

Program Summary:

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Program Statement:

This project is a central link for a new high school campus in Bentonville, Arkansas, where students learn by doing. The building takes visual cues from the region itself, with board and batten facades and all wood construction incorporating the beauty of local, vernacular architecture.

As the hearth of the campus, the building provides an expansive dining hall, where all of campus comes together for meals. A concept to the school's overarching campus is that of indoor-outdoor relationships. This concept is embodied in the concept and site-planning for the building. As the central space supporting the school's "Meals" program, a combined culinary education and natural sciences pedagogy, the building sought to challenge default ideas of consumption and production. Students take classes in a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen—one of the truly unique spaces in the building. The adjacent landscape is a productive one. An "urban agriculture" program features fruit and vegetable fields, orchards, and planter boxes. A working greenhouse is located within close proximity.

The building, much like the extended campus, strives to establish an innovative vision for the future, while reflecting the rich, pastoral heritage of the surrounding landscape.

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Building Area: (sf)
34,686

Cost per Square Foot:
\$280

Construction Cost
\$9,700,000

Date of Completion:
March 2019

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Vision

This project is a key component of a new high school in Arkansas where students learn by doing.

Deconstructed and situated precisely over a 26-acre site, the campus is composed of a collection of independent buildings that, while each distinct, form a unified whole.

Prior to designing any one building, the design team led the creation of a holistic Master Plan, one that would guide the school in the development of its campus.

The campus is a porous one, highlighting the importance of buildings and spaces that aren't insular, but vitally connected to not only the landscape, but the entire environment and surrounding community.



A70.03

The Building

From initial conversations with the school and community, the design team ultimately developed this new building.

Beyond the physical centrality of its location, the building simultaneously represents a social and spiritual center for students. It is a place of community, a central hearth intended for gathering, socialization, and of, course, learning. The building, much like the extended campus, strives to establish an innovative vision for the future, while reflecting the rich, pastoral heritage of the surrounding landscape.

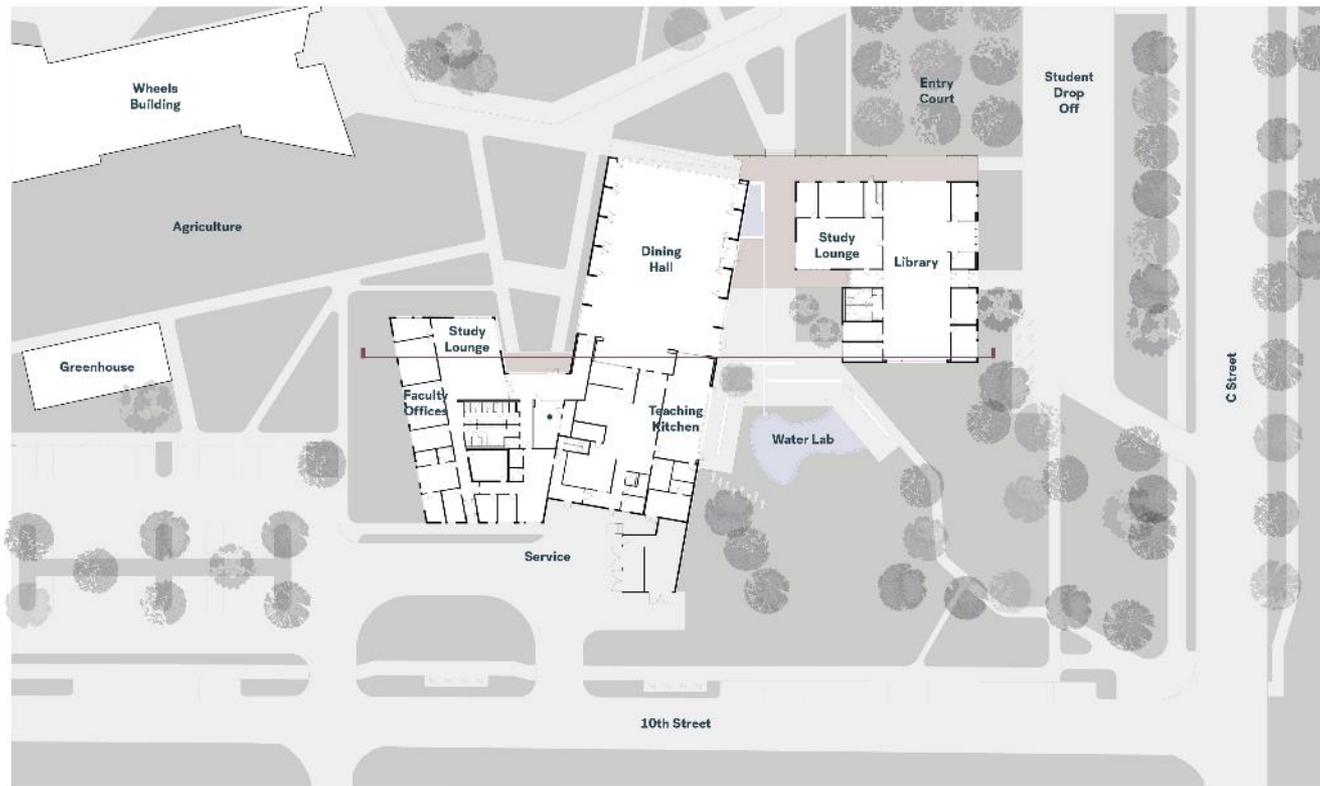


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Program Organization

A variety of program is dispersed strategically throughout the Home Building and the surrounding landscape.

Extended wings offer space for quiet, self-directed study. A central spine supports the school's signature "Meals" program and an ethos of open, ecologically sustainable food production. The large dining hall, where the entirety of school comes together for meals, adjoins a teaching and production kitchen. The landscape surrounding features a working agricultural plot and supporting greenhouse.

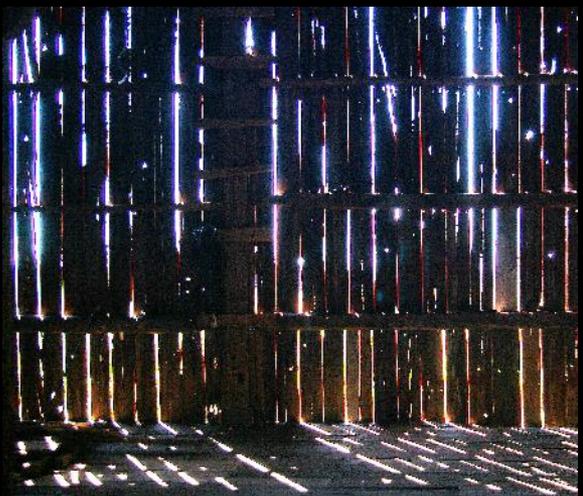


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Vernacular Precedent

The building takes visual cues from the region itself, with board and batten facades and all wood construction incorporating the beauty of local, vernacular architecture. Specifically, inspiration was drawn from precedents in the landscape, notably the idea of the Ozark farmhouse.

While this served to provide direct visual cues (the pitched roof), other ephemeral qualities from the precedent persist: notably the quality of light as it leaks into the interior of the spaces between slats. The concept provides students with a recognizable form, but reinterpreted in a modern context, anchoring them to place and their history in the region.



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Cultural and Communal

While aesthetic precedents made an obvious connection to the visual form the space might take, they simultaneously offered insight into its communal form.

The design team latched onto the historic concept of the “barn dance,” an opportunity for the community to come together in celebration, as well as the iconic dining halls at educational institutions like Harvard.

The building serves a similar purpose. As the hearth of the campus, the building provides an expansive dining hall, where all of campus comes together for meals. It provides a space for community outreach events, fundraisers, and townhall meetings. It is the central space supporting all of campus life.



Traditional Barn Dance



Arkansas Barn Gathering



Annenberg Hall, Harvard University

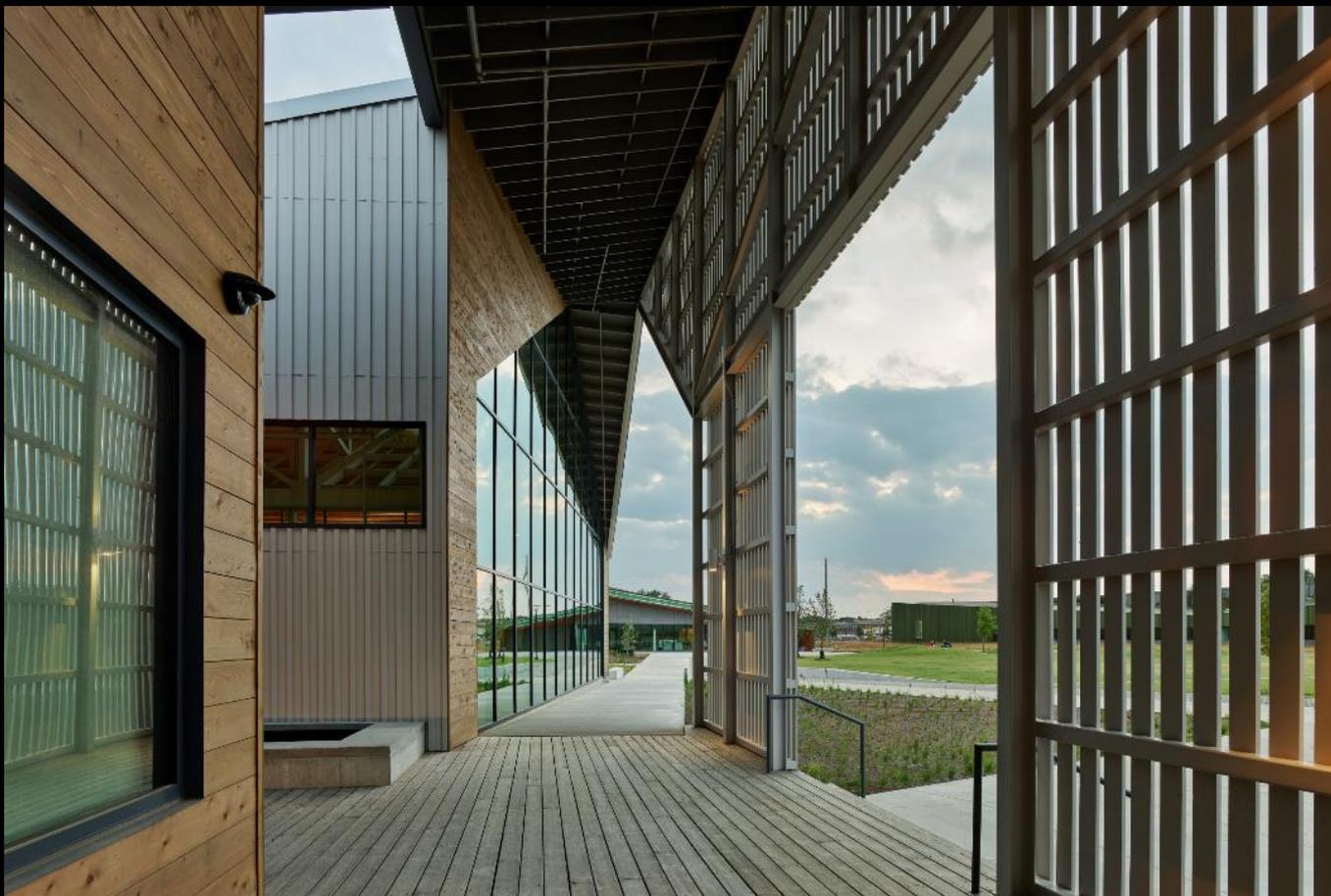
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Material and Form

Throughout, the team worked to celebrate the material technology within.

A veil of poplar slats mounted underneath enormous truss frames reveal, rather than conceal the structural design and bring a deep warmth to a space intended for breaking bread together.





A70.08

Framing the Experience

The building features a variety of liminal spaces nestled among the building's overall massing, blurring the edges between indoors and out while framing views to adjacent programs.

These porches create micro-climates and activity zones that encourage students to explore their surroundings, stitching together the use of site environment and building environment, and affording opportunities to learn outside the classroom.

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Framing

This notion of “framing” is carried inward. Here, a library dedicated to independent study features connective views to the entry court.



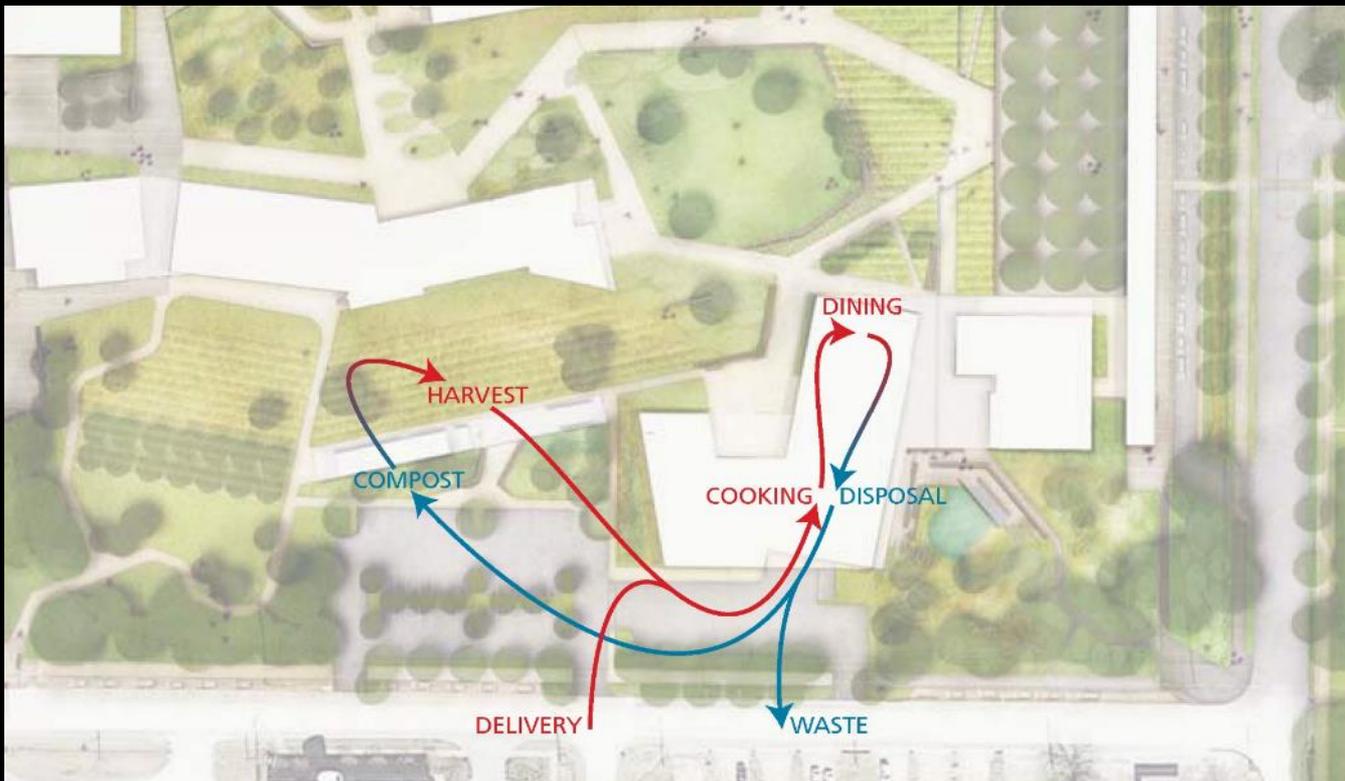
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Indoor/Outdoor Dynamic

A concept to the overarching campus is that of indoor-outdoor relationships. Students take classes in a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen—one of the truly unique spaces in the building—one that deeply espouses the school's "learning by doing" mantra. The adjacent landscape is a productive one. An "urban agriculture" program features fruit and vegetable fields, orchards, and planter boxes.

A working greenhouse is located within close proximity. Their integration represents a near-perfect "loop."

- Students harvest crops from the adjacent agriculture program
- Crops are cooked and prepared, contributing to student meals
- Compost from meals is used to fertilize crops



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Teaching Kitchen



A70.12

Sustainability in Action

The building's design places sustainability central to students' education. This begins with an adjacent landscape that acts as a botanical textbook filled with a microcosm of the region's native plant communities.

Stormwater management (91% is managed onsite) is accomplished via a distributed strategy, with several detention areas across the site. In the rear of the Home Building, an ever-present "water lab," detains the majority of rainwater, while offering a unique "classroom outside the classroom"—an opportunity for students to learn directly via their surroundings.

In making such interventions visible, didactic elements of the campus, the design hopes to inspire not only students, but the broader community.



A70.13



Project Name:
The Home Building at Thaden School

Project Location:
Bentonville, AR

Owner/Client:
Thaden School

Architect(s) of Record:
(names and addresses)
EskewDumezRipple
365 Canal Street, Ste. 3150
New Orleans, LA 70130

Project Team:
Z Smith, FAIA – Principal-in-Charge
Steve Dumez, FAIA – Design Director
Amanda Rivera, AIA – Project Manager
Christian Rodriguez, AIA – Project Architect
Mike Johnson, AIA – Designer
Chris Jackson – Construction Contract
Administrator

Landscape Architect:
Andropogon Associates, Ltd.

Consultants:
Engineer – Civil: Ecological Design Group
Engineer – MEP: CMTA Consulting
Engineers
Engineer - Structural: Engineering
Consultants Inc. (ECI)
Project Management: Aegis Property Group
| WEI
Irrigation: Aqueous
Signage and Wayfinding: Tom Zetek

General Contractor:
Milestone

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