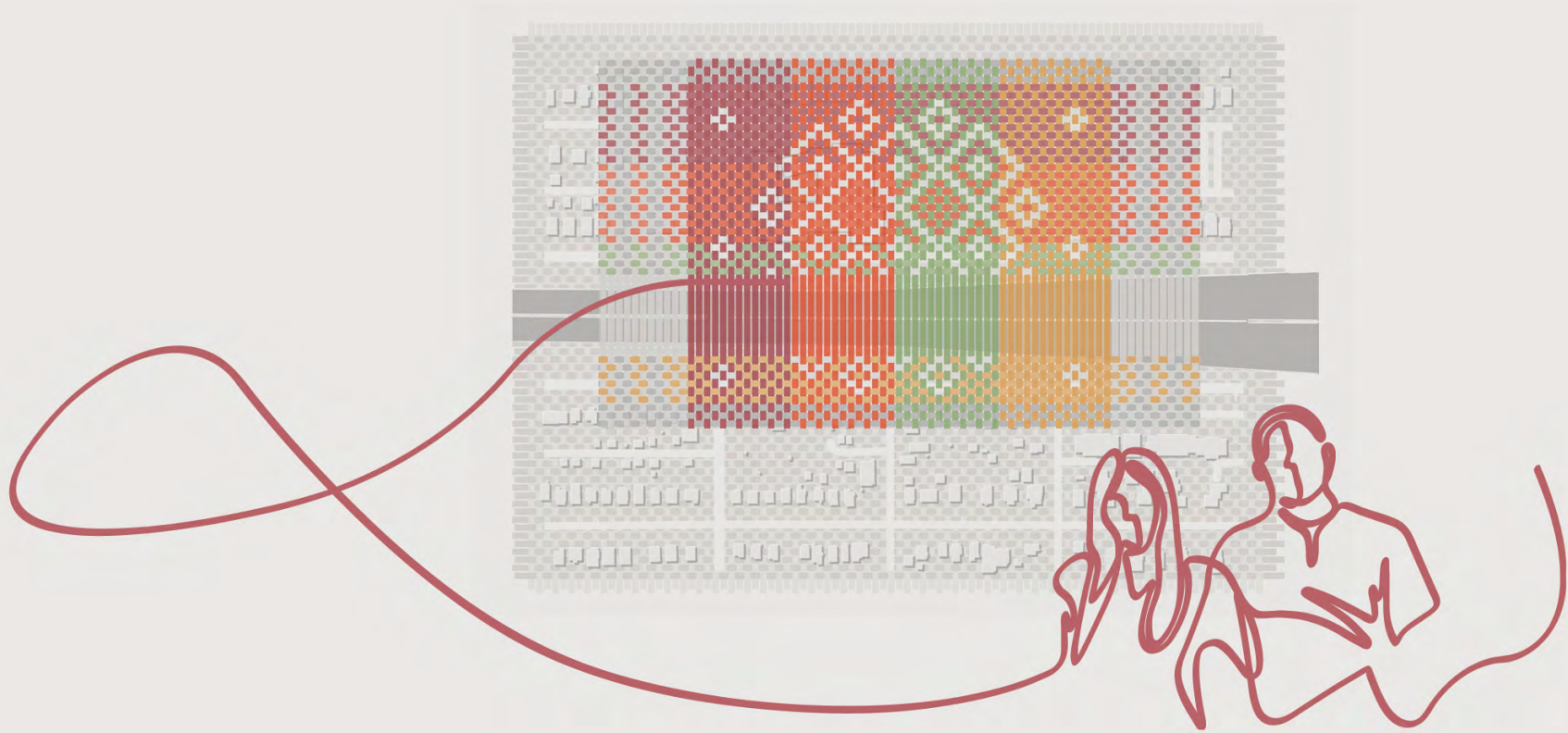




A New Day for Rondo



Weaving Rondo

Back Together

Visible Mending

In 1956-1968 the city of St. Paul constructed the I-94 interstate corridor that ripped through the middle of the Rondo neighborhood. This bisection left a gaping hole in the once tight-knit fabric of the community. In the decades that have followed this ragged split has only continued to fray. The plans for the Reconnect Rondo landbridge provides the vital threads in darning the vast tear. Darning is a sewing technique done by hand that utilizes weaving to repair holes in fabric that do not run along a seam. Threads are woven into the intact fabric and used to support the warp which is the structure for the weave. The design of the landbridge utilizes this technique to thread into the existing community and stitch together the two sides that were pulled apart.

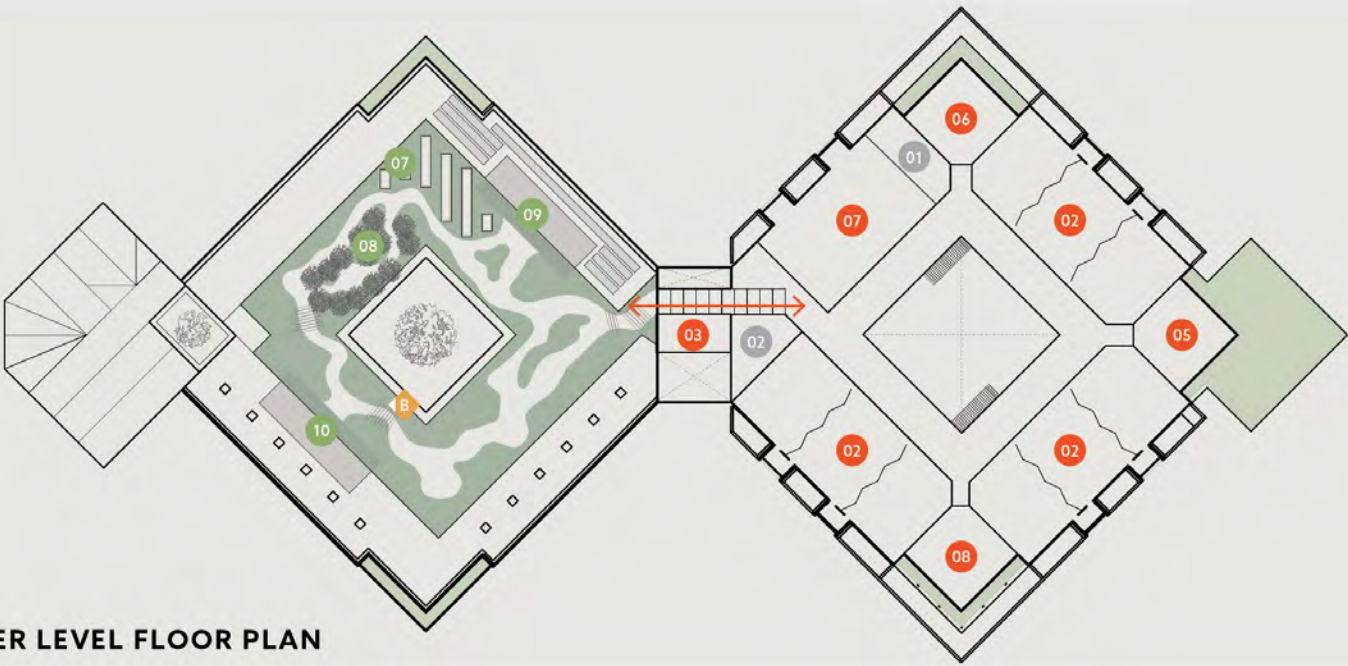
In addition to being functional, darning is a style of visible mending - it doesn't just repair the split but it enhances the garment as a whole. The colors and motif of the weaving are typically in contrast to the fabric and becomes a celebrated element. In this way, the various components of the landbridge plan create a new vibrant pattern for Rondo. Located on the perimeter of the landbridge, Maxfield Elementary is well positioned to further integrate the community by using the facility to weave in services for children and adults of all ages.

Maxfield Elementary is an integral weft fiber in the Rondo community pattern.

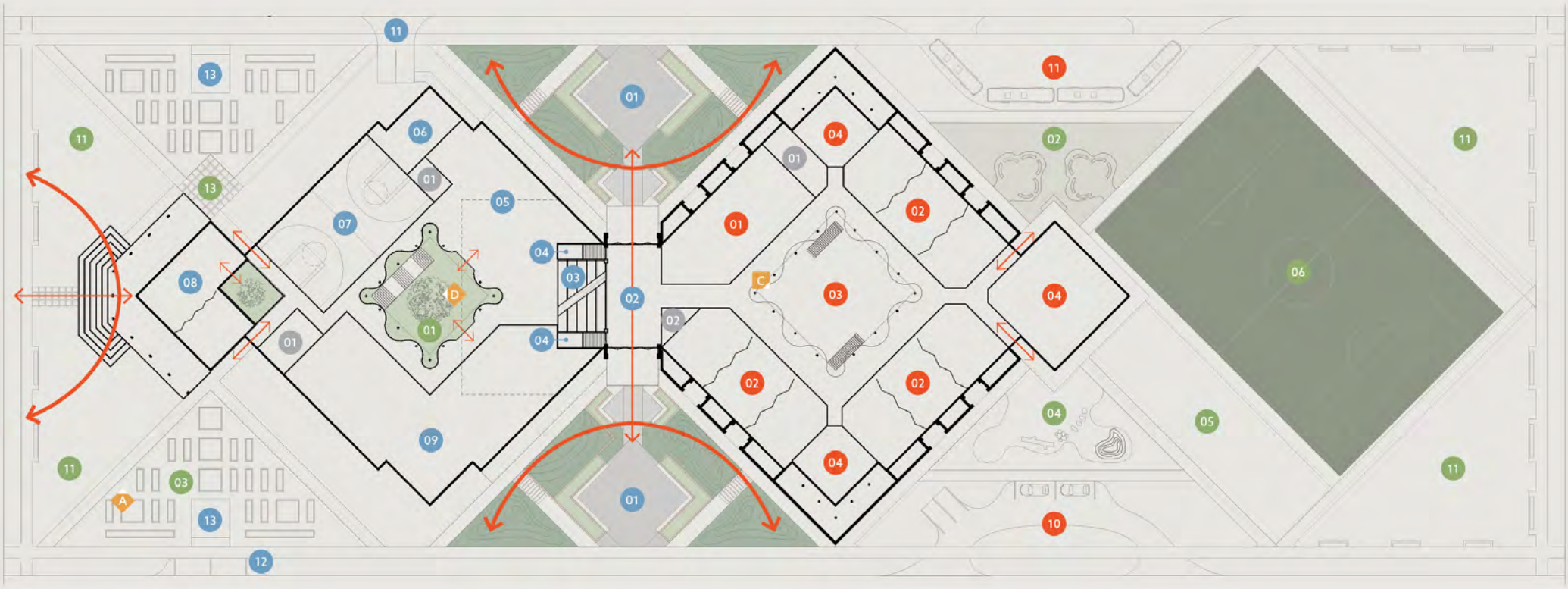
Looking Backward to Move Forward

Maxfield Elementary is the diamond twill in the new Rondo pattern. Rotated squares intersect and provide opportunity for interaction and connection. Two large courtyards are sited centrally between the masses. One courtyard opens to the existing Rondo community and the other greets the new community created by the landbridge. The location and shape of the courtyards welcomes neighbors with open arms into the facility and seeks to recreate the interpersonal connections that previously occurred on lost front porch steps. Securing the land for the interstate required erasing 700 family homes. The architectural design nods to this loss with the silhouetted gable at the main entry and along the facade of the school. In contrast, the Community Hub celebrates the future of Rondo with five gables that radiate around the central gathering space as a gesture that emphasizes the sentiment "All are Welcome Here."

Brick was an intentional choice for the primary building material. The Maxfield Elementary facility is a cornerstone of the Rondo community. Brick has the connotation of being foundational, institutional, permanent, timeless. It is a material that has history and integrates into the community fabric while also being expressive and artful. Likewise, the massing seeks to be respectful of the surrounding context. But just as a weaving is linear on the exterior and the undulating threads are organic in section, the architecture has a similar play. It is rhythmmed on the outside but playful and meandering on the interior.



UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN



MAIN LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

SCHOOL PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- 01 ADMINISTRATIVE/ TEACHER SPACE
- 02 NEIGHBORHOOD CLASSROOMS
Each Neighborhood consists of three standard classrooms with moveable partition walls to create one space if desired
- 03 CENTRAL INQUIRY SPACE
- 04 SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOMS
- 05 ART CLASSROOM
- 06 SCIENCE CLASSROOM
- 07 MEDIA + RESOURCE CENTER
- 08 UST SCHOOL OF EDU. CLASSROOM
- 09 BATHROOMS + SUPPORT SPACE
- 10 PARENT DROP OFF + SHORT TERM PARKING
- 11 BUS DROP OFF

SHARED PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- 01 COURTYARD
- 02 MAIN ENTRY
- 03 BLEACHER STAIRS
- 04 STAIRS TO AUDITORIUM + MECH (below)
- 05 CAFETERIA
- 06 FOOD SERVICE + PREP + STORAGE
- 07 GYMNASIUM + ACTIVITIES
- 08 COMMUNITY GATHERING + KITCHEN
- 09 EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY HUB
- 10 BATHROOMS + SUPPORT SPACE
- 11 SERVICE VEHICLE PARKING
- 12 GARDEN LOADING + UNLOADING
- 13 GREENHOUSE

OUTDOOR PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- 01 COURTYARD + EDIBLE GARDEN
- 02 OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE
- 03 COMMUNITY + SCHOOL GARDENS
- 04 NATURE BASED PLAYSCAPE
- 05 LARGE MOTOR SKILLS PLAYGROUND
- 06 U-10 SOCCER FIELD
- 07 EDIBLE GARDEN
- 08 APPLE GROVE
- 09 SOLAR ARRAY LEARNING SPACE
- 10 WIND ENERGY LEARNING SPACE
- 11 WOVEN NATIVE POLLENATOR GARDEN
- 12 BIOSWALES
- 13 COMMUNITY PAVILLION + PIZZA OVEN

SUPPORT SPACES

- 01 BATHROOMS + SUPPORT SPACE
- 02 MECHANICAL + SUPPORT SPACE

Flexibility is Key

Approaches to education are evolving as more communities are switching to an inquiry-based learning system rather than a one-directional approach. Rosan Bosch is on the forefront of designing for these spaces. He focuses on creating adaptable, flexible spaces that foster interpersonal interactions and our natural desire to explore. His layouts tend to be abstract with various layers of collaboration and solitude. This shift in pedagogy is pervasive in Scandinavian countries but is more in infancy in the United States. The design of Maxfield Elementary takes into consideration the fluidity of education. The classrooms are grouped into neighborhoods with movable partition walls to allow for future flexibility to accommodate all curriculum.

Designing for the Future

There are many ways design can be utilized to maximize the natural resources around us and minimize the harm the built environment has on the natural environment. Aiming for a goal of climate-neutrality is a real design challenge but one that is essential to the longterm health and future of both our planet and our children.

