2019 SPRING CAPSTONE PROJECT PRESENTATION
Reimagine and Redesign Hartford Landscape
Mending the Grid

Painting the Past

Culture Shuffling

Walk the Rail

Interchange Co-op and Park

From Trash to Treasure

Walk Harford

The Xfinity Theatre Approach

Park River Revival

Reconnecting Constitution Plaza

Bringing Hartford to Water's Edge

From Trash to Treasure

(L) Ayala, Vanessa
(R) Aylward, Jackie

(L) Ceva, Dana
(R) Chicoine, Nate

(L) Du, Qingyao
(R) Fraga, Miguel

(L) Henry, Weston
(R) Irizarry, Raul

(L) Kavadas Jr, Nicholas
(R) Murphy, Ethan

(L) Smith, Nick Peter
(R) Wojick, Christopher
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Mending the Grid: Manifesting Shelton-Charter Oak’s Identity

Problem Statement: Sheldon-Charter Oak’s Community is rich in diversity and history, also being one of Hartford’s low-income community areas. This neighborhood’s community services, proximity to downtown and the Colt Armory revitalization provides the opportunity to create a vibrant hub. The goal of this project is to shape and unify Coltville identity and design spaces for the community while maintaining the integrity of the neighborhood.

Analysis

Coltville Zoning

Population by Year

Colt-Blake Armory Siteplan

Socialissa, Vanessa

Concept

1. Gateways

2. Tap Root Leveral Root

3. Nodes

Sheldon- Charter Oak’s Community is rich in diversity and history, also being one of Hartford’s low-income community areas. This neighborhood’s community services, proximity to downtown and the Colt Armory revitalization provides the opportunity to create a vibrant hub. The goal of this project is to shape and unify Coltville identity and design spaces for the community while maintaining the integrity of the neighborhood.
Bushnell Mixed Greenway

As a result of the increase of high-rise buildings in downtown, most people do not live in the center of Hartford, but rather on its outskirts. Combined with storm water runoff from parking lots and the basic unattractiveness of the area, the lots located at 63–89 Capitol Ave. have become a major eye sore as well as a waste of space for both the community and the environment.

Through the idea of mixed-use buildings and green spaces, these parking lots can be transformed into a place for cultural gatherings and an environmentally friendly part of the city.
This site, previously an environment polluting landfill, now houses solar panels and grassland. The current conditions are more of a quick fix to the underlying issues of the site. The goal is to fully embrace the potential for a symbiotic relationship between humans and nature. This will include structures for harnessing solar and wind energy, more native plant species to attract endangered species, and observation decks to view the expansive sky.
Interchange Co-op and Park

Interchange Co-op and Park is set in a location that divides Downtown Hartford from the North End, and the entire city from the waterfront; the I-91/ I-84 Interchange currently exists as a large and unusable site that is dedicated to vehicular transit. Within the surrounding downtown, North Meadow, and Clay-Arsenal districts there is only ONE grocery store with access to fresh foods. The lack of pedestrian mobility paired with the lack of access to fresh foods has created a food desert and serious health concerns for Hartford.

With future POD’s showing I-84 being moved North and I-91 being moved underground, the highway on and off ramps will be removed leaving behind a 14 acre site with great potential. The goal of The Interchange Co-op and Park is to create a connecting space between the downtown, North end, and Connecticut River waterfront. This area will provide Hartford residents with a Co-op that provides fresh food, community gardens for the growth of edible foods, beautiful floral gardens, and open green space for potential temporary art installations.
As the capital of Connecticut and one of the major financial centers in New England, Hartford is currently facing problems caused by immigration (mainly in the west Indies and the Caribbean) and the shift of its industrial center of gravity. The situation in and around upper Albany, the city’s second-densest residential area and a former light industrial hub, is worrying. Brownfields, abandoned lands, abandoned factories and abandoned railways are the main reasons for the division of urban space and the loss of population. It is of great realistic and historical significance to revitalize the old industrial land and the abandoned railway and connect the urban land with a large population to improve the regional image and promote the industrial transformation.
The Xfinity Theatre Approach

The XFINITY Theatre is a focal point in Hartford entertainment and outdoor activities. Surrounding the XFINITY Theatre is an abundance of impervious surfaces, such as parking and vacant lots. The goal is to create an exciting and sustainable atmosphere around the XFINITY Theatre by implementing green infrastructure, connecting the site to more of Hartford as well as other nearby areas, and creating programs that give the area a usefulness besides on just event days.
Painting the Past

A Creative Approach to Hartford’s Largest Brownfield

Weston Henry · LAND 4450 · Spring 2019 · University of Connecticut PSLA · Instructor: Dr. Sungmin Lee

Problem Statement

The former property of Aerospace Materials Inc. has remained vacant for decades. With more than ten pollutants identified, an excess of impervious surface, and over 120,000 square feet of unused building space, this 22-acre brownfield holds tremendous potential for the city of Hartford. This project proposes to convert the industrial property into a sculpture garden and art museum, continuing the trend of adaptive re-use occurring just north of the site. It will bring much-needed public space to the area while showcasing the potential of phytoremediation in a large-scale, post-industrial landscape.
The Park River Revival has traditionally been used as Hartford waste land. Flooding, pollution and Hartford combined sewer system has impaired the river to a non usable and non accessible state. The Park River Revival offers an alternative to rainwater collection, pollution mitigation and creates accessibility through a river walk connecting the Hamilton Street Bridge and the Charter Oak Marketplace, reviving Hartford’s “Little River”.

Irizarry, Raul
Reconnecting Constitution Plaza

Currently, Constitution Plaza is disconnected from the main downtown streets of Hartford. The area is not the most public friendly and has safety concerns. This proposed plan will improve safety, public accessibility, livability for pedestrians and recover publicity for citizens by recovering Constitution Plaza to the surrounding downtown area.
Hartford features many attractions including Bushnell Park and Mortensen Riverside Plaza, State House Square, Constitution Plaza and UConn Hartford. Unfortunately, downtown Hartford is home to busy and unsafe street intersections, as well as a lack of green space and street programming.

Walk Hartford gives connection between Mortensen Riverfront Plaza and Bushnell Park while providing safe and walkable streets with easy access to attractions nearby. Practicing a complete street strategy and site design, residents and pedestrians can explore the downtown attractions safe and excited.
Culture Shuffling: The Union Station Marketplace

Union Station has existed as the metro hub for central Connecticut since its opening in 1889. Soon the I-84 Reconstruction Project will reroute the highway through Hartford and force the rail line to move with it. New transportation stations will be built and the historic Union Station will need a new use.

Located in the center of the city, Union Station is Hartford’s gateway to the thousands who rely on it for transportation. Currently the station exists as a landmark, a place used as a reference point but not particularly a place that people have enjoyed spending their time. The proposed Union Station marketplace will transform the area into a node, a space to which people will gravitate.

The city market is a place where art, food, and culture thrive. Hartford is a city of diverse ancestry but this richness is not well represented in its public spaces. A transformation of Union Station will nurture the inherent diversity of the city and provide a space for the city where history, arts, and culture join to create a celebration.

Smith, Nick Peter
Bringing Hartford to Water’s Edge

In Hartford, the Connecticut River is readily available but plagued by flooding potential, poor accessibility, high crime rates and water pollution. The proposed design will mitigate said problems through raised walkways, mounding, a defined and secure park entrance and floating gardens.
For more information, please contact:

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