KINDERGARTEN ARCHITECTURE II

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The Children's School

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with Ingrid Strong

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MEP ENGINEER
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GREEN/LEED CONSULTING
The Green Roundtable, Inc

LOCATION
New Haven, USA

AREA
1,394 m²

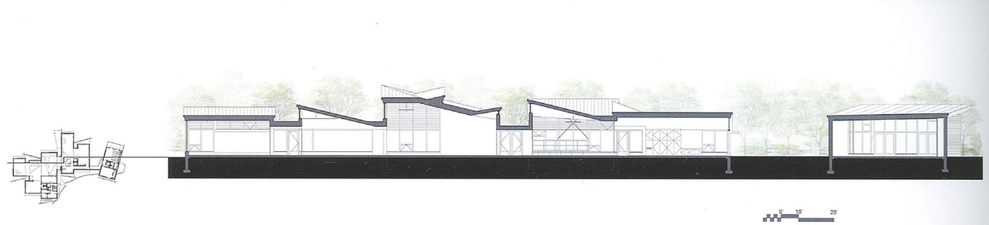
PHOTOGRAPHER
Chuck Choi

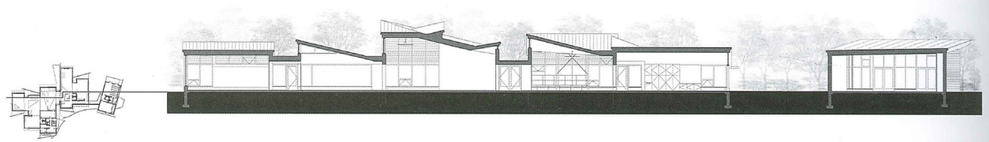
The 1,394m^2 school, for 120 children ages 2 ~ 8, is conceived by the client as a "one-room schoolhouse". In the design, roof planes subtly tilt against one another to let in light from above between their skewed forms, and classroom spaces below are defined without the use of walls. The scheme creates a fragmented reading of the building which reduces the scale of building and makes it more appropriate to the scale of the child.

This project is LEED Certified. It treads lightly on the earth while seeking to heighten the students' sense of relationship with the site. The building has a passive solar design with cross-ventilation in order to extend the seasons in which heating and cooling are not necessary. The school opens to the south to take in solar gain. Louvers on the south and west elevation are used to control the summer sun and dapple and modulate light entering the building. The building is largely slab on grade, so this thermal mass, coupled with the building's orientation to the south, allows for maximum winter sun intake and heat storage.

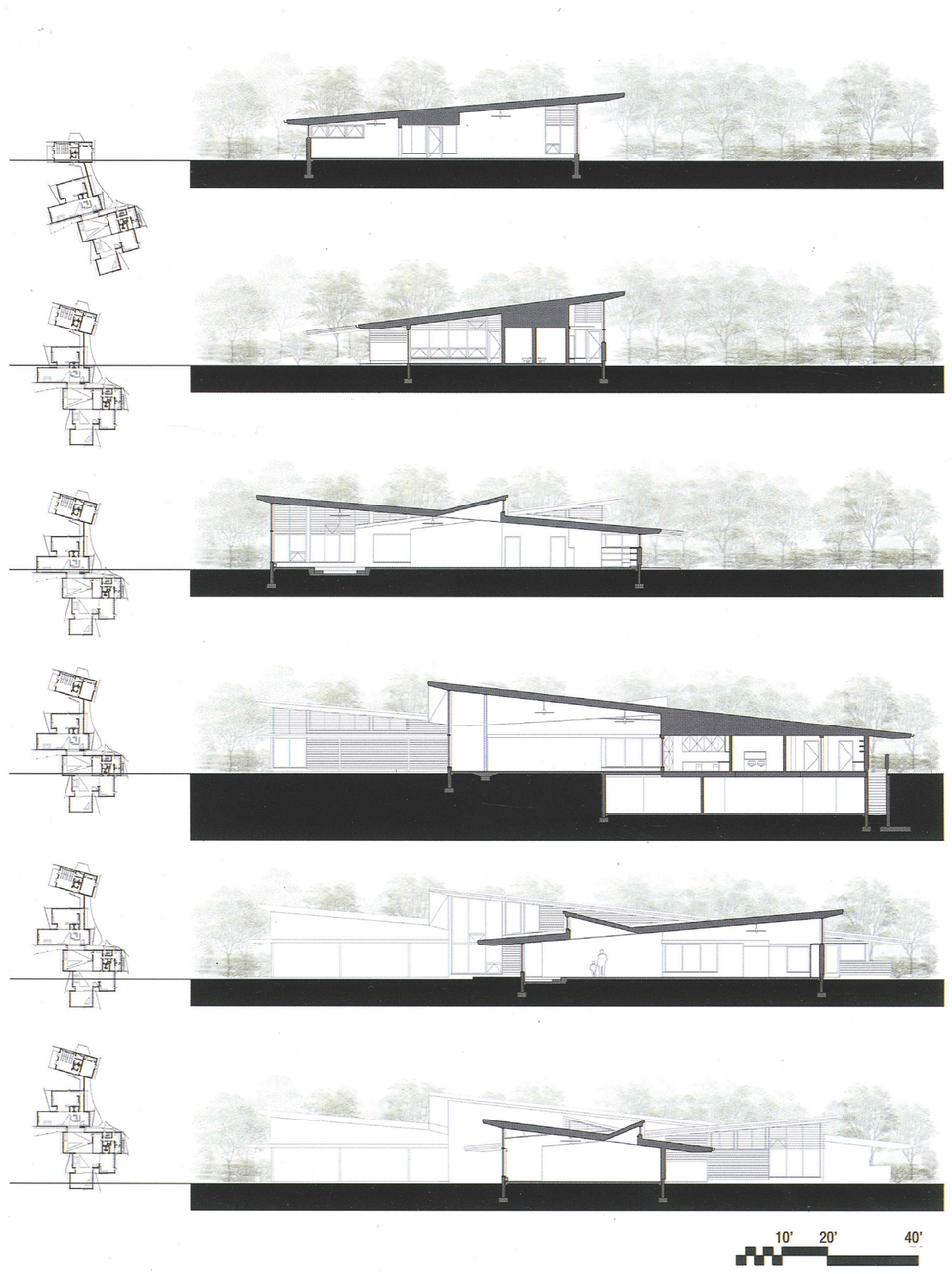
The palette of natural and regional materials was selected primarily for its durability and sustainability. Interior finishes free of volatile compounds create a learning environment with the best possible air quality. Outdoor, covered spaces act as an extension of the interior learning spaces. The entry area hosts quiet activities that calm the child upon arrival, acting as a space of mediation between the wings of the building.

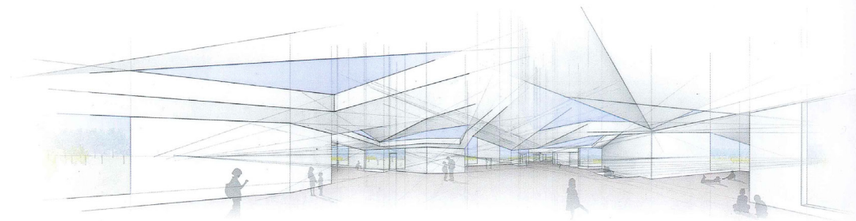

SCOFIELDTOWN ROAD
GARY ROAD
BARCLAY ROAD
1
2
3
3
4
5
6
6
7
9
9
1. EXISTING HOUSE - SMALL MEETING ROOMS
2. EXISTING HOUSE - ADMINISTRATIVE
3. VISITOR PARKING
4. STAFF PARKING
5. DROP-OFF/PICK-UP
6. ART BARN
7. SAND AREA
8. SCIENCE GARDEN
9. PLAY YARD





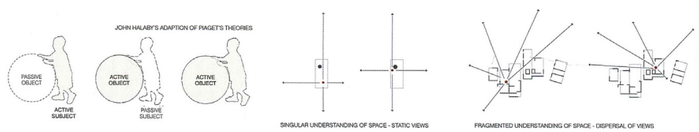

SUMMER: low sun angle
WINTER: low sun angle
TRADITIONAL FLOOR SEATING SURFACE

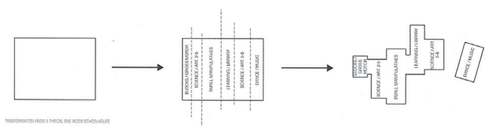

10'
20'
40'



ACTIVE SUBJECT / ACTIVE OBJECT

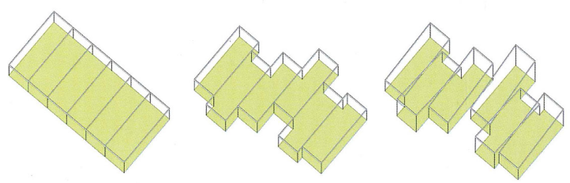
The non-axial and unfolding nature of the spatial sequence supports an active subject as well as an active object. A complete understanding of the space can only be reached through interactions between the use and his or her passage through the building.





TRANSFORMATION OF THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE

The variegated edge allows for a "one-room school house" to offer areas of intimacy and places to explore. Roof planes tilt against one another in order to allow for light from above to penetrate into the thick and otherwise potentially dark plan dictated by the program requirements.

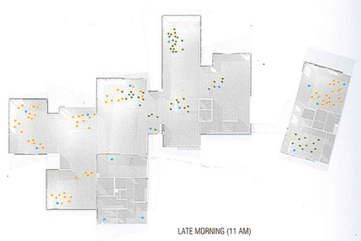


TEMPORAL STUDY OF LIGHT AND USE

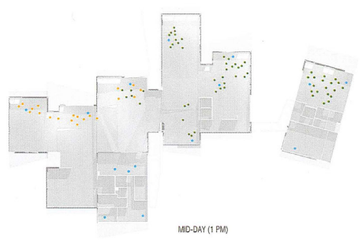
Use of the classroom areas will follow the natural course of sunlight during the day, beginning with the younger children in the east wing in the morning and the older students in the west though the afternoon. This distribution of light unifies the one room schoolhouse while defining space without the use of walls.

- AGES 2-5
- AGES 5-8
- TEACHERS/FACULTY

MORNING (9 AM)



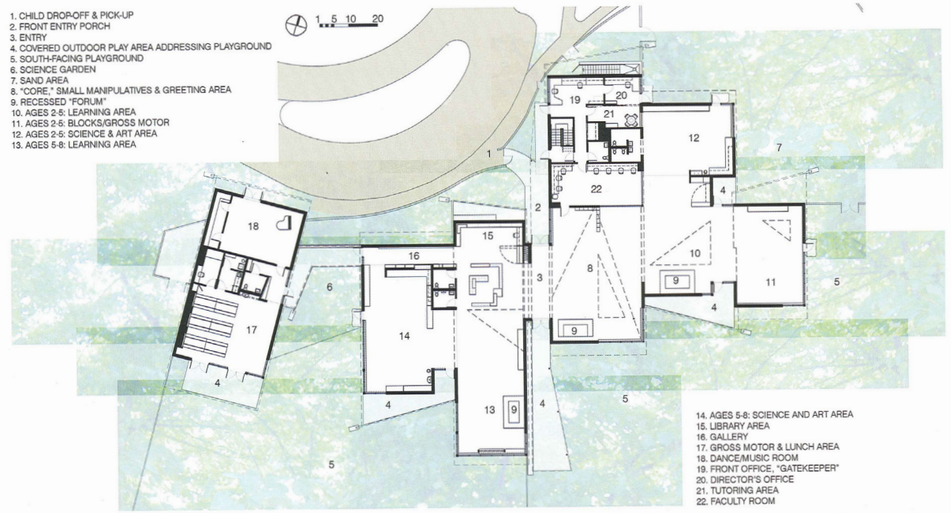
LATE MORNING (11 AM)



MID-DAY (1 PM)

AFTERNOON (3 PM)

1. CHILD DROP-OFF & PICK-UP
2. FRONT ENTRY PORCH
3. ENTRY
4. COVERED OUTDOOR PLAY AREA ADDRESSING PLAYGROUND
5. SOUTH-FACING PLAYGROUND
6. SCIENCE GARDEN
7. SAND AREA
8. "CORE," SMALL MANIPULATIVES & GREETING AREA
9. RECESSED "FORUM"
10. AGES 2-5: LEARNING AREA
11. AGES 2-5: BLOCKS/GROSS MOTOR
12. AGES 2-5: SCIENCE & ART AREA
13. AGES 5-8: LEARNING AREA



14. AGES 5-8: SCIENCE AND ART AREA
15. LIBRARY AREA
16. GALLERY
17. GROSS MOTOR & LUNCH AREA
18. DANCE/MUSIC ROOM
19. FRONT OFFICE, "GATEKEEPER"
20. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
21. TUTORING AREA
22. FACULTY ROOM


‹5
6›