

Hawken School—Upper School and Academic Buildings

Gates Mills, OH



Project in Progress

Entire school/campus building

Westlake Reed Leskosky

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DESIGN TEAM

Westlake Reed Leskosky, Architecture; and MEPS
 Engineering
 Groundview, Landscape Architect

OWNER/CLIENT

Hawken School
 Gates Mills, OH
 D. Scott Looney, Head of School
 440/423-4446

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9–12
 Capacity: 448
 Size of Site: 325 acres
 Building Area: 85,000 sq. ft.
 Completion Date: Fall 2016 (anticipated)

RENDERINGS: WESTLAKE REED LESKOSKY

Our proposal for the expansion and renovation of a private school sited on a former agrarian estate in Northeastern Ohio strives to maintain a contextually rich relationship to its history while giving expression to a highly progressive educational vision. Inspired by the site, we posed the question of what it means to define an artisanal education, using an agrarian sensibility, while discovering historically underutilized landscapes.

This line of thinking pushed us to consider the educational mission and the site in three main categories: Making, Sharing and Inquiry. We organized each of the learning types against varying landscapes; Making (science and fabrication labs) would be oriented to the woods and creek; Sharing (auditoria and social spaces) enjoying long views of the meadow; and

Inquiry (classrooms and offices) oriented to a new orchard.

We drew formal inspiration from the historic barns on the estate, which burned in 1977. These structures set a precedent of developing an exterior shell independent from interior programmatic relationships in our effort to design a building free from the tyranny of corridors.

