

Prototype Description:

1. Empathy:

Towards the beginning of this project we did empathy interviews and observations. Doing those interviews helped me pick out a few needs and values that I wanted to make sure I hit in my project design. Those being: comfort, nature, and quiet spaces where you can hang out with friends. I have found that when I am in a safe and comfortable space, I feel inspired as well as being able to focus on the task at hand. Those tasks can range from school work to spending time with friends, both being very important to me. Another big aspect that I feel really made our project connect to people's needs and wants is the nature aspect. Not being cooped up in a classroom and being able to go outside and breath in the fresh air, hearing the creek water run and being surrounded by plants always brightens my day, so being able to create this space close to our school, I feel helped improve our school environment.

2. Ideation:

One of the biggest steps in our project was the ideation. At the beginning of this process, we had a lot of unrefined ideas for our geodesic dome. We wanted to have beanbags, take water from the creek, have board games available, etc. After critically thinking through what would work and what wouldn't, we came to a more refined and realistic design. We now have tires that we pulled out from around the school for seating, a solution for our watering system, and we realized that having board games would take away from enjoying the nature and also taking out the possibility of them getting destroyed and being littered all over the place. Having time to ideate and critique our ideas has have a major effect on how refined our project design is.

3. Prototyping:

Even though this was a group project, there was specific jobs each person did to contribute. I personally painted the garden beds, vertical gardens, helped level the area where we are building the dome, and helped clean out the outdoor space. The first thing my group focused on was leveling the ground for the dome, which took up the first 2-3 days. After we finished planning out the size of our design, we ordered the brackets. We then built the garden beds, and to finish them off me and about 2-3 other people primed them and then painted them each different colors. We wanted to add some more visually appealing things, so we also built 2 vertical gardens. We painted them and then put some material at the bottom that will hold the dirt but allowed water to drain out. In order to create an available nature spot outside of the geodome, we cleared out an area next to the creek and then added some stairs down for a nice hangout spot.