

An early concept diagram shows the building siting solution and system components that give Bennett Elementary a low environmental impact and create dynamic learning environment, all despite challenging grade changes.



Before construction, the site hosted an outdated elementary with little connection to the surrounding woodland and vast areas of concrete surrounding this bunker-like covered play area.



The entrance to Bennett Elementary emphasizes interaction between students, teachers, parents and community members with these concrete 'council rings'.



Looking west along the building's southern edge, functional areas have been carved around existing topography in order to preserve views made possible by the elevation gain.



Views through the existing trees show the stepped nature of the building, nestled into the nearby Douglas Firs. The groves are unfenced, and, lacking a dense understory, are perfect for exploration.



Numerous large windows bring the outside landscape indoors, helping students focus, reducing stress, and encouraging them to explore their surrounding environment.



Rooftop outdoor learning spaces offer students a rare glimpse of a lush green roof and solar panels, teaching them about green infrastructure while being a highly usable and safe space.



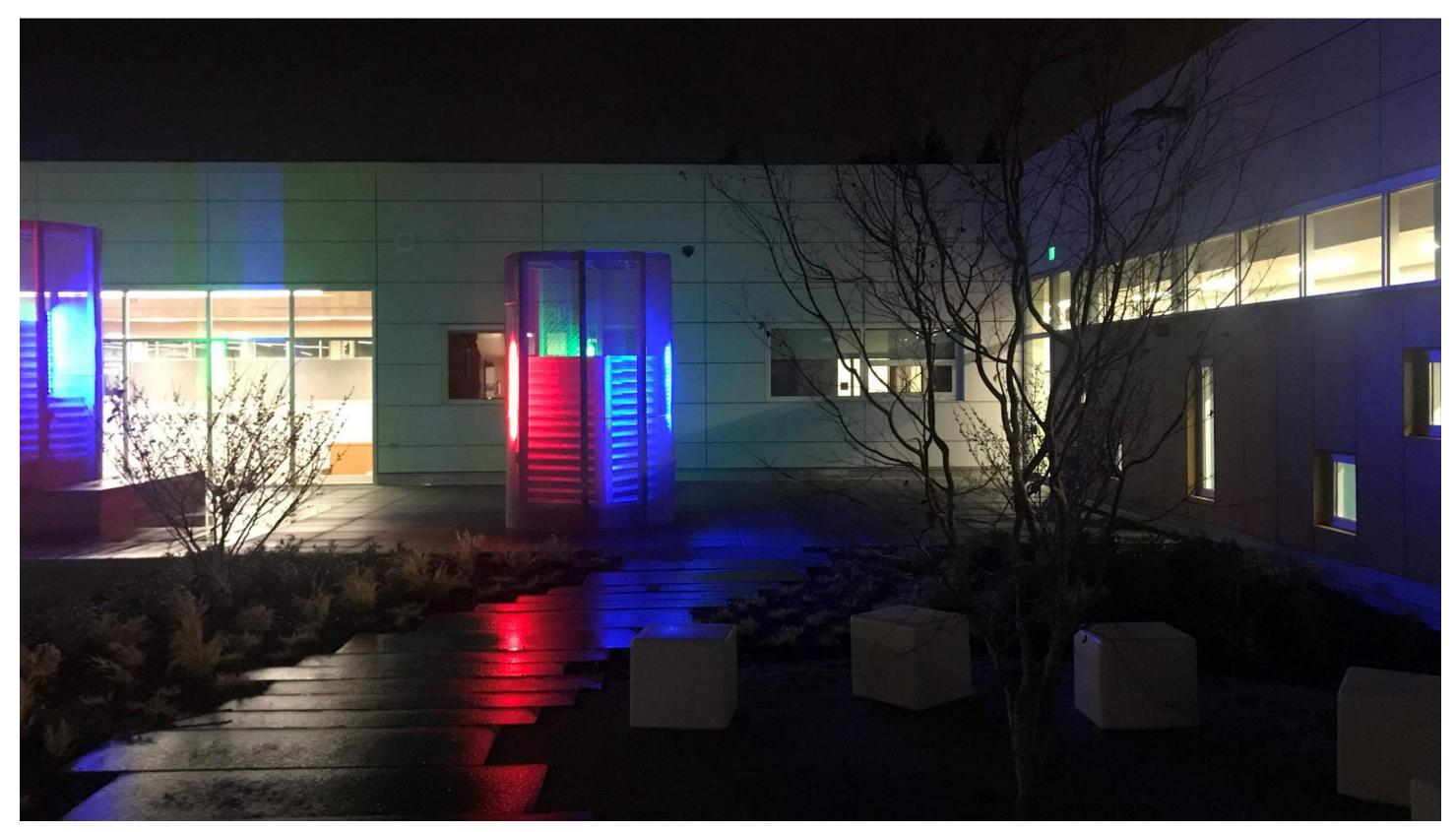
An interior rooftop courtyard feels set down amongst towering Douglas Firs, and offers quick access to the outdoors.



An interior courtyard with a synthetic play lawn allows natural flight to flood multiple stories, and resolves the difficult grade changes.



Large mechanical intake and outflow stacks are highlighted with decorative metal screens and LED light displays. Set amongst an ornamental landscape, the stacks become as much sculptural as they are functioning infrastructure.



The mechanical stack sculptures come to life after sunset, showing students an exciting new side to their school's landscape.



The eastern rain garden is positioned close to the entrances and outdoor classroom space, serving as a beautiful visual backdrop and a useful learning tool.



View west along the north side of the building, showing play areas and a low-water synthetic athletic field. Here, prospect offered by the wooded slope is safely accessible through improved paths which connect to the surrounding community.



Boulders unearthed during construction are re-used in a natural play area, creating a perfect transition between the wooded slope and the cork-filled, synthetic play areas, and offering children choice in how they play.



Bennet Elementary's stepped conifiguration allowed it to be carefully inserted into the wooded slope, preserving richer views of vegetaion. The fields were sited on previously paved, flat portions of the site and use recycled cork as a natural infill product.