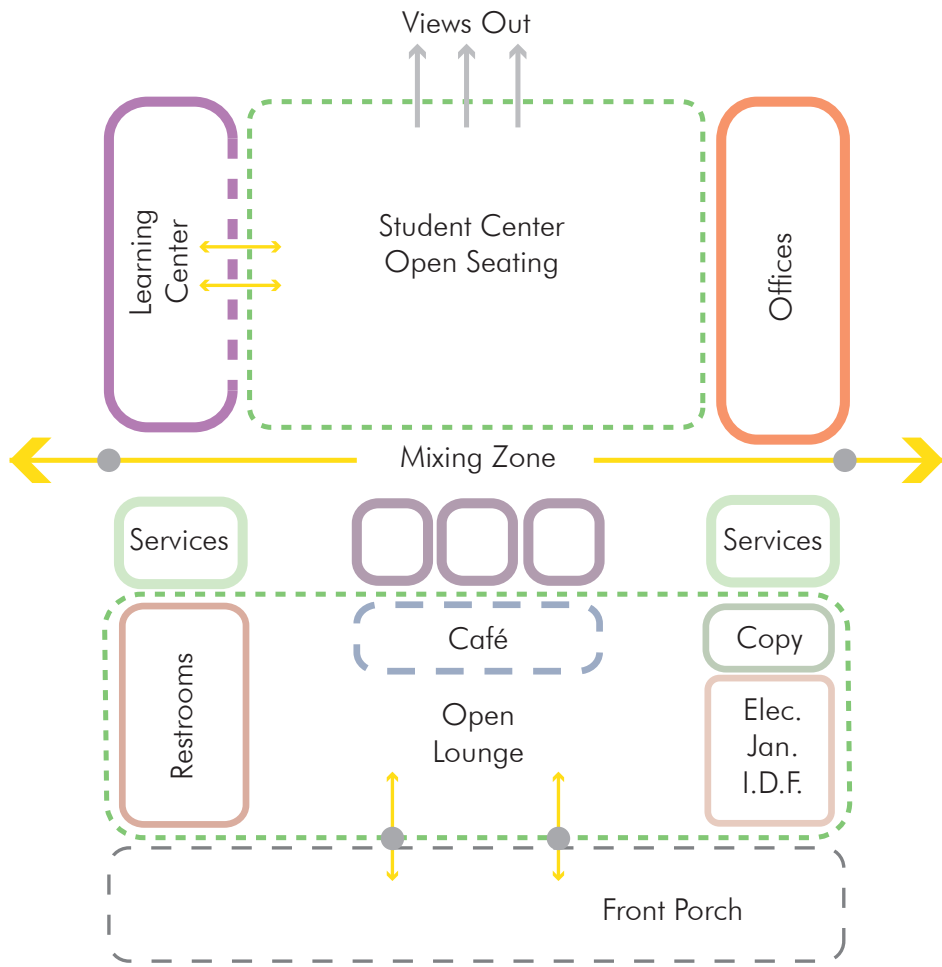
Collection Volume



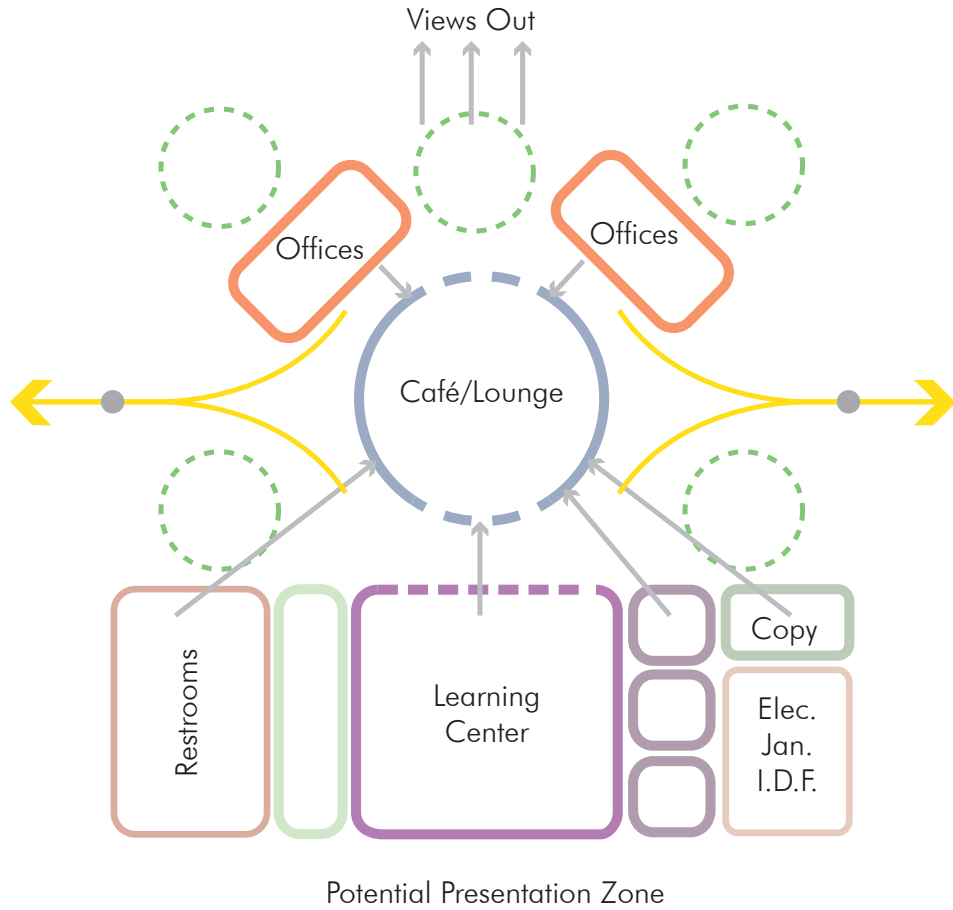
Office Space



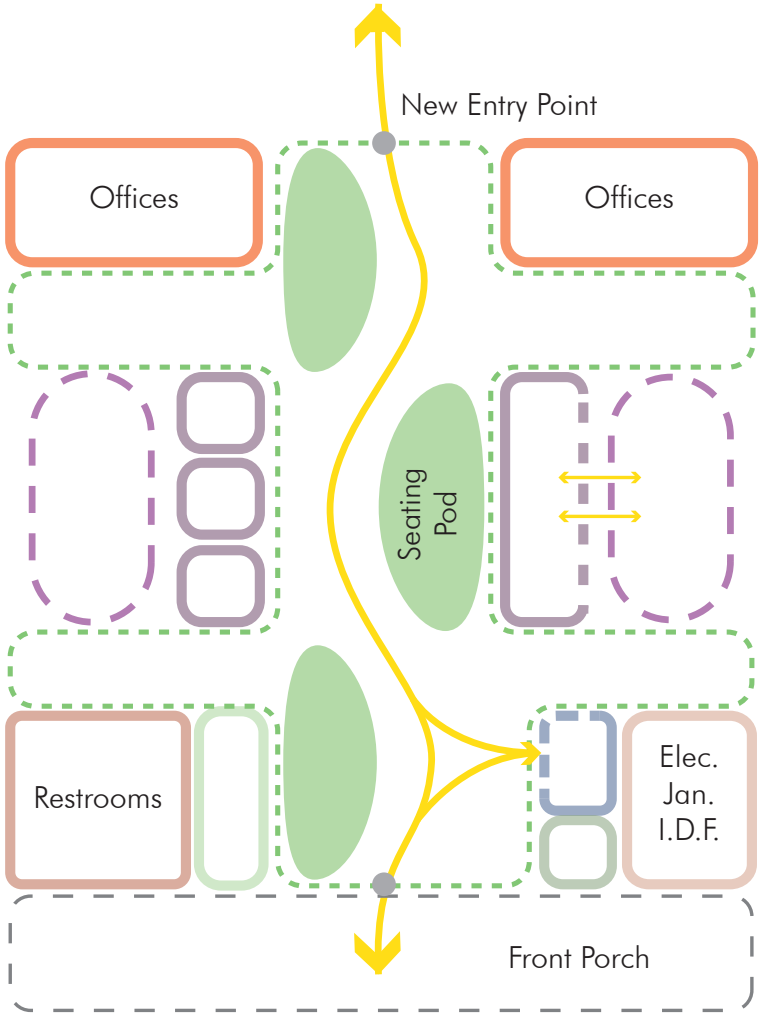
PLANNING DIAGRAMS



1. Gathering and Project Based Learning



2. Social Centered



3. Social Highway

USER DISCUSSION – CHECK OPTIONS AGAINST GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MOVE FURNIT. COMFORTABLE
STARBUCKS

EQUITY

TAKING PRIDE

DIGNITY

VISITING W/OUT REFERRAL

SAFE

FRIENDLY STAFF
FEW STAFF (<5)

NOT JUDGED/SCOLDED

CHARGING STATIONS.

COMFORTABLE ENVIRON.
(OUTDOORS IS COLD)

SELF POLICING -
"LIVE & LEARN"

GO FREELY TO ANY SPACE
(NO HIDING PLACES)

LOSE SECURITY
GATES

PRIVACY (FOR COUNSELORS)
(NO FISH BOWLS)

FOOD & DRINK: YES (NEED CUST.)
AVOID CLIQUES SUPPORT!

MICROWAVE
VENTILATION -
OPERABLE WINDOWS

LIB. USE BY 9-10: SAFE

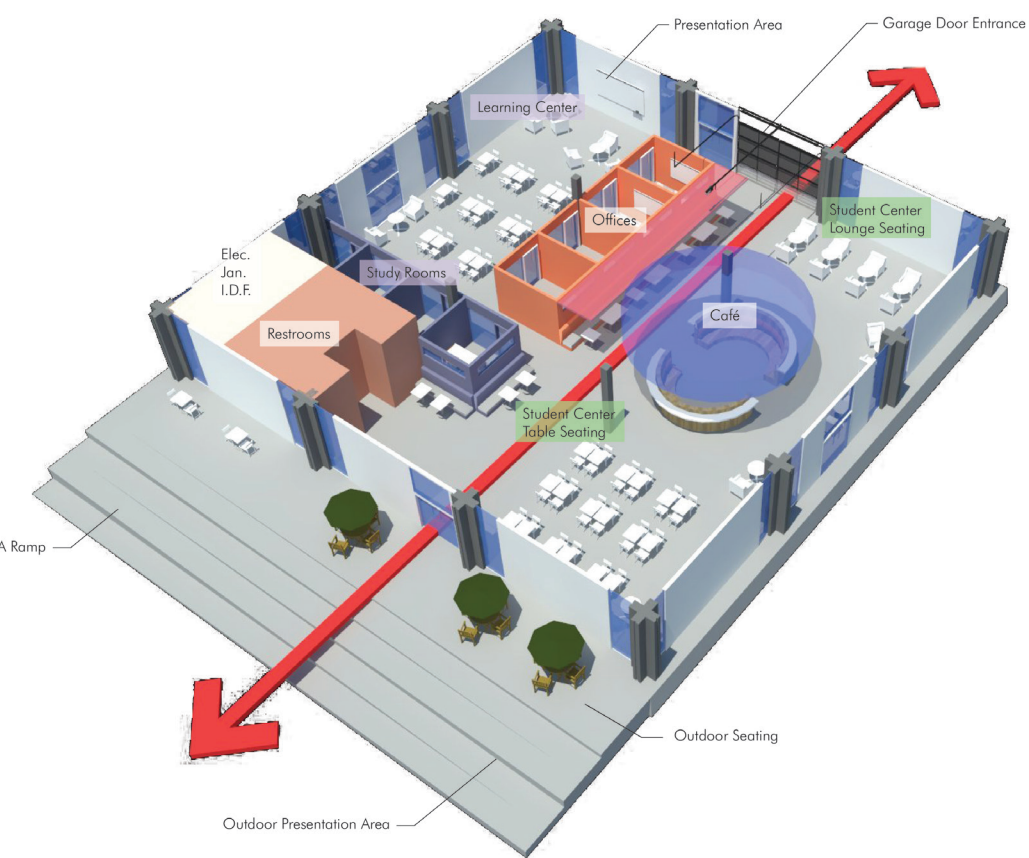
MORE MOVABLE ENVIRON. =

LESS CLIQUE DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT



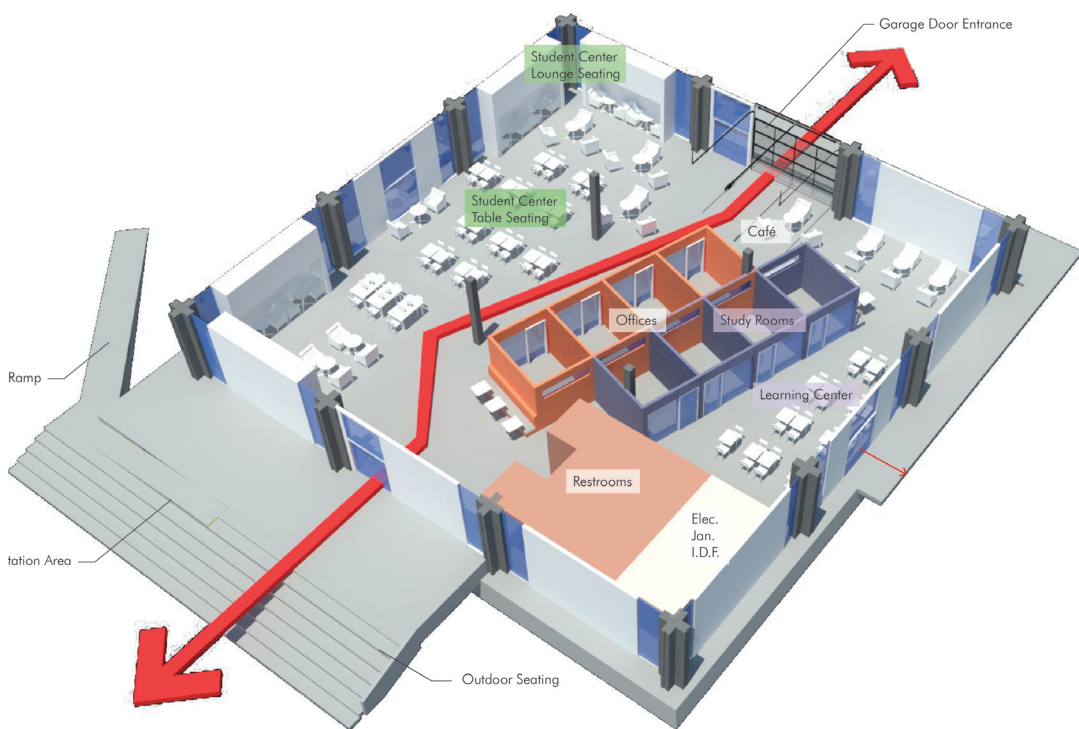
EVOLUTION OF DIAGRAMS BASED ON USER FEEDBACK



Option 1



Option 2



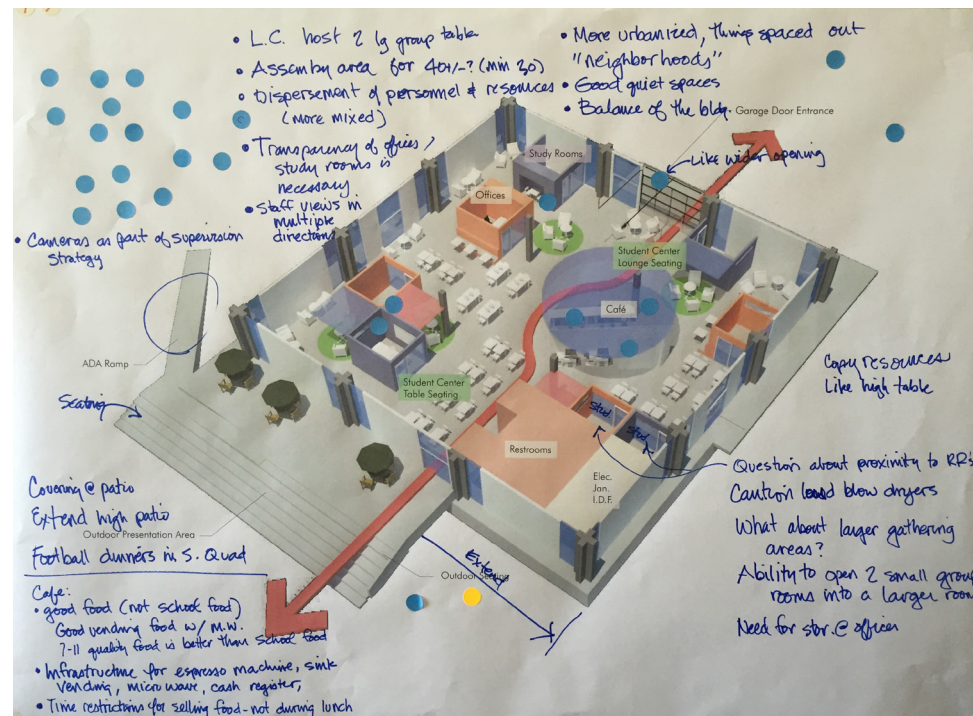
Option 3

LET'S GET DOWN TO IT...
"WHAT OPTION HITS OUR
GUIDING PRINCIPLES BEST?"

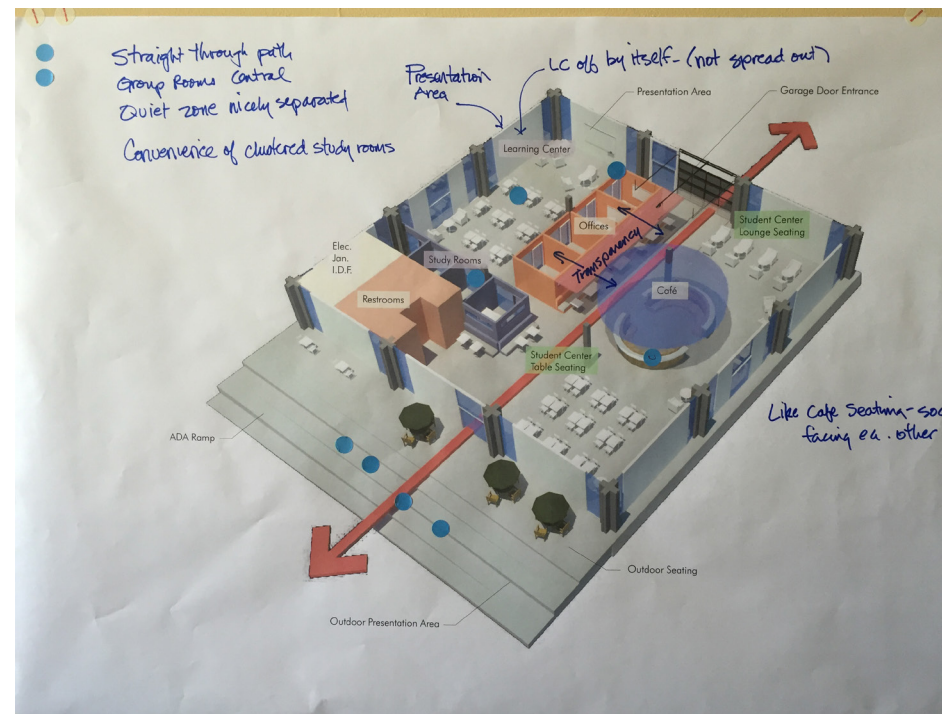
STUDY
THE PAST IF YOU WOULD DEFINE THE FUTURE.
- Confucius



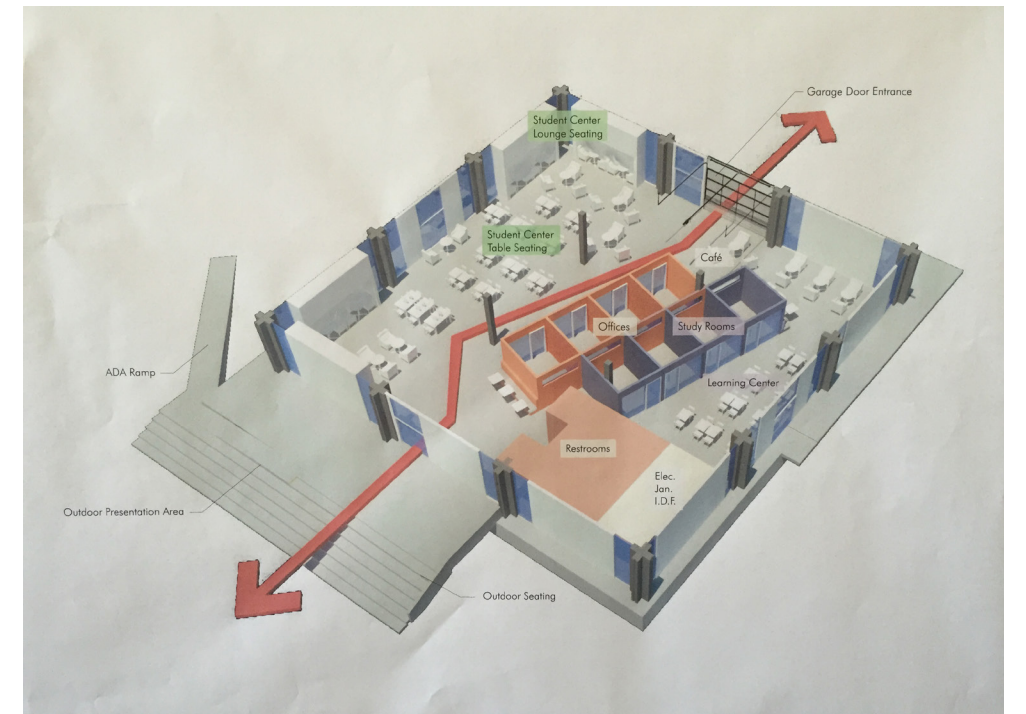
DOT POLLING RESULTS



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.

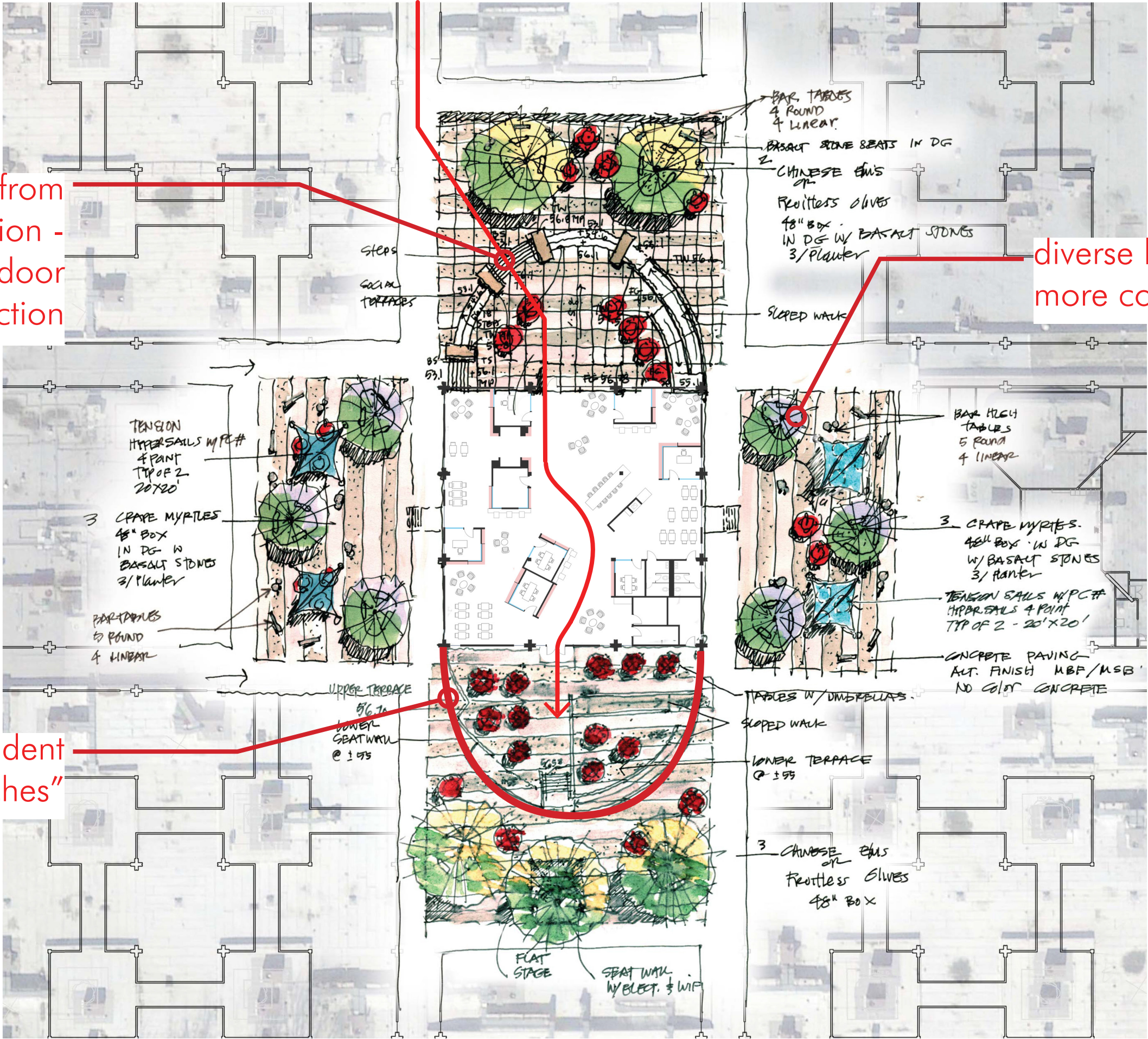
Design Outcomes

SITE PLAN

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

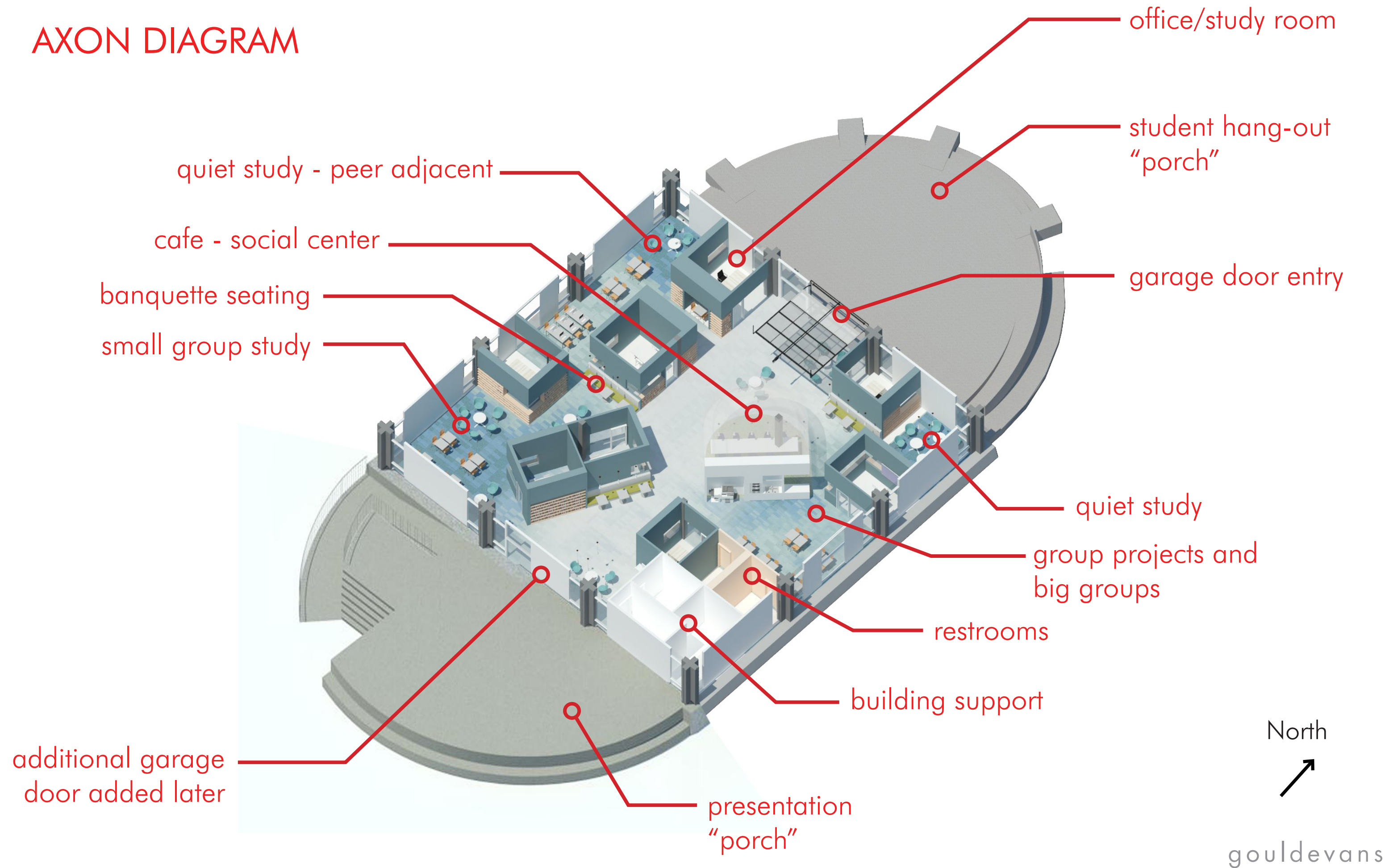
diverse landscape with more cover

arced to allow for student flow around "porches"



North
↑
gouldevans

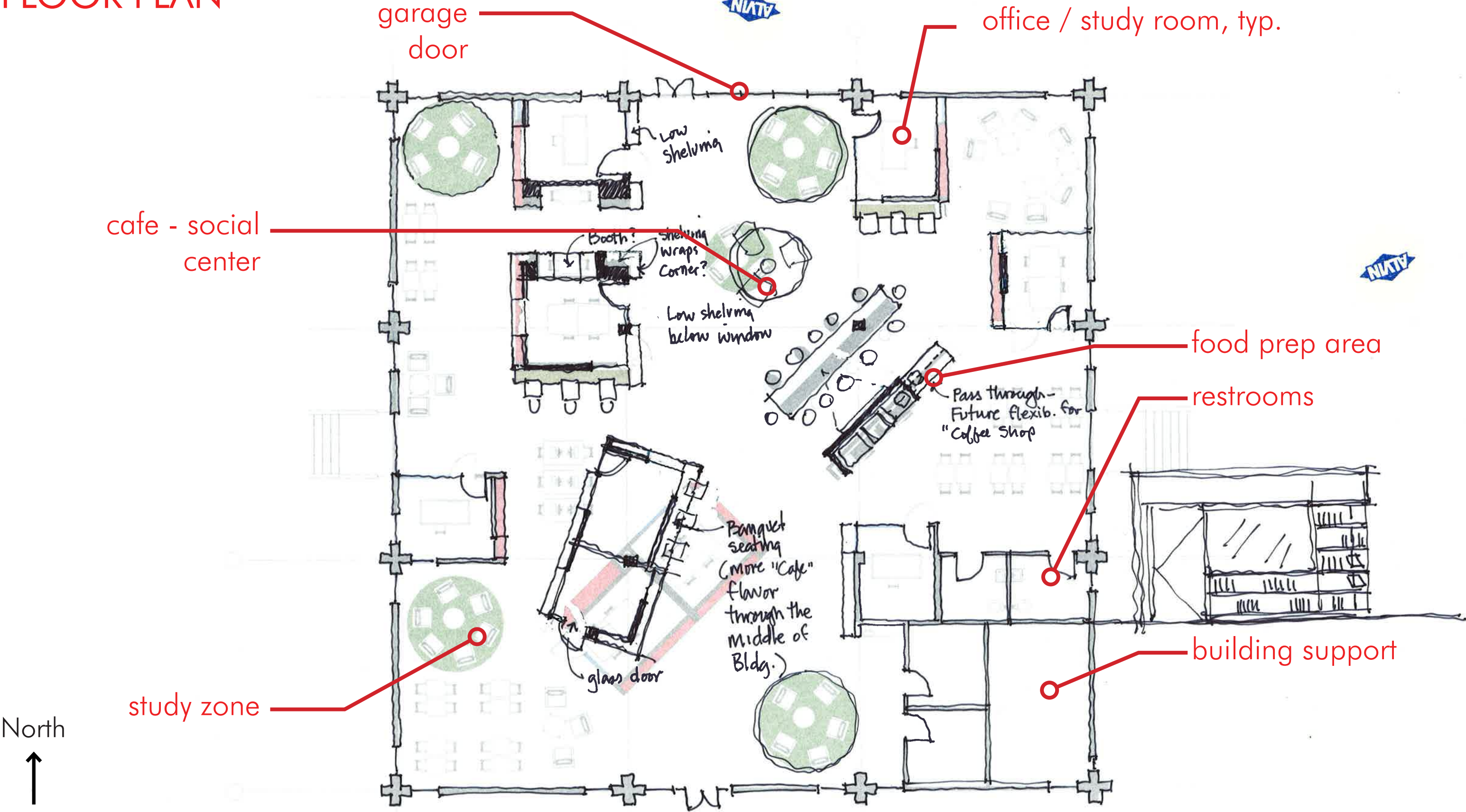
AXON DIAGRAM



VIEW OF SOUTH QUAD

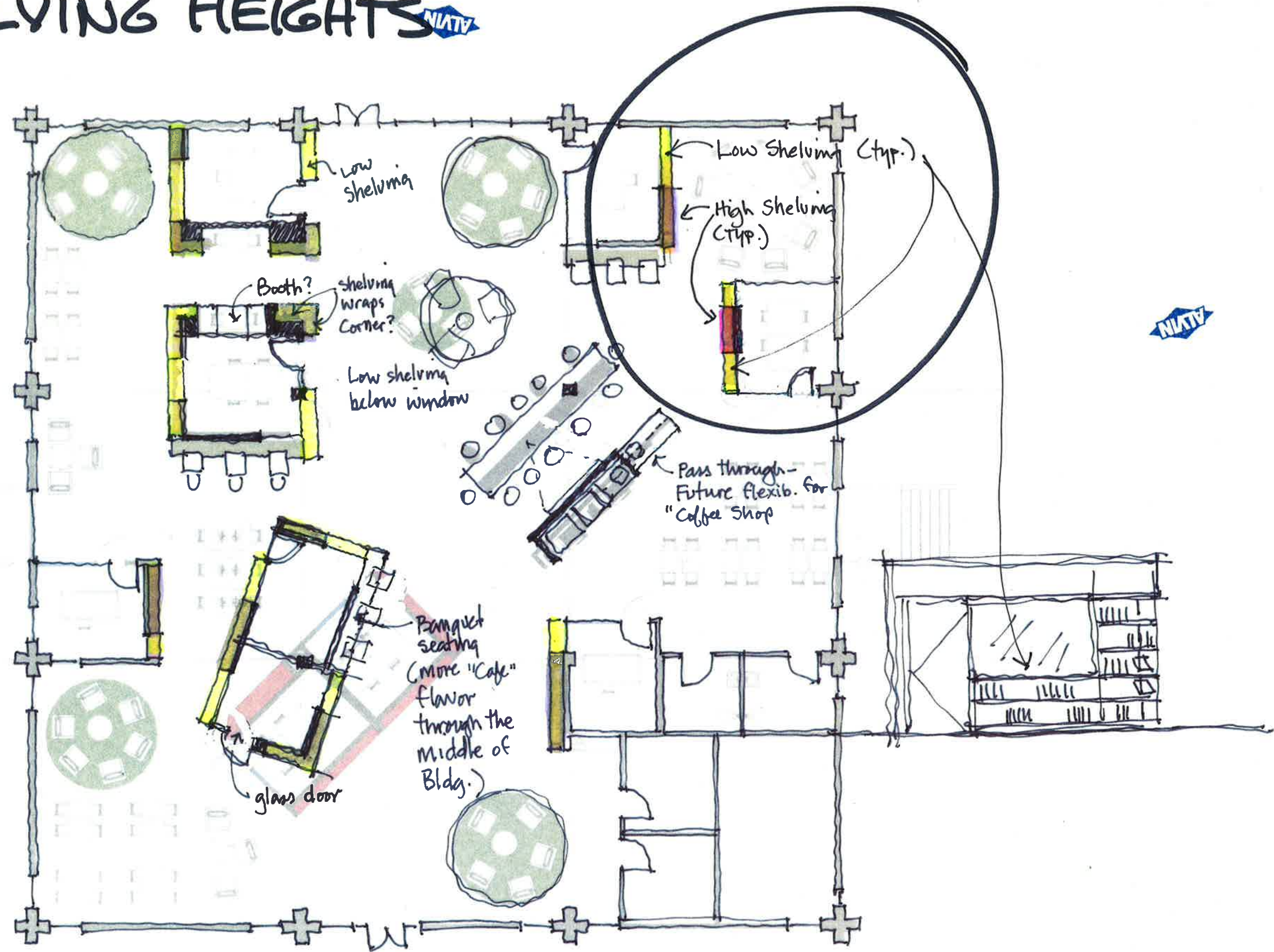


FLOOR PLAN



SHELVING HEIGHTS

The library wasn't gone
just re-visioned. We
had to think about book
integration.

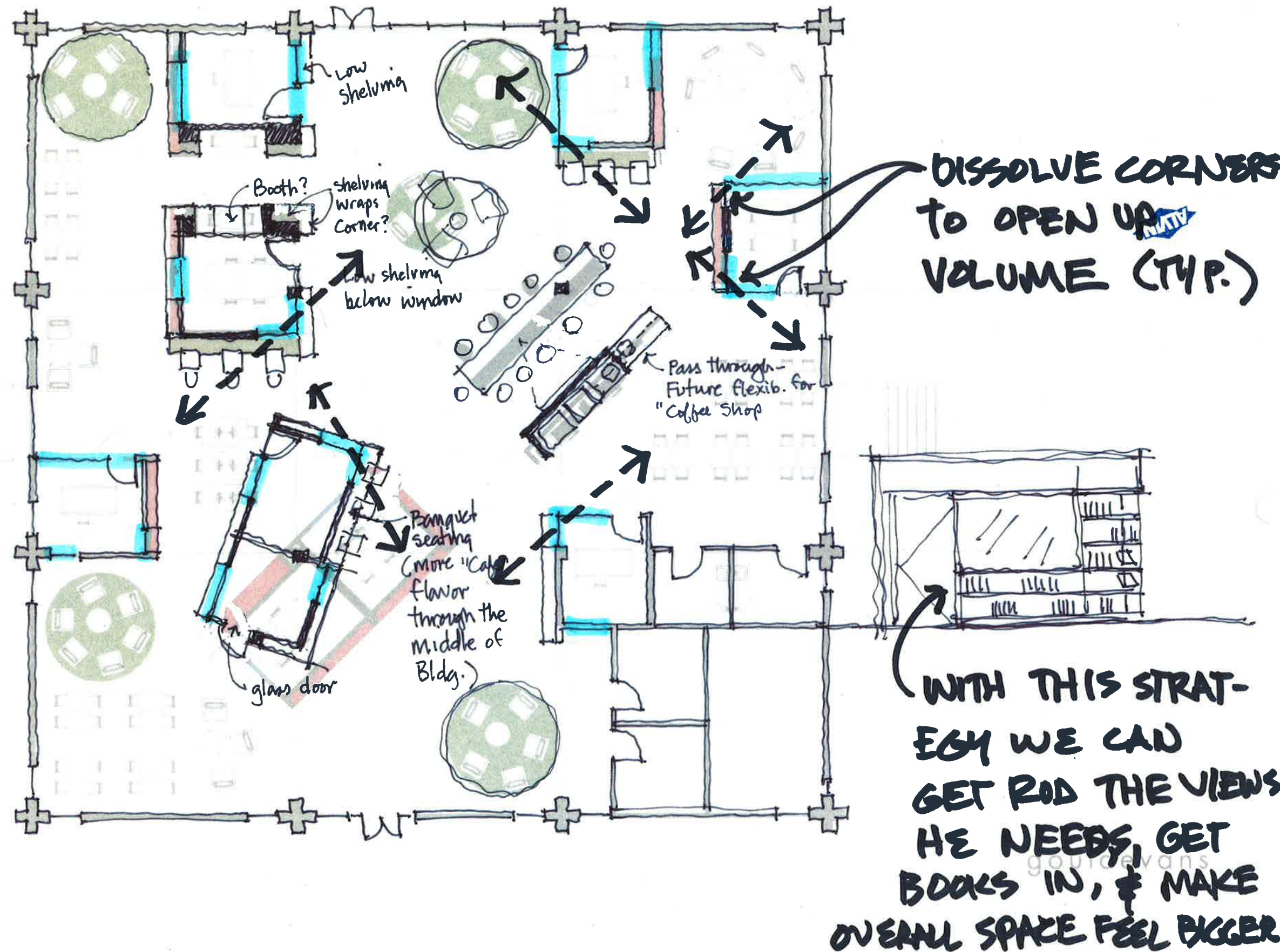


North
↑

gouldevans

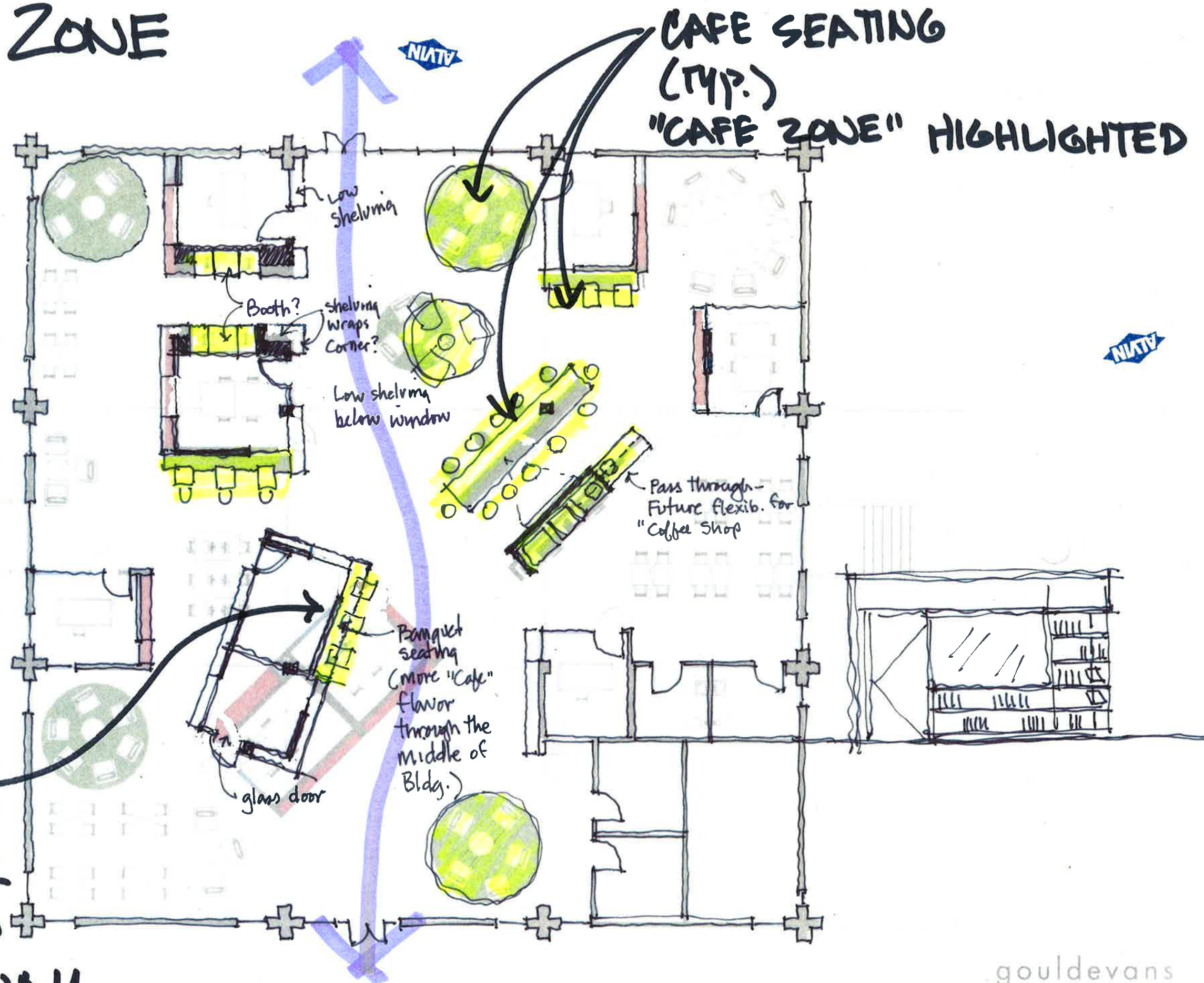
VIEW LINES + TRANSPARENCY

Passive supervision was required to make the 7 to 7 approach work.
Trust / Supervision balance was key.



CAFE ZONE

Creating a **social heart** and a **variety of seating** was key in reaching all students; not just the extroverts.



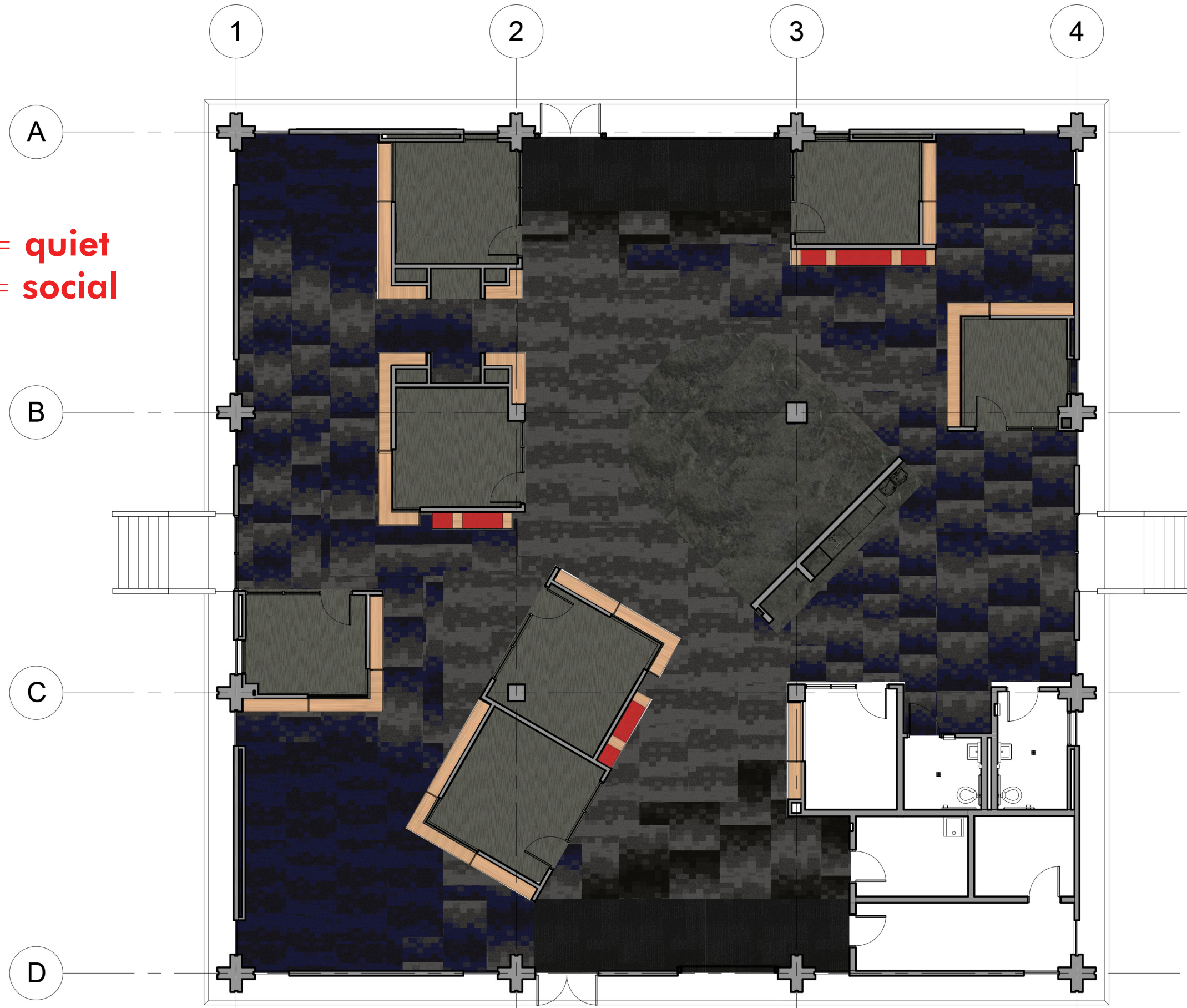
North

Pivot
OFFICE
BLOCK BACK
TO OPEN UP
MAIN PATHWAY

FLOOR PLAN

Darker areas = **quiet**
Lighter areas = **social**

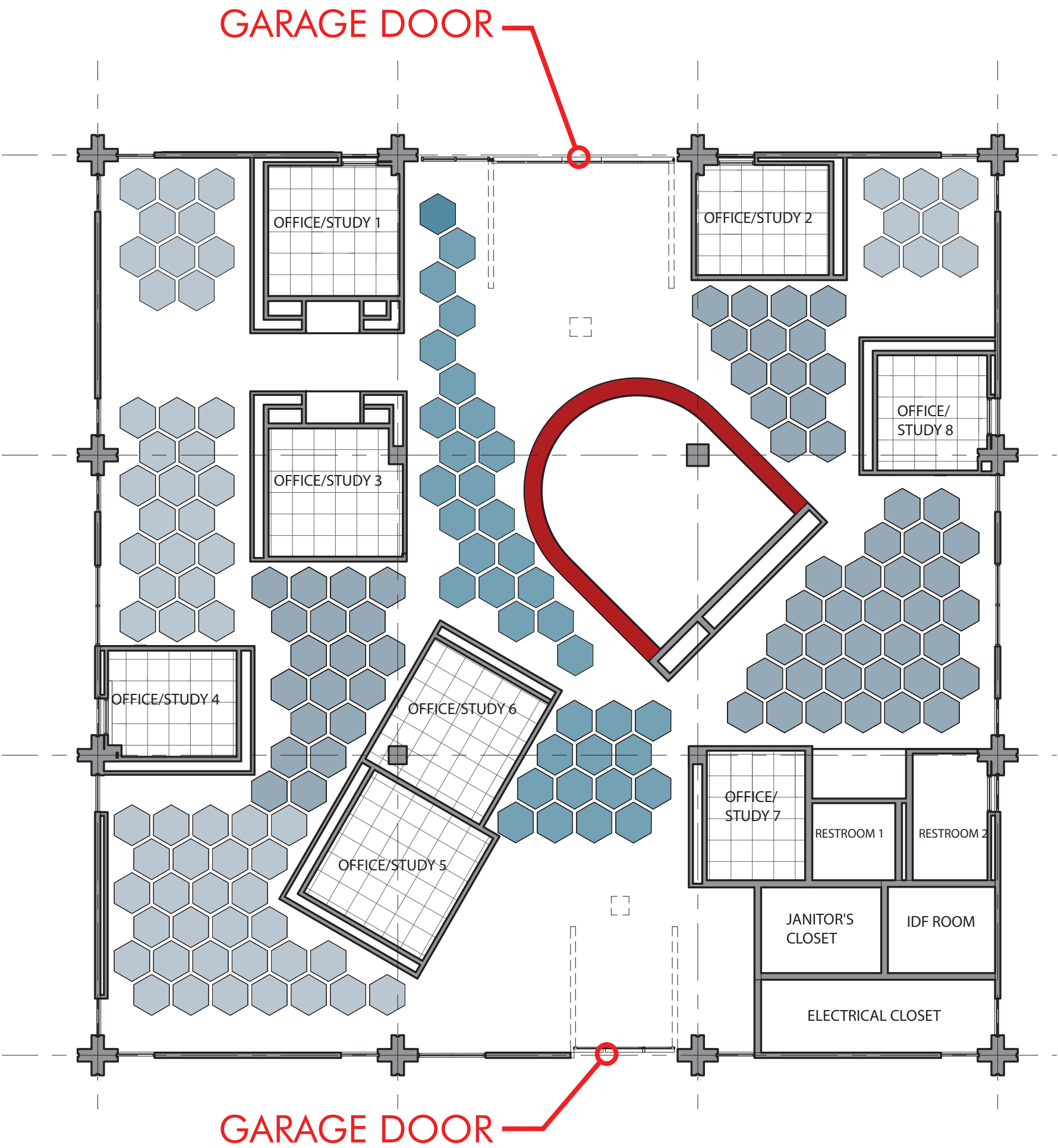
North
↑



CEILING PLAN



Hexagon ceiling tiles



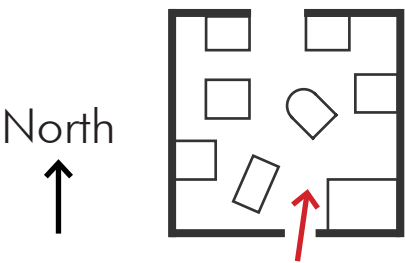


VARIATION OF STUDY EXPERIENCE

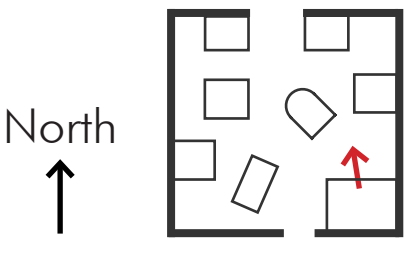
Perspectives



View from South Entrance



View from Kitchen

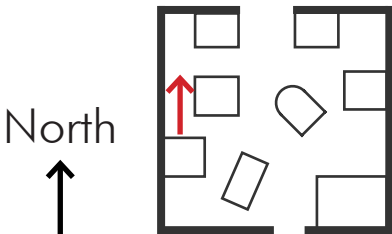


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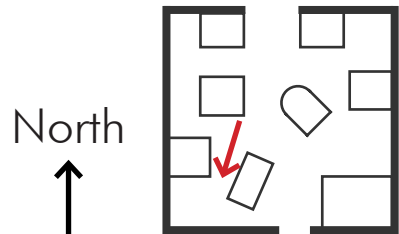
Perspectives



View to Study Lounge 1



View to Study Lounge 3

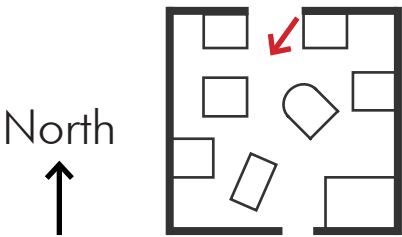


ENTRY EXPERIENCE

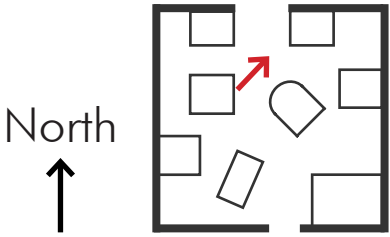
Perspectives



View from North Entrance



View to Baquet @ Office/Study 2



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Q+A