The PINE School: The Paradise Integrated Natural Education School
700 Billie Rd. Paradise, CA

This charter school, dedicated specifically to K-5, is located at a "neighborhood center" of the community. Paradise is surrounded by extensive fire retardant land, and the project's design seeks to incorporate this land as part of the school's living landscape. The site is nestled into the natural land, surrounding Paradise. It has roughly 30,000 square feet of outdoor space and around 15,000 square feet of usable classroom and recreational space, for a total of 45,000 square feet plus walking/biking pathways and public space. The school is designed with inter-grade interaction in mind, and tries to minimize the number of trees that would have to be removed for the project. The design incorporates an educational green roof, integrated gardens, and a natural landscape to encourage exploration and thought.

The front entrance looks out onto the redesigned Billie Road between Paradise. This building design keeps the towering pine trees that blanket the area and provides a new chance to help create things that make Paradise a great place to live.

Project Goals:
1. Connect with the environment on multiple, integrated levels.
2. Provide a safe, welcoming neighborhood center for education and community.
3. Design a school that helps to heal the community, both physically and emotionally.
4. Enhance green space for environmental education. The school incorporates an educational green roof, integrated gardens, and a natural landscape to encourage exploration and thought.
5. Provide an experiential form of education that is specific to Paradise and is modeled to help the children of the town feel comfortable in their new home.
6. Envision a space that works to give back to the community and inspire it to move forward in its own unique way.
7. Work to heal the scar of Paradise by encouraging a sense of community, both physically and emotionally.

This charter school, dedicated specifically to K-5, is located in a "neighborhood center" of the still existing and desired town of Paradise. This building helps to heal the soul and mind, as well as inspire hope of a new, beautiful Paradise that serves as a model for other towns affected by disasters.