

Visioning and Programming for a Long Future

Camp Solomon Schechter is a summer camp with lake, forest, river, and wetlands under their care. The Board of Directors saw the need for new facilities, and wanted to prioritize building needs, begin fundraising, and design building that would serve them for the next sixty years.

Before fundraising and design could begin, the Board needed to resolve what kinds of buildings they needed, how big they should be, and how much they would cost. It was as important for the plan to incorporate their commitment to a high level of sustainability as it was to ensure that any plans serve the camp's special mission.

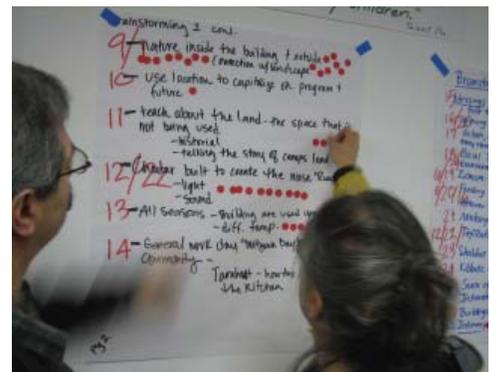
The Camp turned to Red Cottage Studios for our Visioning and Programming expertise. After a series of meetings and workshops we compiled a written document that has become the foundation of the Camp's plans for the future.

This program began with gathering and summarizing data, and several visits to the camp. We reviewed the data for coherence with the highest values and goals of the camp.

In order to learn about these values and goals we tapped into the energy of the camp's active and loyal community. A half-day visioning workshop at the camp was attended by a representative sample of the camp stakeholders; alumni, staff, and board members. Their ages and backgrounds varied, and all were recognized for their knowledge of the camp.

The brainstorming took place among the entire group of thirty attendees, in three smaller groups of ten, and in smaller groups of two or three. Together the participants came to consensus on five themes of common understanding:

- *Dust to Dust:* Design is part of the environment.
- *Life on a Kibbutz:* Community Building
- *Intimacy and Safety:* Create spaces inside and outside for large and small groups.



- *Ba'al Tashhit*: Caring for the environment
- *Ruach and Tefillah*: Make places that allow introspection and places that allow joyous noise

These high-level goals and core principles are applicable to all decisions about site design, materials selection, building systems, services and utilities, and building form.

We combined the results of the workshop with more research about functional needs and interviews with camp staff and consultants. Red Cottage Studios created charts to describe the sizes of rooms and buildings and their interrelationships.

Red Cottage Studios also created diagrams of the relationships of the camp's many components on the site, including the dining hall, the gym, the dorms, and the lake. These diagrams were the basis for subsequent Concept Design workshops, where the stakeholders met to explore where different parts of the project program would best fit on the land.

The completed documentation has been a vital part of the camp's subsequent fundraising and design work. By working with Red Cottage Studios, the camp was able to select an architect who would respect their values, and major funders were impressed by the deliberate and thoughtful process.

The Infirmary Group

The task of caring for the campers requires a medical expertise beyond this program. The charts and illustrations below are tools for estimating facilities.⁸

We have allocated 2,200 square feet to the infirmary group of functions.

Functional Grouping:	Infirmary	
Area Requirements (Assignable s.f.)		Unassigned Spaces
Waiting Room	150	Bathroom
Main First Aid	150	WC (Sick Rooms)
First Aid Storage	20	Custodial Closet
Exam Rooms (1)	80	Mechanical
Sick Rooms (2)	200	Trash / Recycle area
Pharmacy	30	Unassigned storage
Dispensary	50	Circulation
Nurses' Quarters (1)	200	Walls
Nurses' Quarters with Family (2)	500	
NASF	1380	
Efficiency Factor	1.5	
Gross s.f. = NASF x Efficiency Factor	2,070	

