APPROACH

Based on what was learned from the site and program analysis, I decided the siting was the critical aspect of the project. Therefore circulation both access and within the complex and the building's relationship to the immediate neighborhood became very important. So important in fact that function was only minorly dealt with in this stage.

With this in mind, I assumed the following form determinants:
- to maintain a solid street edge in keeping with the urban fabric;
- to utilize a variety of circulation paths from history, i.e. medieval closed street and the open grid plan;
- to view the complex as a city within itself;
-to establish a sense of surprise (or Here-There) so that individual spaces within have their own identity but a sense of the entire complex is felt. This also does not let the entire complex be known at once but establishes a series of changing reference points so the pedestrian has a sense of place;
- to utilize a system of courtyards to define the negative space; and
- to physically link the Atheneaum with the new addition.

Functionally, the following assumptions were made:
- to allow normally separated functions to occur together;
- to utilize temporary structures (tents, canopies, etc.) as a means of adapting the space; and
- to zone the public and private separately.
Concept Diagrams
RESULT

Therefore the following characteristics were assumed:
-the building is inward looking and the voids become very important as activity areas;
-the courtyards as public spaces, define various functions within the public realm and allow those functions to move outdoors;
-the exterior spaces accommodate a variety of functions and mix of activities determined by the interior functions adjacent to it and the temporary structures used there;
-there is an element of unknown in the circulation path which is determined by successive architectural elements.

Which resulted in the following building problems:
-confusion with the complex entry due to a lack of an heirarchy system;
-some exterior voids because of their basis on circulation had no functional identity;
-the fenestrations as a whole lacked continuity though different functions were defined differently;
-some transitions between interior spaces and exterior spaces were very poor ie, the hotel lobby to the surrounding exterior spaces and the garden to garden court relationship; and
-the building appears retrofit because functions were adjusted to the form.
Physically, the building was zoned with these points in mind:
- a public zone on the lower levels and more private zones above;
- administration, recreation, education and entertainment areas occur within the Atheneaum;
- hotel lobby, dining spaces, hotel administration and public service areas occurring in the east wing of the complex;
- a parking garage in the basement;
- the interior market spaces occurring in the south-west wing of the complex; and
- the second floor of both wings as the hotel rooms.

And with these spaces as design determinants:
- the outer block walls reflect the established city grid;
- the hotel lobby as a two story space (over scaled) reflecting the Atheneaum greenhouse and which a second floor circulation core surrounds;
- two exterior courts forming the nucleus for the hotel rooms on the east wing;
- the market spaces as definers for a larger exterior court for use in good weather;
- a garden court on the south east corner, the edges of which are defined by a low wall and regularly spaced trees; and
- a rigid circulation grid defined by an arcade immediately adjacent to the Atheneaum and a more meandering path progressively farther away.
APPROACH

Because of the importance of circulation and the role of the exterior voids they became the major problems to be overcome in this stage. Specifically, I tried to address the following in this regard:

- to make the pedestrian circulation transitions smoother;
- to make all courtyard identities clear i.e. hotel lobby and garden court—either by drawing from or influencing the function of the adjacent interior spaces;
- to determine the relationship of the void in the exact center of the block to the Beir Garten;
- to redesign the garden court more in keeping with the procession of circulation;
- to develop an hierarchy of entries to help define circulation paths and guide the pedestrian;
- to resolve car circulation, parking and pedestrian—vehicular conflicts; and

- to redesign the functional spaces of the hotel to clear circulation problems.

In addition at this point, two other problems which needed to be resolved became clear:
- that the roof planes were much too disjointed and needed simplification to hold the complex together; and
- to simplify the facades.

This last point regarding facades led to several assumptions in its own regard:
- that the exterior facade should remain sympathetic to the Atheneaum and the adjacent historic preservation zone;
- that the inner-facing facades can have their own identity; and
- that the Atheneaum facades should be studied for clues to design the additions' facades.
RESULT

As a result, the following characteristics typify the design at this stage:
- the circulation is much clearer due to clearer clearer transitions, more visual indicators of movement and better functional definition of spaces, especially the courts;
- the garden was redesigned to provide a more meandering path and more intimate secluded places;
- an entry heirarchy was established, emphasizing entry adjacent to the Atheneum and de-empha-
sizing those entry points which were not; and
- the facade became much less articulate.

With the approaches mentioned in mind, the phys-
ical design changed in the following ways:
- the hotel lobby becomes one court with public services surrounding it on the ground floor and hotel rooms surrounding it on the second floor;
- a car court is added on the center north to start to orient passengers to the rest of the complex;
- a tower was added in the garden to act as a visual guide to the garden;
- the second floor always remains on the established grid, while the first floor is allowed to become organic (as a signal to movement);
- the arcade entirely surrounds the beer garten, connecting into the Atheneum at both ends and defining a circulation path, outside on the first floor and inside on the second;
- the roof planes reflected like functions and as a result were much more uniform;
- basement parking and vehicular circulation was organized and therefore more fluid; and
- four different hotel rooms were designed to accommodate various needs and therefore allowed formal design changes.
Basement
Elevations
APPROACH

Major design decisions had been made by this point. All spacial sizes and relationships had been established in the preliminary design stage. What was left to be determined were minor design refinements.

The interior design decisions addressed the following issues:
- handicap access;
- ambassador's suite design; and
- the most efficient relationship between hotel service spaces and the public.

While the exterior design decisions addressed these issues:
- refinement of the first and second floor wall relationship;
- clarification of fenestration members;
- definition of facade statement;
- role and position of central elements in the courtyards;
- relationship of the bier garten and market court; and
- refinements in circulation path definition.
RESULT

Addressing the prior issues resulted in the following interior changes:
- an elevator and ramps for handicap access; and
- the hotel services being located around the interior court.

And on the exterior:
- the facades are still weak and undefined;
- the Atheneaum greenhouse is reflected in the hotel facade;
- the central court elements were shifted to provide clear exciting circulation paths based on visual clues (the tower is still not integrated well);
- the bier garten and market court are visually linked resulting in a stronger relationship between the two; and
- the first floor wall become more uniform.
EAST INTERIOR A-A

SOUTH INTERIOR B-B
Two books greatly influenced the philosophy of this design. They were Cities for People by Bernard Rudofsky and Townscape by Gordon Cullen. The following are excerpts from their material:

**Streets for People**

- sidewalk and street as living room floor
- picturesque places have stops
- human places are not always convenient
- facade is living room wall
  - usually see it at eye level
  - old buildings have complexity of materials
  - new buildings variety comes from reflection
  - design ability?
- voids in walls can become smaller streets
  - windows--just a look to another place
  - guide view into quiet space
  - everyone has a right to a view
- arcades
  - provides shelter
- sky is ceiling of outdoor room
- top edges of buildings are moldings of ceiling
- trees create partial ceiling
  - visual relief against hard edges of manmade
  - umbrellas, awnings create smaller rooms in
  - living room
- public spaces compact yet appealing
- human needs before efficiency
- need visual stimulus
- shelter
- symbols of history
- places for people more important than places for cars
- we shape our buildings as they shape us
- architecture doesn't make a place human
- places to watch people from central open space
- holes in wall--windows, arcades
- shapes, shadows
- irregularities, curves allow spatial play

**Quotations**

- bring people together and they create a collective surplus of enjoyment;
- bring buildings together and collectively they can give visual pleasure which none can give separately
- buildings brought together creating a space give life to that space over and above the buildings which created it
- a city is a dramatic event in the environment
- a long straight road has little impact on the emotions because the initial view is soon digested and becomes monotonous. The human mind reacts to a contrast and when two pictures (a street and courtyard) are in the mind at the same time, a vivid contrast is felt and the town becomes visible in a deeper sense.
- arising out of this sense of identity or sympathy with the environment, this feeling of a person in a street or square that he is in IT or entering IT, or leaving IT, we discover that no sooner do we postulate a HERE than automatically we must create a THERE, for you can not have one without the other.
- the agreement to differ gives life.
Atheneaum file, Historic Landmarks Foundation


Snodgrass, M.K. Program Information.


