

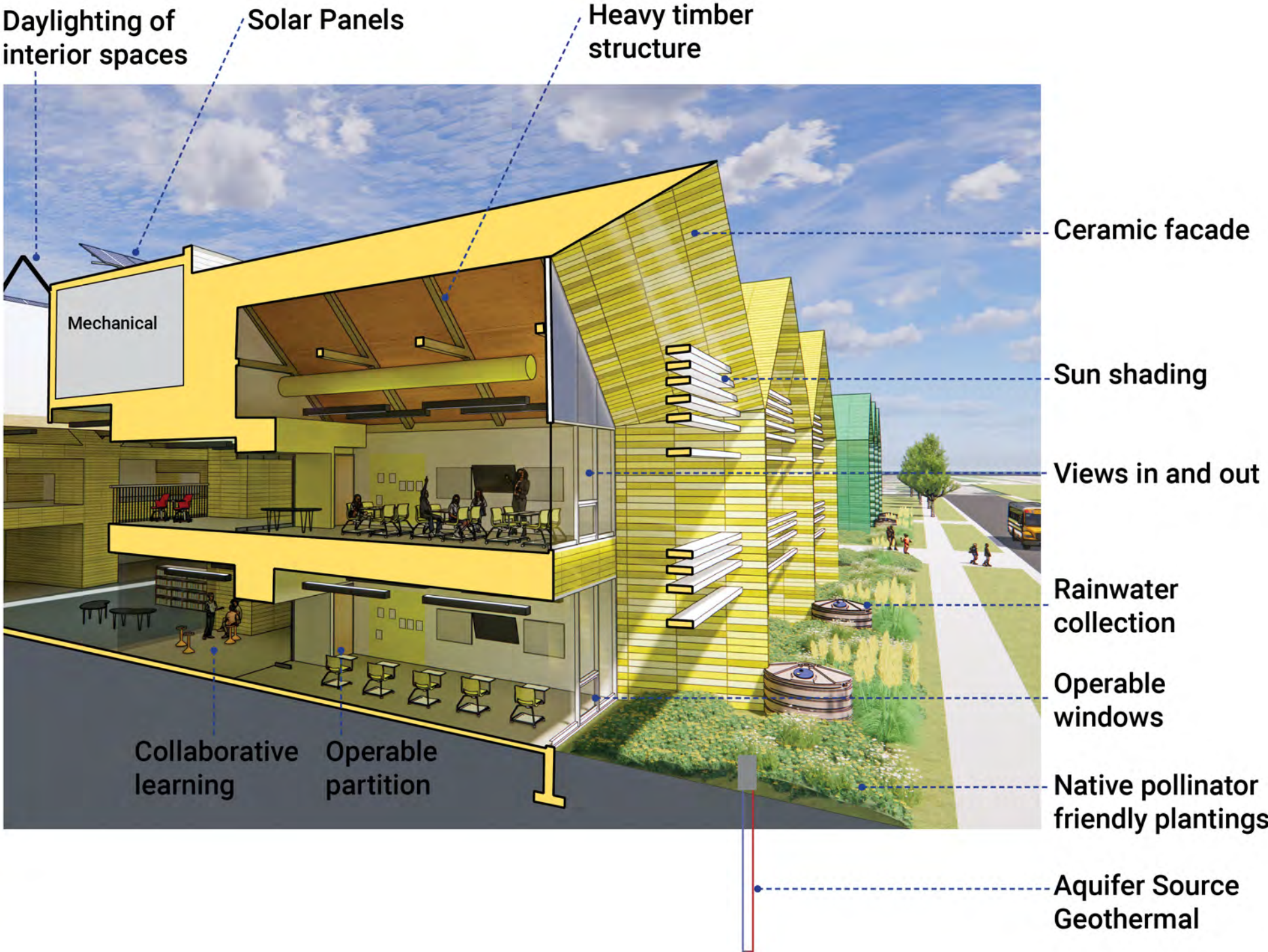
Maxfield Elementary Collaborative Learning School

An elementary school is one of the first places a child will navigate on their own. Maxfield Elementary School takes familiar forms from their neighborhood and uses them to guide young learners through child-scaled interactions. Houses are oriented on an interior collaboration street ripe for pint-sized meetings in a safe, warm, and daylight filled space even on the coldest Minnesota winter days and culminates in a cafeteria with views into the adjacent greenhouse connecting children to their food and those who grow it. Distinct colors on the interior that serve as orientation through the space seep to the exterior creating a colorful streetscape inside and out that begins to rebuild Rondo's streetscape stolen by I-94's construction.

With the future plans of a freeway cap or complete removal of I-94, Fisk street has the chance to become an important pedestrian and bicycle thoroughfare and a critical safe route to school. The school bridges across Fisk allowing movement to continue under the school. Where the school and street meet the community can find a safe space to gather with glimpses to the school above and access to the adjacent community center's resources.



South Elevation



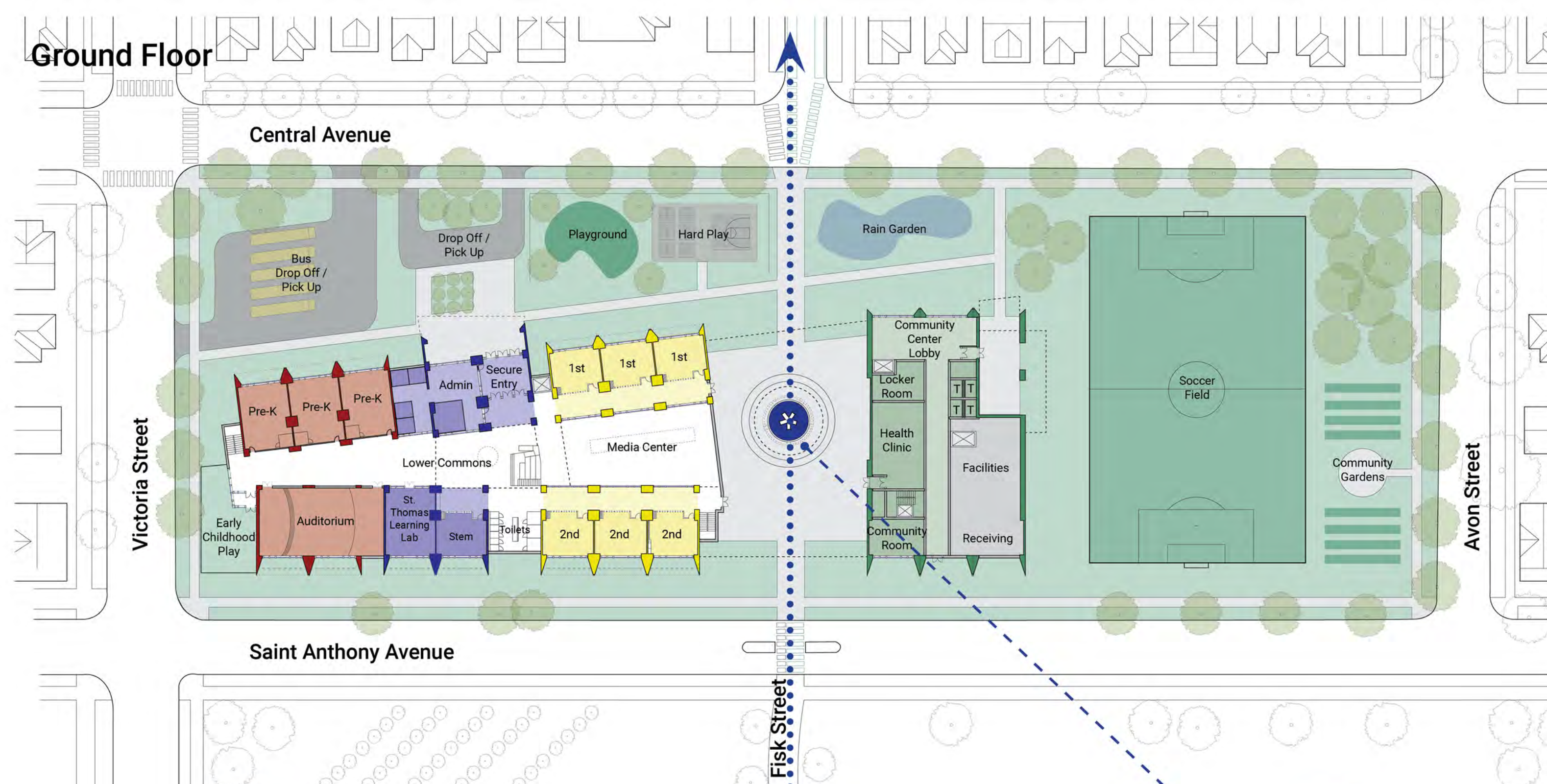
Entry Re-orientation
Entry is relocated to face neighborhood and provide separate bus and parent dropoff that never crosses the path of traffic. Blue entry is reminiscent of the existing entry.



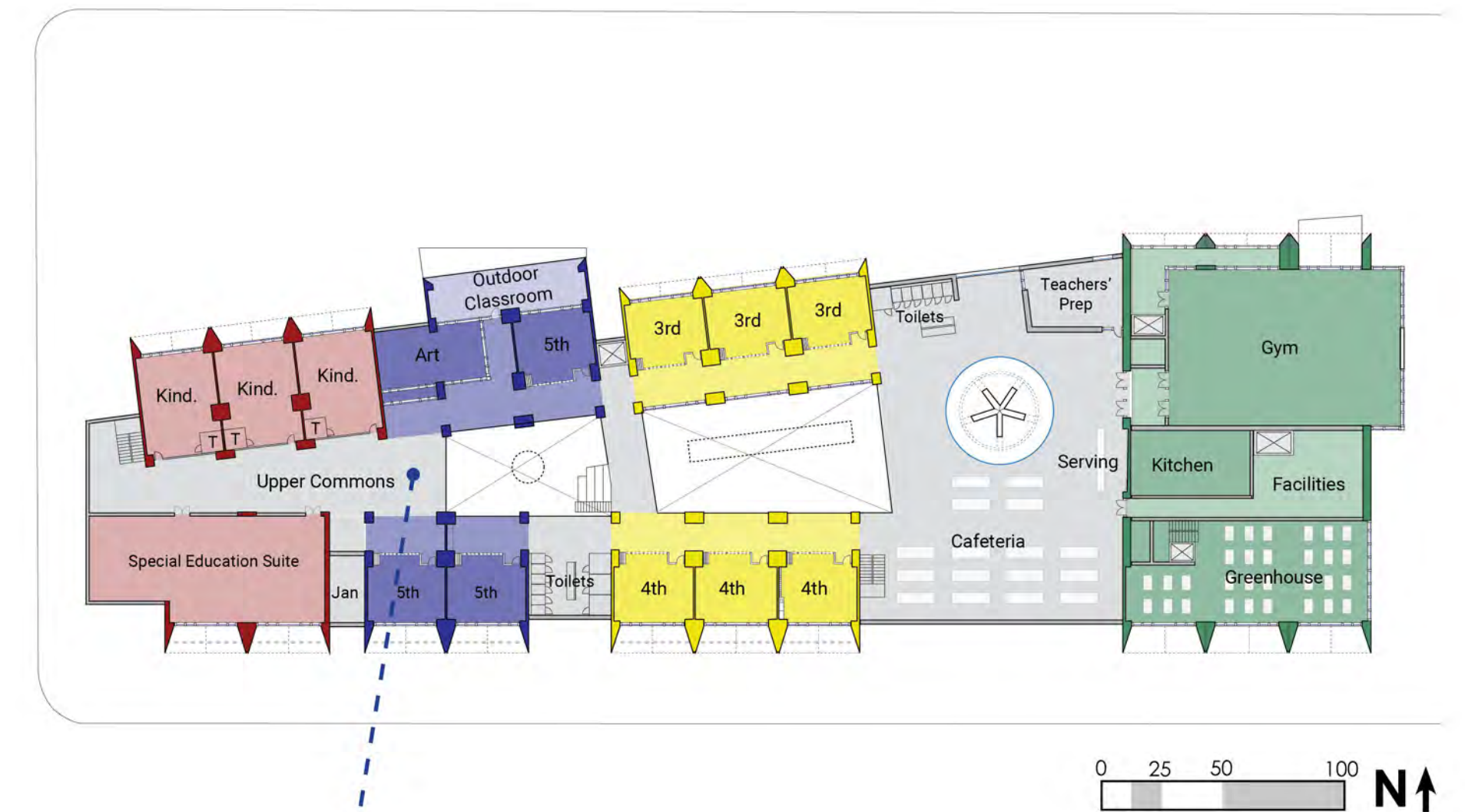
Cafeteria & Greenhouse
Cafeteria is oriented to the greenhouse connecting students with their foods and greenhouse volunteers with some of their youngest patrons while they supply healthy foods to the school's kitchens.



Ground Floor



Second Floor



Gymnasium

Gym straddles community center and elementary school and provides secure entries from each providing a community resource that does not compromise security.



"Schoolbridge"

The site is laid out to provide a connection of Fisk Street. First visually to the Rondo Commemorative Plaza with a five pointed sculpture representing Native American, German, Jewish, and Black peoples who have called Rondo home and ultimately as part of a path across Rondo when the Rondo Landbridge is completed.

The "schoolbridge" creates a community space under the school and safely separate from school functions and extending the use of the site to evenings and summers.



Interior Streetscape

All classrooms connect to a central courtyard that serves as the media center, circulation, and individual and small group study. Each classroom has an operable wall that provides auditory privacy when desired and opens to connect classrooms for collaboration.

Sustainable Features

Maxfield Elementary sits in a neighborhood with elevated asthma rates as compared to the rest of the state, no doubt due to its proximity to the freeway and the pollution it brings. The form of the school shields outdoor spaces from the pollution and sound of the freeway. The ceramic facade is not only a lower embodied carbon material but the enamel finish uses surrounding oxygen to transform pollution into mineral salts that wash off the facade in rain, actually reducing pollution in the air.

Every classroom has ample access to natural light and operable windows for natural ventilation once the freeway cap is in place. Interior spaces are lit with skylights.

The dimensions of the building are optimal for heavy timber and the south facing roof has solar panels. The west-southwest facing roofs also have solar panels that, while producing up to 20% less power than their south facing counterparts, produce more power in evenings which reduce electrical needs at peaks.

Finally, the Rondo neighborhood sits atop a highly consistent aquifer which makes this site a prime candidate for groundwater sourced geothermal, one of the lowest energy use mechanical systems available on the market. When paired with solar covering about 55% of the roof, the building will be near net-zero and zero on-site combustion.