

Grand Rapids Community College

LAKESHORE CAMPUS

Holland, Michigan

52,000 square feet / 4.4 acres

AIA GRAND RAPIDS Building Architecture Award





PROJECT STORY: COMMUNITY CONNECTION

DESIGNING FOR INTEGRATION.

Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) has offered classes on the Lakeshore, spread across four locations, for more than 20 years. With programs in disparate locations and in small, leased available spaces in buildings through the area, serving students and maintaining fiscal responsibility was a challenge on top of restricted growth. The college purchased the former JCPenney in The Shops at Westshore Mall in the heart of Holland Township to become a consolidated GRCC Lakeshore Campus. It was important that the finished space did not look like a former retail store, but a vibrant learning hub with a modern, welcoming presence that distinguished the new campus from the surrounding mall. One consolidated campus creates synergy and collaboration across programs that are physically co-located and provides opportunities for operational efficiencies and partnerships with Grand Valley State University's Meijer campus as well as other area colleges.

The consolidated campus is strategically located off U.S. Route 31 which had established bus routes that students, faculty, and community members are able to utilize to access the campus. Extended greenways were intentionally incorporated into the existing parking lots to provide outdoor student and learning areas.

DESIGNING FOR WELL-BEING.

The architectural vernacular of the building looks to emulate the curriculum it houses. The exterior brick was carved away to allow for natural daylight within the learning environments. The space plan is organized around the machine tool area to the north with perimeter classrooms ringing the exterior. Student support spaces and science labs act as islands within the floor plan, so that views from the main entrance focus on the machine tool lab. Large skylights were placed throughout the building to help bring natural daylight further into the building's core. The building itself has a variety of learning environments to accommodate a diverse group of learners, including areas for group collaboration as well as individual study spaces. Five unique labs for biology, chemistry, electronics, automation, welding and machine tooling, allow for hands-on learning for students working toward an associate degree or a career-focused certificate. Enlarged corridors act as extensions of the classroom, allowing small groups to work or study before and after class while also opening into some of the classroom spaces for a larger lecture when needed.

DESIGNING FOR DISCOVERY.

Even before this project received funding, A/E and GRCC spent time during a Design Workshop to test fit the four existing GRCC Lakeshore facilities needs into a single location. Once the project received funding, the team met to review the concept and establish Guiding Principles for the project. These Guiding Principles are used as the first test to validate decisions made by the design team during the project development. The team regularly met throughout the design process to ensure the College's vision was accurately represented in the design of this consolidated campus.

The 52,000 square-foot campus facility gives GRCC flexibility to grow into the much-larger space and establishes a strong presence in the community. Adaptable and flexible design allows GRCC to adapt their spaces as markets and partnerships change in the future. Features like mobile furniture and collapsible partitions, along with state-of-the-art technology, give students and educators options for their day-to-day learning environment needs. The building also has spaces for advising and counseling and other student support services and a satellite library, as well as areas for use by community groups.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

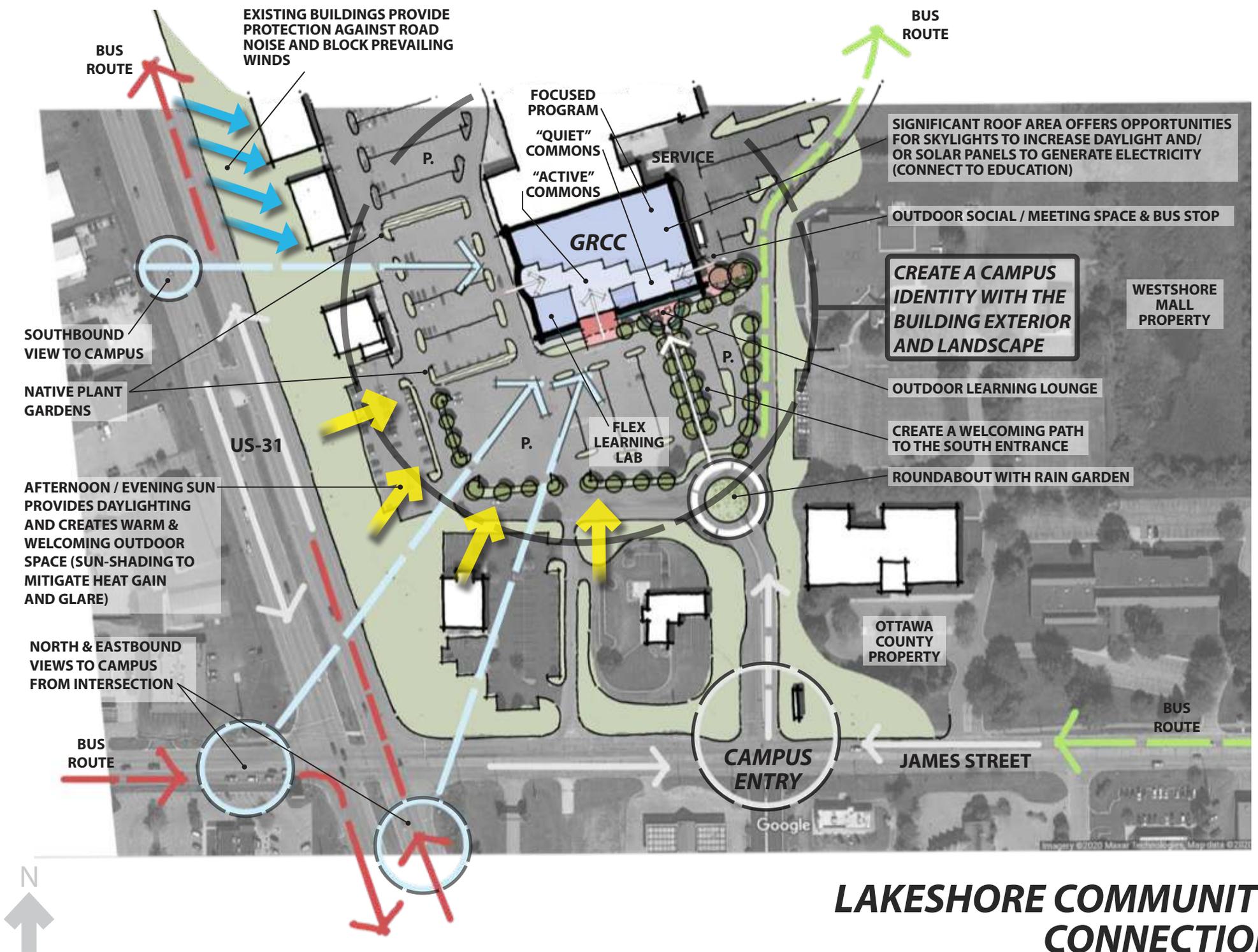
These driving factors were developed with our client at the onset of the project.

1. CREATE A WELCOMING STUDENT EXPERIENCE
2. ENCOURAGE AGILE EDUCATION AND PROVIDE A FULL CAMPUS EXPERIENCE
3. REVEAL & PROMOTE THE GRCC IDENTITY WITHIN THE LAKESHORE COMMUNITY
4. SUSTAINABLE

GRCC LAKESHORE
ADAPTABLE/NIMBLE/FLEXIBLE. ①
CLASSROOMS: Currently no more than ② used at once.
Faculty Offices ③ = growth
Leave storage: Adjunct/visitors
Computer Labs: Carts, not fixed?
Lobby/Reception
Work room(s): supplies/mailboxes.
Automation space..(future/new)
CAD/CAM Lab.
Faculty consult space (private)
Faculty touch-down (separate from workroom)
Health program - Med. Assisting (future/new)
Exam tables/sinks "wet lab"

What is special about a space? NIMBLE ②
Prop for future specialization/functions
testing: Academic services/Student services
Improvements - more intentional
Teams working together
DSS: Disability Support Services.
Advising: Private office(s)
Tutoring support - more consistent.
(dedicated)
Library Services: Reference Desk
textbook lending
Laptop rental.
ACE - "Academic Lab"
Electronics Storage: Decentralized / Point of use
GRCC data available.
Operations: Office Storage
Custodial
Public Safety officer
I.T. - Office?
MPT/ITF.
BOH.

Generator - life safety ③
"MODULES": Welding
Electronics
Pneumatics/Hydraulics
STUDENT EXPERIENCE / FACULTY
Coffee (shop)
Vending
Microwaves
Refrigerator (Faculty)
Cook-Hall (example).
Gender Neutral / "family" restroom
Mother's Room: sink, refrigerator
Math/Writing Lab: larger group
Just 1:1 tutoring
Study Rooms - 4 to 5 students.
Mitigate distractions
"Exec." Conference Room/Arts/dance



LAKESHORE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

LAKESHORE COMMUNITY CONNECTION



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



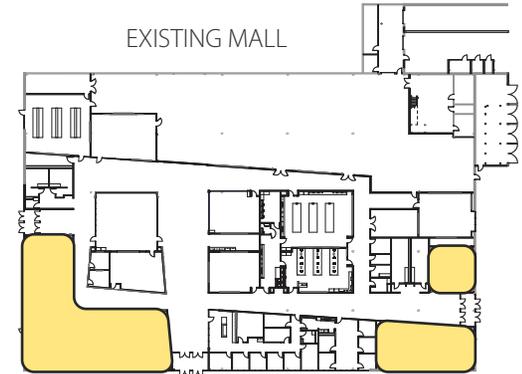
EXISTING SITE

FLOOR PLAN



PARTI DIAGRAMS

EXISTING MALL



03. PERIMETER CLASSROOMS

EXISTING MALL



02. STUDENT CORE

EXISTING MALL



01. LAB CONNECTION TO EXTERIOR

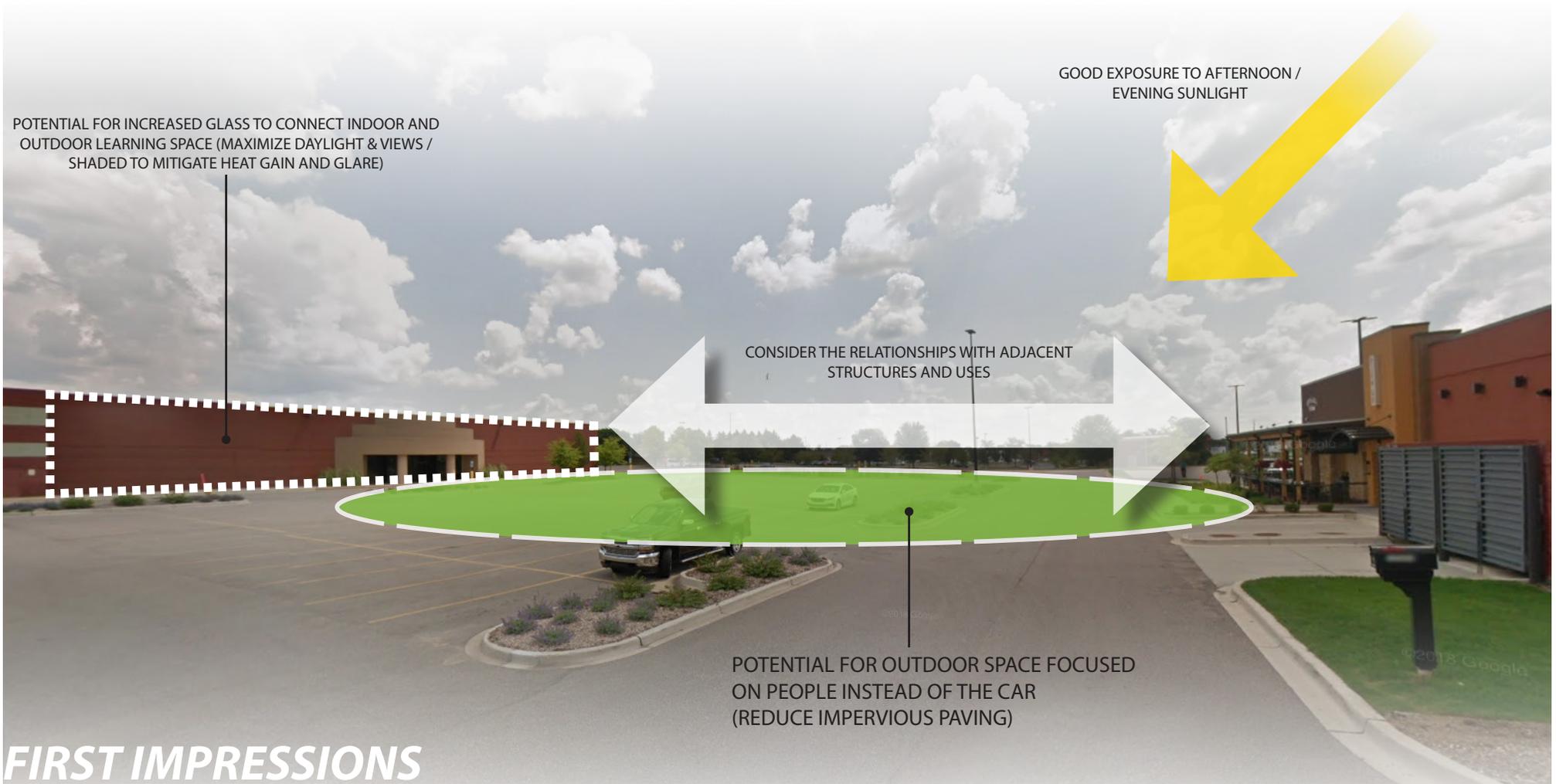
POTENTIAL TO OPEN THE VIEW TO THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO BE MORE WELCOMING



CONCEPT RENDERING



POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED GLASS TO CONNECT INDOOR AND OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE (MAXIMIZE DAYLIGHT & VIEWS / SHADED TO MITIGATE HEAT GAIN AND GLARE)



GOOD EXPOSURE TO AFTERNOON / EVENING SUNLIGHT

CONSIDER THE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADJACENT STRUCTURES AND USES

POTENTIAL FOR OUTDOOR SPACE FOCUSED ON PEOPLE INSTEAD OF THE CAR (REDUCE IMPERVIOUS PAVING)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

BEFORE

JCPenney

*“This should not look
like a JCPenney.”*

BEFORE



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

As a way to denote arrival and improve way finding entrances on the east, west, and south facades were enlarged with new aluminum storefront systems introduced highlighting the entrances as well as allowing daylight to penetrate farther within the interior footprint.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS



EAST ENTRANCE



SOUTH ENTRANCE



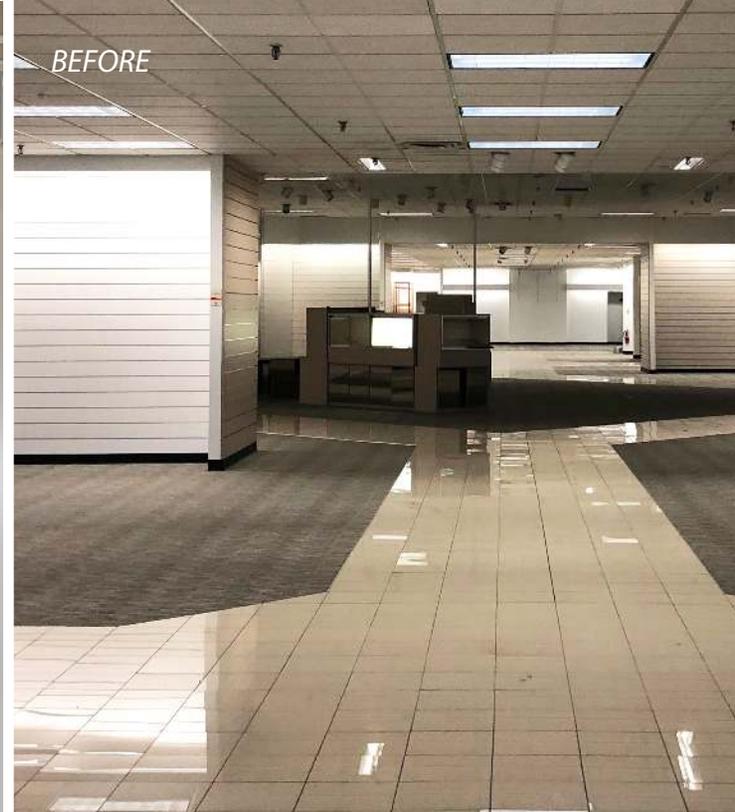
WEST ENTRANCE



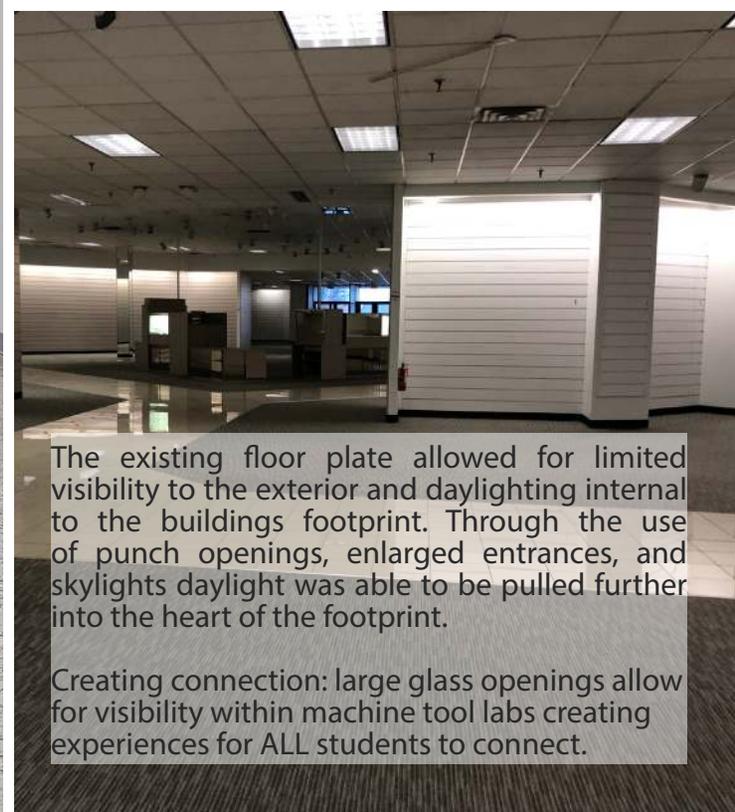


HARVESTING DAYLIGHT

STUDENT CORE



BEFORE



The existing floor plate allowed for limited visibility to the exterior and daylighting internal to the buildings footprint. Through the use of punch openings, enlarged entrances, and skylights daylight was able to be pulled further into the heart of the footprint.

Creating connection: large glass openings allow for visibility within machine tool labs creating experiences for ALL students to connect.

SECTION A-A

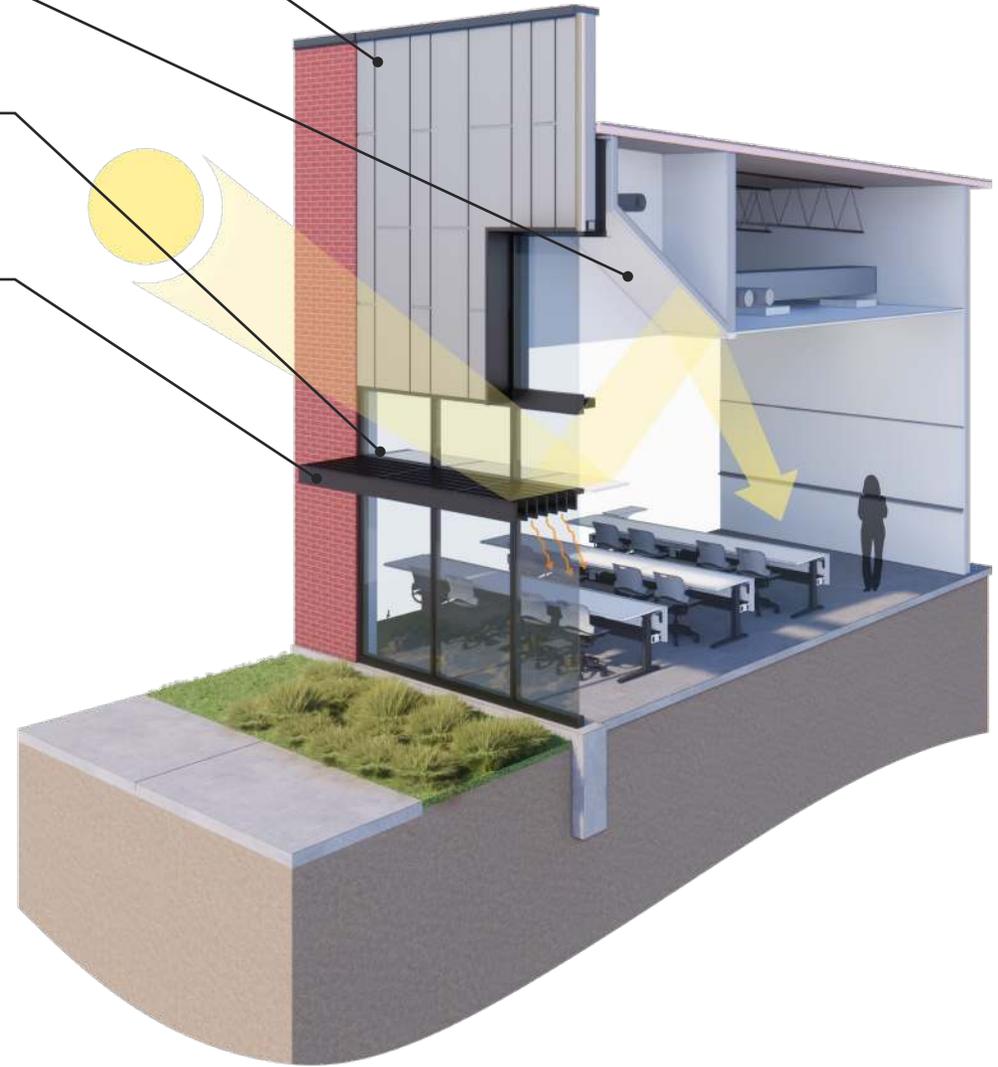


ACM METAL PANEL AND ALUMINUM STOREFRONT INFILL AT NEW FACADE FENESTRATIONS

LIGHT WELL

INTERIOR LIGHT SHELF TO REFLECT DAYLIGHT FURTHER INTO CLASSROOM

EXTERIOR SUNSHADE TO HELP REDUCE SOUTHERN SUN EXPOSURE IN SUMMER



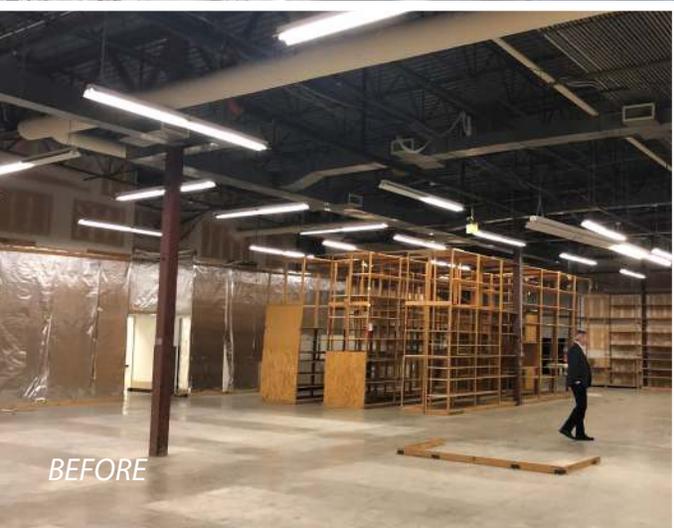
SECTION A-A

HARVESTING DAYLIGHT

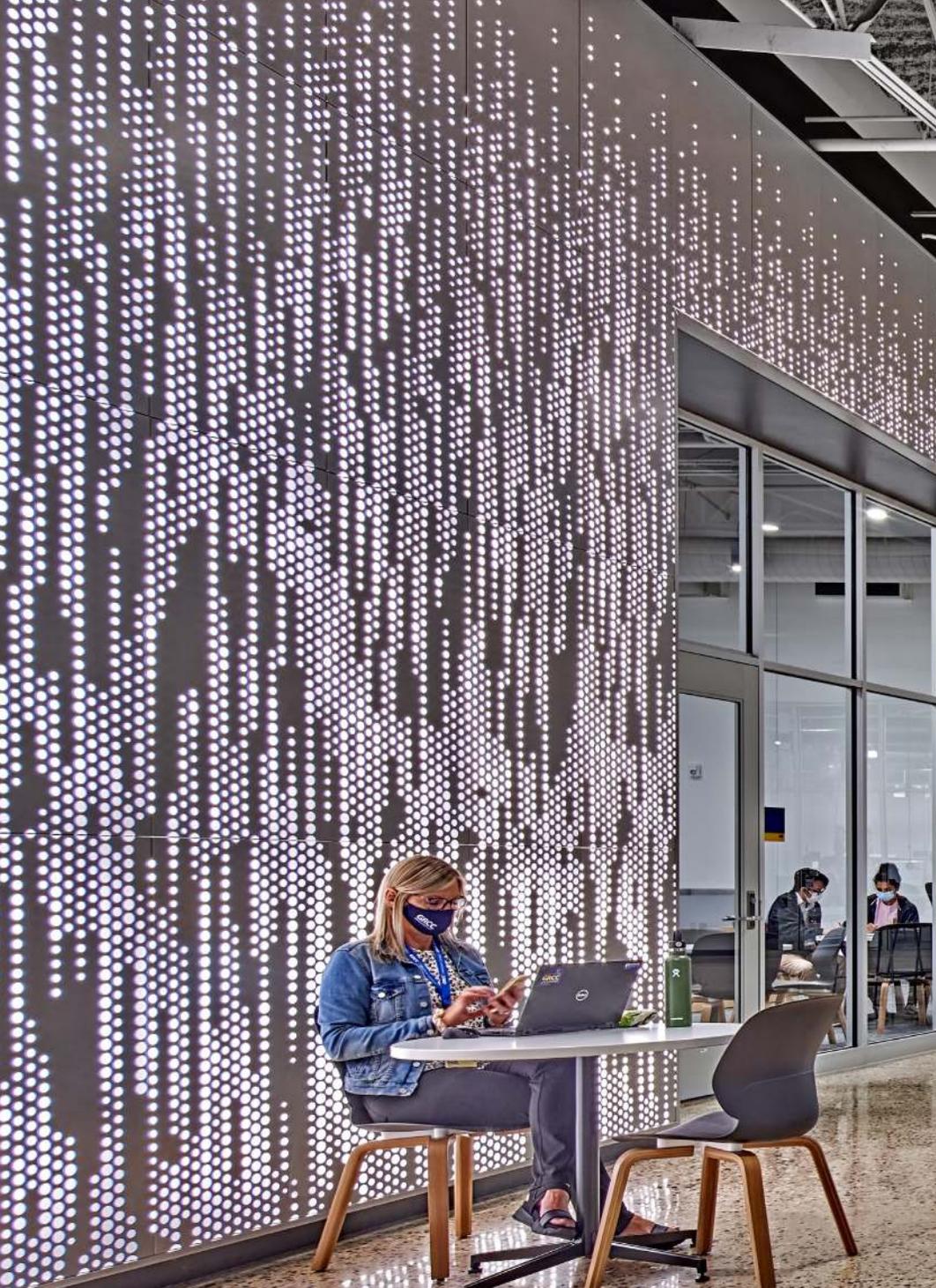
CLASSROOM LIGHT WELL

HARVESTING DAYLIGHT

LEARNING LAB



BEFORE



FULL CAMPUS EXPERIENCE
COLLABORATION CORRIDOR



*“*Extension
of **GRC** main
campus*”*
GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Coupled with the open collaboration corridors, learning lab, and classrooms students have access to individual study rooms and flexible rooms and furniture to allow for multiple modes of learning.



FULL CAMPUS EXPERIENCE
LIBRARY + LEARNING COMMONS

MULTIPLE MODES OF LEARNING

INDIVIDUAL
TEAM

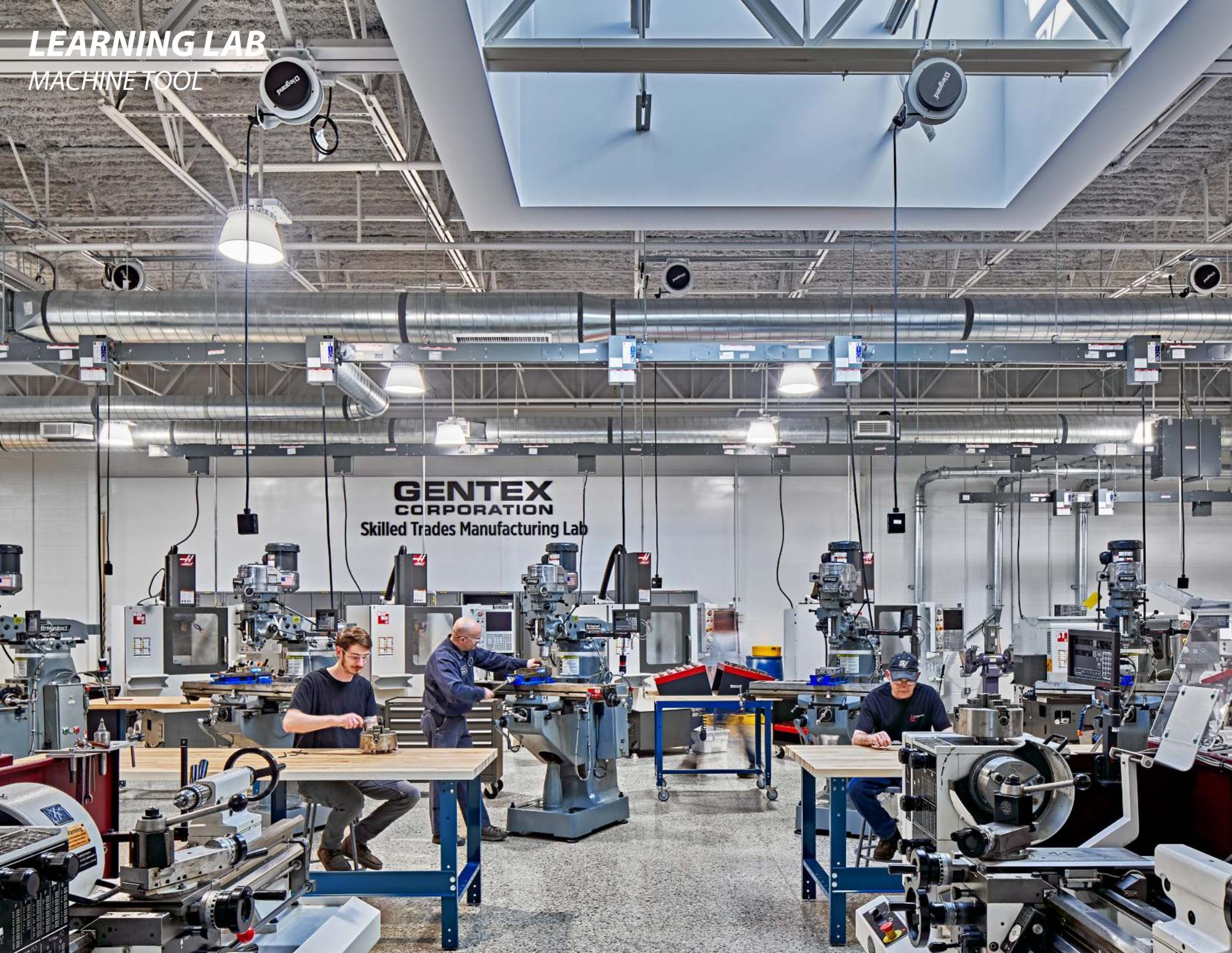




LEARNING LAB
MACHINE TOOL
WELDING



LEARNING LAB
MACHINE TOOL



GENTEX
CORPORATION
Skilled Trades Manufacturing Lab

COMMUNITY

CONNECTION



GRCC

LAKESHORE CAMPUS