



KEYANO COLLEGE SEIC HOUSING

FORT CHIPEWYAN, ALBERTA

Diamond Park Builders and Kobayashi + Zedda Architects won a competition to provide design build services for the new SEIC residence building for Keyano College in Fort McMurray, Alberta. The housing project will contain accommodations for 300 students in one bedroom configurations of modular units.

The façade of the building, at 160 meters, would be costly to equip and operate with a mechanical heating and cooling system capable of heating and cooling this massive exposure. By cutting the building's length into two distinctive arms and arranging in a V-shape pointing due south, the exposure is now evenly balanced in its orientation to the arc of the sun. With an improved cooling and heating load, the equipment can be sized smaller and operated more efficiently, thereby saving Keyano College money.

The length and mass of the building volume is daunting. The Architect sought to reduce the overall perception of size by using elevation patterns derived from modern naval camouflage design. During the world wars, an unlikely partnership between modern artists and naval planners conceived of bold painting patterns for ships that, counter-intuitively, helped to conceal the ship by blending it with the waves and sky and generally confusing would-be foes. The designers of the SEIC have designed the façade using the same technique in order to break up the enormity and repetitive nature of the modular unit residence.