

AOPA YOU CAN FLY

RENOVATION FREDERICK, MD UN-BUILT ARCHITECTURE

A building program unique to any other space in the country, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's (AOPA) You Can Fly Program is just as new as the space used to house it.

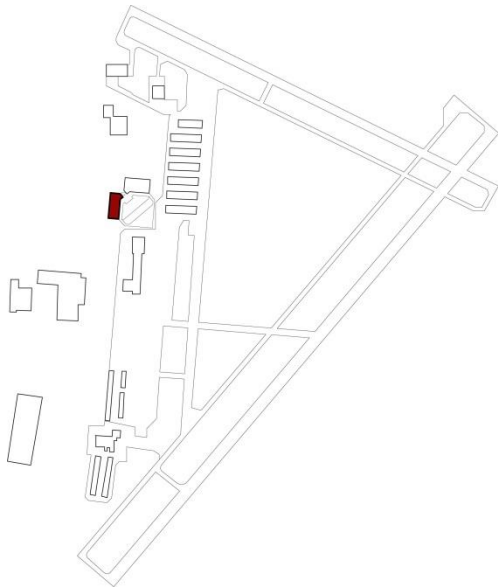
The program will take off later in 2017 and will support flying clubs, help provide flight training, get lapsed pilots back in the air, provide organization outreach across the country and involve visiting high school students to learn more about careers in aviation.

The program will be housed within an existing office building in the same campus as the headquarters for AOPA, but be much more than an office suite for the program employees. The new space plan includes many other features. Flexible classrooms for visiting students that can enjoy simulcasts. An area for flight simulations to experienced and a separate meeting area to go over the footage to learn for one's experience. A tiered auditorium to feature guest lecturers and other industry experts with over 74 person capacity. A sleek open cafe for students between classes to have a bite to eat. The waiting area in the front of the space doubles as a learning area for future flight school managers to know how to present merchandise in their own operations. The resulting plan is a unique mix of elements for a new type of educational program.





PLAN



SITE PLAN



EXISTING ENVELOPE



The break area was designed to be flexible and functional but also a place where people want to stay around. The space features catering refrigerators and plenty of table top space for buffet style meals or casual conversations between classes.



The Auditorium is a tiered floor, built up to provide the best views of the large drop down screen. Acoustical treatments along the walls are fashioned from perforated metal.



One important program goal was to ensure students felt welcome and not alone when they enrolled. Full time employees wanted to invite students to see the shared space, but at the same time maintain their privacy. The classroom hallway on the outside of the open office is visible beyond with large format film. This provides a balance of privacy and light to connect the staff to the students.



Flight schools can sometimes appear unapproachable by laypeople. Other times flight schools do not pay attention to the presentation of their waiting areas. This program wanted to ensure students felt that when they entered their reception space a student would think "I can do this." The open plan, with plenty of flexibility, permits students to gather, opportunities for shopping, and a friendly approachable front desk to start your journey.



Two flight simulators will be within a large open area for students and trainers to experience flight without leaving the ground. The space is open off the auditorium to promote lingering students and visitors to take interest in what the program has to offer.