

# SOS Children's Villages Lavezzorio Community Center

**Location**

Chicago

**Status**

Built 2008

**Client**

SOS Children's Villages  
Illinois

**Type**

Civic

**Size**

16,000 sf

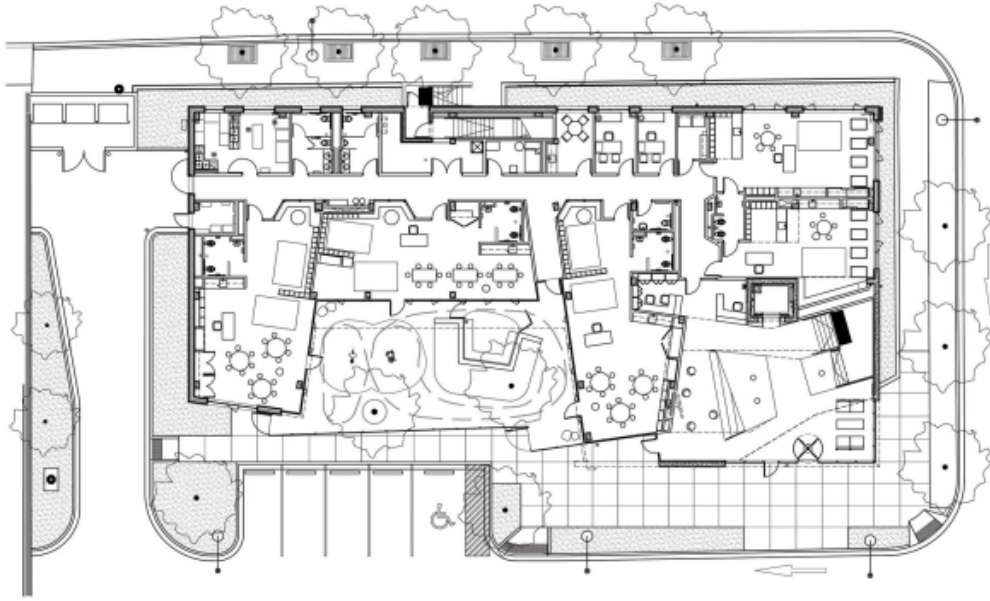
**Tags**

Brick, Classroom,  
Community, Concrete,  
Materiality, Social  
Connectivity, Urban  
Design, Video

As the central hub of SOS Children's Village Chicago, the Lavezzorio Community Center combines social services and neighborhood amenities under one roof, serving children and families in the city's Auburn-Gresham neighborhood.

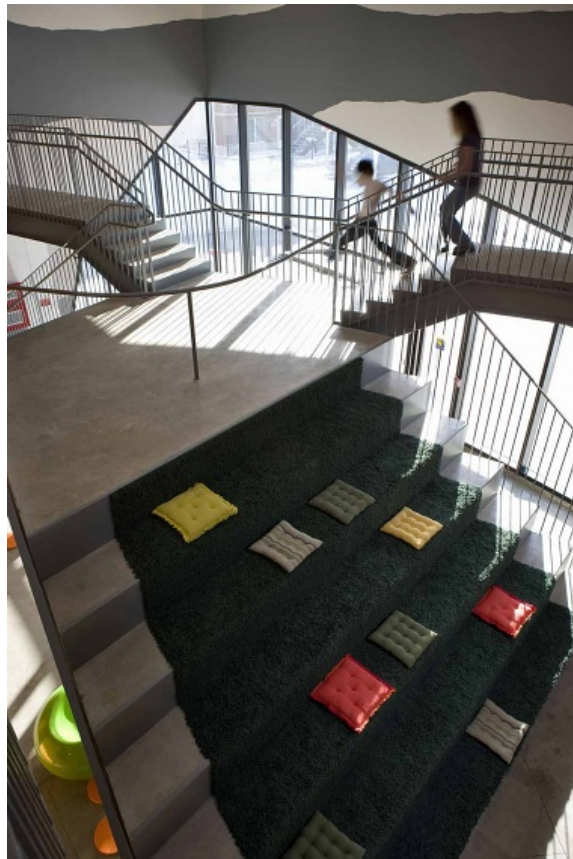
Inside the building, multi-faceted, naturally lit public spaces encourage a range of learning opportunities and social interaction. Daycare classrooms are organized around a south-facing courtyard on the ground floor, with caseworkers' offices, counseling areas, and a large, multi-purpose community room on the second floor.

Connecting the levels, a large structural stair serves as a mountain-like landscape for playing, climbing, performing, and hanging out, with a lobby at the top of the stair doubling as a computer lab.



Level 1 floor plan









The Community Center serves a growing neighborhood of foster-care families, women, and children in a mix of affordable single family homes and apartment units.

#### **Awards**

First Place, Award for Architectural Excellence in  
Community Design, Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, 2009

High Commendation, Civic Category, World Architecture  
Festival, 2008

Citation of Merit, Distinguished Building Award, Design  
Excellence Awards, AIA Chicago 2008

Citation of Merit, Divine Detail Award, Design Excellence

Awards, AIA Chicago, 2008

Best Building Award, Building Congress of Chicago, 2008