ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: INTEGRAL URBAN REVITALIZATION
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Sustainability is a widely used term in the world of design today, yet what this actually implies is highly dependent on the context in which it is used. For the purposes of this project there is an introduction to key topics including, Sustainability, Integral Theory, Integral Sustainability and how all of these topics are combined to analyze the Renaissance Pointe neighborhood, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This neighborhood has been considered one of the most blighted areas in the city of Fort Wayne and revitalization efforts have been struggling to establish positive and catalytic changes in the neighborhood.

This project applies the concepts of Integral Theory to the analysis of the existing revitalization efforts as well as current neighborhood conditions in order to find starting points for determining key integrally sustainable components that were missing or minimal in the overall "design" of current revitalization efforts. Design decisions and potential programming within the design elements were based on an integral or more holistic analysis including historical, cultural, social, economical, and environmental aspects of the neighborhood. An in depth look at the history and current conditions of the neighborhood through these integral lenses, also known as perspectives, serves to offer a more holistic and therefore more Integrally Sustainable foundation for site design and programming.

The overall stigma of the Renaissance Pointe neighborhood is based on a negative history and perception. Therefore, aesthetic and security enhancements were determined to be a primary catalyst for stimulating initial change in perception of the area. Additionally, the lack of a "shared culture" represented by the lower left quadrant in Integral Theory supported the design of urban agricultural components and additional social gathering places and interactive and socially supportive programs within the design.