Grover Cleveland Charter High School
Comprehensive Modernization
Los Angeles Unified School District

View from existing quad into new expanded quad with performing arts center (right), general classroom building (left), and science classroom building (beyond).
The comprehensive modernization includes construction of seven new buildings and modernization of three buildings. The placement of new buildings creates an enlarged all-school quad, arranged along the classic mid-century “finger plan” datum.
A critical design challenge was to more than double the existing building area on campus while being respectful of the historical context of the original “finger plan”, while minimizing their visual impact on the community. The new buildings are placed in line with the existing orthogonal grid, with the tallest building furthest from the street.
This building includes classrooms for drama, dance, instrumental music, choral music, drafting, and a multipurpose room with stage. It anchors the south edge of the expanded quad and creates a backdrop for an exterior stage.
The expanded quad area will function as the heart of the campus, serving as an exterior classroom, performance space, and casual seating area. The school's dance studio, framed by large glazed windows, will cantilever into the quad, further enlivening the space and acting as a backdrop for an exterior stage.
Building B will include 16 science labs on the south end of the 2nd and 3rd floors, creating a “science core”. The floors will be connected by an internal stair in one of three large light wells that will bring daylight through the building, creating a non-institutional atmosphere.
1 The exterior will be characterized by veneer brick from the same manufacturer as the original school, and a metal skin system.
2 A robotics lab/maker space will open to an adjoining outdoor learning space.
3 The building will be accessed through a three-story lobby.

General and Science Classrooms
Building B
At night, the glow of the double-height lobby will attract visitors to the quad from the school entrance enhancing wayfinding. The quad will also function as a pre/post function gathering space with direct access to the lobby and the outdoor stage.
1 The lobby will open directly onto the quad.

2 The multipurpose room will be able to be divided to host multiple functions simultaneously, or single large events with retractable seating.
1. The new food service facility is located along the pedestrian promenade connecting to the new quad. “Spider leg” columns provide a visual connection to the historical colonnade of the original school.

2. The student dining room utilizes large light wells and a variety of materials, textures, and colors to create a lively dining environment.