VISION: "Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children." The vision of Brown Elementary, a Native American Magnet School, is to create an outdoor learning environment that provides safety, variety and comfort while encouraging a sense of community pride.

CURRICULUM STANDARDS: SCIENCE
Students know and understand the processes and interactions of the Earth's systems and the structure and dynamics of the Earth and other objects in space.

DESIGN RESPONSE:
Below garden - fossils and rocks; Earth garden - plants and soils
Above garden/ Shaded Structure - water harvesting, sunlight

Elementary school grounds are non-places, neither natural nor urban, neither child-centered nor adult-oriented, neither focused on education nor play. They are unfit for human habitation. The goal of this one semester design studio is to reinvent the playground as a common ground that mutually respects its aesthetics, maintenance, safety, recreation and education. Inventiveness and the exploration of non-traditional design elements are a vital part of the studio, using a previously developed master plan as a catalyst.

GOALS:
1. Improve the safety in and around school gardens.
2. Improve the quality and diversity of school gathering and supervisory opportunities.
3. Create an outdoor learning experience that complements the classroom curriculum.
4. Explore Native American culture and its symbiotic relationship with nature.

*Those who know how to play can usually leap over the adversities of life. And one who knows how to sing and laugh never becomes a misfit.~Willa Cather, Ignace*

*"You have noticed that everything an Indian does is in little circles, and that is because the World is round. Always work in circles and everything will go right."
* ~Black Elk, Oglala Lakota*

*"From the time the Indian first set foot upon this continent, he centered his life in the natural world. To him the surface of place is paramount. Only in reference to the earth can he persist in his identity."
* ~N. Scott Momaday, Kiowas*

*"Since the Great Spirit caused everything to be in fours, mankind should do everything possible in fours."
* ~Tyon, Oglala Lakota*

*Whoever controls the education of our children controls our future.
~Wilma Mankiller, Cherokee*

"The white man believes that everything an Indian does is in little circles, and that is because the world is round. Always work in circles and everything will go right."
~Black Elk, Oglala Lakota*