City Market: Creating an Urban Oasis in the Circle City

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Comprehensive Project Spring 2018

5th Year Landscape Architecture Program

Department of Landscape Architecture

College of Architecture and Planning

Ball State University Muncie, IN 47306
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Abstract

Downtown Indianapolis is rich in historic and contemporary architectural styles. Great attention was paid to the tiniest of architectural details, giving the city of Indianapolis a most unique and impressive downtown. Although this city has great potential, statistics show that chronic diseases such as obesity, asthma, diabetes, heart disease and depression are highly prevalent, and on the incline. Lack of proper nutrition, poor diet and exercise are contributing factors to this widespread epidemic, however the urban environment around us is the key component. With the increasing prevalence of sprawl, the vehicle-dominated metropolis is stricken with traffic congestion that strains patience and degrades air quality. The design of our urban centers and public spaces do not create the need, the desire or the opportunity for people to walk, let alone promote active types of exercise. Urban spaces are left derelict and commercial structures have become unused, catering to the declining health of the people, the environment, and the economy. In Indianapolis’ Mile Square, lost space and lack of detail in-between the beautiful buildings, has created a missing link that segregates the downtown core. As an alternative, healthy communities can act as a paradigm for improving the physical and social environments that increase the quality of life for all people who live, work and play there. Urban spaces found within these communities can act as an underlying framework that promotes health and wellness, offering the benefits of more walking, more social interaction and psychological respite (www.environment.emory.edu/who/olmsted.html)

Frederick Law Olmsted recognized the connection between health and human circumstance and brought those ideals to the forefront in American design philosophy. He profoundly understood that the parks and campuses he and colleagues designed were for human well-being, cultural, physical and social (www.environment.emory.edu/who/olmsted.html). Bringing pieces of the natural environment back into urban spaces can foster community wellness and can enhance people’s ability to function effectively, both physically and mentally. Most recently his ideas are being explored in more specialized settings such as medical institutions, through the implementation of therapeutic gardens. These spaces promote healing and restore sense of peace, however, they stop at the institution’s edge and they are not carried out into the community where stresses of urban life deplete human well-being. It is necessary to engage in activities that restore “spent energy” (Beveridge 34). Case studies include Paley Park and Bryant Park in New York City. Even though these spaces possess different characteristics, they all hold common ties of providing open space that caters to the renewal and restoration of mind, body and spirit.

This study looks at the historical background, relevant theory and major design issues and trends related to healthy urban environments. For my specific study, I redesigned the City Market in downtown Indianapolis. This master plan incorporates many ideas and design considerations related to healthy urban design and also looks to create a more dynamic City Market that can promote different types of physical activity and social interaction. Applying some of William Whyte’s design principles for urban spaces to the existing large gathering spaces, small intimate spaces and alleyways, this new City Market will ultimately become an urban oasis for healing, comfort, and respite that will restore a sense of pride and rejuvenate the community.
Introduction

City Market is one of downtown Indianapolis' most beloved historic landmarks. It is a festive market place that houses multitudes of vendors, artisans and craftspeople. It is also the center of many media promotions and community activities. On the interior of the structure, one would find a variety of vendors selling an array of products, ranging from sandwiches and cold cuts, to hard to find exotic foods shipped in from all over the world. During the warm months from mid May through October the streets surrounding the Market are shut off and opened to pedestrians for the weekly Farmers Market. Here farmers from all over the county and region bring their precious cargo and share it with downtown workers and residents. This Farmers Market as well as the other activities create a vibrant neighborhood meeting place great for social activity and interaction. This Market is also unique in that it still performs the function for which it was orginally built. It also survives in the downtown area of a major metropolitan city and has always been used for market purposes.
Significance of the Study

City Market has a real opportunity to be a jewel to the city of Indianapolis, not only for "market type" items, such as foods and crafts, but it has the potential to serve as a therapeutic environment for all of the people that work and live in the city. Today our urban centers that people live and work in are not physically or mentally nurturing places. The use of hard materials, noise and air pollution and vehicle dominated streets do not create the need or the desire for people living and working in these urban centers to get out, walk, or enjoy their surroundings. City Market however could become a grand place where city workers retreat to on their lunch breaks, where people go to socialize on the weekends and at night time, and where calming and soothing landscape elements can help people escape from the hecitics of a fast-paced urban lifestyle. The eastern fringe of the downtown, where the market sits, is in the middle of a transformation with the removal of Market Square Arena. This whole side of downtown is in the process of changing its image and character and City Market could quite possibly act as a new gateway to the downtown. Through the redesign of this market space, mental health, stress, and depression, obesity and health aspects related to poor air quality such as asthma, will be addressed by creating a space that encourages social activity and interaction with natural elements.
Historical Perspective

Built in 1886, the main building of the Market, known as “Market House”, was designed by architect D.A. Bohlen and cost $29,225. Immediately adjacent to the Market House, on the corner of Market and Delaware Streets was Tomlinson Hall. The same architect also built this structure in 1886. It can best be described as the Market Square Arena of its day. It contained a gymnasium, auditorium, meeting rooms, offices and retail shops on the ground floor, including vegetable stands. The building was severely damaged by fire in 1958 and demolished. However, there is still a basement that exists underneath the West Plaza and is referred to as the “catacombs”. During the later part of the 19th century and for the first half of the 20th century, the Market flourished as an open-air farmers’ market. It was the place where everyone in the city came to buy fresh produce, poultry, meat, fish, dairy and bakery goods. The Market House itself is indicative of other market structures built in many American cities during the time. The building is noteworthy for its elegant iron columns and trusses, being placed on the National Register of Historic Places in March of 1974. The City Market was renovated from 1972-1977 as part of the City’s downtown redevelopment program. Today, one of the greatest values of the Market is due to the fact that the market still survives in the downtown of a major metropolitan city and still performs the function for which it was originally built. Cart vendors vary from portrait artists to craft and jewelry designers. City Market is the center of many media promotions, community activities and private events. During the months from May to October, every Wednesday there are outdoor farmers’ markets, where the Alabama and Market Streets are blocked off and available for use only by pedestrians. (http://www.indianopoliscitymarket.com/history/default.htm)
Case Studies: Bryant Park, New York City, NY

By the 1980s, Bryant Park in New York City was a haven for drug dealers, giving it the name “Needle Park”. The design of the park made it easy for criminals to conduct their business there. It was raised above sidewalk level and was enclosed by protective shrubs and tall iron fences around the perimeter. There were only a few entrances to the park and they were through narrow gateways, making this park highly unused and closed off to the public. Eventually this park became an anchor for a huge revitalization project in Manhattan. The Rockefeller Brothers turned to William Whyte for guidance in revitalizing this park. The first thing Whyte noticed was the relationship the park had to the street. Like he points out in his book, “success of open space depends on its relationship to the street. Welcome the street, bring it in” (Garvin 46). He noticed that just the opposite had been done in this park. Psychologically as well as physically, the park is hidden.

All of the elements in the park revolve around the great lawn, with gravel paths surrounding it. Although the park was to attain a fairly low maintenance program, the plan for a variation of flower beds was adopted and as a result, has become the most beloved element of the park. A full-time gardener is required as well as several part-time associates. The designers placed benches within the lush beds, and users are normally very respectful (Garvin 50). Another important element in the park was the implementation of the moveable chairs. According to William Whyte, “The folding chairs are very important for several reasons. They make the user of the park sort of a planner because the user has to decide where to sit. It’s interesting to see the way people move chairs. Most of the time they don’t move them more than a few feet, but somehow it’s a declaration of independence” (Garvin 51). Since 1991 there has been one robbery. Now people are thrilled to be there because of attractive plants, events, chairs, monuments, and clean rest rooms” (Garvin 52). Today Bryant Park is looked upon as a model park for the rest of the world. Although some critics say that it does not provide enough intimate spaces, Laurie Olin, one of the designers say that in the middle of Manhattan at this day in age it “would be difficult and imprudent. If you have a successful space that looks healthy, people go into it. It’s kind of like the stock market. It’s a kind of a confidence game. We create a kind of self-fulfilling prophecy in how we treat our environment. (Garvin 55).
Case Studies: Paley Park, New York City, NY

Located within Midtown’s cultural district and surrounded by high-rises, this celebrated “vest-pocket” park is a welcome respite from the sights and sounds of urban living (http://www.pps.org/gps/one?public_place_id=69). Paley Park was completed in 1967 as a part of the William S. Paley Foundation. Highlighted in several of William Whyte's movies and books, such as The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces and City Places, City Spaces, this park is known for being one of the smallest manageable privately owned, publicly used parks and is successful for many reasons. First it is slightly elevated above the sidewalk through the implementation of steps that blend smoothly to the sidewalk. The steps are low and inviting, offering easy access from passers-by. The twenty foot cascading water wall located at the back of the park, flows at 1800 gallons per minute, causing the noises of the city to fade away. Moveable tables and chairs allow for flexibility in the park. This lets users have control over where they sit.

When interviewed by Project for Public Spaces, they found that users liked to use this park because “they could be “alone” in a busy city and it gave them a quiet, restful feeling (http://www.pps.org/gps/one?public_place_id=69). In all reality, this park is highly used and can be quite dense at times. The busy, noisy street is located directly outside of the park, creating a rather chaotic atmosphere. However, due to the water wall, the street and conversation noises are drowned out, making this space rather quiet. The shade trees and wall coverings add softness to the harsh urban environment, and the moveable chairs allow for a variety of seating possibilities, making this space is rather peaceful and restful. Built nearly forty years ago, this park has continued to cater to the needs of busy New Yorkers and still serves as a paradigm for the design of small urban spaces.
Related Literature: William Whyte

"Success or failure of open space depends on its relationship to the street. Welcome the street, bring it in."

-William Whyte

William Whyte has made a profound impact in the field of landscape architecture. Being introduced to his work in the study of human behavior in urban settings at the beginning of my career as a student has truly influenced my ideals about the field of landscape architecture. Through his observations and field studies with the use of time-lapse cameras of how people interact in social spaces, he has created a set of principles that are essential in the design of small urban environments. His ideals are particularly important because he has taped the evidence of human behavior and are proven true. Landscape architects all over the country have used Whyte's guidelines when they create their own designs. By bringing Whyte's design guidelines into the urban spaces within the Mile Square, there will be a rejuvenation of urban life and restored sense of space. There are seven main guidelines that William Whyte has studied; however each of these, though sounding very simple, are quite complex. Through his walks in and around urban spaces, Whyte found that many cities were "full of vexations: steps too steep; doors too tough to open; ledges you cannot sit on because they are too high or too low, or have spikes on them so that undesirables will not sit on them" (Whyte 1). On a larger scale he found that many of the more modern structures have blank facades. He found blocks, upon blocks of fortress like megastructures. He also found skyways and concourses that were either high in the sky or buried underground with no relationship to the street.
STREET: An integral part of a space is its relationship to the street. What attracts people is other people. It's the same concept as Real Estate, 100 percent location. He also notes that the greatest of urban spaces are the street corners. This is where the most interaction and socialization takes place. With regard to the street, the buildings frontages are very important. Instead of having the blank façade megastructures, it is good to have windows at street level for the window shoppers. Also, sight lines are important. If people do not see the space, they will not use it. It is a bad idea to block off these spaces with walls and fences for creating "safe environments", because these spaces will then only feel gloomy and isolated and be underused.

SITTABLE SPACE: Another of his principle findings is that people tend to sit where there are places to sit. The idea of outdoor dining was thought to happen only when vacationing in Europe, however Americans have finally realized that they can do this at home too. Many cafes and restaurants now have outdoor tables and seating which almost has a Mediterranean feel. Whyte found that people like to have control over where they are going to sit, and the moveable chair allows them to do so. It is highly popular and an effective design tool. Ledges and planters also make great spaces to sit, especially if they’re double-wide for an infinite amount of sitting combinations.

SUN: Whyte found that almost everyone loves the sun. People flock to it and they will move their chairs so that they are in it. Absence of light is bad, especially if there is a cooler weather and microclimates. In larger cities, it is not unusual that some areas are hidden in a larger building’s shadow. One remedy is that light can be reflected off other buildings and bounced into the dark space to provide a soft reflection of light.

WATER: Whyte found that water is a great element that can be used in plazas and parks in urban environments. Water drowns out the noises of the automobiles, sirens, and other chaotic sounds the city produces. The water wall at Paley Park is a great example. It masks out the noise of other conversations as well as the street noise. One of the nicest things about water is the look, feel and sound of it (Whyte 137). People love it because they can stick their hands and feet in it, and splash about.

City Market Redevelopment
TREES: Trees are beneficent. They provide shade, coolant, microclimate, beauty and transpiration. Whyte says that they should be planted in groves, close together. Producing a canopy provides slight protection while still keeping the area open to action. In New York City, they must provide a tree for every 25 feet of sidewalk, must be 3.5 inches in diameter (6 to 8 inches is preferred) and planted flush with the ground.

FOOD: Whyte says you can seed a place with activity by putting in food. In almost any active plaza, you will find a vendor there with many people gathered around. In most cities, however, vendors are not legal. It is an ongoing problem, with merchants constantly complaining. However, vendors have become caterers of the city's outdoor life. They are providing services that the downtowns are not. The open-air cafes are also great to implement. Tables, chairs and a few workers are all you need. In Whyte's work, they mandated food kiosks and other structures that provided this service for the downtown.

TRIANGULATION: According to Whyte's work, a sign of a great place is triangulation. This is the process by which some external stimulus provides a linkage between people and prompts strangers to talk to each other as if they were not (Whyte 154). It can be any interaction in which strangers are engaging in conversation. Usually an unusual sight or happening will spark this conversation.
Criteria for Site Selection

The site for this project had to be located within an urban fabric. It is the urban fabric of our cities that have seen the most physical changes through time and during this time, they have also seen the most neglect and deterioration. The downtown area of Indianapolis has great architecture and a rich history that goes along with it. The community has many unique aspects with regards to its culture and architecture. The City Market is a prime target for a project of such nature. This site has many key ingredients of a successful urban space and is already considered a landmark for the downtown area. It is highly sought after, utilized by thousands of people throughout the year for such events as festivals, markets, concerts and other gatherings. The building on site has both contemporary and historic value, lots of open space and some existing natural elements. This site also has great potential to serve as a critical linkage in connecting the eastern communities with the urban center of Indianapolis. The site also contains two plazas that are in need of much attention. Wabash Street, located behind the site also has great potential to become a future pedestrian corridor. The streetscape surrounding the City County Building and City Market also adds character to the space and helps give it a unique flavor. All of these spaces and design elements can be used to the City Market's advantage in making it a more successful urban space.
Description of Site and Context

The Indianapolis Regional Center is surrounded by a series of Interstate Highways to the east, I-465 and I-70. The west end of town includes IUPUI and White River State Park. Both of these amenities are bounded by the White River. In the center of this area is the Canal District, which intersects with the Mile Square and White River State Park. City Market itself is located in the heart of downtown Indianapolis in the Mile Square. This is the original plat of land that the city of Indianapolis was built upon back in 1886. It is the size of half a city block and is bounded by Alabama Street to the west, Market Street to the south, Delaware to the east and the Wabash pedestrian corridor to the north. Monument Circle is located directly west of the site, about two city blocks. The old Market Square Arena site is adjacent to the Market, stretching across Market Street. Currently, the MSA site is used as a gravel parking lot. Surrounding the City Market are several office buildings to the west and north, a large parking garage to the north and the City County Building to the south.
Site Inventory & Analysis

The City Market is located in the heart of downtown Indianapolis and caters to the needs of residents and workers from all over the city. Directly to the south of the site is the City County Building. This provides continuing business opportunities for the Market by bringing in clientele year round. To the north and west of the site are office buildings that also bring people to the Market. To the east of the Market is the previous site of the Market Square Arena. This site used to house a large basketball facility, now it is a vacant lot that serves a majority of downtown parking. Also in this area of the city are residential facilities. The east side of the site really has great potential to serve as a welcoming center for all of the many users coming into downtown from the east side.

The plaza is essentially divided into four spaces: Whistler Plaza to the west, another plaza with intruding road/parking lot to the east, the main building in the center with two wings expanding to either side and Wahash alleyway corridor to the north of the buildings.

City Market Redevelopment
**Whistler Plaza:**

This plaza is a large open space with a small wall surrounding it. From the street perspective, the plaza is almost completely blocked off except for the three entrances: one on the corner of Market and Delaware, another off Delaware and a final entrance off of Market Street. The plaza itself is slightly raised above grade, with all entrances containing two steps up from the street level. The wall surrounding the space acts as a planter and seating ledge. Honey Locust Trees found in the planters allow for small amounts of shade below, however, the office building to the north casts a golden glow down on the plaza, which is not filtered by any trees. Metal benches scattered randomly throughout the plaza provide other seating for users, however, they are given no choices as to where they sit. Traffic and paving patterns create an X shape through the plaza. A majority of the traffic enters the space at the corner of Alabama and Market Street, cross diagonally across the space and into one of the three entrances to the Market. The other two entrances/exits to the plaza cross through the space in the opposite diagonal, creating the X shape. This traffic pattern is used more or less just as a short cut for pedestrians from Market to Alabama Streets. Vehicular traffic found along Market Street is relatively calm, however traffic on Alabama Street is congested and heavy. Along Market Street, near the Market building, is a historic arch from the old Tomlinson Hall that was destroyed by fire. This doorway does not particularly serve as an entrance into the space as much as it does provide an edge to the plaza. This historic element has cultural, architectural and artistic value that is important for the integrity of the City Market.
East Plaza:

This plaza is full of concrete with no alternate paving patterns and hardly any vegetation. A large portion of the plaza is taken up by the automobile with a small parking lot and area for parallel parking alongside the plaza. There are two main entrances into the Market from this plaza. Again, this plaza lacks any kind of dynamic feature that attracts people. Most pedestrian flow through this space is just that, flow. People use this space to walk through and get from one point to another. This side of the Market is shaded majority of the time by the City County Building to the south and the main Market Building to the west. As with the west plaza, there are lighting elements found here that have a historic type of quality to them, however they do not relate at all to the contemporary street furniture found along Market Street.
Wabash Corridor:
This corridor is essentially an alleyway located behind the City Market building. To the east of the Market this corridor is an actual road, catering to vehicular traffic. Once it hits the Market, it is used primarily as a pedestrian corridor. Market users can cross the plazas, move through the City Market building and come directly into the corridor and continue their journey through downtown. An office building and parking garage are located along Wabash corridor, creating bleak and harsh facades. Between the parking garage and office building is an outdoor café, which is accessible from the Wabash Corridor. It would be ideal to help connect this outdoor space to the City Market Plazas. Continuing through the corridor to the west, it will eventually take pedestrian all the way to Pennsylvania and run perpendicularly to the Circle.
Market Street:
Market Street runs east and west directly in front of City Market. With traffic running on both sides of the street, pedestrians have a difficult time crossing it. Street trees line the road extending all the way to Monument Circle as well as contemporary lighting elements. A tall elevated planter running along the West side of the plaza blocks views into the space and prohibits pedestrians to access it as a seating ledge. A unified brick paving pattern extends from the Circle down to Delaware Street.
Project Goals and Objectives: Incorporate Whyte’s 7 elements of urban design in the City Market plazas

By addressing the seven elements of urban design, the City Market will have the underlying framework to become a successful urban space. These design elements not only offer more options for the users, but are actually catered to the users needs. Applying these elements is critical in the redesign of City Market.

1. Remove walls & invite street in

2. Provide seating (moveable chairs, ledges, benches)
   - Pedestrians passing by
   - Users inside the space

3. Create well defined entrances

4. Implement vegetation throughout gathering spaces, streetscape and alleyways

5. Provide spaces for vendors

6. Provide spaces that allow for sun exposure & shade

7. Incorporate water features

8. Provide places for outdoor eating, gathering (daytime & nighttime) & entertainment
Project Goals and Objectives: Create spaces that provide urban relief & renewal

City Market has a unique opportunity to become an urban oasis to the residents and workers of downtown Indianapolis. It is essential that the design of the City Market plazas provide both gathering spaces and calmer intimate spaces. Planting for year-round color is also an important aspect in the design of the plazas. Plant material should contain a variety of colors, textures and fragrances. Paving materials should also have a variety of textures, however maintain consistency throughout the space.

1. Incorporate variety of soft & hardscape materials for texture
   - stone, brick, slate, annuals, perennials, grass

2. Plant vegetation for year-round color & interest

3. Provide contemplative areas

4. Water features for psychological respite

5. Remove vehicular intrusions

6. Create safe environments for pedestrians

7. Design for a variety of senses
Project Goals and Objectives: Capitalize on existing architectural elements

The architecture present at City Market has both historic and contemporary flavor. By capitalizing on these existing architectural elements, the City Market will become a more unified, cohesive space. The contemporary designs of the wings need to be addressed in a way that will provide for more uses. Architectural details from the buildings should be brought out into the plazas to help unify the space and bring the space down to a more pedestrian friendly scale.

1. Integrate historic & contemporary designs
2. Address scale and proportion
3. Integrate architectural details found in the City Market Building
4. Integrate Tomlison Hall ruins into the design
5. Renovate the "wings" of City Market
**Preliminary Concepts: The Modern Market**

This concept used the principles of contemporary design, with the implementation of straight, clean lines. Floating trees are a main feature with ample seating available in all areas. Street trees surround the plaza and help define the space. The west plaza is slightly raised above the sidewalk, while the east plaza is slightly lowered. The alley behind the building is filled with a variety of vegetation softening the hard edges of the buildings. Entrances are well defined, both to the City Market and to the individual plaza spaces.
**Preliminary Concepts: Arches**

This concept used the existing and literally brought it out onto the sidewalk. Arched loggia structures line both sides of the plazas and help define space. The west plaza contains a water feature that also acts as a stage, while the east plaza features a lawn for relaxation and recreation. Outdoor cafes are located on the ground floor with unifying paving materials. Trees provide shade, a comfortable microclimate and a personal scale to the plazas. The entrances to City Market are well defined, framed by trees and other vegetation.
Master Plan

Whistler Plaza
- Slightly raised
- Main Gathering Space
- Water features
  - Linear
  - Raised tiered pool/fountain
- Performance stage
- Trees & plantings
- Integration of Tomlinson Hall
- Ruins
- Arch details
- Seating
  - Moveable & stationary
  - Renovation of wings
- Outdoor cafes

Market Street
- Bump-outs
- On-street parking
- Unified pavers
- Pedestrian cross walks
- Flower sculpture/fountain
- Street trees & plantings

Wabash Pedestrian Corridor
- Seating
  - Moveable & stationary
  - Trees & plantings
  - Gathering spaces
  - Facade Renovation
    - Awnings
    - Unified pavers

East Plaza
- Lawn
- Arches
- Water features
  - Outdoor cafes
  - Renovation of wings
  - Trees & plantings
    - Seating
    - Moveable & stationary
    - Slightly sunken
Market Street Details

For the streets surrounding the Market, the idea is to make the streetscape beautiful and safe. By possessing these qualities, downtown workers and residents will have the want and desire to walk. Unifying paving materials will cause vehicular traffic to slow down and create a safer environment for pedestrians. Large sculptures will stand at each street corner. During the summer months, they will act as water features, and during the winter months, they will act as a heating element and lighting accent piece.
East Plaza Detail

The east plaza space is designed to cater to the needs of the downtown residents. This space provides more passive types of socializing and recreation. The plaza is slightly lowered below the sidewalk, to allow the users to feel as though they have escaped from the hectic of urban life. Quieter activities will take place in this plaza, such as sitting out on the lawn or one of the many seat ledges. The main entrance on the corner is defined by a large archway, letting the user know they have entered the City Market plaza. Outdoor cafe seating is also available on the ground floor as well as the second story terrace.
Arch Details: Day & Night

These elevations illustrate the implementation architectural elements being brought out onto the streetscape. Arched logia structures run along the east and west sides of the City Market, helping better define the individual plaza spaces. A transformation is shown through the use of materials. The arches mold from a see-through trellis structure into a more solid material, reminiscent of the brick found in the City Market building. Water features are also integrated into the arches. At night both sides of the arches would be uplift with lighting, able of changing hues and colors for various seasons and festivities.
Arch Details: From inside plaza looking out

Again, this elevation illustrates the arches and how they would appear from the inside looking out. The water literally spills down the back side of the structure and is caught in a small drainage basin at grade. Benches are placed under large Honey Locust shade trees, to provide a relaxing environment.
Arch Details: Section

This section shows the relationship of the street and the plaza. It also shows how water flows from the arches and down into the plaza. The streetscape includes unifying paving and lighting elements, room for street vendors, pedestrian movement, seating and triangulation.
Planting Plan Detail: Plant palette for year-round color

This planting plan shows how different planting materials can be used to achieve year-round color. This is very important to the City Market, because it is used through all the seasons. Providing an attractive planting design will not only increase usage but will also provide a more restorative, therapeutic environment that is beautiful and visually stimulating.
Sketches
Wabash Pedestrian Corridor Detail

The design of the Wabash Street Corridor is critical, because it has the potential to connect the east "residential" side of the city to the downtown core via pedestrian usage only. This alleyway has been heavily planted for color and interest. The parking garage to the north has been screened and covered with beautiful Boston Ivy, which has a beautiful summer and fall colors. The back facade of City Market changed to offer more, smaller entrances into specific vendors outlets. For example, a vendor selling cookies can pay a higher price in rent and have the luxury of having his/her own private entrance, directly into the cookie shop. Awnings would be provided over the entrances to create a smaller, more pedestrian friendly scale.
Wabash Pedestrian Corridor Detail

This illustrative plan shows what the alley looks like in plan view. Above are images depicting what the alley can look like.
Sketches

Proposed

City Market Redevelopment
West Plaza Detail

The west plaza has a more social, energetic feel about it. Social events, concerts and farmers markets all take place in this area. A water fountain/stage has been provided near the Tomlinson Hall ruins. This was a critical design decision because it integrates the ruins directly into the site. Rather than letting the ruin stand alone, the arch is now a part of the entire space and can be linked back to the City Market building. The entire plaza is slightly raised above the street and sidewalk level. This makes the pedestrian feel that they are not only safe, but are walking up into an important space. It also helps separate the users from the street traffic. Linear elements draw the user into the space and help lead the eye up to the facade of the building. There, users walking up into the space can see the outdoor cafe on the bottom floor as well as on the outdoor terrace. The lines of water have shaded Honey Locust trees that seem to float on water. At night, the linear water elements would light up a magnificent blue color. And just like the east plaza, this plaza too has the arch structures running along the edge. This helps define the plaza and give further definition to the relationship between the street, sidewalk, plaza and user.
Sketches

Existing

City Market Redevelopment
Summary

In the end, it is interesting to see the results of this “five year” project. By incorporating various design elements acquired over the years and through research, it is rewarding to see a finished product. This site has many of the successful elements necessary in an urban design project. Using elements from the different case studies as well as design principles from professionals of the past, has lends itself to a successful redevelopment project. Providing the city of Indianapolis with this type of community gathering space will not only help revitalize the downtown core and economic development but will ultimately provide the urban residents and workers with a place where they can recreate, socialize, congregate together, celebrate, rejuvenate their spirits and most importantly, restore spent energy. This urban oasis can not only make a healthier city, but healthier individuals, both mentally and physically.
Bibliography


[Web links]

http://www.asla.org/Members/ppl/healthy_communities.html
http://www.indyrc2020.org. Indianapolis Regional Center

Books:

Architecture & The Nation's Health: Design Matter. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. American Society of Landscape Architects
Conference


