Canadian Valley Technology Center – El Reno Campus
El Reno, OK

On May 31, 2013, the lights went dark at Canadian Valley Technology Center. The largest tornado ever recorded, with 295 mph winds and a width of 2.6 miles, damaged or destroyed all nine buildings on campus.

After securing a temporary facility to continue classes, an all-inclusive design process began with administrators, students, instructors, and the community. The biggest challenge was designing over 50% of the new space within an existing structure.

From computer programming, to auto collision, to cosmetology, every space was designed to provide an open and inviting environment that met the requirements of its program while maintaining the ability to grow and develop with the varied industries.

MA+ designed the new facility around the existing commons and all corridors radiated from there. A learning stair, outdoor amphitheater, outdoor classrooms, and flexible seating, accomplished the goal for collaborative learning throughout.

Large windows allow natural light deep into the building while new storm shelters, capable of holding over 1,300 people, also double as corridors and shared learning spaces.

The final product is a flexible and collaborative 21st-century Technology Center where learning can happen anywhere. An instructor summed it up the best saying, “This new campus feels like home; it’s like we never left.”