

McMenamins ANDERSON SCHOOL BOTHELL WASHINGTON

Welcome to McMenamins Anderson School, a special place with a long tradition of nurturing dreams and imagination and bringing people together. Here, remarkable teachers have inspired students to become, among other things, the first female U.S. Senator from the State of Washington, a NFL football player, a pioneering physicist to do groundbreaking studies of late stellar evolution and cosmology and the first American woman to sail solo around the world! These folks were adventurous explorers in their respective fields.

Now, we encourage you to do your own explorations on property. There's a mix of wondrous spaces, beautiful gardens and creative structures. Go forth light of heart and beer in hand because the joy of discovery is afoot.

The primary and oldest structure on site is the Anderson school building itself. Constructed in 1931 with Art Deco-style flourishes and big windows that flood the interior rooms with natural light, it was Bothell's first junior high school. Celebrated Seattle architect Earl Wilson Morrison, designed the building. He was known for infusing artistic elements into the most basic, utilitarian buildings. The general contractor/builder of the school, Alfred Sundholm, was a Bothell resident who formerly had been a shipwright. He clearly knew how to make a building shipshape.

Just 45 years earlier, in 1885, Bothell had opened its first school, a small, one-room structure. Most of the students were children of loggers and millworkers, as timber was the main source of employment in these formative years. In 1941, illustrating the community's evolution, ten years after Anderson School's construction, another bay of classrooms was added to the south end of the 1931 junior high structure to accommodate increasing enrollment. By this point, very few parents were working in the timber industry. Many more were farmers, merchants and professionals including an increasing number of Seattle commuters.



Then of course, with the start of World War II, many Bothell families found work in the shipyards and other war-era industries that had Seattle booming.

In 1965, when a big, new junior high was built elsewhere in the district, Anderson School was “demoted” to serve as overflow classrooms and administrative offices until 1973 when it was given a new lease on life as home to the district’s alternative high school. Known as Secondary Academy for Success (SAS), it thrived here for nearly 40 years, a longer period than it had served as a junior high!

Bothell’s SAS program has been remarkably successful and inspiring for students at risk of dropping out of high school. It has become a model for other alternative high school programs around the country. Then, in 2009, SAS relocated to a new, state-of-the-art building in the Canyon Park area of Bothell, creating an opportunity for a completely new incarnation of the old school, and McMenamins was offered the chance.

From the school’s three floors of large, original classrooms, McMenamins created 72 lodging rooms. Each has been named for a person notably connected with Anderson School’s history or that of the community. Outside the rooms, the hallways have been transformed into colorful galleries brimming with original artwork by our team of talented Seattle and Portland-area artists and historical photos depicting Bothell and

its citizens at work and play. There are also great pieces from around the world, Indonesian panels, old signs, as well as event posters, each echoing its own story. The walls are talking!

Before moving on from the old school building, be sure to stop in at the principal’s office for some refreshment and stories about its first principal and namesake, Wilbert Andell “Andy” Anderson. He was an adventurer at heart, loved to fish the rivers in and around Bothell. He made a batch of beer once in his basement. It was terrible. No one wanted to drink it, and eventually, the container it was in exploded. Andy had a wonderful sense of humor and pulled pranks on friends and family. He relished being a storyteller.

At school, Mr. Anderson was a very popular and effective administrator. He did not possess a booming voice, but got his message across in a kind and gentle, though firm manner. He commanded respect among his students and faculty. After a 25-year career, he retired as Bothell Junior High principal, at which point, the school was renamed for him, the W. A. Anderson School, as a tribute to his good, work.

Walking out behind the 1931 school building, things quickly take a further turn toward the unexpected, a botanical adventure—featuring plantings of all sorts, including some exceptional, existing Scots Pines—amidst a mythical-like setting, ideal for conversing with friends and soon-to-be friends. Called

Haynes Square for the local family that had such a lasting, positive impact on both the community and the school, the square is the heartbeat of the property, with its stage for live music, small bar and outdoor seating. Follow the red brick path (which includes original red bricks from the thoroughly modern 1913 road built through Bothell and right by the future Anderson School site) through the courtyard, over the hill and alongside plumbing artist Jeff Allen’s wildly creative fence and fabulous torch. Order a drink and find a seat or spot to perch in The Shed, a wonderful shoebox with a two-sided fireplace and a bat chandelier, from which boundless adventures will be launched.

Enclosing the courtyard is a series of buildings constructed in a practical, multipurpose/generic design back in 1959—a perfect blank canvas for more creative fun. On the right (north) end was the cafeteria, now the main restaurant, called Tavern on the Square. Inside, is a grand space pleasantly interrupted by light fixtures, stained-glass partitions, timbers and other elements of varying sizes and designs. On the south wall, light filters through a high musical ribbon of stunning stained glass crafted by David Schlicker of Portland. Follow the notes and you’ll find the melody of “Scarlet Begonias,” a song by the Grateful Dead with the lyric, “Once in a while you get shown the light, In the strangest of places if you look at it right.” Another highlight of the restaurant are the two Lyle Hehn paintings on either

side of the fireplace, entitled appropriately Divination and Distillation, which feature bits of Bothell history and lots of great alchemistic imagery. The building also houses the hotel front desk, a very warm and welcoming spot, indeed, and a gift shop of myriad items of interest and curiosity.

To the left of the restaurant on the west perimeter of the courtyard are the old wood shop and industrial arts classrooms. Still called the Wood Shop, it is now home to a delightful pub and game room featuring a stunning back bar, shuffleboard tables and pinball games. There also is a window that looks into the property’s new brewery. From here, you can watch the brewer at work as grain, barley, water and hops are artfully combined to make delicious concoctions that are pouring on site.

The one remaining building along the courtyard, on the south end, is the former school gym. Now it houses beautifully and creatively appointed group event spaces, available to rent for private events, and the property’s first-run movie theater, where you can take in the latest Hollywood release with a beer or glass of wine and something tasty to eat, right at your seat. Two permanent attractions of the theater are the massive vintage posters for early-day conjurers and performers Carter the Great and George. Forget the movie, you could stare at these all day. Before leaving the theater building, check out the deck off the back, which looks west toward Pop Keeney Stadium. It’s a quiet spot to watch a sunset,



except on game day when it will offer a view of the beehive of activity and excitement in and around the stadium.

As you stroll over to the property's other remarkable and storied structure, the North Shore Lagoon building and restaurant, take time to explore the grounds, with its lush and exotic plantings and secret gardens, ideal settings for outdoor weddings and other events, or just for discovering on walks with a friend.

The Northshore Pool building was constructed by King County in 1972 for use by the community, schools and swim clubs. From the start, one particular organization, the Seattle Aqua Club, had a special connection to the pool. Club founder and coach Charlotte Davis was instrumental in moving synchronized swimming to a national and international stage. She trained many girls and young women here through the 1970s and '80s, raising the popularity and technical skill of the sport in the process. In 1984, synchronized swimming was named an Olympic event, Charlotte was named U.S. Olympic coach and two of her Northshore pool swimmers, Tracie Ruiz and Candy Costie, won gold. Bothell threw a huge celebration, including a parade upon their return and the pool was renamed for the two swimmers. Quite a legacy and no doubt that Olympic energy continues to reverberate throughout the building.

What was built as a rather bland, boxy-looking structure in 1972, has been reimaged today as a veritable concert of space, texture, colors, and tastes. The combination is really unique and special. Yes, there's still a full-sized swimming pool but the temperature is much warmer and it's surrounded by tropical flora. Skylights, kept permanently open, allow natural light, rain and even snow inside. Then on the west wall, gorgeous stained-glass windows created by David Schlicker cast sparkling shafts of ruby red and amber throughout the pool space. On the facing wall is a sight just as remarkable: a fantastically creative and artful sculpture of a full-faced sun with long, willowy rays made from an ancient tree's root ball. Head upstairs next to enjoy the restaurant and bar, which continues the South Seas theme with lots of beautiful bamboo, primitive African and Indonesian statuary, sandstone bas relief panels, fantastic light fixtures with shades to match. You'll want to pause to take it all in. So order a mai tai, sample some items from the menu and gaze out over the great expanse of the pool below.

