



# Still Modern: Where Learning Lives

## Design Principles for Thriving Schools

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- The book is explicitly designed for anyone involved in shaping learning environments—classroom teachers rearranging furniture, administrators planning renovations, school boards commissioning new buildings, and architects interested in designing for learning
- **Still Modern: Where Learning Lives** offers architects, educators, and administrators a practical framework for designing schools where students and teachers thrive
- Drawing on Perkins&Will's 90-year legacy and the enduring lessons of Crow Island, the book translates research on physical, social/emotional, and cognitive well-being into design principles adaptable to any school — regardless of size or budget
- Named the first modern school in America and still operating today, Crow Island gives the book a concrete, historically significant case study that no competitor can replicate. The 2025 ribbon cutting for its newest addition makes the story current, not just historical

What if schools were designed not just to educate, but to help students and teachers truly thrive? Created through a powerful collaboration between educators and architects, **Still Modern: Where Learning Lives** reimagines school design as a force for well-being, resilience, and community connection. Drawing on Perkins&Will's 90-year legacy in educational design, the book translates research on physical, social/emotional, and cognitive well-being into practical design strategies for learning environments that support the whole child — and the whole community. The book reveals timeless design principles adaptable to any school, regardless of size or budget. Grounded in decades of practice and the enduring lessons of Crow Island—America's first modern school—it offers an actionable vision of schools as places where learning, health, and human potential flourish.

**Laura Moore** utilises human-centred design practices to transform classrooms, systems and experiences meant to elevate student voice, foster creativity, harness agency, and build partnerships that extend learning beyond the classroom. Over the last 20 years, she has served students as a teacher, instructional leader, High School Research & Design Lab Leader, and district-level Leader of Experiential Learning & Community Engagement.