Establishing a college and career preparatory high school that serves the San Diego Urban Community, the E3 Civic High School aims to provide an environment where students learn, create and excel through community partnerships and social relationships. E3 Civic High will create personalized learning partnerships for each student, both at school and in the community.
The co-location of a charter high school within a public library offers extensive opportunities for collaboration and engagement, as both organizations support a mission of lifelong learning and literacy. While the primary focus is on the education of the students, the new design will support the partnered venture between small high schools and a community-based organization. This design will demonstrate the mutual benefit of going beyond simply sharing space to sharing a common purpose.
innovation

LEGEND:
A. ENTRY
B. THE PARK
C. THE STEPS
D. i-LAB (INNOVATION)
E. TYPICAL STUDIO
F. WET LAB
G. VILLAGE COMMONS
H. FOCUS ROOM
I. PBL KITCHEN
J. DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION

ENVIRONMENT
- Formal / Informal
- Simple / Chaotic
- Clean / Coordinated

OWNERSHIP
- Student / Teacher Owned
- Community Involvement
- Personalization

ACOUSTICS + LIGHT
- Loud / Quiet
- Collaborative / Focused
- Quiet / Contained

FURNITURE
- Static / Mobile
- Consistent / Diverse Array
- Soft / Hard

TECHNOLOGY
- Tethered / Untethered
- Individual Access / Group
- Distance Learning
The design creates social-based, un-tethered, digitally transparent learning environments.
The design blurs boundaries & adjusts the scale of integration.

personalized learning spaces
The Entry Park for E3 Civic High School immediately communicates to students and visitors the open and collaborative educational focus of the school. Creating a student owned space increases the social connections, conversations and inherently the shared knowledge in the learning environment. Transparency and writable wall surfaces create an environment that will celebrate student activity.
The principles of design for E3 Civic High School centralized around three ideas; personalization, social connections and flexibility. Learning is experimental, everyone learns differently – individually or as a group. Life-long learning happens in communities that allow for unscheduled collisions; therefore, movement mattered. Finally, regardless of the primary function, secondary uses were always considered, designed and developed.
From the Entry Park the central circulation provides students with more than just a path of travel. The transparent connection between education and community is emphasized with the central steps and gallery space connecting the two floors. The way in which students actively access information today is very different from the way they were given information in the past, the Central Steps are surrounded with opportunities for display of student work, school spirit and informal gathering to support 21st century learning skills.
The shared student commons are creatively flexible spaces within each village. The Commons are inviting with movable furniture and mix of surfaces, promoting communication among students and faculty. Flexibility to adapt to changing needs has been designed into the school. The studios surrounding the commons are designed to accommodate various activities; several with sliding partitions to open into the commons and others designed as ‘quiet’ studios for focused activities such as media viewing and distance learning.