

Design Inspired by Nature

Irina M. Papuc

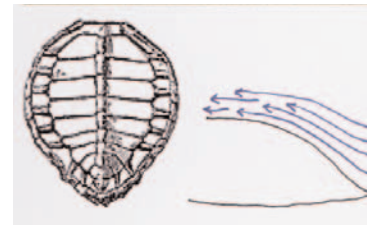
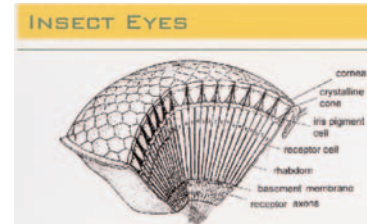
Age: 19
Woodstock High School,
Woodstock, IL

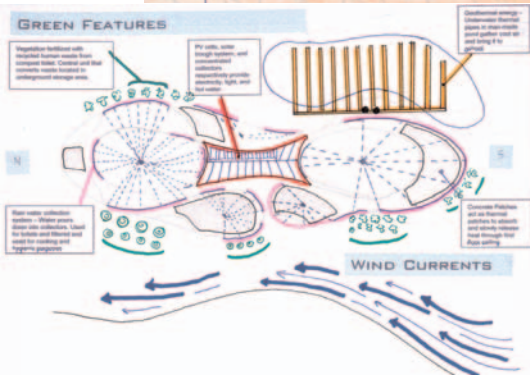
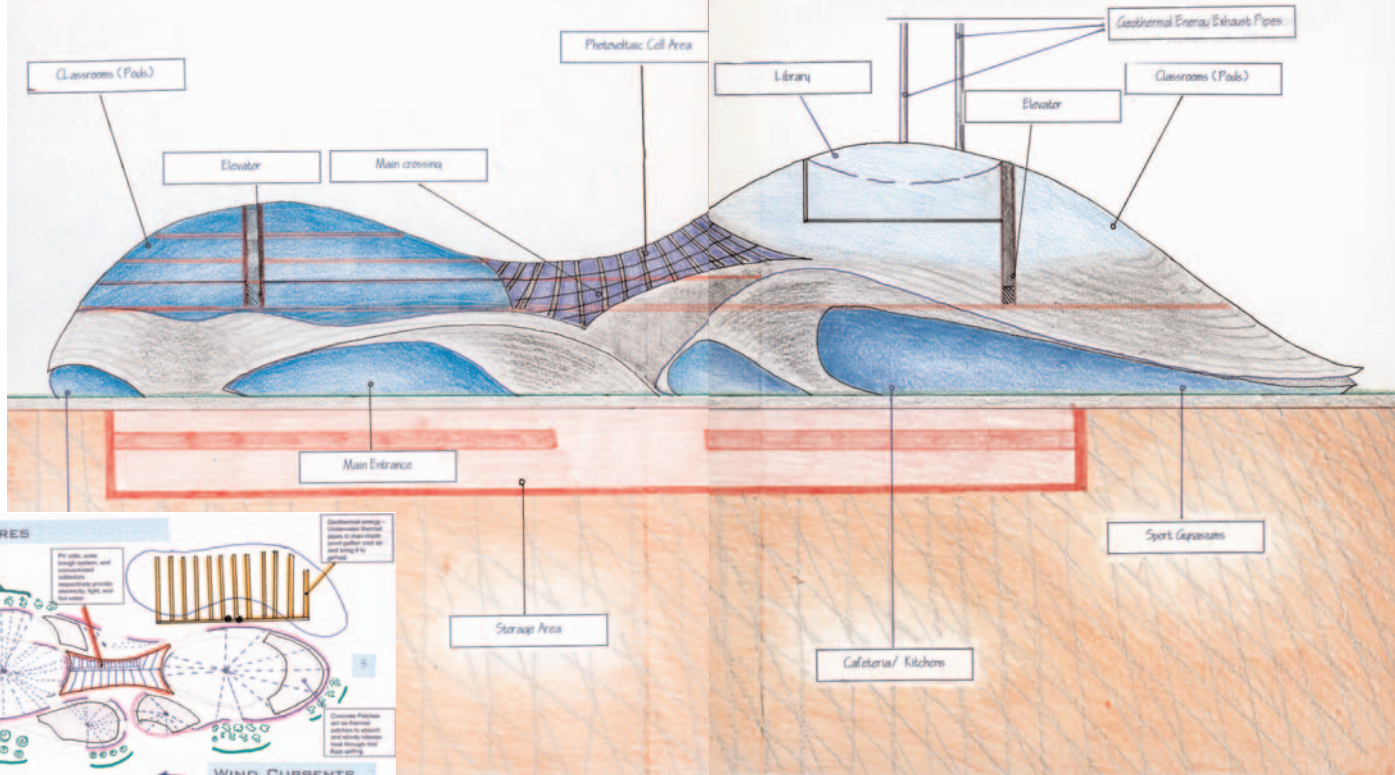
Jury comment:

“Irina’s analysis of natural phenomena and the translation of these concepts into a thoroughly contemporary structure are remarkable and timely. The attention to detail and the implications for how we understand school buildings are to be applauded.”

Irina Papuc’s project is a complex and detailed study of an imagined building that contains a variety of learning spaces that can morph in function as needed by students and teachers. The organic shape of the building, its organization, and systems are all inspired by structures found in nature, including a turtle shell, honeycomb, insect eyes, and the biological structure of a leaf. The building’s function and systems have also helped determine its

shape, and particular attention is paid to wind currents, solar orientation, and other aspects of green design. As Irina says in her description of the building, “learning is about growing, and this flexibility of design allows the school to grow.”





“ An insect’s eye, turtle shell, and honeycomb were studied... the honeycomb structure is a very efficient and compact design solution for classroom areas. ”

-Irina M. Papuc