



Two ring-shaped structures would blend outdoor and indoor spaces | Photo source [Valentino Gareri](#)

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## 'TREE-HOUSE SCHOOL' DESIGNED FOR THE COVID ERA

 EDUCATION

### **A sustainable, modular educational centre concept blends outdoor and indoor spaces and addresses health concerns stemming from COVID-19**

**Spotted:** US-based designer Valentino Gareri has come up with a modular educational centre concept featuring two ring-shaped structures that blend outdoor and indoor spaces. The “Tree-House School” addresses health concerns stemming from COVID-19 while incorporating sustainable features and a modular design that allows for future expansion based on capacity needs.

Classrooms would be well-ventilated, and social distancing would be easier to achieve due to the extra spaces incorporated in the design. Rooms can also be repurposed for different functions, including temporary medical centres or short-term residential units.

Sustainable features include rainwater collection and wind energy devices. These would be visible to the students, located on the roof, allowing for sustainability to become part of the educational experience.

“The school of the future has to be sustainable and ... able to sustain the new post-COVID requirements. It has to be outdoor spaces inclusive and open to nature, made of natural materials and low-cost construction techniques, as modular design,” [Gareri said](#).

In addition to classrooms, the design also features a community centre, urban plaza, café and library.

Springwise continues to spot innovations aimed at making the return to school safe for students amidst an ongoing global pandemic, including [an outdoor tent classroom design](#) that allows for social distancing.

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## **Takeaway:**

Many students around the globe are returning to the classroom despite the COVID-19 pandemic being far from over. Not only are there health concerns, but many children are worried about the reintegration process following such a long absence. Unfortunately, present-day schools were not designed to adapt to health situations like the one facing us now, so longer-term solutions such as the "Tree-House School" are welcome and could provide a template for the future. In the meantime, further shorter-term fixes are required to deal with the immediate health and safety issues stemming from COVID-19.