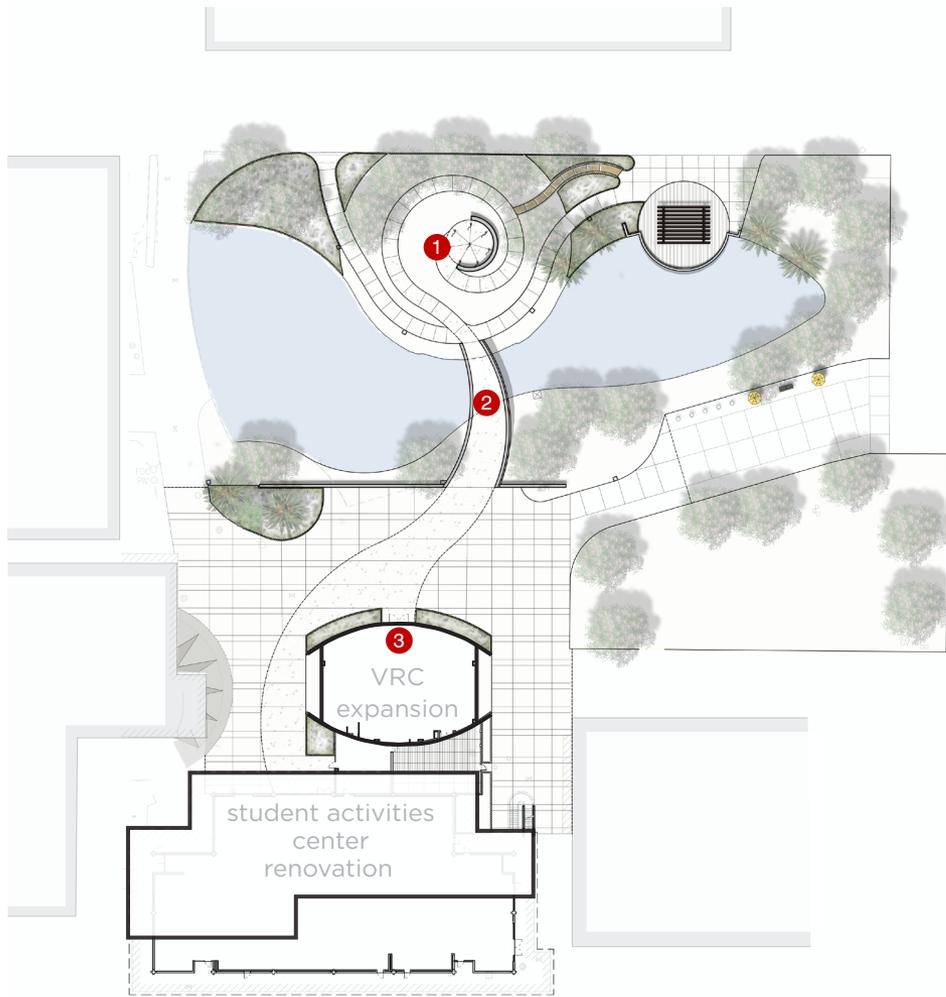




**Veterans Resource Center, Memorial & Student Activities Center**  
Cypress College  
North Orange County Community College District



past  
honor  
history  
sacrifice

1

garden  
renovation

present  
pause  
reflection  
spiritual

2

bridge  
expansion

plaza

future  
lead  
educate  
serve

3

VRC building  
expansion



quad before



quad after

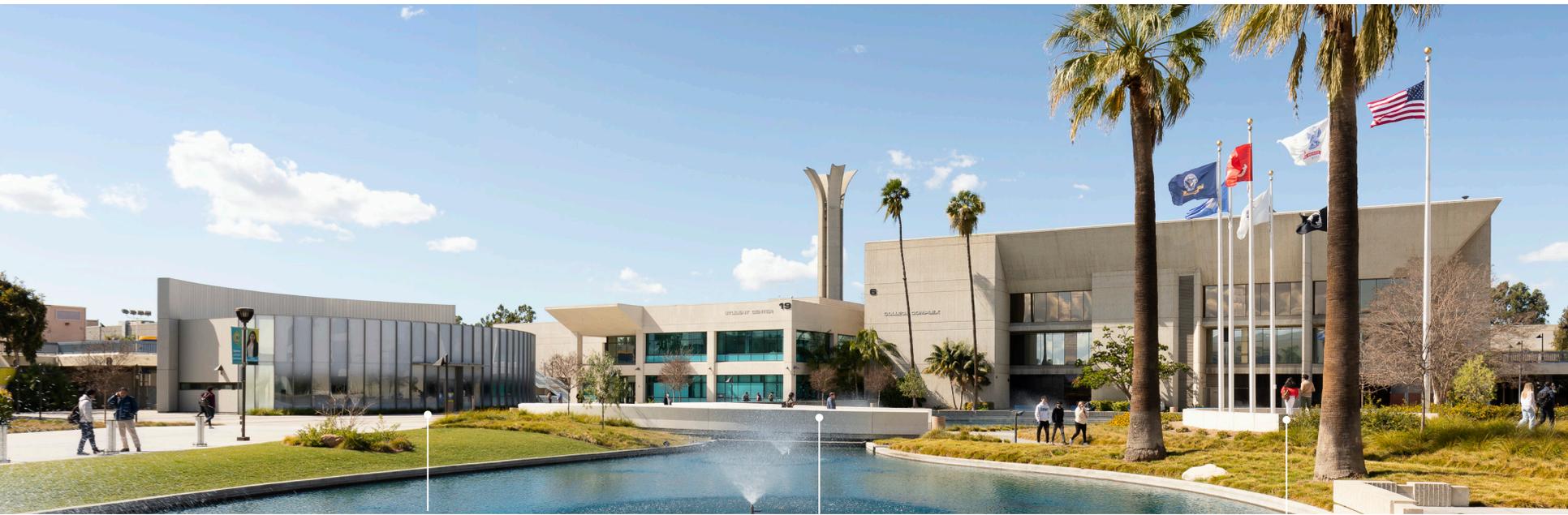


# SITE

The project scope includes a major landscape re-development, renovation of an existing building, and expansion. The re-imagined destination for the Student Activities Center (SAC) and Veterans Resource Center (VRC) consolidates student organizations, support programs, recreation and a Veterans Memorial into a unified complex of cultural and academic significance.



The project addressed the unique program needs and acknowledged the existing site conditions of building structure, major campus utilities, and landscape. Cypress College's rich architectural heritage of late 1960's brutalism and modernist style informed the design response by embracing the human scale and history of the campus, while looking forward with fresh ideas.

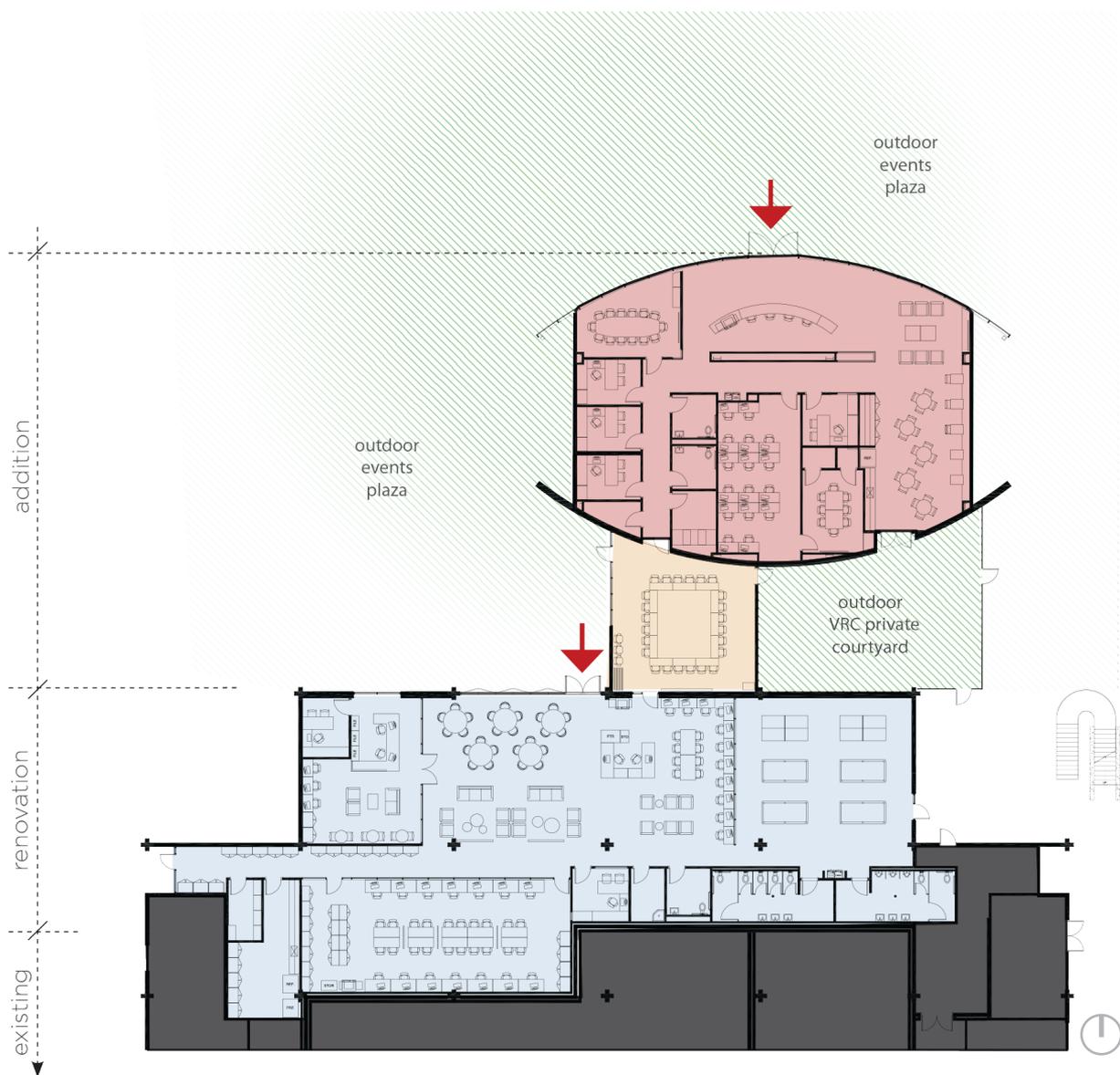


VRC & Plaza

memorial bridge

memorial garden

# CONTEXT



- veterans resource center
- shared meeting room
- student activities center
- existing building
- ▨ outdoor plaza & event space

The SAC renovation focused on connectivity, visibility, infrastructure upgrades and a visually welcoming environment to provide a relevant destination for student life. The VRC provides critical services to help transition our student veterans back to civilian life through higher education resources. The meeting room between the VRC and SAC joins the old and the new, and not only structurally perform as a bridge, but programmatically serves as a shared space used by both constituents – a true symbol for community building.



# FLOOR PLAN



## REFLECTION BRIDGE

The project's comprehensive renovation and transformative scope of work introduced a physical connection over the existing pond in the quad, while providing an opportunity to pause and reflect along the seat wall. The curved form of the bridge, integrated with the pathway to both the VRC and Tribute Garden, symbolized the journey home and hopeful future for student veterans.



## ARRIVAL LOBBY

The entry to the Veterans Resource Center is designed to be welcoming, and once inside, a secure and safe space. The transparency of the entry invites all veterans and the community, while at the same time giving veteran students a place to call their own as a vital part of campus life.

before



after



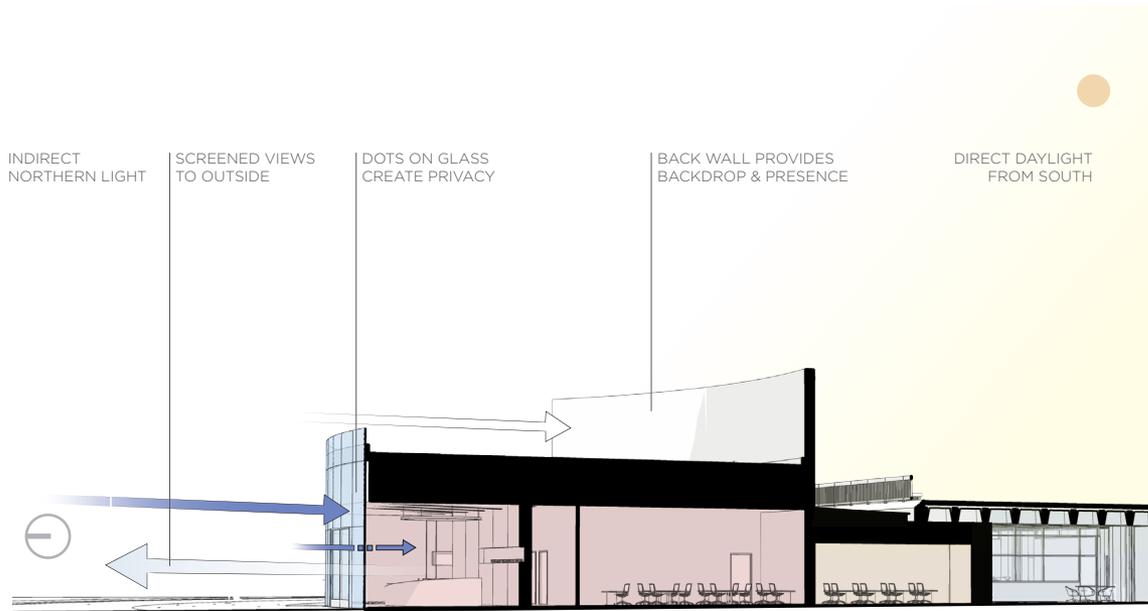
after



before

The SAC re-energized the student life hub to connect and gather in casual and amenity-rich settings to build community. The renovation focused on an extroverted attitude to provide openness, transparency and connected spaces to encourage student interaction, engagement and a sense of togetherness.

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER RENOVATION



Program spaces are arranged with intentional separation and privacy while achieving an overall cohesiveness. The SAC's broader outreach to the campus community provides a wider spectrum of engagement and social spaces. For the VRC, landscape buffers, walls and a custom glass frit pattern create a private and sensitive atmosphere as a safe space for student veterans.

## VISIBILITY & PRESENCE



This holistic project celebrates student life, recreation, basic needs support programs and honoring our veteran's military service. All voices were heard and consensus was built through a collaborative process that informed priorities in establishing the guiding principle for the project: an iconic destination for the community and transformative experience supporting student success.





## VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

The project was inclusive from day one. More importantly, students, especially veterans, were at the center of the process. The services offered and facility bring the convergence of academics and student life. The SAC provides opportunities for students to connect and gather in casual and amenity-rich settings to build community, while the VRC's mission was complementary in creating a home for our veterans.