A masterplan for the Indiana State Fairgrounds: a celebration of urban open space revitalization.

Scott L. Siefker 1994-95 Landscape Architecture Undergraduate Thesis.
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abstract statement

Every summer, thousands of people enjoy the smells, sights and sounds of the Indiana State Fair. The space is enjoyed as a cultural and entertainment venue that provides recreational and social opportunities for many people. What happens to the fairgrounds after the lights of the carnival are turned off, the livestock is returned to rural Indiana farms and the music of a live concert is no longer heard drifting past the grandstand?

Unfortunately, with the exception of a small portion of the site, the majority of the fairgrounds area remains unused for most of the year. It is important to realize that an event, such as the state fair, was developed for the education, recreation and entertainment of Indiana residents. Now is the time to rediscover those hidden opportunities with a re-development masterplan for the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

The development of this revitalization land use plan for the state fairgrounds as an attractive public space provides several positive results for the city of Indianapolis. First, it helps to turn seldom used land into a frequently visited space. Second, this plan will help to establish neighborhood pride and foster social growth within the community. Lastly, it combines art, nature, sociology, history and aesthetics into a successful urban re-development that provides cultural enrichment for citizens within an urban environment. It is when a space can provide a stimulus to such activities that it truly realizes its full potential.
American society has grown from a rural-based culture to one that is urban centered. Because of this evolution, the majority of people now live, work and recreate in or near urban centers. The lack of open space in urban areas has plagued many cities throughout their development. Often, the land becomes too valuable to be left as designated open space. However, even with a greater focus on urban areas offered by planners, public officials and citizens, alike, our society has been unable, or unwilling to provide large areas of open space for the public's use.

The city of Indianapolis, Indiana is no exception. New housing developments and apartment complexes are quickly swallowing up remaining land surrounding the city. These recent construction trends have left even established neighborhoods without the benefits of public open space. Our society functions with the mentality that we must build over all usable land, forgetting the value of public open space. How can the landscape architect help to establish and maintain open space areas that provide educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for citizens in an urban environment?
Review of the Literature

"One of the minor tragedies of urban Europe and America has been the failure to develop criteria for modern city parks based on what most city dwellers today would consider to be the social mores of contemporary society. Park systems are deteriorating in American cities; because, for one reason, their functions are not completely understood. Their potential, has never been realized (French, 39)."

This statement, taken from Jere French’s book Urban Green, eloquently states the open space problems in many cities. The fact is that in most parks, their potential has never been fully realized. Such is the case at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. It is a site surrounded by an urban context, yet the authorities have not capitalized on its full potential. Sadly, many urban spaces fail to reach one’s highest expectations. One reason many of America’s parks and open space networks fail in this respect is because they were often copies of Europe’s romantic-style gardens (French, 22). We have often replicated successful European urban spaces, such as the grand Italian piazzas and formal French gardens, with the hope that the behavior patterns and social aspect found within these spaces would follow. Unfortunately, in America these copies were not as successful as their European counterparts. In the mid 1800’s Fredrick Law Olmstead recognized a lack of unfulfilled potential in America’s underdeveloped open space.

With his design for Central Park, Olmstead was able to successfully combine the natural and built elements into a symbiotic relationship. He wove each element skillfully
together to form an urban fabric that satisfied the basic needs of our existence. Olmstead was convinced that essential recreational needs for individuals required rural retreats in the heart of an urban center (Molnar, 4). This raises the question of whether, or not, parks are viewed today as only aesthetic elements, not to be touched - only admired, or whether they should be used, changed and manipulated for our own physical well-being.

In an article of *Modern Park Design*, David Louwerse states that in urban renewal activities, "parks have been widely used as means of revitalizing the city" (9). Other noted scholars, such as Henry David Thoreau, also recognized the importance that park and open space can have on an urban environment. Thoreau expressed a great discontent for modern society, and thus retreated into the wilderness at Walden Pond. It is here that he reconciled with himself the importance the 'wilderness' plays in providing an escape from a complex society (*Public Space*, 2). In reality, most individuals are not as lucky as Thoreau, due to the fact they are unable to escape from contemporary society. Therefore, these individuals must utilize what is most affordable, convenient and in close proximity to them: a local park. It is here that they are given the opportunity to recreate, play, relax and learn. For many of us, this can be, and often is, our wilderness retreat from modern urban life.

Granted, the function of many public open spaces seems to be memorializing the dead. Often, one large statue punctuates the space, and the natural elements act as supporting cast members. They become overgrown and unkept backdrops to architectural elements. Others would argue that the functions of the parks are unnecessary. The backyard has often served as a source of recreational space. But do these backyard parks
serve the need of social integration within a greater context? They can not possibly provide the wealth of social and cultural interaction that is possible within a larger open space system. Within a larger setting, there is a greater opportunity for interaction and growth that isn't possible in privately owned backyards.

According to Jere French, in order for these park systems to realize their full potential, they must be more than a block of open space with a patch of trees. A good open space requires a strong functional organization and a sense of scale among built elements as well as pleasant aesthetics. But the most important ingredient in the park, or open space system, should be self-involvement (French, 40). Then the open space network will serve as a catalyst for exploratory activities that helps to foster a better fellowship among individuals. It is when a space provides a stimulus to cultural enrichment that it truly realizes it's full potential, maybe even passing our own expectations.
For Indianapolis, one solution for this lack of open space does not require saving areas of valuable land for park and open space development. In contrast, the solution may be found in re-defining land for new uses. The revitalization of the state fairgrounds into
a year-around community activity center that will be open for recreational and social
activities offers a very plausible response to this challenge. Such a revitalization would
provide spaces for public use on a large area of seldom used space.

The Indiana State Fairgrounds is located in the heart of Indianapolis along 38th
street and Fall Creek Parkway. Surrounded by urban commercial, residential and
industrial development, the site is approximately 2.5 miles from the downtown core. The
fairgrounds location along Ind. 37/Fall Creek Parkway provides quick access from
Interstates 69 and 465.
history of the state fairgrounds

Indianapolis, Indiana has been host to the Indiana State Fair continuously since 1869. The city was chosen as the fair’s inaugural host in 1852. The first location selected for the state fair was in downtown Indianapolis. The site is now known as Military Park and has since become part of the White River State Park development that also includes the Indianapolis Zoo.

As the fair grew in popularity, a larger site was needed. Other cities, such as Fort Wayne and Terre Haute, were honored with hosting the annual event. But eventually, the fair returned to Indianapolis on a 36 acre tract of land known as Camp Morton (Cadou, 12). From 1886 to 1891 the fair was held at this location. With the growth and expansion of Indianapolis, it was determined that a larger site, as well as a site "in the country" was needed in order to continue and insure success for the fair program (Cadou, 13).

Thus, in 1891 eighty-six acres were purchased and an additional 146 acres leased along 38th street, north of the downtown area. This has been it’s location ever since. On this site, over 30 structures have been built, including an exposition hall, agriculture hall, grandstand and administration building. In 1911, the first coliseum was constructed on the site at a cost of $100,000 (Cadou, 12). Throughout the 1920’s and 30’s the fair continued to make building improvements to the grounds, even though the war and depression had eliminated most construction elsewhere (Miner, 16).

The fairgrounds has been host to a variety of entertainment and social activities
throughout the years. A standard mix of rodeos and concerts provided a mix of entertainment throughout the run of the fair. Some notable celebrities that have visited the site during fair time include Nat King Cole, Bob Hope, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Beatles. Throughout the 1970’s and 80’s, financial hard times fell on the fair program (Miner, 22). Although the fair continued to promote the proud agricultural heritage and innovations in agricultural technology, the focus shifted to offering a wide variety of entertainment opportunities.

Many of the structures on the site have suffered from lack of repair and upkeep. This has forced fair officials to even close such buildings as the 4-H Exposition Hall and dormitories due to unsafe conditions. In 1984, Governor Orr unveiled a plan that would give the fairgrounds a new look for the 1990’s, however nothing ever came from this scheme (Miner, 23).

The site is currently only fully utilized for 10 days in August during the run of the annual state fair. Throughout the remainder of the year, a variety of expositions, such as the Flower and Patio Show, Home Show and Christmas Craft and Hobby Show, as well as public ice skating, horse training and a variety of flea markets, utilize only a small portion of the site. What remains is a vast track of land located in an urban area that goes unused for the greater portion of a year.
The fairgrounds is located west of Fall Creek Parkway, just north of 38th street. Commercial and retail development, as well as a small branch of the Indiana-Purdue University Campus boarder the site along 38th street. Residential neighborhoods surround
the north and west portions of the fairgrounds, while Fall Creek runs parallel to the site's eastern edge. The Indiana School for the Deaf is located near the northwest corner of the fairgrounds along 42nd street. The urban core of Indianapolis, including the central business district, White River State Park/Indianapolis zoo, and Indiana University - Purdue University at Indianapolis are all to the south of the site. Small neighborhood parks are located near various residential neighborhoods near the fairgrounds. Other major established park/open space areas include Crown Hill Cemetery, the Indianapolis Museum of Art and Butler University. These major institutions are located west of the fairgrounds site.
As identified in the 1992 Indianapolis Comprehensive Plan, the city has a 20% parkland and openspace deficiency when considered on a per capita basis. Thus, the need for establishing a larger and improved open space network is great. To further help
improve the parkland in the city, as well as the recreational opportunities, a greenway plan has been adopted to provide additional open space for residents within this urban area.

The Indianapolis Greenway Plan that has been adopted is based upon one completed in 1909 by noted landscape architect George Kessler. The plan calls for the completion of fourteen corridors within the city limits. The proposed greenways provide linear open space that connects parklands, improves the recreational opportunities, and aids in the protection of wildlife and scenic regions. They reach many people, connecting neighborhoods and cultural resources within the city.

The fairgrounds lies between the Monon Corridor, which is an abandoned rail-line, and the Fall Creek Corridor. The Monon recreational corridor begins in southern Hamilton county and runs parallel to the western edge of the fairgrounds. The Fall Creek trail originates at Geist reservoir and connects with the White River Corridor. The Monon Corridor is the first trail scheduled to be completed within the city. Each of these recreational trails offer the opportunity to connect the fairgrounds within a larger network of open space systems throughout the city. With the re-development of the fairgrounds into a year-around activity center, it will become an exciting amenity along these corridors.
Indiana State Fairgrounds

☐ site inventory
The Fairgrounds currently occupies a 238 acre site. The site is generally open on a daily basis except during the fair or other major exhibitions. During these times, either a ticket price or a parking fee is charged for admittance. The architectural style of the
older buildings is designed to reflect a grand scale, much like that of a world's fair exhibition. However, over time the focus of the fair has shifted from featuring agricultural innovations and exhibitions to entertainment. During the greater portion of the year, the facilities may be rented to accommodate trade shows, exhibitions and flea markets. The southern half of the site contains the major built portions of the site that are typically used for this "weekend use only" purpose. The major amenities that are located on the site include:

*Large exhibition pavilions are used for trade shows, meetings, flea markets, etc. (some of the existing pavilions in this section constructed in 1920-30's).
*The Pepsi Coliseum, built in 1939, has 7,839 seats and is open daily during the fall/winter for ice skating.
*A historic Hooks Drug Store has been relocated to site, and is open daily
*During the fair, the midway space is set up as the carnival. For the rest of the year, this large area of asphalt functions as overflow parking for events at the exhibition halls.
*The 4-H exhibit hall and dormitories are located in the northwest corner of the site.
*Next to the 4-H area is the Indiana State Parks, Conservation and Young Farmers buildings. Utilized during the fair, they sit vacant for the greater portion of the year.
*The Pioneer building and Farmers building are tin shed structures located in the northeast corner of the fairgrounds.
*Horse barns* are situated along Fall Creek Parkway.

*Open Space* inside the track is used for parking during the run of the annual state fair.

*A one mile and a 1/2 mile sand track* provide space for harness racing, demolition derby's and a variety of entertainment acts during the fair. For the rest of the season, it is utilized as a horse training facility.

*A 14,300 seat grandstand* overlooks the track.

*A Farmers Market* is located across the site, east of Fall Creek Parkway. A walk tunnel under Fall Creek Parkway connects this amenity to the main section of the fairgrounds.

*Additional Walk and Drive Tunnels* are located throughout the grounds that provide pedestrian and vehicular access to the grass parking inside the track.

*Large areas of asphalt parking* lots surround the major exhibition halls, providing necessary vehicular accommodations on a year around basis.
general assumptions

In order to proceed with this study, the following assumptions were made: (1) there were significant funds to complete the fairgrounds renovation, (2) state/community officials supported the idea, (3) there was local neighborhood interest for the project, and (4) the proposed recreational trails would be completed.

client / user profile

For the purpose of this project, a general client/user profile was developed. The Indiana State Fair Board commissioned this project, and it is to this board that the final recommendations would be presented. The user groups that were considered include the surrounding residents of the area and individuals that frequent the site on a regular/semi-regular basis. This category includes everyone from retired adults to young children. In order to develop a successful space that is utilized on a year-around basis, it must appeal to a mass audience. Thus, the broad demographic base was chosen.
project goals

A goal of this project was to develop an urban re-use plan that educates people about the positive impacts open space can have on communities. Through the development of a re-use plan for the state fairgrounds, this project would provide a forum that helps to improve the quality of life for individuals within an urban society.

Four specific goals were identified for the project. They were:

1. ACCOMMODATE CURRENT FAIRGROUND USES WITH NEW PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES.
2. STRENGTHEN VISUAL CHARACTER/IDENTITY OF SITE.
3. INCLUDE A NEW FACILITY THAT PROVIDES A CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, MUSEUM DISPLAYS, AND OTHER CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC'S USE.
4. PROVIDE CONNECTIONS TO RECREATIONAL AMENITIES AND CORRIDORS THAT BOARDER THE SITE.

By completing these tasks, this project would help to transform the fairgrounds into an attractive and functional space that provides year around educational, recreational and social opportunities for the public's use.
programmatic elements

By using the goals as an established foundation for this project, a series of programmatic elements were developed. These elements include:

1. Accommodate the annual State Fair
   *site must retain open space adequate to accommodate yearly fair activities, parking, midway, etc.
   *Enhance organizational layout of current fair activities.
   *Improve organizational layout of horse barns/training facility.

2. Enhance visual quality
   *Add vegetation along Fall Creek Parkway & 38th street.
   *Add signage/banners/color along Fall Creek Parkway & 38th street.
   *Improve main entrance statements.
   *Provide new & improved existing circulation patterns.
   *Enhance the boulevards that currently exist.
   *Add vegetation to parking areas.

3. Addition of year-around Cultural Center
   The new agricultural/cultural facility - a complex of structures that includes:
   *Fixed exhibits
   *Agricultural technology displays
   *Restaurant
*Gift Shop
*Archive/library
*Auditorium
*Seminar Rooms
*Administrative offices
*Restrooms
*Greenhouses

(The plans for this structure are completed and were used in this project as they have already been approved by the State Fair Board.)

Surrounding the complex, the grounds shall include:
*Space for crop growing demonstrations.
*Space reserved for melon/pumpkin patch
*A small fruit orchard
*Farm pond
*Outdoor gathering space/plaza area

4. Connection to surrounding opportunities.
*Provide link to the Monon recreational corridor that is being developed along the western boundary of the site.
*Develop as a potential destination point of corridor
*Provide link to proposed Fall Creek Trail
*Retain and improve current access under Fall Creek Parkway tunnel to link site.
Built Portions of Site:

*Main buildings in the southern half need repair/maintenance.

*The 4-H area was condemned in 1991, and their functions are now at the Indiana
School for the Deaf (north of the site). A new exhibition hall is needed on site to replace the unsafe facility.

*Pioneer area could be combined, buildings not historically significant/attractive.
*The barns at the horse training facility are currently run down and are a general eyesore along Fall Creek Parkway.

**Parking:**

*Currently, there are large acres of asphalt with no vegetation to break them up. General enhancement is needed.*
*The midway area adds to large paved feel, and does not offer a positive relationship to the neighboring Monon recreation corridor.*
*The grass parking(inside track) is adequate for fairtime and needs to remain to accommodate fair.*

**Circulation:**

*Vehicular circulation is often unmarked and unplanned.*
*Pedestrian circulation is often an afterthought, very few signs alert visitors where to go or where major attractions are located.*
*Walk tunnels need to be addressed (under track and Fall Creek Pkway.) as they suffer from general neglect.*
*Boulevards lack significant vegetation - fail to capitalize on their potential of enhancing the grand image of the buildings in this area.*

**Visual Quality**

*The visual quality is poor along both Fall Creek Pkway. and 38th Street.*
Additional vegetation\color is needed along these major routes.

* Additional signage is needed at entrance points and at the intersection of Fall Creek Parkway and 38th Street. This would help in denoting major arrival points to the grounds, and provide motorists with a more positive image of the site.

* The site overall lacks vegetation, and what there is often is put in before and removed after fair. Additional plantings are needed for general site improvement and enhancement.
Combined with the established program and the previous analysis, a suitability study was completed. General locations acceptable for major planned functions were located on the site. These locations served as the foundation for future conceptual development.
Indiana state fairgrounds
Prior to the development of conceptual plans, three non-site specific organizational layouts were developed. These layouts include: 1) Grouped concept, 2) Green Linear concept, and 3) Anchor concept.
grouped concept

Clustering the proposed new structures with the existing built portions of the site provided the foundation for the grouped concept. This would allow for a close relationship between all built facilities on the site. In addition, a larger area devoted to open space could be implemented.

green linear concept

The basis for this organizational layout came from examining the recreational corridors that border the site. Providing additional recreational loops throughout the fairgrounds would promote additional use on the site via the trails. In addition, the new structures would be located in such a manner that they would not add to the massive built area on the southern portion of the grounds.

anchor concept

A series of three site "anchors" were outlined for the development of this concept. The first anchor would be the existing site structures that occupy the southern half of the site. A new 4-H facility and the Cultural Center would become the site's northern anchors. In addition, the connections to the recreational trails would provide the east-west anchors.
grouped concept 1

opportunities

+ horse stable location, easy access to track
+ built space organized and together
+ green buffer provided
+ improved connections to off-site amenities
+ transition space from Monon Corridor to Cultural Center
+ adequate parking
+ weekend use & daily use areas connected

constraints

- poor use of space near Fall Creek Parkway
- appears too crowded
- poor access to Cultural Center
- poor visibility to Cultural Center
- midway becomes paved area on northeast side of site
Green Linear Concept 2

Indiana State Fairgrounds
green linear concept 2

opportunities
+ green buffer included
+ improved connects to site amenities
+ recreational trail extension opportunities
+ organized stable location (good access to track)
+ Cultural Center separate from "weekend use" area
+ built areas balanced

constraints
- poor access to trail from stables
- visual sightlines to Cultural Center poor
- access to Cultural Center poor
- extensive parking along Fall Creek Parkway
- midway blocks track activities
Anchor Concept 3

conceptual refinement
anchor concept 3

opportunities

+ anchors balance built areas on site
+ Cultural Center has good visibility
+ Cultural Center has good access
+ Green buffer included
+ Horse stable - organized and easy access to track
+ Retained new 4-H complex

constraints

- Cultural Center location noisy
- unused 4-H complex much of year, takes up large portion of site
- Cultural Center has poor relation to Monon trail
- Connection between site amenities possibly weak
combined concept

The combined concept is comprised of elements that had positive relationships based on the three previous concepts. A green buffer with accent lighting and banners surrounds the grounds. A focal point is placed at the cross axis of the two main boulevards. A trail connection as well as a transitional buffer now occupies the western boundary of the site. Horse stables, expanded conservation grounds and a new 4-H exhibition hall dominate the northwest corner of the site. The Cultural Center is located along Fall Creek Parkway, for easy vehicular access and positive visual sightlines. The relocated midway doubles as the parking lot for the Cultural Center. This concept provided the foundation for masterplan development.
In this new revitalization plan for the site, we now see visual enhancement, connections to recreational opportunities and the addition of a year-around cultural facility coming together to form a new vision for the state fairgrounds. With these proposed implementations, the historic integrity of the site is not only maintained, but it is also enhanced. There is now a constant visual character throughout the site. In addition, the new site amenities offer opportunities for a year around use.

Major site features include:

* Additional vegetation, lighting, signage and banners along Fall Creek Parkway, 38th street and the boulevards.
* The addition of a pedestrian plaza/track overlook at the cross-axis of the boulevards.
* The new Activities Pavilion, which serves as a terminal point for the central axis as well as a connector to the Monon Recreational trail. Proposed activities for this facility include rest area, trail stop, bike & skate rentals and community center.
* A new organizational layout for the horse training facility with a park-like buffer near the Monon Corridor.
* Enhanced parking system with tree-lined collector roads & additional parking on northwest corner of site.
* A new 4-H exhibition hall and festival grounds on northwest portion of grounds.
* Relocated midway that serves as parking for the Cultural Center. Pockets of vegetation are included in this space.
*The new Cultural Center offers a year-around educational and social activity space along the eastern edge of the site.

*Connections to the Monon Trail via the activities building, and connections to the Fall Creek Trail via a pedestrian bridge to the Farmers Market.
A brick tower now stands at the cross axis of the two central boulevards. The historic tower is modeled after the 1928 main gate entrance. This entrance was destroyed in 1968 and later replaced with the three concrete pylons currently standing. By re-
introducing this tower into this space, it becomes a visual landmark for the site. It also becomes an icon that relates well to many of the historically significant buildings that surround it.

Beyond the central tower is the pedestrian plaza. Layers of vegetation surround the formal water feature. This area is transformed into a comfortable sitting space that offers a view across the track. This space becomes a central gathering point for this portion of the fairgrounds.
Indiana state fairgrounds

details: cultural center - museum complex
Cultural Center - Museum Complex

detail plan of museum complex

featuring building locations and major site amenities
The Indiana Institute of Agriculture Cultural Center is comprised of two distinct parts. Each section brings a holistic picture of the past, present and future trends in agricultural techniques and practices. The first section known as the museum complex. This facility showcases, educates and entertains visitors about American agricultural and rural life, as well as the production of a safe and abundant food supply.

The structure itself is a round barn modeled after the states largest such building in Hancock County. It will offer spaces for a historical museum display, rotating and fixed exhibits, restaurant, 300 seat auditorium, seminar rooms, gift shop and library. The grounds around the museum will include a re-creation of a typical farmhouse, complete with the standard square vegetable and flower gardens. In addition, a hard-scape plaza is located adjacent to the complex can be used for outdoor social gatherings and displays of large farm equipment. Cornfields surround the entrance drive, allowing visitors a drive along a "country lane" to the parking lot.

The exhibits in the museum trace our historical roots and inform the guest on the vital importance agriculture has been to every society. This is a journey from the ancient hunter-gatherers to the early farmers of the fertile Nile river valley. It is a path that leads the visitor through the development of primitive tools, new irrigation methods and the domestication of wild plant species. The industrial movement in America gave farmers the threshing machine and steam engine, which aided in the increase of food production capabilities. The advent of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides as well as modern farm machinery, such as the combine, have further pushed the limits to higher crop yields.

This facility that provides a basic understanding of the development of agriculture
and its importance to our society throughout history. However, the state fair was originally developed as a showplace for the new innovations and advances in technology. In keeping with this early established tradition, the cultural center complex would not be complete without a space devoted to providing information on future agriculture trends.
cultural center - futures complex

detail plan of futures complex

featuring building location & major site amenities

Indiana state fairgrounds
As visitors cross the lake, they enter the Futures Complex portion of the Cultural Center. This space provides a pleasant balance to the museum complex because it educates the visitors on human efforts to work with their environments and harness their precious resources. A series of prototype growing areas are among the various displays of futuristic agricultural production techniques that would be housed in this structure. Some examples of such practices include: aquaculture (where fish live among the roots of a plant), controlled environment agriculture (raising crops in sheltered, monitored environments), closed system farming (scientifically selecting crops that are considered environmental beneficial to a farm) and soilless farming (production of crops in some medium other than soil).

As our population is steadily increasing, it is important to understand ways in which we might be more productive with providing a constant, safe and abundant food supply. The grounds around this facility further illustrate areas of prototypical farming techniques. Examples of inter-cropping (growing two or more crops in alternating rows), edible landscapes, community gardens and a fruit orchard are all included in this location.

Each of these responses to the environment represent a "creative partnership" between humans and nature. In ancient times, we were less likely to do damage to our surroundings. This is because there were relatively few people competing for land and resources, and the technology used was simple.

Mechanized equipment has made it possible to cultivate millions of acres that had been tilled only lightly before. Soil was treated as a resource that would last forever. These improved farming techniques have brought about a large increase in our food production, but it also threatens natures delicate balance.
Today's agricultural revolution is aimed at restoring the relationship between people and the earth, and to make this partnership work with new and improved methods of scientific farming. This area will be devoted to expressing futuristic ideas that may help in that process.
conclusions & summary

This design for the Indiana State Fairgrounds offers a series of spaces that provide educational, recreational and social opportunities. By re-defining the uses for this site, what was once a vast area of seldom used land becomes a frequently visited space.

Through offering a variety of passive and active educational, social and recreational opportunities, the fairgrounds can become more than acres of seldom used and often neglected space. In contrast, it is transformed into a network of spaces that offer a series of physical, spiritual and intellectual growth. By addressing current cultural, civic, environmental and social concerns, the fairgrounds has the opportunity to once again become an active and important part of the city.

Through the completion of the four main project goals of 1) accommodating current fair activities, 2) strengthening the visual character of the site, 3) including a new cultural center and 4) providing connections to recreational amenities, this revitalization plan becomes the catalyst for exploratory activities that help to foster a better relationship among individuals. It is when a space can provide a stimulus to cultural enrichment that it truly realizes it's potential.
Indiana University-Purdue University 38th Street Campus

SURROUNDING CONTEXT

Neighborhood south of fairgrounds
SURROUNDING CONTEXT

Neighborhood north of the fairgrounds (42nd street & Crittenden)

Indiana School for the Deaf (north of fairgrounds, facing 42nd street)
Main Entrance off of 36th Street into Fairgrounds
(Exposition Hall on Left, West Pavilion on Right)

Entrance Boulevard
(Hooks Building, Home & Family Arts Building foreground, Our Land Pavilion background)
Midway Area (during fair), parking lot rest of season

The Grandstand & track
(Administration Building, Grandstand, Coliseum and West Pavilion)
View looking south toward fairgrounds. Open lot used for Pioneer displays & parking. Grandstand and horse barns in background.
important elements in basic urban open space design
(based on research gathered during fall 1994 semester)

vegetation

Choose a variety of plant species that survive in harsh urban conditions. They should be selected according to seasonal color, screening possibilities, sun/shade variation, accent capabilities, hardiness and native significance. This includes deciduous trees, evergreens, shrubs, groundcovers, perennials and annuals.

water

The sound and visual interest of water can have a positive impact on a place. Formal water features, such as waterfountains, jets and pools add a level of excitement and interest to a space. Informal features, such as a lake or pond, can aid in restoring a natural element into the area.

pedestrian friendly elements

These are designated objects that are designed to bring spaces to a more human scale. Often they provide people with options within a space. As people move through a space, or socialize in an area, there needs to be elements within that space that provide individuals with a sense of belonging. These elements include:

*paving details
*seatwalls
*stairs
*tables

*benches
*ramps
*sidewalks
*chairs
*vegetation
*trash receptacles  *drinking fountains  *signage
*banners  *light fixtures  *art
*water  *bollards  *food available

**functional space**

The availability of space to function for festivals, exhibitions, performances, recreation and displays is crucial for increased social interaction. Having multiple options within a site, including hard-surfaced areas versus open lawn, can provide a wealth of opportunities for cultural growth and stimulation.

**visual quality**

Adding exciting visual elements to a site, such as lighting, banners and signage, will make people feel more welcome to a place. In addition, this adds color and the option to change or rotate messages.
texts.


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