

The Challenge



Could this structure be redeemed without erasing its past?
Could design act as a form of healing—acknowledging history while
creating a new civic purpose rooted in learning, inclusivity, and
connection?

The Design Response

The Roundhouse

A community hub and school set within a vibrant public landscape.

Transformed: Shared Ground For All





Before

THE ROUNDHOUSE, ONCE DEFINED BY SEPARATION, NOW OPENS ITS DOORS AS A VIBRANT HUB OF UNITY. NO LONGER A BARRIER, BUT A **SHARED GROUND FOR ALL**



Our Vision



Before



Our Vision



Before



Our Vision



A School at the Core



Our Vision



Our Vision



Our Vision



Our Vision

Reflection

Embracing the City

The Roundhouse, once synonymous with exclusion, now has the potential to stand as one of Philadelphia's most inclusive spaces. Its iconic concrete curves remain, but their symbolism is reborn. No longer a hard ring encircling authority, they open outward as an architectural embrace that gathers the city in.

This is the profound power of reimagining: to transform a building burdened by history into a vessel of hope. Within its walls, the past is remembered with honesty, the present is celebrated with vibrancy, and the future is built together, layer by layer, story by story, community by community.

The Roundhouse becomes not just architecture, but an act of renewal, an enduring testament to the city's ability to reshape its legacy into belonging.



PARALLEL
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