## **Oak Grove High School Reinvestment**

San Jose, CA May 2019

**General Design** 



## Concept Statement

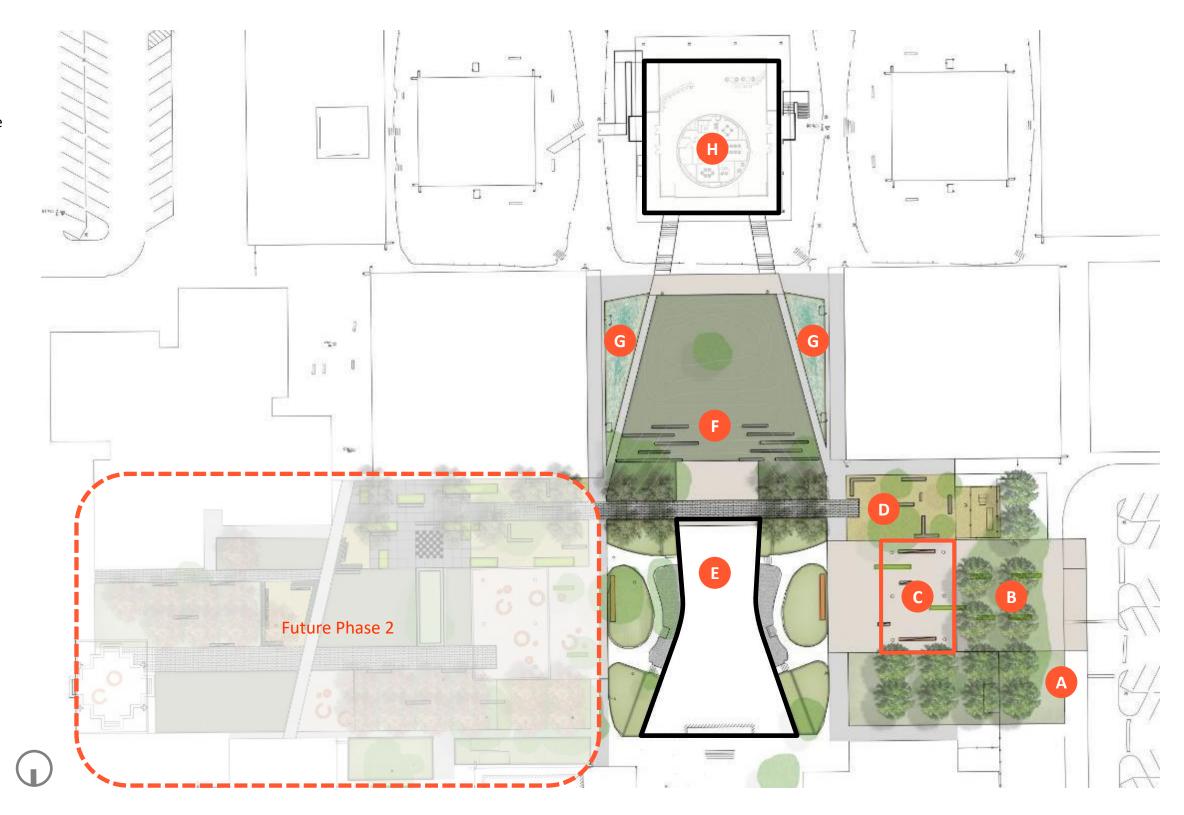
Oak Grove High School had a challenge. The site was showing its age with an outdated approach to useful outdoor space and an excessive amount of paved, impermeable area. The saving grace was the gift of existing mature shade trees. Programmatically, the students were segregating themselves into distinct areas of the campus throughout the day: between classes, at lunch and before & after school. At the same time, the campus organization was unclear. The lack of a sense of arrival, the main quad, and odd, aging architectural shade structures created underutilized outdoor spaces and a lack of intuitive campus wayfinding. The design focused on reintegrating students, creating synergy from the building modernization, and bringing new life to the existing Learning Resource Center as a central amenity for the campus. The school sought to transform the campus gateway, reducing the amount of impermeable hardscape and reinterpret the heart of the campus.

Newly developed monument signage and drop off sequence, including an arrival courtyard, learning patios, and a focused quad play off the improvements to the architecture and create distinct pathways defined by the reimagined and rehabilitated structure of the former architectural shade structures. With the existing mature trees, the shade structure was unnecessary, and cluttered the site. To add insult to injury they would have cost more to completely remove, so they were reimagined as a campus folly that coupled with new planting, contribute to reduced pavement and define a new space for student social interaction.

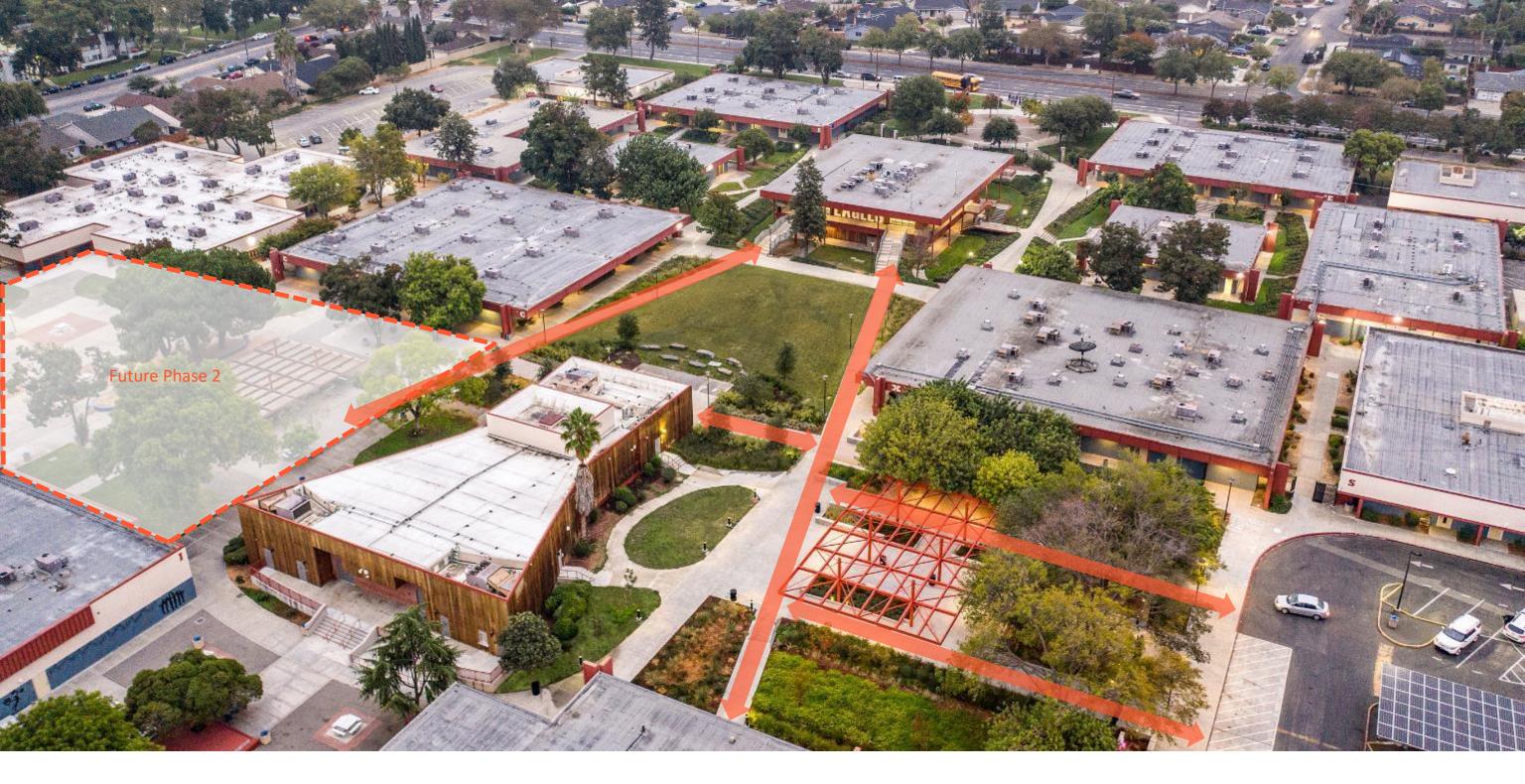
The renovated buildings along with programmed and sequenced exterior spaces all achieve the goal of social activation and integration. The new site developments focused on water-wise plantings and built-in seating, signaling a new attitude for campus and the sites role as an amenity for the students to interact, collaborate, study and simply hang-out.



- A monument signage
- B arrival | existing tree grove
- rehabilitated structure + social space
- existing tree grove | learning patio
- existing performing arts complex
- **F** amphitheater lawn
- G stormwater treatment basin
- H renovated learning resource center









Principal to the design was an improved campus wayfinding system and internal pedestrian connectivity that would promote student collaboration.





The reimagined arrival sequence with new campus signage creates a revitalized landscape and student experience.



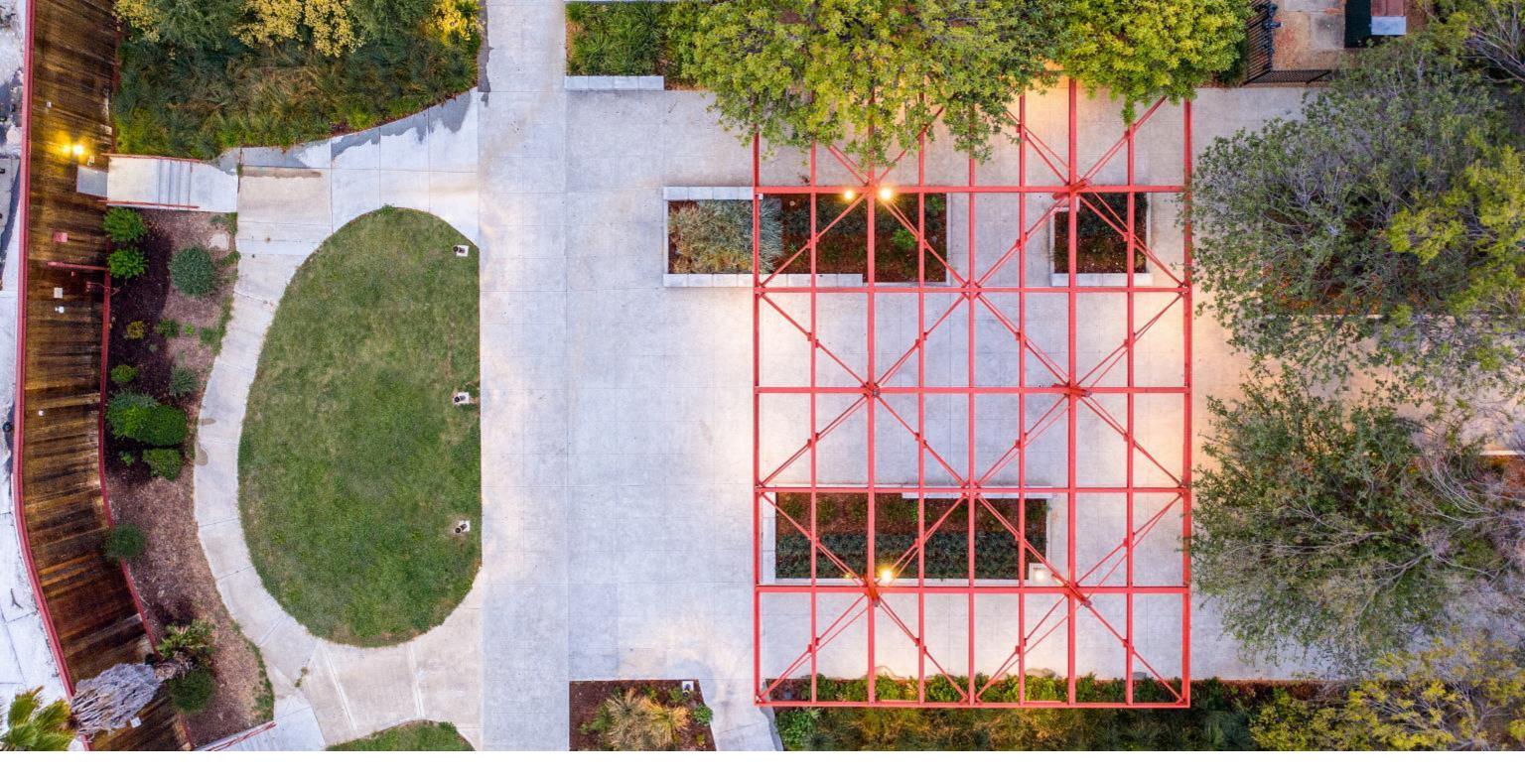


The existing shade structure was in disrepair and created a dark space that felt too enclosed, combined with the extensive hardscape, this produced a sterile space sparingly used.



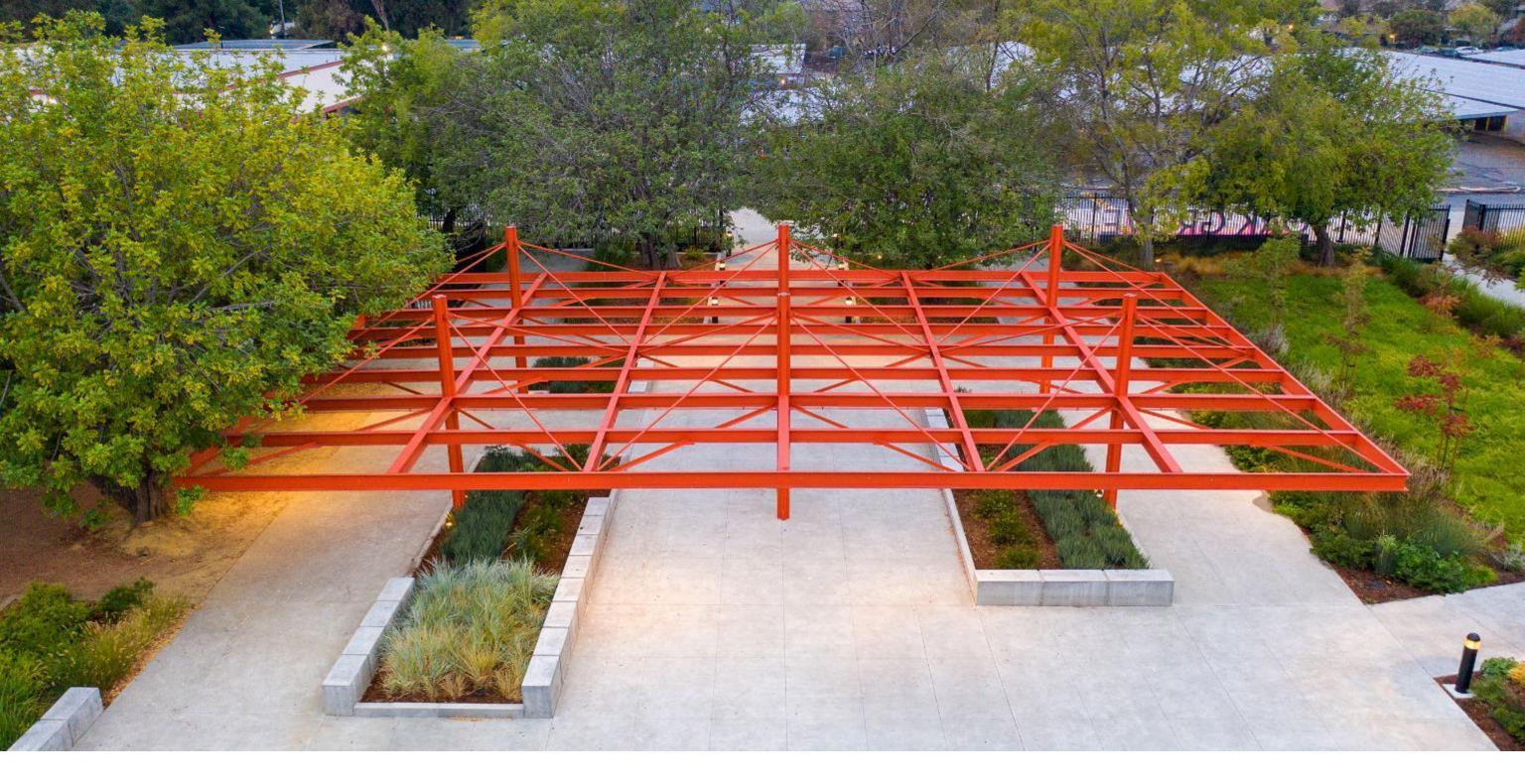


Striped to its structural skeleton and painted to create an iconic folly in the landscape, the existing structure creates a striking new campus icon.





The restrained design approach allows the existing tree canopy to reclaim its campus presence and the repurposed structure provides a weightless 'ceiling' for the outdoor room.





Site permeability was increased through the selective addition of planters which also help to carve out new student spaces for socializing.





Pre-improvements, the underutilized turf quad lacked seating or amenities, preventing the space from being used regularly by students.





Embellished with stone seating for student gathering, the quad is flanked by stormwater treatment basins and new pathways linking student amenities across the campus.





The transformative design leveraged historic campus structures and inserted new circulation oriented around cultivating community engagement and student integration.