

Schools

St. Thomas More Collegiate Courtyard

2012

The addition of an arts and drama wing transformed a passive lawn area into an active courtyard for the school community to have a secure outdoor space that is used for dramatic performances, graduation ceremonies, outdoor classroom and passive activities.

The new building opens up to a raised stage with an adjacent open area for temporary seating. The sides of the courtyard were developed to have a variety of seating for study and social opportunities and outdoor classes.



location
Burnaby BC

client
St. Thomas More Collegiate

services
Schematic Design to Construction Services

budget
\$120,000

collaborators
Chris Dikeakos Architect

Schools

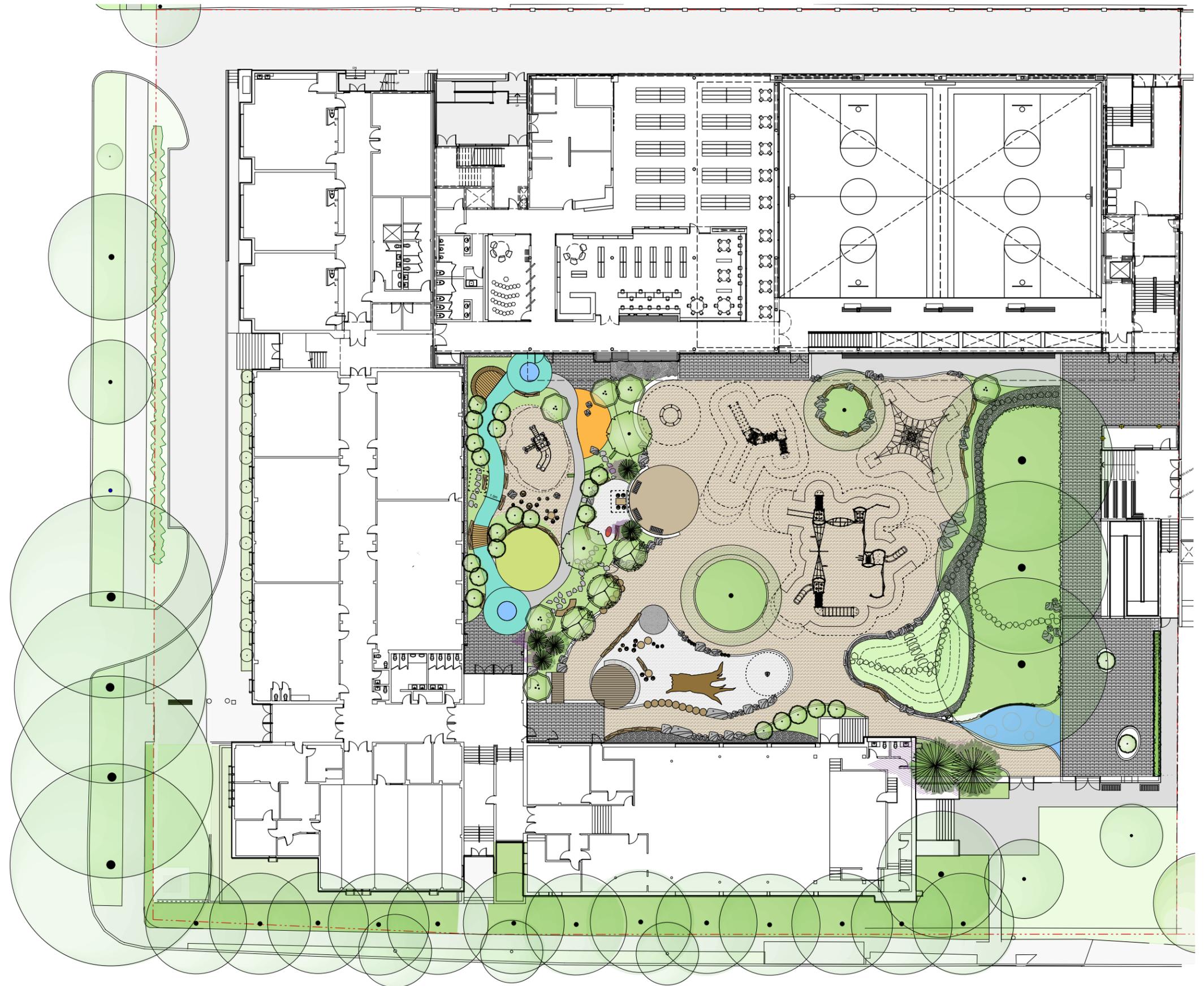
Talmuh Torah School Addition + Renovation

2016

With the addition of a new classroom and gym building the outdoor play area was redesigned to create a variety of play spaces. A central courtyard provides the largest physical play space, while the roof of the addition was developed with fenced sport courts and a play field.

The central courtyard play area integrated mature trees, natural play and topography. Logs, boulders, decking, Fibar, grass and paved surfaces break up the large space into various programmed spaces, while still providing flexibility in use.

At the north end of the courtyard a daycare and preschool play area incorporates the various play zones required for licensed child care in the City of Vancouver: physical play, fantasy zone, dramatic play, social nooks, natural zones and pathways. The landscape design focused on naturalistic and flexible spaces with little or no prescribed play elements/ programs so that every day the children can manipulate the space and re-imagine their world.



location
Vancouver BC

client
Vancouver Talmuh Torah

services
Schematic Design to Construction Services

budget
\$300,000

collaborators
Acton Ostry Architects, Amber Paul MBCSLA



Schools

Samuel Brighthouse Elementary School

2011

This is the story about how a school yard that consisted of grass and asphalt transformed into a place for exploration, wonder, whilst meeting the challenges of budget and maintenance.

The design process started with asking the elementary students to imagine and draw their new school. Their drawings and ideas expressed a desire to connect with the natural environment, have opportunities for different kinds of play, and have a series of outdoor rooms to hang out in. The design incorporates the dreams of the students and tackles the challenges of the site. The new school location required preloading and the finished elevation of the ground floor was 2m higher than the surrounding school grounds. We worked with the architect, civil engineer and environmental consultant to keep the pre load on site and use it to sculpt the land and direct water to a large detention pond. The ducks and geese have since made the pond home, and the hope is that it will attract Red Wing Blackbirds.

Grant funding made possible the community garden at the northeast corner of the school. Fostered by neighbourhood residents in the summer the garden teaches children about food production and food security.

The building is LEED Gold Certified.

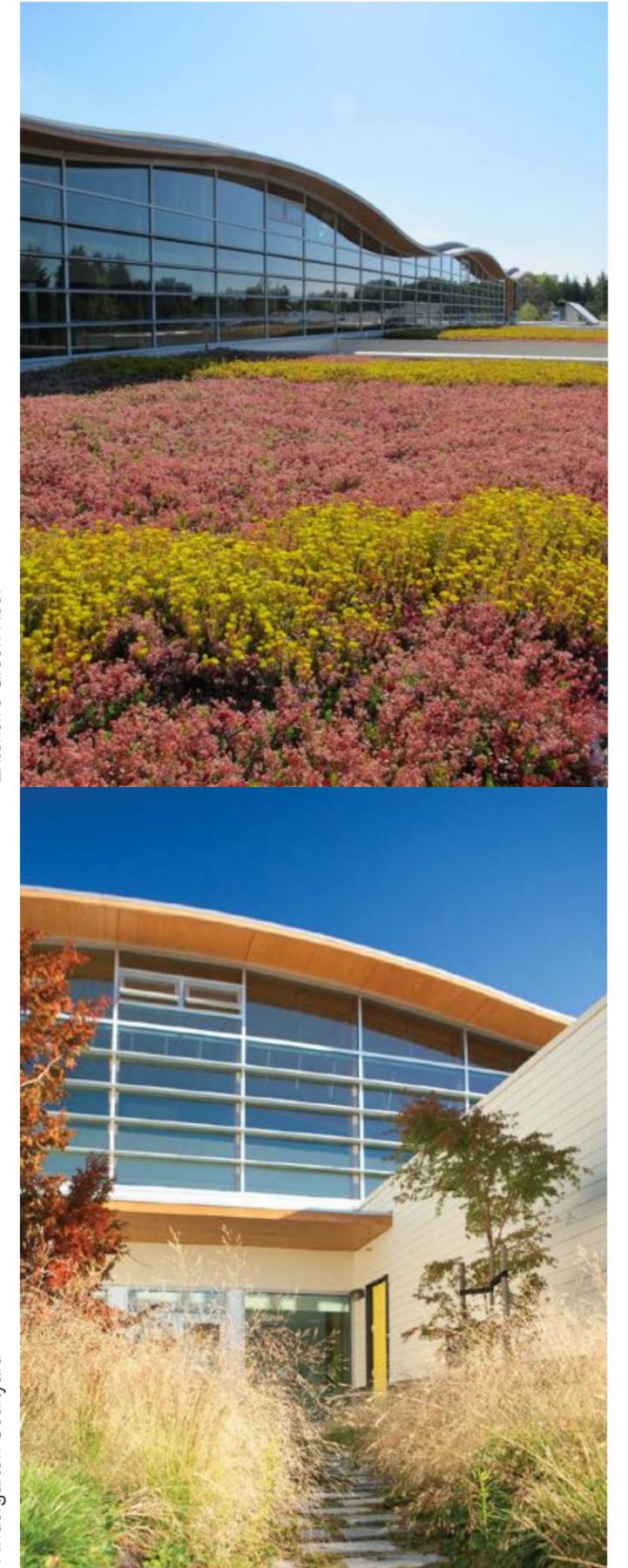
location
Richmond BC

client
School District No. 38 & City of Richmond Parks

services
Schematic Design to Construction Services

budget
\$375,000

collaborators
Busby Perkins + Will Architects, Hub Engineering,
Nick Page



Extensive Green Roof

Kindergarten Courtyard



Kindergarten Play Area