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4. **Thesis Project title:** The School Doesn't Breathe
5. **Thesis Subtitle:** A Functionalist Approach to School Design
6. **Thesis Statement:**

This thesis operates as a critique of the current ad hoc or temporary responses (specifically in education) to the rising need for open-air spaces as seen with the outbreak of COVID-19. The project also serves as a criticism of American high school design, a de-evolved typology.

For years schools in the U.S. were designed by the same people designing prisons, which is why it is very easy to draw parallels between the two. High Schools in the United States have historically placed a greater focus on security, discipline, and control, and much less focus on students' overall physical and mental health. This thesis references and builds upon the open-air school movement in Europe from the early 20th century with the outbreak of tuberculosis—an air-borne disease very similar to COVID-19.

Our project proposes an “open-air” high school situated in a dense urban site. The design will not only respond to the ongoing pandemic needs but it will also reflect the many benefits of integrating nature with architectural design. This proposal will help redefine the fundamental components of education spaces by analyzing the health benefits of having access to fresh air, ample daylight, and green spaces in a learning environment.

The current American high school typology is very solid, with little to no windows in classrooms, and extremely closed off from nature. For the design scheme of an “open-air” high school, this thesis proposes a more light and porous approach to the design to better integrate the natural with the built environment. In addition, it will contain a program of spaces with a focus around the health of all the school's occupants.