REFORMATION OF THE URBAN PUBLIC DOMAIN

SUMMIT CITY CORRIDOR

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Building Type- Retail/Commercial facility and urban design proposal. Location of Project- Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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THESIS ABSTRACT

REFORMATION OF THE URBAN PUBLIC DOMAIN

The modern tradition of building in conjunction with the urban renewal efforts of the 1950's and 60's has contributed to the erosion of urban space and the deterioration of the public domain in many of today's cities. Freestanding modern buildings, in many instances, are unsupportive of or isolated from the urban context. Spaces left between buildings are often unrelated to the structure and only vaguely related to human scale and experience. Historic blocks of row buildings, which once defined and supported the pedestrian movement and activity of the street, have been partially demolished over time and so that the supportive characteristics of the street are lost. The predominance of the automobile has also degraded the street as a desirable domain of public activity.

In the future, what form might the city adopt in order to create an environment which provides a supportive framework of public activities, places, and buildings? My studies have been directed towards this question in a search for a cohesive design structure which could integrate the fragmented elements of the city and redefine the public domain. The city of Fort Wayne have been used as a model for this exploration. Design proposals respect and are built upon the existing spatial structure and building fabric of this city. Proposed future developments have explored the potential of welding together isolated buildings and spaces. Networks of linkages, transportation movement systems, parking facilities, the city's skyline, and building relationship to context have all played a role in determining the design structure. Also, within this larger scheme, a half block area has been developed to explore architectural issues of contextualism at a more local level.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

- Background to Thesis
- Thesis Statement and Issues
- Project and Approach
INTRODUCTION

Background to Thesis

My thesis will focus on urban, public space, and more specifically architectural issues in relation to the development of public domain for the post modern city.

The modern tradition of building in conjunction with the massive urban renewal projects implemented in the 1950s and 1960s has resulted in the deterioration and virtual disappearance of public domain in many of today's cities. The modern movement was founded on abstract ideas for the design of freestanding buildings which were often conceived as machinelike artifacts, abstract sculpture, or as complex industrial megastructures. Buildings tended to be more of an object, separate from its context, and often devoid of human scale. Spaces left between buildings are often isolated and unrelated to the structure and only vaguely related to human experience. In the bulldozer approach to urban renewal entire city blocks were demolished to make way for modern development (typically freestanding buildings). Large plots of land have often been razed to accommodate parking needs. As a result, surface parking lots have become predominant types of open space in our cities further isolating buildings within the overall context. Every modern city has an amazing amount of vacant and unused land within the urban core. These spaces often interrupt pedestrian connections within the city and walking is often unpleasant and disorienting.

The spatial form of our cities and streets has deteriorated and often lacks definition. The street is no longer an essential urban space for pedestrian use but functions primarily for automobile passage. Modern building seemed to ignore the importance of street space,
urban squares and gardens, and other outdoor rooms. As a result, cities no longer sustain the range of activities traditionally associated with urban life. The modernistic environment lacks the spatial quality that is either supportive or expressive of these activities and social functions.

Weaknesses in the linkage of public spaces as a collective system or network is often a problem plagued by the predominance of automobiles paths. The public domain remains essentially fragmented and isolated and without the activities and symbolic role associated with pre-industrial cities. The lack of coordination between public spaces and visual components is often the essential problem of the unsupportive urban conditions associated with many modern cities. In cities today spaces between buildings are rarely designed in contrast to seventeenth and eighteenth century planning which addressed the total composition, structure, and organization of the urban environment. In these cities it was the exterior space of the public domain which influenced the definition and form of architecture at its borders. In the modern city, public space has often become the private expression of businesses and corporations at the expense of public domain and the unity of a total environment is lost.

Thesis Statement and Issues

Modern society has become more individualistic, specialized, mobile, dispersed, and independant of a communal context by comparison to earlier eras. While personal space and increased mobility has its advantages, the advantages associated with the collective experience and social interaction provided by pre-industrial cities has often escaped the memory of modern societies. Fundamental human needs and
desires for action and interaction, observation, participation and communication within a social context, and identity with a larger group beyond a person's private domain have and always will persist. With the deterioration of the public domain as discussed earlier, the supportive qualities sustaining such activity in the modern city have been lost and often replaced by shopping malls and other enclosed complex centers located outside the urban context or isolated from it.

As the problems and shortcomings of the modern approach to building cities have become acknowledged in recent years, we must search for ways to make the city less fragmented and abstract and on creating environments supportive of the collective experiences of places and spaces conceived for linkage between people and supportive of social interaction.

The challenge is to create an environment which provides a more expressive and supportive relationship between people and form. The approach in the search for this post modern environment will be to seek forms of cohesion which could integrate the more fragmented and impersonal characteristics of the modern city. The focus will be primarily on the role and impact that architecture may have towards this objective.

In developing the public domain and in exploring the role of architecture in this context, we should look to the supportive characteristics of historical precedents as well as some of the more recent developments. The design of new built environments depends on a critical understanding of the positive and negative aspects of these environments which have been previously tested and analyzed. Historical precedents (particularly pre-industrial cities) and their associated characteristics (variety, complexity, intensity, intimacy, etc.) are invaluable resources for learning, comparison, and inspiration (the modern movement denied this). The future
public domain should provide a balance of pre-modern, modern, and post-modern ideas to provide a sense of cohesion and unity without abandoning the benefits of each. Architecture must be considered in conjunction with structuring the public domain so that buildings and public space can effectively coexist.

In developing new environments we should also increase our understanding of how people perceive and interpret the physical forms which make up the public domain. This issue of perception has a large effect on how people interact and make use of the environment.

Some of the questions and issues to be addressed by the thesis are as follows:

**Urban Issues**

- How can we give structure to our urban environment so that they provide a unifying framework of public spaces and buildings?

- How can the existing pattern of solids and voids be manipulated (addition, subtraction, changes in geometric pattern) to clarify the structure of the urban setting?

- How can linkage and circulation organize a system of connections, or a network that structures new and existing spaces and buildings?

- How can the urban environment gain additional richness by incorporating vernacular forms and details, cultural or regional content, and historical content and how might this be incorporated to enhance the fit between new design and existing conditions?

**Architectural and Public Space Issues**

- What is the potential of connecting the form of the building to the structure of the site and context?

- How can three dimensional form and building facade be manipulated to create positive exterior space?

- What impact does architecture have in defining the edges of public space, the degree of enclosure, and character of the spatial wall?

- What impact does transparency, opacity, openings, surface ornament, scale, and vertical and horizontal massing have on the character of public spaces?
Visual and functional linkages between the exterior public domain and the private, the zone of the transition at ground level, and the way the building meets the ground plane.

The treatment and relationship of building surfaces and how this effects the relationship and interaction between activities within buildings and the public domain.

Perception Issues

- How do people perceive and interpret the physical forms that provide the context of the public domain? How does this suggest and effect the way people use the public domain in terms of access and other activities?

- What are the visual and physical characteristics that make the urban environment and architecture understandable and meaningful to people?

Project and Approach

The project I am proposing will address many of the issues previously discussed in relation to the city of Fort Wayne. The project will include the development of an urban design plan for a selected portion of the city which could be implemented over the next several decades. Development of the plan will begin by identifying unstructured areas and potential sites for redevelopment within the urban core. It will also identify within the existing environment where visual characteristics are in some ways confusing and the supportive qualities are correspondingly weak. This will be done through field observation and interviews with a group of Fort Wayne residents utilizing some of the methods and suggestions proposed by Kevin Lynch in his book, "The Image of the City".

The major objectives of this plan will be to identify and suggest ways existing buildings and spaces could be restructured or unified into a collective environment by incorporating newly designed buildings, public spaces, and physical links. The plan will also address the specific social, cultural, and environmental issues specific to that locale.
From within this plan a selected area will be further developed in greater detail. This may include the design development of one or several buildings as well as the immediate context and public space. This level of development will allow for architectural and public space issues to be addressed, explored, and resolved through research and design. Programming of possible and desirable activities, functions, and building typologies will be developed through surveys and questionnaires administered to local residents and data attained from the city's future development plan.
DIVISION 1
PERCEPTION AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

- Introduction to Research
- Part I - The Nature of Perception
- Part II - Presentation of Research Methodology
PERCEPTION AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

My efforts fall quarter were directed towards increasing my understanding of urban spatial form. The research I conducted focused on three major areas.

1.) Identifying spatial qualities which are supportive of the public domains of cities.

2.) Identifying the ingredients and relationships of urban spatial form capable of stimulating and exciting the mind.

3.) Examining how people perceive the urban environment and the elements which make a city "imageable" and "distinctive".

My efforts towards this goal were twofold. The first involved the assemblage of material gathered from literary sources, some of which is presented in Part I of this division. The second involved the development, application, and analysis of a methodology designed to elicit information on the public's perception of the urban environment. This is presented and discussed within Part II.

Let us begin by defining the nature of perception and its role in interpreting and experiencing the urban environment.
PART I

PERCEPTION AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Perception is an internal process in which we select information from the environment, identify it, organize it in some meaningful way, and interpret it. What we see and how we interpret the visual environment involves many factors that are both innate in origin and acquired through experience and the development process. Perception is a matter of equating external events with internal models in which memory is used to make sense of a phenomena.\(^1\) In the early years of mental development we establish an elementary model of our environment. Through experience these internal models will be modified by extension, but rarely do they change their infrastructure. This basic model provides a life long datum of perception.\(^2\)

Experiencing the environment depends as much upon the person interpreting the visual array as upon the arrangement of objects in space. As stated by Professor Terence Lee, "It is not merely the objects on the ground but their subjective representation in people's minds that governs the forms of human behavior."\(^3\) The subjective interpretation of the urban environment in conjunction with the growth and change that continuously occurs both contribute to make the perception of the city a complex and varying phenomenon.

It is discouraging but important to realize that up to ninety percent of the familiar built environment remains unperceived by the conscious mind of the average urban inhabitant.\(^4\) This has been acknowledged in recent years as a problem inherent in the form and character of the modern environment of new towns and cities. Because of their low frequency and variety of visual events, insensitivity to human scale, and dominance of the automobile, they make it easy for the mind to slip into subliminal gear, with conscious awareness merely focused on avoiding hazards.\(^5\)
Having briefly discussed the nature of perception, let us focus our attention on identifying the impact that the physical characteristics of an urban environment may have on the way we perceive, relate to, and make use of the city.

In his book, "The Image of the City," Kevin Lynch identified what might be called the "public images" or the common mental pictures carried by large numbers of a city's inhabitants. His research included field reconnaissance by trained observers and interviews with inhabitants of three major American cities. His conclusions categorized the public's perception of the city into five major elements: paths, edges, districts, nodes, and landmarks.

For most people interviewed, paths were the predominant city element. These are channels along which the observer customarily, occasionally, or potentially move. They might be streets, walkways, transit lines, canals, railroads, etc. Edges are the linear elements or boundaries between two phases, linear breaks in continuity, shores, railroad cuts, edges of development, or walls. Districts are medium to large sections of the city which have some common identifying character. Nodes are the strategic spots in a city which an observer can enter, and are the intensive focal point from which he is traveling. They may be junctions, places of break in transportation, a crossing or convergence of paths, or moments of shift from one structure to another. Landmarks are another type of point reference, but in this case the observer does not enter them, they are external. They are usually a rather simply defined physical object: building, sign, store, or mountain.

According to Lynch, every city can be broken down into these five parts and its spatial structure analyzed and used as a basis for design. He also stresses the importance of these elements to be patterned and integrated together to provide a satisfying city form.

For reasons of this brief essay, we can generalize by saying historically, the public domain of the city has consisted of two basic categories of space,
linear and cluster (paths and nodes).

The character and quality of linear access spaces plays an important role in our perception of the space and the nature of our experience. Some of the variables affecting this are scale, shape, and the organization of defining surfaces. In general, the larger the space relative to human scale, the more rapidly we are inclined to move. Height to width ratios greatly affects the character of linear spaces (see figure A & B). Changes in the scale of spaces perceived also relies on length. The use of curvilinear patterns in streets is an effective example of creating closure and providing human scale (see figure C & D). Bridging over streets with linking structures can also be an equally effective technique (see figure E & F).

The scale of linear spaces is also affected by the amount of visual stimulus, or information, provided within the defining surfaces. Building surfaces with horizontal emphasis in the organization of facades tend to be directional or movement oriented. Surfaces which are more vertically broken draw the eye upward in opposition to horizontal movement. This reduces the spanning movement of the eye down the street and suggests movement to be slower. Gorden Cullen suggests in his book "Townscape," that this effect provides interest close to the viewer and "here" is as important as "there." An example of this effect can be seen in the following two figures. In figure C horizontal emphasis in the facades is very strong. As a result, the defining surfaces provide little opposition in the movement of the eye towards the end of the street. This suggests and invites rapid movement which one could say is inconsistent with the pedestrian treatment and use intended. In figure H the defining surfaces have a strong and varied vertical emphasis. In this case the surfaces create an opposition in the movement of the eye. The visual complexity provided by the vertical breaks contributes to a more passive quality consistent with the pedestrian mode of use intended.

Within the context of linear spaces, towers (landmarks) can have a large impact on the character of spaces perceived. Vertical towers counteract the
horizontal journey of the eye down the street by directing attention upward. The high visibility of the tower thus punctuates the space and, in effect, subdivides the linear space into distinct sections. Not only does it increase the visual complexity and interest of the space, but provides an important functional and symbolic role in providing a sense of orientation and hierarchy within the urban setting (see figure I & J).

As mentioned earlier, the second basic category of spatial forms which we experience within the urban environment are cluster spaces (nodes). The function of cluster spaces is to provide access, linkage, and containment for the overlap and interaction of people and activities. Cluster spaces rely on the basic fact that the relationship of defining surfaces provide enclosure. The effect must be capable of concentrating attention on a distinct and identifiable roomlike spatial form. When the definition is lacking or an excessive number of breaks occur in the surfaces, containment is lost. This reduces the space's potential to provide a supportive container for human interaction.

As with linear spaces, the form and use messages are largely determined by the scale, shape, and organization of defining surfaces. Simple shapes, like squares, rectangles, and circles are more formal and allow rapid visual exploration. Oblong and more complicated shapes invite and indeed require visual exploration. They are generally more informal in character and can lend themselves more naturally to a variety of uses than do squares with simple shapes. More importantly may be the location and hierarchy of cluster spaces within the city. Their relationship and linkage to the linear spaces of the city plays an important role in determining their character and suggested use.

Historically, building coverage was typically denser than the amount of exterior space. Buildings primarily gave shape to the public domain creating positive voids or "space as object." In these instances, outdoor space is a positive void and is more figural than the solids that define it. This is the
opposite of the modern concept of space, where buildings are figural free standing objects, and exterior space is often an uncontained void. The gridiron form, associated with most modern cities, is partially responsible for the decline of positive exterior space. This type of city form has inherent limitations in its capacity to provide an integrated and varying urban environment. Historic cities provide us with some of the most spectacular and outstanding examples of urban spatial form. The remaining portion of Part I of this essay is aimed at identifying some of these ingredients of these towns and cities which contribute towards creating a stimulating and exciting urban experience.

In his book "The Dynamics of Urbanism," Peter Smith defines and discusses some of the spatial appeal of historic cities. One example is what he has defined as "ambiguous space." This is a space which offers visual cues that other spaces exist in close relationship to it. The dynamic content lies in its capacity to activate curiosity drives. An example of this is the piazza of Saint Marco. In this case the cathedral square is self-contained but the buildings do not confine attention to this space alone. The hint of Doge's Palace is the prelude to another space of unique character. As one moves towards the space it is revealed as an open ended piazzetta (see figures K, L, & M). Another spatial formula with this quality of ambiguity is illustrated in the series of squares of a town in French Savoie (see figure N). In this example each of the squares has a distinctive character. Part of the character of these spaces is derived from the connecting archways which reveal fragments of the spaces beyond.

In addition to partially revealing spaces and activating curiosity, arches can give space status. By creating defined limits and focused direction arches can capture one's attention and elevate the framed view, giving it epic significance. An effective example of this is the archway to the Winter Palace in Leningrad (see figure 0).
Much of the appeal of older towns is that they offer numerous goals for exploration. This ingredient of townscapée is defined as "Teleological space" and derives its impact from the partial disclosure of an object which implies different possibilities and interpretations of its hidden form. In medieval towns, streets rarely give access to the central node axially but rather approach it tangentially. The effect is that the principal building of the square is only partially revealed above the roof tops which stimulates imagination and curiosity in addition to offering incentive to explore (see figure P).

Another type of urban space could be defined as "inductive space." These are spaces, by nature of their form and character, impel movement. Inducement to move can be achieved by a simple curve in the street and even further dramatized by changes in elevation. When this effect is further enhanced by the partial disclosure of a distant landmark associated with an activity node, impact is indeed dynamic (see figure 2 & 3).
PART II

PERCEPTION AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

What is it that man likes in the city, what is it that he dislikes? What is it that he finds exciting in the city, what is tedious? What makes a city appear ugly or attractive? In what type of an urban environment does man feel most comfortable? What are the physical characteristics that make the urban environment understandable and meaningful to people?

These were some of the questions raised at the outset of this quarter. In an attempt to answer these and other questions concerning people's perception of the urban environment, a methodology directed towards eliciting such information was conducted with twenty participants from the city of Fort Wayne. The group varied in age, sex, and occupation, none of which were "environmental design professionals". The aim was to gather attitudes, personal feelings, preferences, and goals of a citizenry about their urban environment. Input from an urban community in the development of an urban design proposal is imperative because of the subjective nature of the profession.

It is important to acknowledge that people's perception and attitudes towards the urban environment are undoubtedly different from city to city. Some of the variables effecting this are scale, social and cultural differences, and geographical location. In terms of creating plans for urban development, I feel it is important to gather locale specific information on the inhabitants' perception of the urban environment. In doing so, we can begin to incorporate the desires and feelings of the people we are planning for addressing "their" perception of a positive urban image.

The information gathered from my research provides a base of opinions and concerns from which one can begin to determine the dominant factors and priorities in people's minds in regard to the development of downtown Fort Wayne. The
analysis of this information was not intended to establish "facts", but rather to provide direction and guidance in determining the issues related to the development of downtown.

The methodology that was developed and administered is broken into three parts. The first involved the presentation of thirty-six pairs of slides covering a variety of environmental images ranging from urban spaces to residential interiors. Each pair contained some fundamental similarities but differed in varying degrees of form and character. Before the pair of slides were presented, the participants were asked to simply record which of the two images they found more appealing. After this was completed, the first five pairs of images were presented again. This time the participants were asked to briefly write down their reasons for selection while the images were being projected. They were told to describe either what they found appealing about the image they selected, or what was unappealing about the other. The results are presented in Section A. The written comments of the participants have been recorded as they appeared with no interpretation or translation on my part. The remaining two portions of the methodology are discussed in Sections B and C.
SECTION A

COMPARE/CONTRAST IMAGES

The percentages below represent the participants' responses to the question, "Which of the two images do you find most appealing?" The first five pairs of images and the written responses received appear on the following pages.

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IMAGE 1-A
Palazzo Publico - Siena, Italy

IMAGE 1-B
Sinclair Community College - Dayton, Ohio
Positive Comments

-- Nice older structure
-- Like the old look
-- "preservation of the structure"
-- Like the architectural style and detail, more inviting than the cold, stark modern building.
-- Like the tower and old fashioned look
-- Has more character
-- Like the lines
-- Like the lines better
-- More detail is interesting
-- Like more elaborate design
-- Like the more detail
-- Like the use of color and bricks
-- Like the brick
-- Like the tower
-- Like tower and clock
-- Like rail around top of building
-- Like arched doorway

Negative comments

-- Needs landscaping
-- Needs landscaping
-- Don't like the "peaks"
-- More unusable space
-- Much more difficult to maintain
Positive Comments

-- open feeling
-- feeling of practical application of space
-- gives feeling of freedom to move, relax
-- like open court with trees
-- like trees, walk, fountain
-- like open court and landscaping
-- like landscaping
-- like stepped/walk up entrance
-- "neat steps"
-- clean lines
-- has straighter lines - more modern
-- like clean lines
-- cleaner lines
-- like all symmetrical straight lines going parallel and perpendicular at the same time.
-- modern, nicer lines, clean and crisp
-- like streamline design
-- clean and orderly
-- clean looking
-- very sharp in its dimensions
-- less "business"
-- stable look
-- like color
-- lighter color attractive
-- soothing

Negative comments

-- too cold, austere, plain, no character
-- cold, stark building
-- modern building is cold, yet more functional and practical.
IMAGE 2-A
Urban Street - Philadelphia, Penn.

IMAGE 2-B
Urban Street - Cologne, G.W.
IMAGE 2-A Urban Street - Philadelphia, Penn.

Positive Comments

-- More spacious
-- More open, not as crowded, easier to shop
-- More spacious
-- More open
-- Open view
-- More open spaces
-- More open, more space
-- Spacious
-- More open
-- Modern, uncluttered street and buildings
-- Not congested with traffic
-- Not crowded with people
-- Less cluttered
-- Less congested
-- Cleaner look
-- Cleaner
-- Looks cleaner
-- Cleaner lines
-- Symmetrical
-- Easy on the eye
-- Undemanding of one's attention
-- Simple

Negative Comments

-- Picture gave a cold feeling
-- Stark and desolate looking
-- Boring and depressing
-- Sloppy Looking
-- Looks trashy - garbage can and litter
IMAGE 2-B Urban Street - Cologne, G.W.

Positive Comments

-- Prefer because of the people
-- People add interest
-- Added element of "people"
-- Congested, but you feel welcome.
-- Has liveliness and activity
-- Area that is usable, colorful, and attractive to people
-- Looks as if there's more to do'
-- Lots of things to look at
-- Colors caught my eye
-- Color added "Life to Image"

Negative comments

-- Too crowded
-- Too crowded with people and signs
-- Too many people and signs
-- Too busy looking
-- Chaotic
-- Sordy
IMAGE 3-A
Street Strip Development - Gary, IN.

IMAGE 3-B
Low Rise Downtown Street - Washington D.C.
IMAGE 3-A  Streets Strip Development - Gary, IN.

Positive Comments

-- None

Negative Comments

-- Too many signs
-- Nothing but a clutter of billboards and signs
-- Too many signs
-- Too many signs
-- Don't like the signs
-- Shows to much commercialism
-- To cluttered
IMAGE 3-B  Low rise downtown street - Washington D.C.

Positive Comments

-- Open
-- More open
-- More appealing
-- Not so cluttered
-- Looks uncluttered
-- Not cluttered
-- Not cluttered
-- Uncluttered look
-- More serene and interesting
-- Easy on the eye
-- Buildings show a mature, small city downtown which will never look like the other
-- Homier feeling
-- Everything looks in place
-- Looks neater and cleaner
-- No signs sticking out
-- Cleaner look
-- Neat, clean, orderly'
-- Rather see buildings than signs
-- Clean picture
-- Looks like a nice street to walk down.
-- Charming buildings
-- Pleasing textures, clean, tidy, "wholesome" atmosphere
-- Self-contained store fronts undemanding of ones attention (not overwhelming)
-- Buildings are well kept
-- Like buildings, they are very nice, makes it look like the old city
-- Like landscaping
-- Like trees in front of buildings
-- Visually pleasing use of landscape
-- Light the trees and uniformity of lights
-- Like the street lights and trees
-- Nicely done parkway
-- Like new looking lights
-- Even lighting
-- Like street lighting and sidewalks
-- Pleasing combination of colors
-- Like the architecture of the building at the end of the street
-- It is livable

Negative Comments

-- None
IMAGE 4-A
Summit Bank - Fort Wayne, In.

IMAGE 4-B
Fort Wayne National Bank - Fort Wayne, In.
Positive Comments

-- Open feeling
-- Less congestion
-- Flow from one area to another is good
-- No interruption of eye contact with main attraction (tall building)
-- Does not appear to be a "hodgepodge" of building, appears planned
-- Don't like either, but A is more appealing
-- Like landscaping
-- Like trees, grass, benches
-- Like landscaping
-- Landscaping very attractive
-- Park area with glass gives open feeling, restful
-- Grass and trees are nice
-- Nice landscaping
-- Landscaped better
-- Like parklike area around the structure
-- Grass and park - like setting gives this scene more appeal
-- Attractively landscaped frontage
-- Like landscaping and concrete
-- Clean, simple lines on ground and on building
-- Like lines of the building better
-- Nice lines on building, both vertical and horizontal
-- Like streamline design
-- Modern, clean lines
-- Like lines of building
-- Clean, newer
-- Very clean looking
-- Very eye catching
-- Different look
-- Nice modern look
-- Windows are eye catching
-- Like variety of shapes
-- Building has more depth
-- Not so square
-- Has a more defined outline
-- Like shape
-- Like the building and the way a piece comes off of it and not just straight
-- Lighter, more uniform color
-- Like color of building
-- Like contrast of colors next to red "Hilton"
-- Whole picture nicer setting nicer setting
-- No signs
-- Dynamic
-- Feels safe

Negative Comments

-- Looks like a concrete monument
-- Needs some bushes

36
IMAGE 4-B  Fort Wayne National Bank - Fort Wayne, IN.

Positive Comments

-- Like the contrast of old and new

Negative Comments

-- Modern building overpowers the older area
-- Windows different colors
-- Antennas on top
IMAGE 5-A
Pioneer Courthouse Square - Portland, Orland

IMAGE 5-B
Monument Circle - Indianapolis, In.
IMAGE 5-A  Pioneer Courthouse Square - Portland, Orlando

Positive Comments

-- Like/more open
-- Square has good size area
-- Has no center building giving a more spacious feeling
-- Not so much of a "traffic hazard"
-- Interesting focal point in the courtyard where one could walk without worrying about traffic
-- Like varying building size
-- Like color better
-- Has more color
-- Like mountain range background
-- Like trees and rolling hills in the distance

Negative Comments

-- Appears disorderly
-- Confuses the eye
-- Looks very disorganized
Positive Comments

-- Circular configuration to pleasing and interesting
-- Circular movement is more attractive than straight lines to me
-- Like circular shape
-- Circle more unusual
-- The circle is nice
-- Like the circle
-- Unusual and interesting
-- Like round design of street with curved buildings
-- I like the way alot of buildings were built around one building in the center, stresses the importance of the center building
-- Like pyramid shape, circled buildings, and wide shape around pyramid.
-- Surrounding buildings complimentary
-- Flow around central focal point attractive
-- Monument in center is attractive
-- Center building caught my eye
-- has order and beauty to it
-- More symmetry than the other
-- has symmetry
-- Looks more planned
-- Looks more structured
-- A picture you want to stop and figure out exactly what the architect was thinking
-- I've been there and like the style
-- Have been there, like the setting and activity around center of the city
-- More appealing to the eye
-- Novelty sensation
-- It is understandable

Negative Comment

-- Looks too cold and forboding
-- Seems to closed in because its not large enough
Of the five pairs of images which participants were asked to comment upon, there a number of prevailing characteristics which people described as the basis for their preferred selection.

"Openness" or "spaciousness" was one commonly stated characteristic. In a number of instances this overall spatial quality seemed more important than any of the specific features which defined the space. Spaces of less density, with greater natural lighting, and less visual stimuli; streets greater in width than height ratios, with less random order in the defining surfaces, and less signage and people were more commonly preferred. Some of the images selected which disclose this are 1B, 2A, 4A, 6B, 11B, and 20A.

Most of the twenty participants can be classified as suburbanites. One could say that these people have chosen to settle in a more "spacious" environment and have adopted a more independant life style. Their comments may reveal that the attitudes and values of suburbia do indeed have an effect on the way people perceive and evaluate urban and other environments.

Port Wayne can be broadly described in a physical sense as spacious and sprawled out. The actual downtown urban core is rather small and spacious and even "campus like" in some of the newer areas. Here again, the participants' preferences of spacious images may reveal a bias or native ingraining produced by their association and interaction with a city of specific scale, density, and spatial character. It is hypothesized that the environmental perceptions of inhabitants living in cities of different scale, density, and cultural setting, may be quite different from the impressions gathered from these participants.

The issue then, as it relates to the specific locale I'm working with, is a question of spatial character. If spaciousness is a preferred quality in urban and other environments, what form and vocabulary could be incorporated to create this? How can one create "defined positive spaciousness" where
"uncontained negative voids" already abundantly exist in the downtown urban core.

Landscaping was often another predominant reason for the participants' preferred selection. Landscaping comments included references to trees, vegetation, walkways, fountains, lights, and benches. In some of the images even small amounts of landscaping such as a street sparsely lined with trees captured many people's attention and was described as appealing, adding beauty, visually pleasing, or as unifying the street scene. The images to which these comments referred were urban environments in which landscaping had been incorporated as part of urban renewal effort.

If landscaping within the urban setting makes such a strong impression in people's minds and is so highly valued by the city's inhabitants, the inclusion of landscape and nature in urban development should be one area of focus and exploration. Rather than being an afterthought or something applied so many feet on center to an existing street, a more holistic approach to incorporating nature in the early stages of planning could create a distinct and attractive environment. The integration of city and nature could counter spatial fragmentation and provide distinct urban spaces for daily use. This issue becomes even more important because of Fort Wayne's current proposal for the development of Headwaters State Park immediately north of the downtown core. (see illustration on the following page). The spatial relationship and dialogue between these two entities raises numerous issues to be explored.

Of the five pairs of images to which people responded, comments revealed a distinct preference towards environments which appeared ordered, well planned, or provided a sense of stability. It seems that disorder, whether it be the random placement of signs or a "hodgepodge" of buildings as one participant put it, evoked a less desirable image. Factors such as symmetry, uniform building height, and more formal geometry, all seemed to have a role
in persuading the participants' selections.

Clean horizontal and vertical lines was the most commonly stated positive comment in reference to building images. A predominant and balanced interaction of the two provided an image often described as sharp, crisp, and clear. This preferred quality of definitive lines is apparently perceived as clean, simple, and eye catching. In a few instances a less distinguishable or random use of lines was perceived as confusing or cluttered. This preferred quality is quite different from my own personal taste. I find most visual interest in complex, asymmetrical, and varied compositions where as the lay person, less adept in analyzing and comprehending such an arrangement, seems to regard these situations as chaotic, disorganized, and undesirable.

In a number of instances building shape or geometry was stated as the reason for preference. Monument circle for instance was largely appreciated for its unique geometric shape and symmetrical orderly form. The curved building facades which define the space and reinforce the importance of the monument were described as unusual, understandable, and complimentary. The manipulation of building form in defining and shaping activity nodes is indeed a spatial configuration rarely found in American cities. Because of its inherent uniqueness, "space as object" certainly has the potential of increasing the identity and appeal of the all too familiar gridiron city.

In the case of the Summit building in Fort Wayne, a number of comments referred to the shape as being the reason for selection. This structure deviates from the typical box form of earlier modern buildings and was appreciated for its variety in shape, depth, and defined outline. Preferred selections of the Victorian residence, National Theatre in London, Pennzoil Place, and the New Yorker hotel support this preference for more varied form, yet each retains a degree of simplicity or formality (in some cases symmetry) in their compositions.
SECTION B

QUESTIONNAIRE AND COGNITIVE MAPPING

In this section the participants were asked to complete the following questionnaire.

1.) When you think of Fort Wayne what first comes to mind; what symbolizes Fort Wayne for you?

2.) On the paper provided, I would like you to draw a quick map of the downtown area. Draw it just as if you were making a rapid description of downtown to a stranger, trying to cover the main features. I don’t expect an accurate or elaborate drawing, just a rough sketch. Please label the features your identifying.

3.) I would now like you to list the features and/or areas of the built environment downtown which you find most distinctive or outstanding. They may be large or small but list those which for you are easiest to remember or identify.

4.) Which of the built features downtown symbolizes the center for you?
The following information is a listing of the responses and results to the preceding questionnaire. Recorded within the parentheses is the number of people who referred to the following topics.

1.) When you think of Fort Wayne what first comes to mind; what symbolizes Fort Wayne for you?

(5) -- Court House
(5) -- It is home
(4) -- Rivers
(4) -- Friendly people
(3) -- Cathedral
(2) -- Lincoln tower
(2) -- Freimann Square
(2) -- Parks
(2) -- Public library
(2) -- Churches
(2) -- Conjestion
(1) -- Childrens' zoo
(1) -- International Harvester
(1) -- Old City Hall
(1) -- West Central neighborhood
(1) -- St. Joe Medical Center
(1) -- The Old Fort
(1) -- Coliseum
(1) -- City County building
(1) -- Botanical gardens
(1) -- Corner of Coldwater and Coliseum
(1) -- Restaurants
(1) -- Small town atmosphere
(1) -- Big city
(1) -- Growing, expanding
(1) -- History
(1) -- Good place to raise children
(1) -- Close to larger cities
(1) -- Inexpensive to live
(1) -- Too many stop lights
(1) -- W.O.W.O.
(1) -- Three Rivers Festival
2.) On the paper provided, I would like you to draw a quick map of the downtown area. Draw it just as if you were making a rapid description of downtown to a stranger, trying to cover the main features. I don't expect an accurate or elaborate drawing, just a rough sketch. Please label the features your identifying.

### Buildings and Places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>City County building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Botanical gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Freimann Square</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Court House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Summit Square</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Hilton Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cathedral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Embassy Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Civic Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lincoln tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Calhoun Street Hall</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>St. Mary's river (never labeled)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Old L.S. Ayre's building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Art museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Landing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Historical Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Holiday Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Grand Wayne Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Elevated railroad</td>
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<td>Fort Wayne National Bank building</td>
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<td>Coney Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Regals Tobacco Shop</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Three Rivers apartments</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Arby's</td>
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<td>Lincoln Life building</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Indiana Bank building</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Gas House restaurant</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Anthony Wayne statue</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>McDonald's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I &amp; M building</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Summit building parking garage</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Masonic Temple</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>U.S. Post Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rivergreenway (bike/pedestrian path)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Slum south of town</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Murphy's</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Anthony Wayne Bank building</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Old Journal Gazette building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Old Barr Street Market</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building and Places (continued)

(1) -- Y.W.C.A.
(1) -- No. 1 firestation
(1) -- 3 & B Loan (retail)
(1) -- Figaros (restaurant)
(1) -- Standard Federal Bank building
(1) -- Metro building
(1) -- Elektron building
(1) -- Bonsib building
(1) -- Old Patterson Fletcher building (retail)
(1) -- Scottish Rite building
(1) -- Central high school
(1) -- St. Mary's church
(1) -- Lawton park
(1) -- Water filtration plant
(1) -- Salvation Army
(1) -- St. Paul's church
(1) -- St. Joe Medical Center

Streets

(17) -- Main
(16) -- Clinton
(13) -- Berry
(12) -- Washington
(11) -- Lafayette
(11) -- Jefferson
(11) -- Calhoun
(8) -- Wayne
(8) -- Harrison
(4) -- Superior
(4) -- Barr
(2) -- Webster
(2) -- Lewis
(2) -- Pearl
(1) -- Clay
(1) -- Court
3.) I would now like you to list the features and/or areas of the built environment downtown which you find most distinctive or outstanding. They may be large or small but list those which for you are easiest to remember or identify.

(11) -- Freimann Square
(11) -- Court House
(7) -- Lincoln tower
(7) -- City County building
(7) -- Botanical gardens
(7) -- Cathedral
(6) -- Embassy Theatre
(4) -- Landing
(4) -- Summit Square building
(4) -- Public library
(3) -- Calhoun Street Mall
(3) -- Grand Wayne Center
(3) -- Hilton Hotel
(3) -- Fort Wayne National Bank building
(3) -- Old City Hall
(2) -- Old Fort
(1) -- Anthony Wayne Bank building
(1) -- Coney Island
(1) -- Park around Summit Bank building
(1) -- Railroad Station
(1) -- Old L.S. Ayres building
(1) -- Civic Theatre
(1) -- Barr Street Market Renovation
(1) -- Contemporary design of new buildings

4.) Which of the built features downtown symbolize the center for you?

(4) -- Summit Square building
(4) -- City County building
(4) -- Lincoln tower
(2) -- Court House
(2) -- Calhoun Street Mall
(1) -- Lincoln Life building
(1) -- Civic Center
(1) -- Public library
(1) -- Clinton and Main Streets
(1) -- Freimann Square
(1) -- Hilton Hotel
(1) -- Combination of Freimann Square, City County building, and Clinton Street
5.) How often do you go downtown? (Check appropriate columns)

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.) Daily</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.) 4-6 days a week</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.) 1-3 days a week</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.) Monthly</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.) Yearly</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.) Other (specify)</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.) What are some of the reasons you go downtown? (Check appropriate columns)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.) Work</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.) Business, professional appointments</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.) Shopping</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.) Services, repairs, etc.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.) Recreation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.) Parks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.) Dining, drinking</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.) Other (specify)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Church, library, Sunday night concerts, Three rivers festival

7.) What are some of the reasons you are discouraged from coming downtown? (Please list)

(16) Traffic, congestion, rush hour traffic, one way traffic, confusing, no sense of direction, easier access (parking) at north end of town, stop lights

(12) Lack of parking

(12) Not much to go for, no activity, lack of activity after 5:00 p.m., no good movie theatres, no real places to eat, bad shopping

(2) Same thing closer to home, many of downtown features can be done in the suburban areas

(2) Don't know way around, unfamiliarity

(2) Distance

(1) Dirty streets and buildings

(1) People

(1) Construction

(1) Poor road systems - needs north/south express corridor
8.) Which of the following improvements or developments do you think downtown Fort Wayne is in need of? (Rate the ones you choose on a scale of 1 to 8, No. 8 having the highest priority.)

1.) ( 95 pts. ) Improved automobile traffic patterns
2.) ( 91 pts. ) More parking structures
3.) ( 89 pts. ) Restaurants and bars
4.) ( 85 pts. ) Live performance and movie theatres
5.) ( 79 pts. ) Parks and open space
6.) ( 72 pts. ) More shopping, specialty shops
7.) ( 43 pts. ) More shopping, food, clothing, hardware, etc.
8.) ( 43 pts. ) More moderate income housing
9.) ( 42 pts. ) Less on street parking
10.) ( 37 pts. ) Bicycle paths
11.) ( 36 pts. ) Public access to the river and boat rental
12.) ( 35 pts. ) Recreational facilities (e.g. swimming pools, tennis courts, etc.
13.) ( 35 pts. ) More upper income housing (e.g. houses, townhouses, apartments)
14.) ( 32 pts. ) Mini-bus or other form of public transportation to keep more traffic and circulation out of downtown.
15.) ( 29 pts. ) Improved pedestrian traffic patterns
16.) ( 25 pts. ) Hotels, motels
17.) ( 12 pts. ) More lower income housing
18.) ( 0 pts. ) Other, (specify)
9.) What are some of the reasons you live or moved to Fort Wayne? (Check as many as applicable).

1.) (14) Family and friends
2.) (12) Employment
3.) (12) A small, comfortable midwestern town
4.) (9) Life style and sense of place
5.) (8) To be away from larger cities
6.) (1) Fort Wayne's history
7.) (1) To be close to larger cities
8.) (0) Other, (specify)

10.) What kind(s) of image would you like the downtown area to have? (Rate the ones you choose on a scale of 1 to 8, No. 8 having the highest priority).

1.) (109 pts.) Historical preservation
2.) (93 pts.) New buildings to be modern but in harmony and scale with historical structures
3.) (81 pts.) New buildings to have quaint historical quality
4.) (61 pts.) Large pedestrian open plaza as a focal point
5.) (61 pts.) Combination of large and small pedestrian spaces
6.) (59 pts.) New buildings to be mid-rise and high-rise structures
7.) (58 pts.) New buildings to have modern, sleek quality
8.) (40 pts.) Small, open pedestrian spaces
9.) (33 pts.) New buildings to be low rise structures
10.) (32 pts.) Small, partially or fully enclosed pedestrian spaces
11.) (0 pts.) Other, (specify)
SECTION C
SEQUENTIAL IMAGES

In this section the participants were presented a sequential series of slides covering a selected area of downtown. After this was completed, the following questionnaire was presented.

1.) Briefly write down your initial impressions and feelings on the sequence of areas just presented. For instance, did you find the walk through these areas to be appealing, disorienting, exciting, monotonous, continuous, interrupted, unique, ordinary, . . .

2.) Briefly list some of the features or areas of the built environment shown in the slides which you find most memorable or distinctive. The may be large or small, attractive or unattractive, but list those which are easiest to remember or identify.

3.) From the list you wrote for question #2, pick the one which you would say is most memorable and write it down. After you have done this, briefly describe what makes it memorable or distinctive to you.

4.) Are there any activities or events associated with the areas just presented that you can recall? If so, please list.

5.) Did you recall this activity or event while the slides were being shown or only after the question above was asked?

6.) Do you feel this remembrance has an effect on your attitude or feelings about the area and if so, why?
DIVISION 2
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT - PHASE I

- Background to Study Area
- Urban Design Development
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT - PHASE I

Background of Study Area

The site selected for this study includes an area of approximately twenty city blocks located within the heart of downtown Fort Wayne. Figure 1 shows the location of this area within the larger context of the city which is only a short distance southwest of the confluence of the St. Mary's, St. Joseph, and Maumee rivers. This twenty block area includes governmental buildings, the city's major office towers, and the small amount of significant retail which still exist downtown. Figure 2 and the following list describe the major uses and characteristics of each block. Appendix A includes photograph images of some of the major features located within the area.

A.) Historic row buildings - commercial use.
B.) Historic row buildings - commercial use/surface parking.
C.) Surface parking.
D.) City-County Traffic and Highway Department - surface parking
E.) Historic canal house and bus depot.
F.) Warehouse - surface parking.
G.) Historic Landing row buildings - nightclubs, bars, retail and office space.
   Street use is restricted to pedestrians and delivery vehicles.
H.) City-County government building - surface parking.
I.) Freimann Square - urban park encompassing an entire city block.
J.) Historic row buildings - commercial use.
K.) Allen County Court House - surface parking/row buildings.
M.) Historic row buildings - office and retail.
* Selected Buildings with Special Architectural or Historic Interest

- Declining or Deteriorating Buildings Which Should Be Removed

MAP 2
BUILDING FRAMEWORK

FIGURE 2
0.) Renaissance office building.

P.) Proposed Midtown Crossing - adaptive reuse of historic structures for apartments and condominiums.

Q.) Summit Bank tower - underdeveloped green space.

R.) Indiana Bank - surface parking/parking structure.

S.) Hilton Hotel & Grand Wayne Center - convention center.

T.) Parking structure.

U.) Y.M.C.A. recreational facilities - surface parking.

Many of the blocks just described remain underused, undeveloped, or dedicated for the use of surface parking. The city's downtown comprehensive plan and development strategy, completed only several years ago, addresses these underdeveloped areas and provides recommendations and guidelines for their future development. For each block they suggest what they consider the most appropriate function, provide basic goals for the site's development, and describe the image and role of the site within the larger context of the city.

The problem with the plan is that it lacks as a wholistic notion of how the city might be developed. It fails to recommend how different areas and individual blocks may become interrelated and interconnected, and how people may move and filter through the city. The plan also emphasizes that opportunity projects are isolated ventures developed by private enterprise without public interests and domain in mind (see figure 3). In essence, their approach states, attract developers to fill in the remaining voids of the urban fabric and the city will be a better place for you and me.

Within the downtown area several major and significant projects are currently being promoted and developed. The first of these is Midtown Crossing (block P on figure 2). This block of historic row buildings has been planned to accommodate nearly 100 apartments and condominiums. Construction