The aluminum standing seam roof of the lab building slides out to cover an atrium into which the new building is entered.
Replacing an outdated century old facility, the new Bradley Tech High School was built along the street edge of the main thoroughfare of the district, National Avenue. Built where the old play fields had been, new fields were created to the rear of the new building after the old building was demolished and recycled. Located in a neighborhood of relatively small historic buildings, the new 170,000 sf building was broken down into a series of 5 distinct programmatic elements: 3 classroom buildings, a lab building, and a gymnasium / library building. Each element received a separate and distinct volumetric form, about the size and scale of the historic buildings along National Avenue. These elements are linked by a sky lit void that serves as a circulation spine and as a source for daylight. The lab building, donated by the heiress of the Bradley industrial fortune, received a distinctive barrel-vaulted roof which recalls the vaulted quonset hut buildings in which so much inventive industrial tinkering occurred in Milwaukee. The tectonics of the new building are robust and industrial in character, with exposed concrete floor systems, exposed steel framing for the vault, sun-shaded clear glass, ground concrete block masonry inside and out, and a roof of mill-finished aluminum.
Looking south out of the vault of the lab building.

A sky lit atrium divides between the lab building (at left) and the classroom buildings (at right) brings day light deep into the building.
East-west sections through a classroom building and lab (top), and the atrium (bottom).

The vaulted roof of the lab building slides out over the entry atrium.