Weaving Nature into Education and the Urban Fabric

Program/Form: Rooted in Place

In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand we will understand only what we are taught”-Babe Dioum

This proposal looks at the program, site and the neighborhood in two ways. One through enriching the site programmatically; creating an educational center for children and spaces of social interaction for the community which are integrated with the restored natural environment. This allows an opportunity to create a rich daycare between the three learning and using the space while simultaneously fostering, community and social engagement with the natural environment. This is done through subcomponents of programming, interior/interior relationships, and direct integration with views/connections with the existing and future context.

Secondly looks to the history of the neighborhood and the Midtown landscape and for inspiration but not through a literal interpretation but rather using their essence to influence and shape the project. The midtown has historically had a strong connection with the natural environment which is not always experienced in the built environment. Similar to the family farm the projects program is spread out throughout the site: planting and structure are used to shape environments and the built environment. Similar to the family farm the projects program is spread out throughout the site; planting and structure are used to shape environments and the existing context.

Program/Form:

Flexible/indoor/outdoor connections and use green space as a way to extend weave into the urban context.

Site/Massing Strategies

- Anchor corners of site as a response to urban neighborhood context.
- Stitch out connection with the existing lake and greenway trail system. Drawing people through site and creating opportunities for connection and interaction.

Program | Spaces
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individual | refuge and relaxation
community | gathering and interaction
enrichment | education and community programs

floor plan notes:

1. entry
2. lobby
3. classroom
4. information desk
5. gallery/multi-purpose space
6. coffee shop
7. fireplace
8. coffee shop
9. coffee shop
10. amphitheater - indoor/outdoor
11. sculptural mound
12. outdoor event - festival
13. pv canopy
14. operable skylight/coffer
15. existing green-way
16. coffee shop
17. services core
18. services core
19. children's courtyard
20. sheltered contemplation area
21. sculptural mound
22. apple trees

Massing:

- canopy connects massing volume scale broken up
- columns create a profile on the horizon and work to foster a recognizable interior and exterior connection
- landscape is used to shape space and create multiple scales of social space
- landscape mounds define places of gather and shelter
- natural plantings populate the interior and exterior landscape
- operable light covers provide single light sources of the sky and provide ventilation for the interior environment
- overhead window panels provide light to the space throughout
- roof of column creates experience and transition as you move through the space
- user operates screen and variable units give users a sense of control and ownership. This also creates an ever changing facade
- covers made out of natural materials which will change over time
section/elevation notes:
1. entry
2. lobby
3. information desk
4. gallery/multi-purpose space
5. dining/coffee area
6. coffee shop
7. fireplace
8. amphitheater - indoor/outdoor
9. sculptural mound
10. existing green-way
11. services core
12. children’s courtyard
13. projection wall
14. apple trees
15. green roof