PARENTS CALL FOR TEACHERS TO BE JAILED FOR LOW TEST SCORES
How can architecture contribute to education issues in Detroit?
Detroit is located on the North-East side of the United States of America

Map of United States of America

Source: goelogy.com (2012)
Detroit is the largest city in the U.S. State Michigan

Map of Detroit with specifications

The city is mainly covered by empty lots...

Source: Own picture (2011)
Dilapidated constructions...

Source: Own picture (2011)
Unattended streets...

And abandoned factories

Source: Own picture (2012)
Slowly, Detroit when from this areal view...

View from Detroit in 1949

Source: http://www.newgeography.com/content/001171-detroit-urban-laboratory-and-new-american-frontier
To this view...

View from Detroit 9 years ago

Source: http://www.newgeography.com/content/001171-detroit-urban-laboratory-and-new-american-frontier
And nature takes over

Source: Own picture (2012)
Empty plots create space for new initiatives

Gathering around urban farms

Source: Movie *Growth in Detroit* (2010)
By the 1960’s the population started to drop dramatically

Detroit’s population statistics

Source: U.S Bureau of Census (2011)
In Detroit, Henry Ford develops the Model T...
...And succeeds in turning his invention into a rapid production process.

Source: Can Our Cities Survive? J.L. Sert (1942)
This attracts workers from all over the country to move to Detroit

Picture from 1914

Source: http://www.shadetreemechanic.com
The city of Detroit makes great investments as for example in the infrastructure

Map of 2607 miles of streets in Detroit (end to end: distance from Detroit to San Francisco) in 1940

Source: Can Our Cities Survive? J.L. Sert (1942)
A 1925 survey of school rated the Detroit schools first in the nation

By 1929 the Great Depression hit the United States including Detroit.
The first budget cut were on the public school system

Inhabitants move out of the city into the suburbs...

Massive sub urbanization
Towards a better quality of life

American dream
Slowly money (tax revenues) flows out of the city of Detroit.
From 145 schools in Detroit to 74 schools.

Current view of the schools in Detroit

Source: http://www.greatschools.org
Population composition match perfectly Detroit’s city’borders
Map of segregated communities (majority of African-Americans)

Education left Detroit, no future for its inhabitants...

Source: http://www.vice.com/read/schools-out-forever
What is a possible future for Detroit’s urban school system?

Source: http://www.vice.com/read/schools-out-forever-625-v16n2
From the dutch school design expert:

“A school is a model of the city”

Herman Hertzberger

The site location for the school is in the North of Downtown Detroit

Map of Downtown Detroit
The location is currently the biggest vacant area of Downtown Detroit

Bird’s view

Source: Google.maps (2011)
Several lots are vacant and only use as parking space.
The plots form a super-plot
Urban Plan: Step 0
Step 1: Plot is appropriated by nature
Step 2: Determination of land use for the school
Step 3: Split up the program of requirements for the school in different parts
Step 4: Organization of the program along to routes
Step 5: The routes are connected to each other in order to create continuity
Architecture as platform for relationship between man and nature

Plan total school
Urban plan organization
Entrance building make child aware of new environment
Entrance building is a gate to the open-air school
Park en water
Plaatje paviljoen in groen
Class room pavilions provides attractive learning space for children

Plan of class room pavilion
Outer steel structure
Wind braces
Inner wood structure
Facility areas
Outer glass facade (clothes)
Completed pavilion with interior
The architectural language provides room for appropriation

Tree dimensional section
In the winter
The pavilions are covered with a layer of insulation
In the summer
The pavilion opens up
As well as the roof
OPEN-AIR SCHOOL

Transparatie towards the environment
The sport building forms the closure of the school area
### School systems in Detroit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private Schools</th>
<th>Charter Schools</th>
<th>Public Schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Do not receive tax revenues</td>
<td>- Do receive public money and private donations</td>
<td>- Do receive public money</td>
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<td>- Do not have to follow the regulations and bureaucracy that governs Public Schools</td>
<td>- Do not have to follow the rules, regulations and statutes that applies to Public Schools</td>
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<td>- Can be highly specialized</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Not allowed to charge tuition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Often lottery-based admission</td>
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**Residential Schools**
- Determined by the home address

**Magnet Schools / Examination High School**
- Examination required to enroll
Design is about understanding the “raison d’être” of a design

Source: P. Hekkert; M. van Dijk *Vision in Design* (2011)