The High School Project is located at the site of the present high school in Blacksburg and replaces the existing one. Blacksburg is a rural town, and, moreover, the site is at the edge of it. The school buildings, and the nature surrounding it, both have an equal right of existence... the building as an expression of the human presence in the world, and nature as an a priori with all its intrinsic beauty in a classical sense.

With that in mind, as well as the overall intention to make a liberative space, this architecture has an active relationship with its surroundings. It provides a spatial and visual registration of natural processes and associated temporal changes. When it rains, and only then, there are three different waterfalls forming from the water that is accumulated on the roofs. There is no pump that makes it a perpetual mechanical event.

One approaches the building from the busy Patrick Henry Street at the west side of the lot. Cars circulate in one way around the perimeter of the lot. Parking is provided alongside that road creating a colorful ribbon of cars winding through the landscape. School buses circulate along the loop at the northern side. There are also special paths for bicycles and pedestrians.

Entry into the building’s sphere of influence is gradual. One progresses along various paths, leading through woods, gardens, streets, passages, courtyards, patios and stairs.

The building orientation follows two overlapping grids. One grid is of the cardinal points, while the other is of the topography and boundaries of the site.
Blacksburg, plan of buildings:
- residential, outline in black
- civic, white on black site
- site for the High School Project, solid gray

Adapted from: Dunay, Donna. Town Architecture, p.30.
Initial studies of the sight and bordering conditions. I decided to nest the building in the site instead of opposing it.
Parking for cars alongside the circular road.

Parking for bicycles on the south side of the garden with cobbled pavement.

E-W section through the sight.
Site plan with four buildings and the landscaping.
Sectional perspectives of library and classroom building.

Section A-A'

Section B-B'

Section C-C'

Section D-D'