

BALTIMORE DESIGN SCHOOL

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
EDUCATION FACILITY DESIGN

Baltimore Design School is a new Baltimore City Public combined middle and high school with a focus on Fashion Design, Architectural Design, and Graphic Design.

The new \$19 million, 115,000-square foot school is created from an abandoned historic factory building. The building's transformation from blight to a state-of-the-art facility within the confines of a minimal budget demonstrates the power of design through best practices for historic renovation, adaptive reuse, educational design, and sustainable design.

A driving force in creating the Baltimore Design School was the desire to develop creativity and design-informed critical thinking skills for public school students. The design team collaborated closely with the school Board and curriculum advisors to create a building that supports the mission to cultivate students who see problems that need new solutions, who envision possibilities, and who imagine a better world.

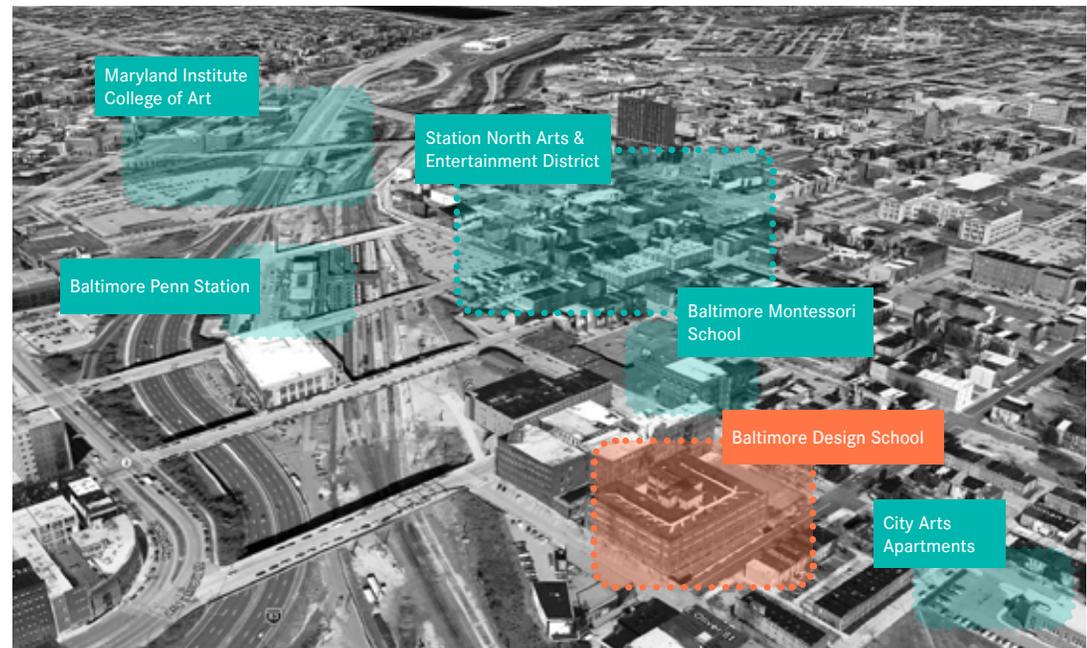


COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The school is located in an arts district that was once a thriving industrial community. The large industrial buildings were abandoned in the mid-century, depressing the surrounding community. The cost effective space and open floor plans attracted artists, who have contributed to the stabilization of the neighborhood in recent years. This location was chosen for the school to anchor and strengthen the community and arts district.



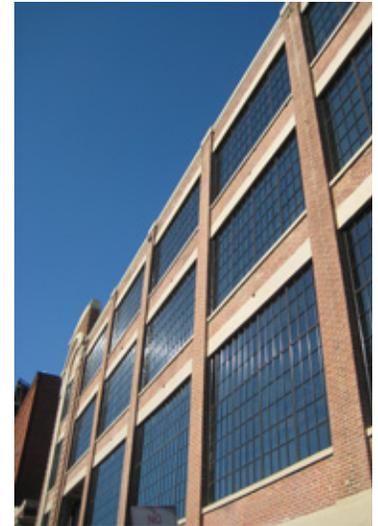
The school is housed in the former Crown Cork & Seal Factory. Built in 1914, the building was first designed to serve as a machine shop for bottle caps. It was later leased to Lebow Brothers Clothing company in 1950. The building was shuttered in 1985, and remained abandoned ever since. Left vacant, the coat factory was a major blighting influence on the Arts District for more than a quarter century.



ADAPTIVE REUSE



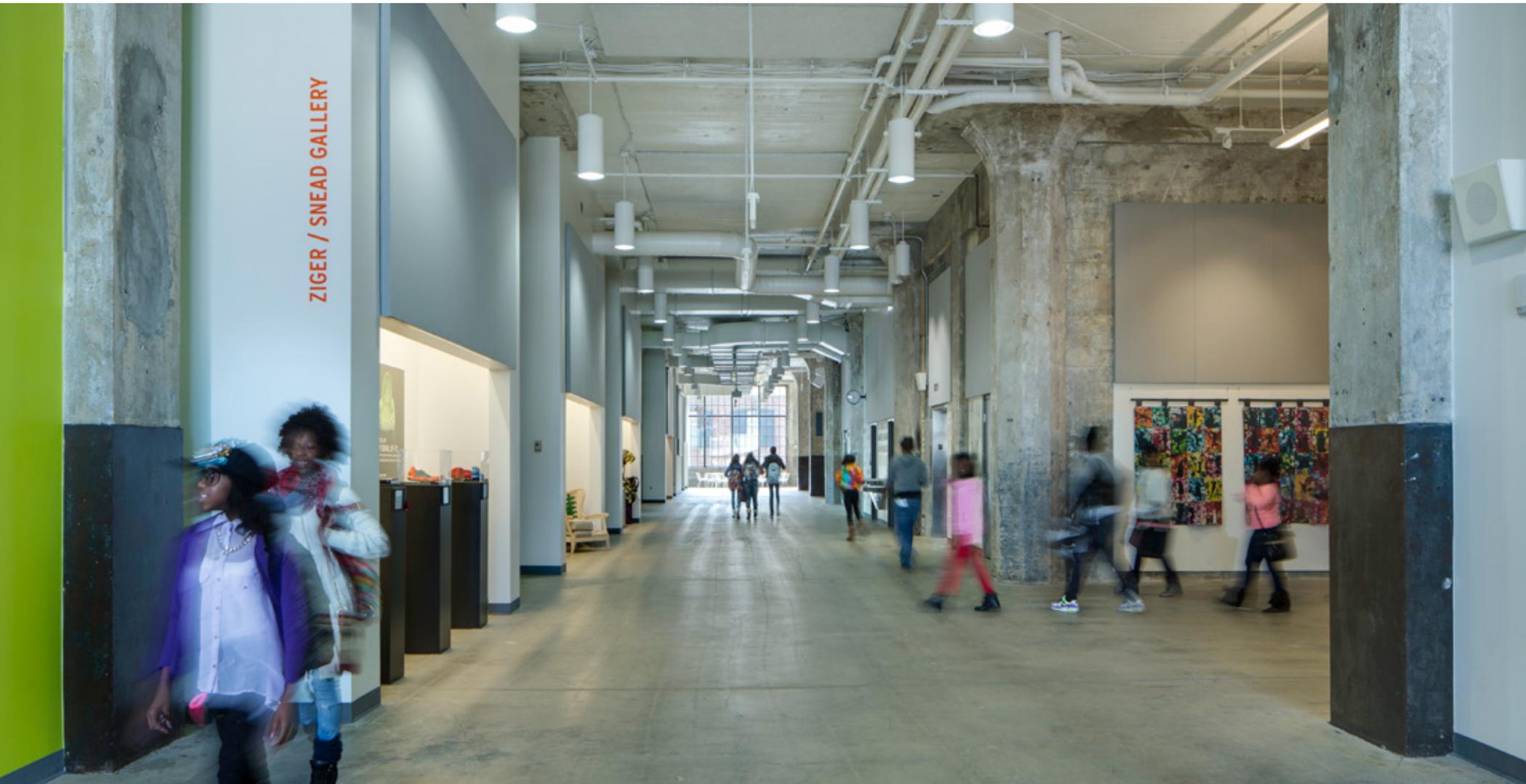
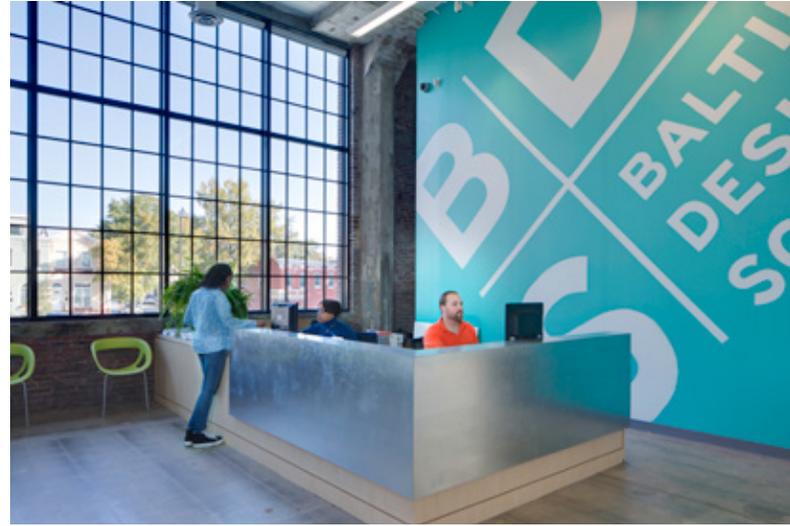
The existing 115,000-square-foot building had a leaky roof, spalling concrete, and thick vegetation growing out of its walls. It needed structural repairs, new windows, and a complete systems overhaul. Contractors performed extensive demolition, stabilization, and rehabilitation of the badly deteriorated building. The design called for a carefully stabilized and rehabilitated exterior with new energy efficient windows and doors selected to visually match the original - reinforcing the understanding that the historically unique qualities and characteristics of the building have been respected and maintained.



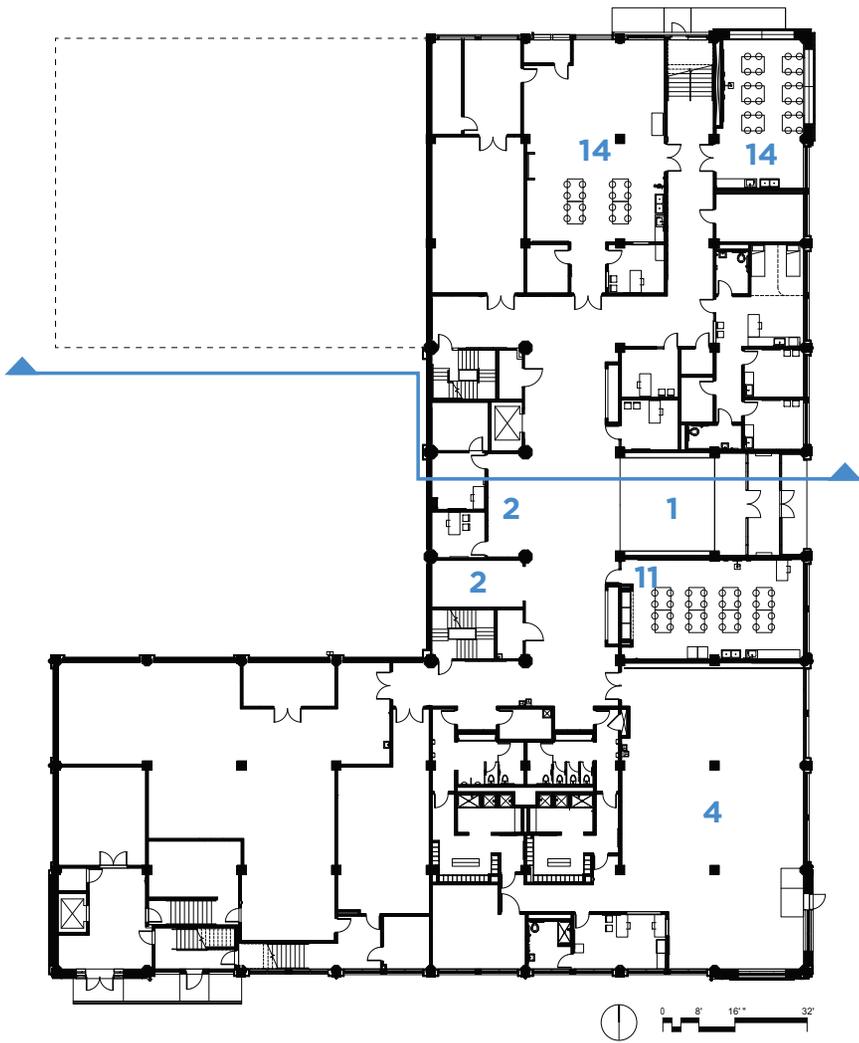
“A fresh approach to school design—
and community development—the
Baltimore Design School’s new home
is exciting, open, and transparent,
crafted largely through a thoughtful
design process and goodwill.”

- *Architectural Record*



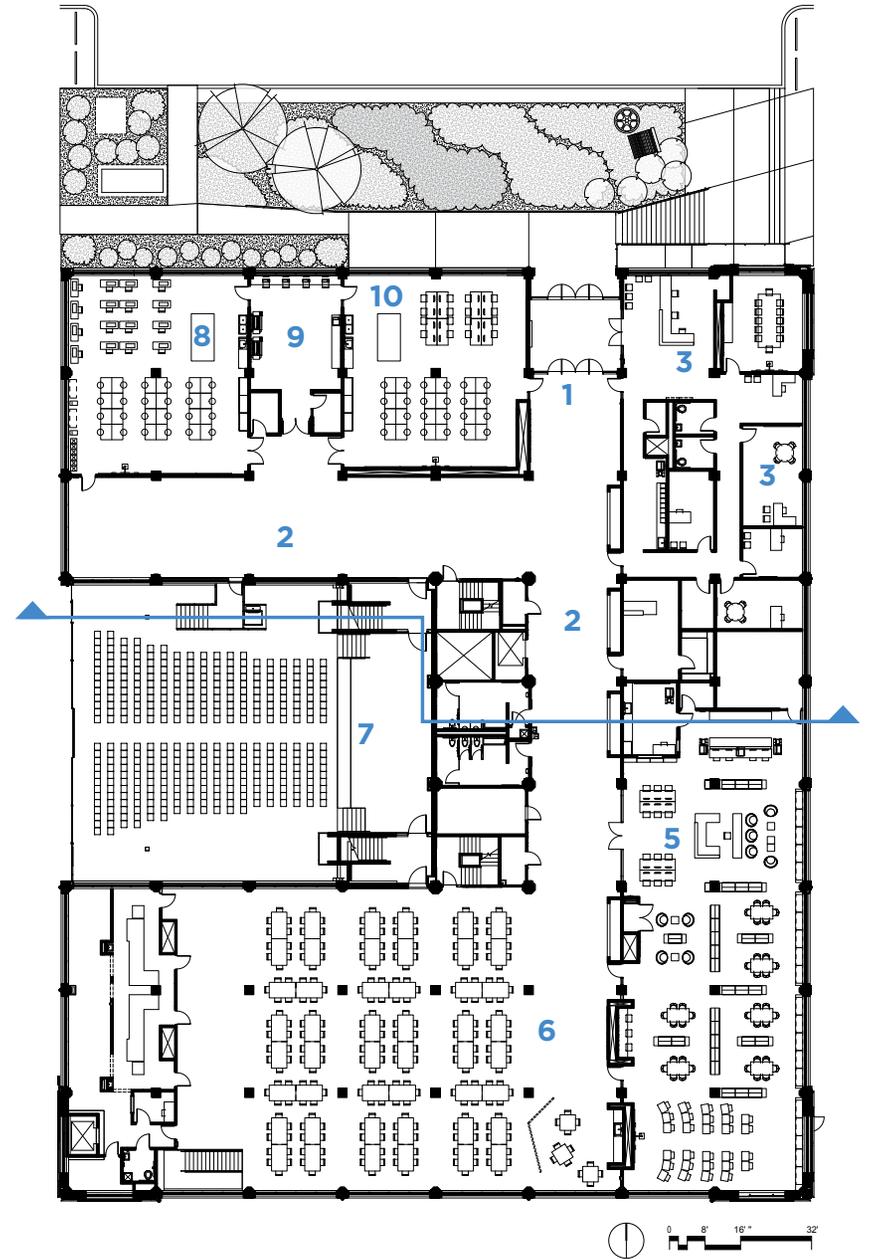


FLOOR 1

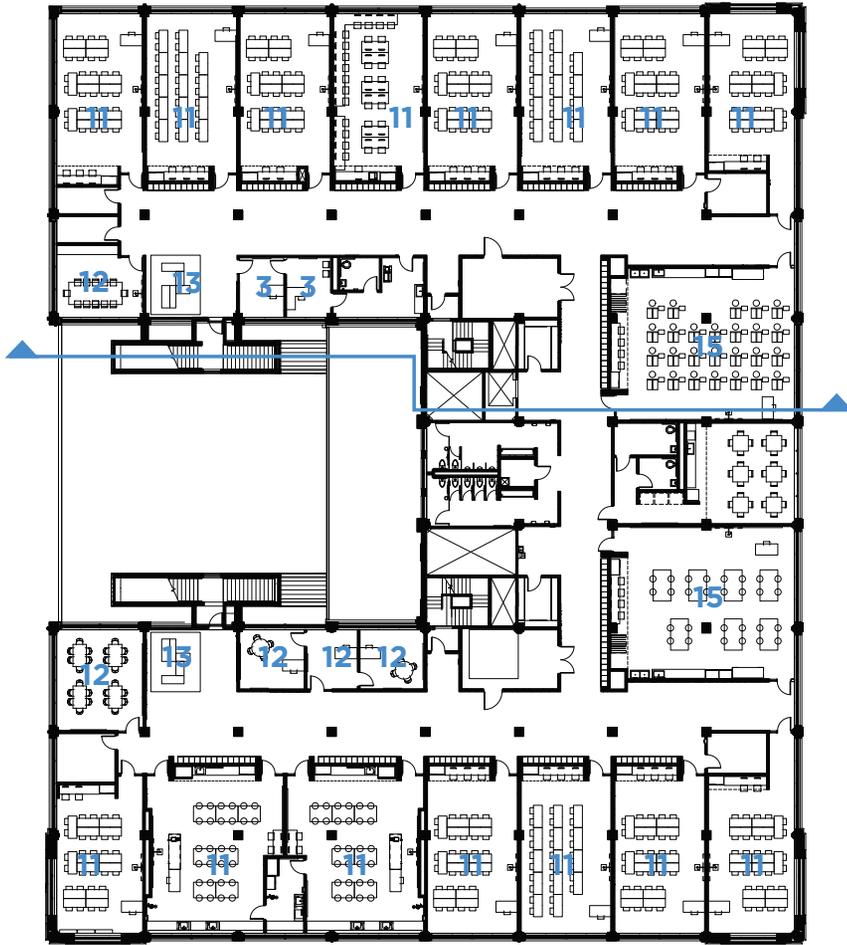


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|---|------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | ENTRY | 9 | FABRICATION LAB |
| 2 | GALLERY | 10 | ARCHITECTURE LAB |
| 3 | OFFICES | 11 | CLASSROOM |
| 4 | GYMNASIUM | 12 | BREAKOUT/STUDY AREA |
| 5 | MEDIA CENTER | 13 | LOUNGE |
| 6 | CAFETERIA/MULTIPURPOSE | 14 | METAL/WOOD SHOP |
| 7 | OUTDOOR STAGE | 15 | STUDIO |
| 8 | FASHION LAB | 16 | CRIT SPACE |

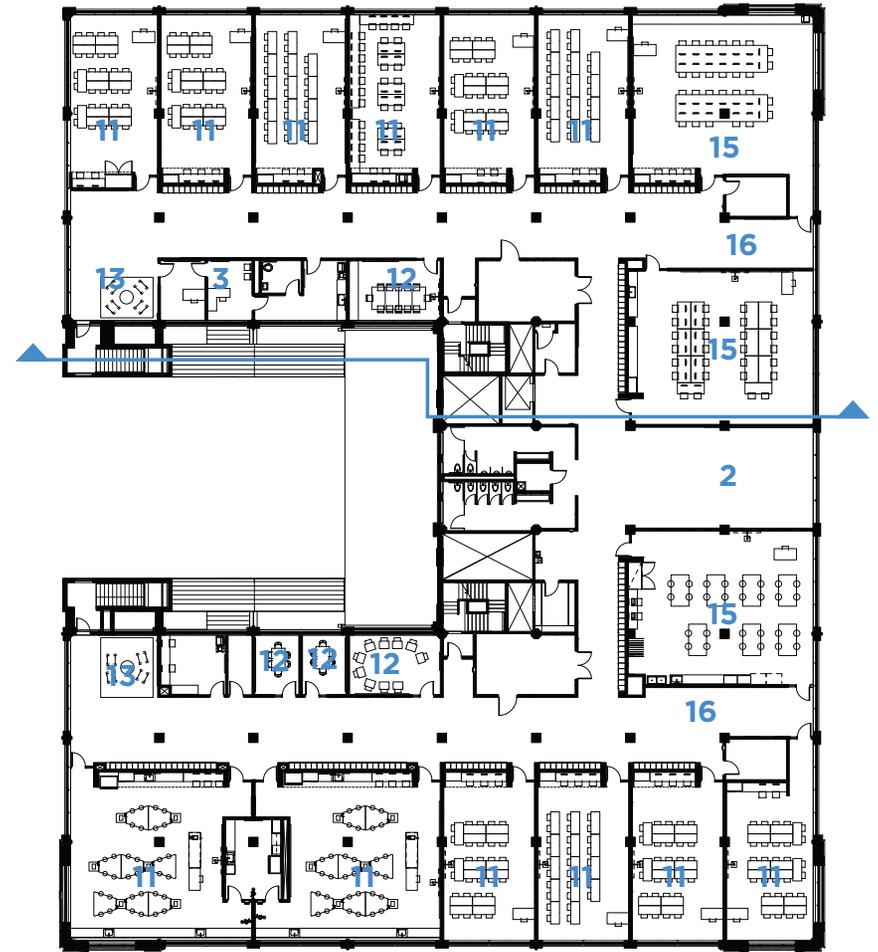
FLOOR 2



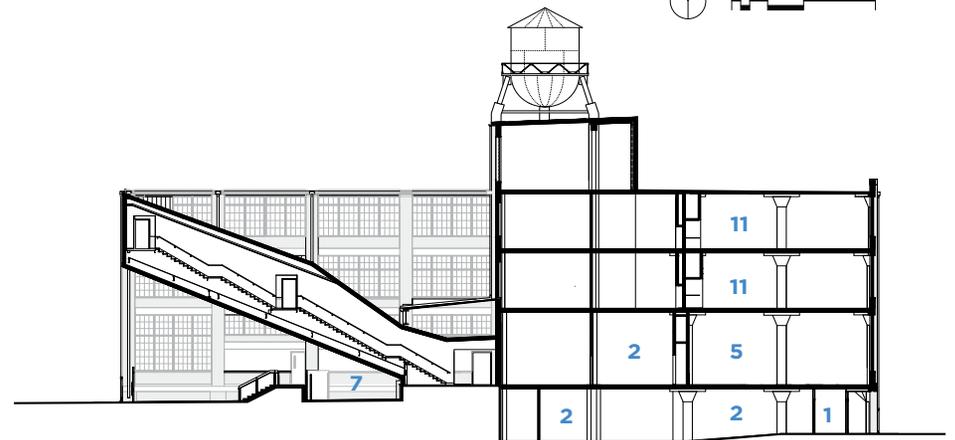
FLOOR 3

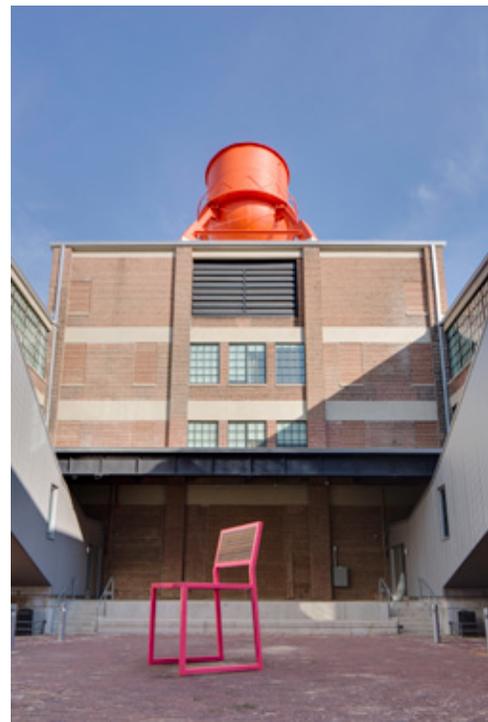


FLOOR 4



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|---|------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | ENTRY | 9 | FABRICATION LAB |
| 2 | GALLERY | 10 | ARCHITECTURE LAB |
| 3 | OFFICES | 11 | CLASSROOM |
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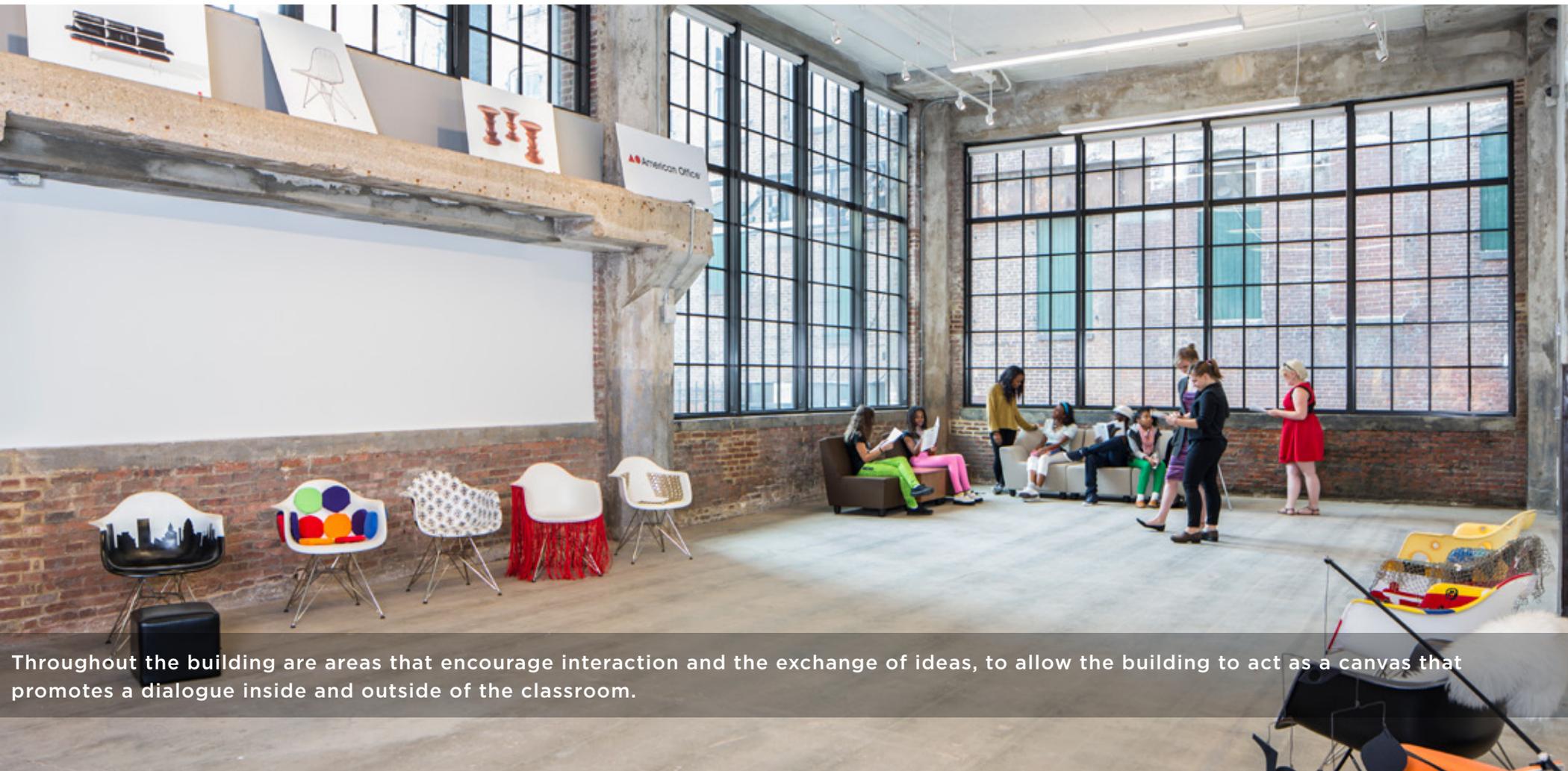




The new exterior stair tower additions are modern and restrained in expression, clearly demarcating the difference between new and old.

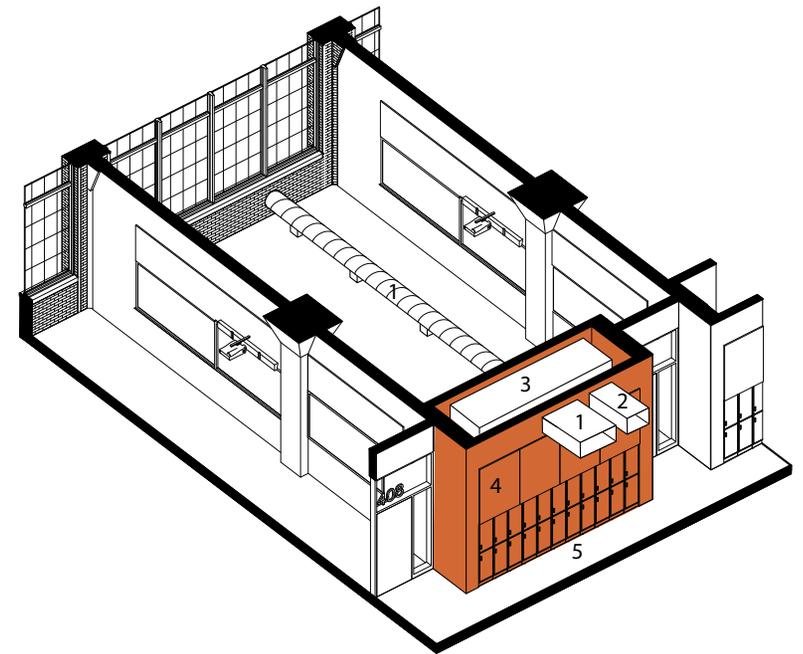
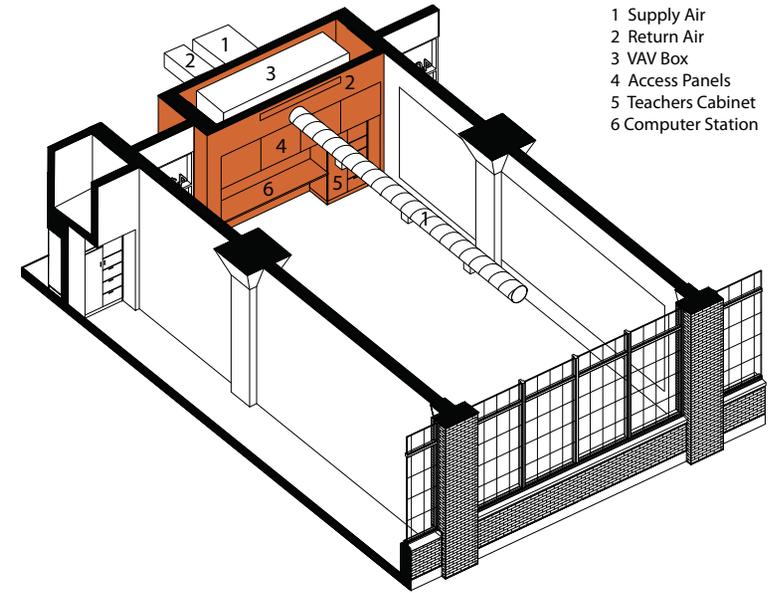


The designers maintained as much of the existing structure as possible. The interior aesthetic is that of an open industrial loft where existing walls and structure that remain are cleaned and sealed and left exposed to view.

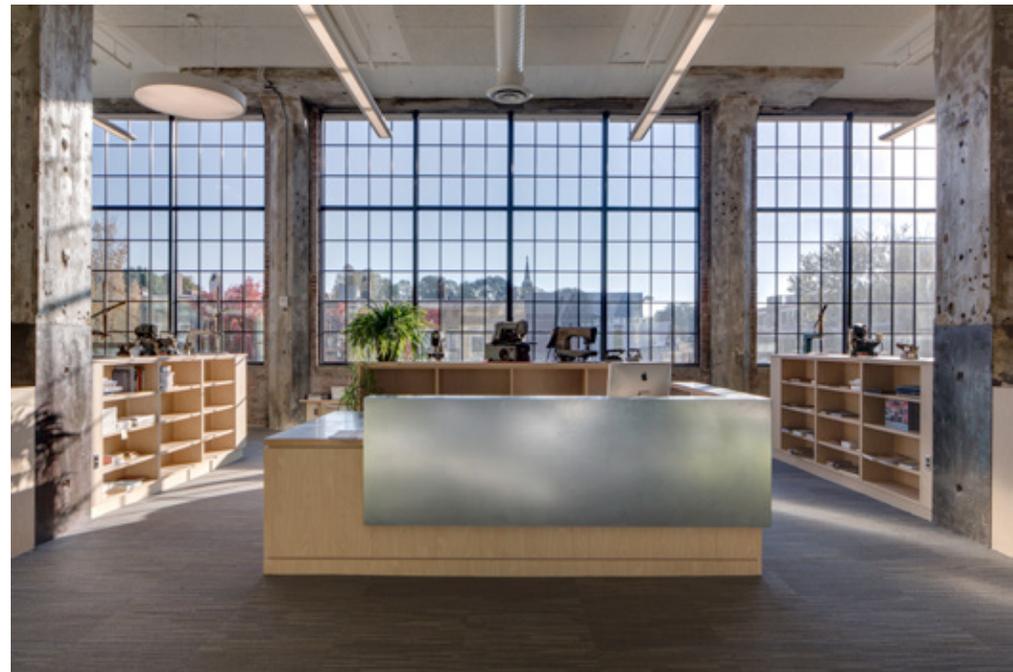


Throughout the building are areas that encourage interaction and the exchange of ideas, to allow the building to act as a canvas that promotes a dialogue inside and outside of the classroom.





Modular pods between the classrooms and the hallway were conceived as a way of organizing a variety of program elements in a clearly new component. While standardized, the pods vary to suit programmatic needs.



The design preserves as many of the building's original attributes by positioning the classrooms, labs, and studios along the exterior window walls to take advantage of the natural light and views. The core of an existing, but not code-compliant, interior stairwell was filled with woven stainless steel netting that stretches the full-height of the building. Elsewhere artifacts from the building's history on are display.



The school aspires to become a national model for the importance of creativity and critical thinking skills for public school students. Adobe Systems has partnered with the School as a national model for design education.



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COMMUNITY CONTEXT

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ADAPTIVE REUSE

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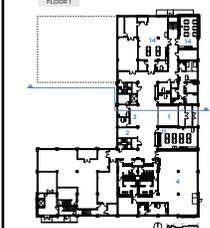
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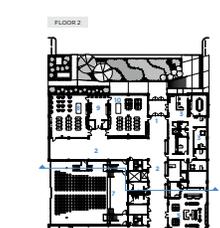




FLOOR 1

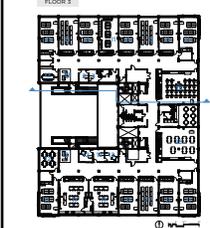


FLOOR 2

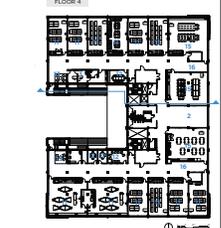


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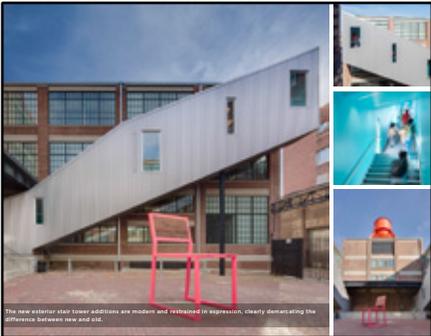
FLOOR 3



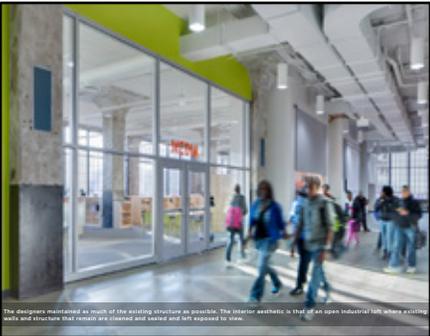
FLOOR 4



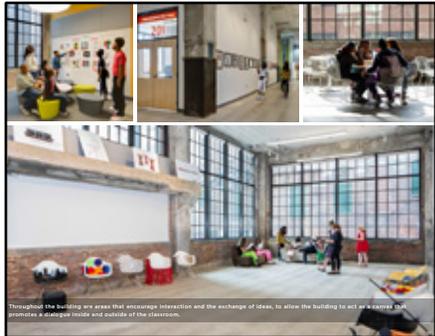
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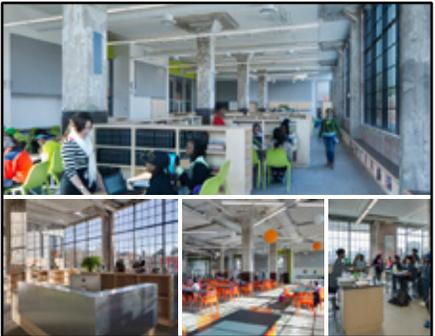
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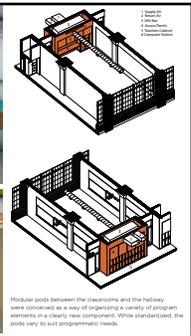


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The school appears to become a national model for the importance of creativity and encouraging inquiry for public school students. Adobe Systems has partnered with the School as a national model for design education.

