Community Design Solutions was hired by the UWM College of Engineering & Applied Sciences to reconfigure the southeastern region of the 3rd floor of the Engineering & Mathematical Sciences Building. The task posed to the CDS design team was to produce three different schemes for the space, ranging in their level of development from minute changes to widespread reconfiguration.

After touring the site, CDS determined that the main issues to address were the lack of natural daylighting, increasing connectivity between student spaces, improving office access, and enhancing student work and lounge spaces. The team was also asked to reconfigure the staff in order to more cohesively group members of the same department.

This report includes the plans and perspectives for each of the three schemes as well as the precedents used to inspire these contemporary designs.
One of the main objectives for the faculty, staff, and student organization offices was to increase the efficient use of space and circulation. This scheme has re-organized the student org rooms so that they are now on the peripheral of the existing offices and North wall. This creates an open space which can be used as a lounge or collaboration space for faculty and students.

The re-organization of the student org rooms was made possible by reorienting the entryways of the three most southern offices, as well as the conference room, towards a newly created hallway. This helps with the privacy of those offices, as they no longer act as a path of circulation to traffic passing through.

Lastly, the wall to the west of the computer lab has been demolished and replaced by glazing. This will open the space up and create a barrier that is not excluding to the connecting rooms.
STUDENT LOUNGE AND STUDENT ORG OFFICES
STUDENT LOUNGE AND STUDENT ORG OFFICES
HALLWAY TO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
SCHEME II
Medium Scale Development

Scheme II offers mid-level changes and additions to the existing space. These changes aim to enhance connectivity, increase the efficient use of space, and create a diversity of student study and lounge zones.

The creation of a passageway from the computer lab to the student study room enhances the relationship between student work spaces and allows students to more easily circulated from one to the other. Off of this passageway is a newly created hallway that serves the research faculty and staff. This hallway allows the three most southern offices to reorient themselves, freeing up the northern wall for the use in the student study room. The reconfiguration of the research offices makes way for three, private student study rooms that can be entered near the eastern end of the computer lab.

New partition walls near the northern offices enclose a break room while providing a more secluded work space for a student worker. Additionally, newly constructed walls enclose the existing counter space to create a small kitchen for the southern offices.

The grouping of offices, newly created passageways, and glass walls along the private study rooms, conference rooms, and northern lounge areas, creates a sense of openness and connectively that will greatly enhance the environment of EMS’s 3rd floor.
STUDENT LOUNGE AREA
STUDENT GROUP STUDY AREA
SCHEME III
Large Scale Development

The most elaborate of the schemes creates two distinct zones: one for students and one for faculty and staff. Gathering all of the offices on the southern end of the floor allows for a spacious student lounge to the north with ample room for group work or use of the smaller study carrels. There is direct access to the computer lab that has space for 14 new desktop stations, giving students the freedom to flow between the spaces as needed. Student organization offices are also contained in this area, separating them completely from the faculty space.

The faculty and staff also now have a dedicated zone with their own collaborative work station, as well as a lounge with comfortable seating. There is a separate kitchenette with a refrigerator and dining table, allowing employees to bring their lunch from home and have a private space to store it. The regrouping of offices allows for maximum access within departments, creating a better environment for productivity and communication.
PERSPECTIVES
GROUP WORK

PRECEDENTS
STUDY

PRECEDENTS
PRECEDENTS
CONFERENCES

PRECEDENTS
PRECEDENTS