What does the future of learning look like?

People are learning in new and evolving ways throughout the world—and as such—education and the design of the ‘school’ is radically changing. CRDE is a building that reflects the way we live, work, and learn: knowledge is a dynamic, ever-evolving environment.

How does a flexible environment foster this interconnectedness and an unknown future?

We believe traditional correspondence between a classroom, an academic subject, and a strict time schedule is obsolete. The flexible framework of learning environments is no longer sufficient for knowledge transfer. CRDE, however, is an informed arrangement of selected, meaningful learning volumes designed for an abundance of spatial variety: narrow, open, and in between spaces that can be used by students, staff, and the public alike, or in ever-changing manners. A 24-hour learning time will allow freedom of location and timing for students, teachers, and the public. The concept is based on the idea that learning is a process of discovery.

A SCHOOL IS NOT A BUILDING

The new CRDE building is an extension of the network of cultural resources that help define downtown Chicago.

PROGRAMMATIC ITINERARIES THROUGH THE BUILDING

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS
CAF & CBUB HEADQUARTERS
DESIGN & ALLIED ARTS

POROUS LEARNING HIVE:

A matrix of modular, flexible classrooms surrounds a variety of purpose-built rooms that serve as hot-spots or programmatic activities, distributed throughout the building.

SCULPTURAL SECTION

A student gallery that links to this from large open community spaces to smaller, more focused learning spaces, allows for maximum diversity.

RATIONAL, MODULAR PLAN

Each floor plate has a different spatial character, from open to closed and enclosed spaces.

URBAN GROUNDS:

At its primary interaction between CRDE and downtown Chicago, the new building’s mass has a relationship and setting, offering a strong public face that reflects its building context.