U010.01

The Following Information Should be Completed Here:

Project Total Square Footage:
5,500 SF conditioned; 6,320 SF under roof

Cost per Square Foot:
$206/SF

Construction Cost:
$1.3 million (estimated)

Anticipated Substantial Completion: **September 2018**

Location of Project:
Cantonment, FL

Type: Unbuilt

After the previous building had to be demolished, a new facility for interactive environmental science education is slated for construction on the same site. Located on a rural 300-acre parcel, the program has taught elementary level science classes for nearly 50 years. Programs focus on teaching students about different local habitats and wildlife.

The typology of the barn served as the design inspiration for the building. The new structure is approximately 5,550 conditioned GSF with an 750 GSF outdoor courtyard that serves as the entry and outdoor learning space for the new building. The courtyard creates a sense of arrival and anticipation before entering the building. A 500 SF patio at the rear of the building provides space for the outdoor beach habitat lesson, or room for future enclosure and expansion.

The “H” plan for the building creates efficient circulation, as necessitated by budget constraints. The centralized location of the multipurpose room allows for the ceiling height needed for the future STARlab inflatable, while the location of the bird classroom on the west end creates adjacency with the existing “bird bus.”

Currently serving 7,000 students annually, the new facility will further the goal of expanding the program and integrating it with a 21st century learning environment. Anticipated completion date for the project is Fall 2018.

U010.02

N

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH

The building is situated on a 300 acre, mostly wooded parcel. The program has been at this location since 1980 and houses a number of other facilities on-site, including cabins and stand-alone office and bathroom spaces. Access is via a residential neighborhood to the west.

U010.03

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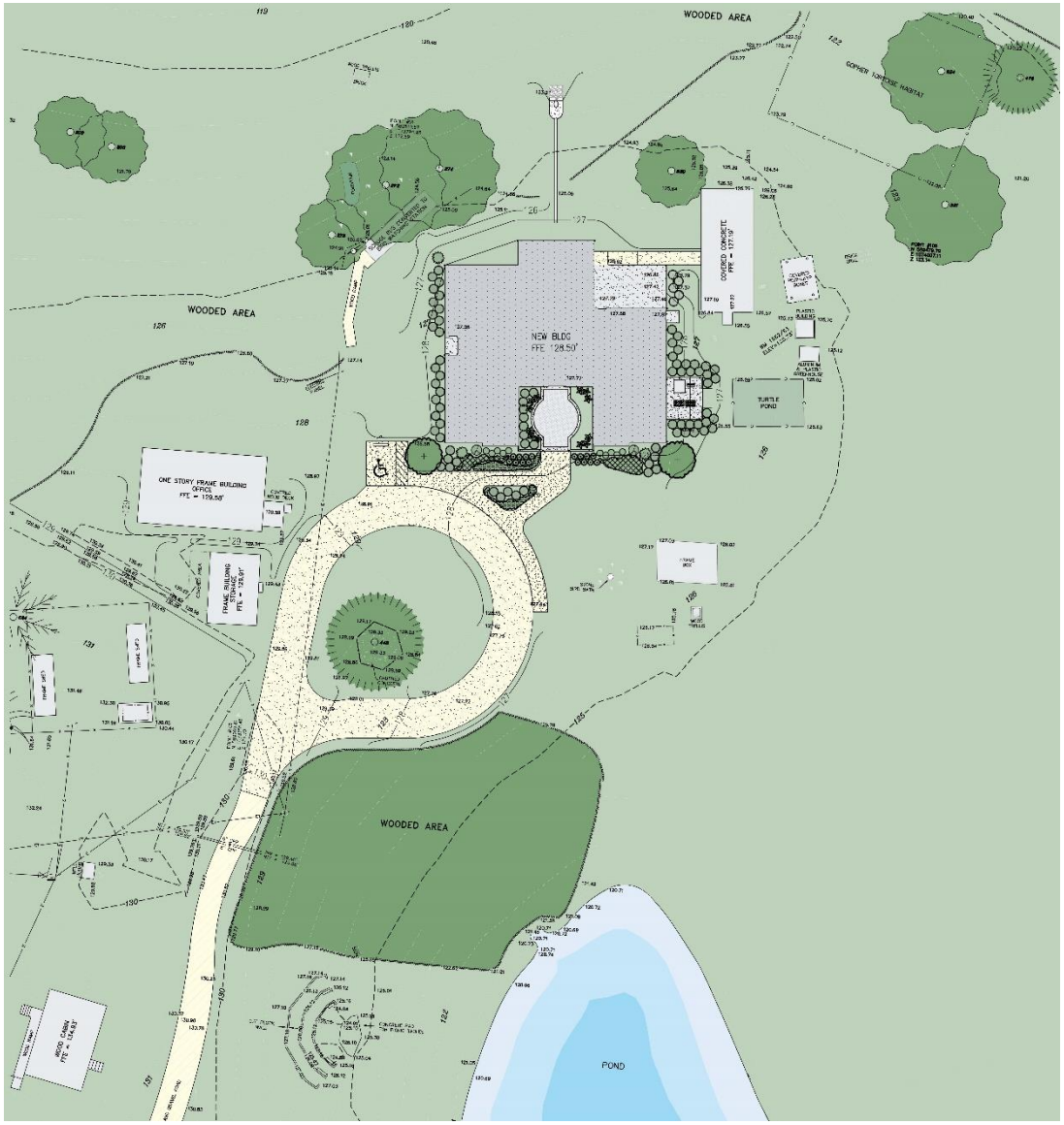
SITE PLAN
SCALE 1”=30’

The new facility will be situated in roughly the same location as the old. The building was sited to create adjacencies between the existing outdoor education pavilion to the east and the bird bus to the west. South-facing classrooms will have a view of the pond.



U010.04

The program had outgrown the old facility (above), which was in poor condition and has already been demolished. Classes continued during the 2016 school year in the outdoor education pavilion, seen below with the building pad ready for new construction.

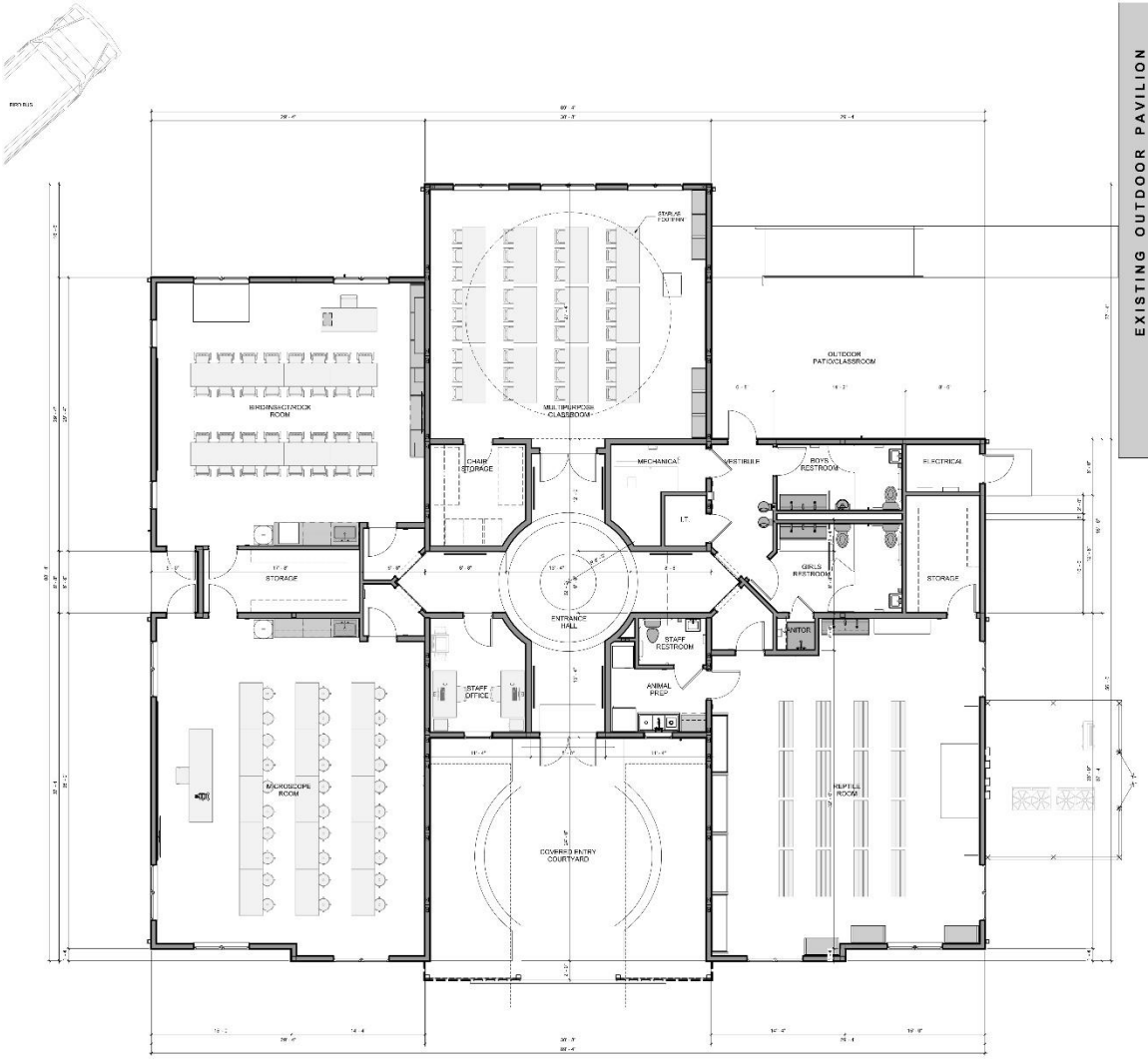
U010.05

N

FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/32”=1’-0”

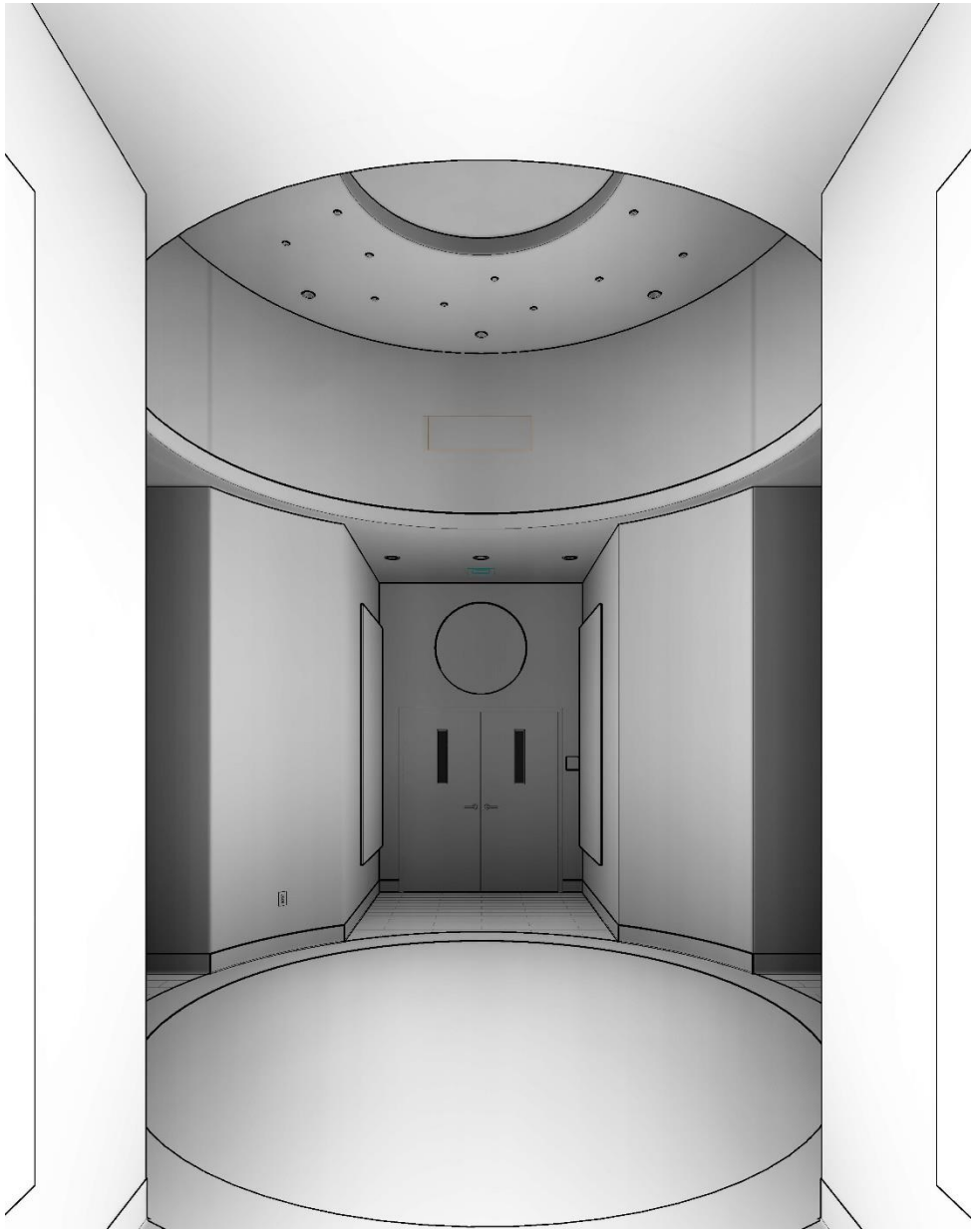
Efficiency was an important consideration in the schematic design phase due to a limited construction budget. A central entry limits corridor length and creates a gathering space for students as they arrive.

Four classrooms are themed for different lessons: microscope, reptile, bird/insect, and a multi-purpose room that will also be used for lectures to the general public. Secondary spaces, including a teacher office and animal food prep area, help delineate the rotunda area.



U010.06

The program currently hosts one to two classes of local students per day on a field trip. The entry rotunda will serve as a gathering and orientation space upon their arrival. The floor will contain a custom cut LVT inlay with the program logo, while the upper volume of the rotunda will be painted the resemble the night sky, with a view of earth as seen from space.



U010.07

The program's most popular lesson teaches children about reptiles. The new facility will house nearly two dozen reptiles, including an iguana (above) and several species of snakes and lizards.

Many of the animals are injured and would not survive independently in the wild. The reptile lesson allows children to hold and touch several of the animals, resulting in a classroom designed for interactive learning.

U010.08

The typology of the barn was the conceptual inspiration for the building. The pitch of the roof and subtle changes in depth help scale the massing of the façade.

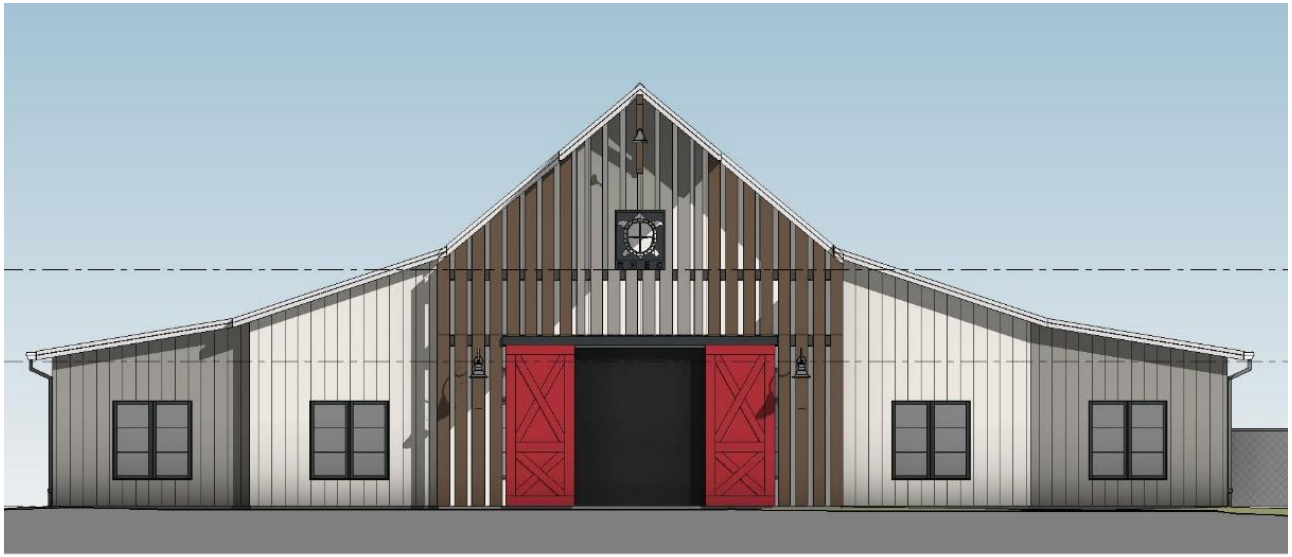
The two classrooms on the west side of the building, shown above, have direct exits to the exterior. This allows for direct access to the nearby “bird bus,” shown below, a converted school bus used for viewing wildlife in their natural habitat.

U010.09

FRONT (SOUTH) ELEVATION AND REAR (NORTH) ELEVATION

The STARlab inflatable,14’-0” tall, and which will teach students about astronomy in the future, forced a high plate height of 18’-0” for the central volume.

A stained wood screen wall at the entry will provide semi-privacy with some transparency for ventilation into the partially-roofed courtyard. The remainder of the building will be clad in metal panels.



U010.10

VIEW FROM POND

Currently serving 7,000 students annually, the new facility will further the goal of expanding the program and integrating it with a 21st century learning environment. Anticipated completion date for the project is Fall 2018.