"The business of architecture is to establish emotional relationships by means of raw materials."

-Le Corbusier
The school is divided into three main spaces: classrooms, studio, and dormitory. The programmatic idea of the studio being the center of learning, the place where living and learning intertwine, was the driving force behind this decision. The studios are situated on the more public street side of the building, while the dormitory is located on the more private side, away from the streets.

These three main spaces remain physically separate throughout the building, yet retain a visual connection. This connection is important in the learning process, particularly in a visually oriented field such as design. The location of each type of space remains consistent throughout the building, thus providing clarity to the design idea.
CLASSROOMS

basement plan
1st floor plan
2nd floor plan
3rd floor plan
4th floor plan
5th floor plan
The classrooms are designed for a variety of uses, from lecture to painting and sculpture. Each classroom contains at least two 10’ x 10’ x 10’ spaces with 2 extra feet from the structural grid and a 10’ x 10’ x 10’ inserted “cube”. Adjoining classrooms share a common ventilation wall which lies within the structural grid. The classrooms also contain at least one 10’ x 10’ fenestration wall with two rows of operable windows which, when open, can create a natural airflow.
The inserted cubes allow for various lighting conditions to occur in the classrooms. Direct lighting, side lighting, and reflected colored light are some of the conditions explored using the inserted cubes.
The separation between the classrooms and the studios is created by a system of open gridded shelves. The inspiration for these shelves comes from the boxes of the artist Joseph Cornell. The shelves form exhibition spaces for students’ work as well as curiosity cabinets to evoke the imagination, much like Cornell’s boxes, which are both playful and surreal at times.
These shelves are separated from the studios by panes of glass, thus allowing light from the studios to enter the classrooms and light from the classrooms to enter the studios. They allow a visual connection between classroom and studio, as well, mediated by the regulating grid of the shelves. This grid is continued further in the frame of the operable classroom windows.
The studios are located in the core of the building, at the intersection of the classrooms and the dormitory. The studio becomes the place where living and learning come together. This central location allows for easy accessibility to all parts of the building, as well as an important visual connection.

The studio floors are light gray polished concrete which reflects light and keeps the space brighter. Control joints in the concrete are located on the tartan gridlines to maintain a connection between the floor and the building grid.
The opening of the studios between floors allows for the penetration of natural light to all three studio levels. Glass block skylights located above the studios light the central studio area. The openings in the studio floors also allow for visual and auditory connections between students, both of which are important for learning and self-critique.
The studio stairs are metal frames with treads of inlaid glass blocks and open risers. The handrails are glass panels spanning from stair to hand-height. The glass elements further the visual connection within the studio and allow more light to reach the lower studios.
The studio space and the dormitory are separated by 10’ x 10’ glass block walls set within the concrete column grid. The glass blocks create a translucent connection allowing light from the studios to penetrate into the hallways and entries to each dorm room. It also allows for a somewhat muted visual connection between the studio and living area. Opaque walls separating the hallway and the dorm rooms allow for privacy in the dorm rooms.