



# Meeting Agenda:

- Re-cap of the February meeting
- What we heard from the February meeting
- Conceptual Roadway + Curb Alignment
- Event Center & Plaza Concepts
- Congress Square Concepts
- Discussion / Next steps

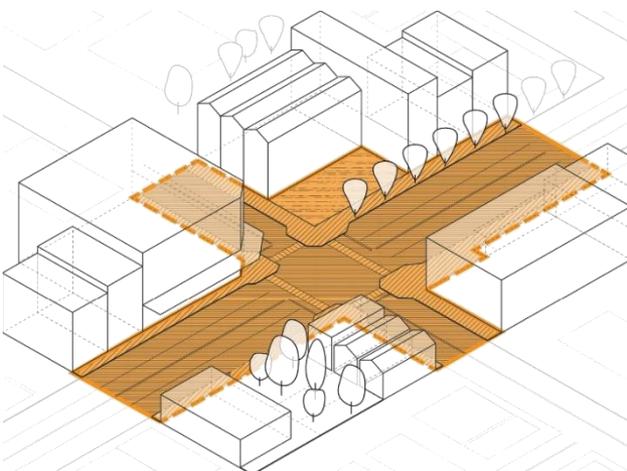


# Vision Statement:

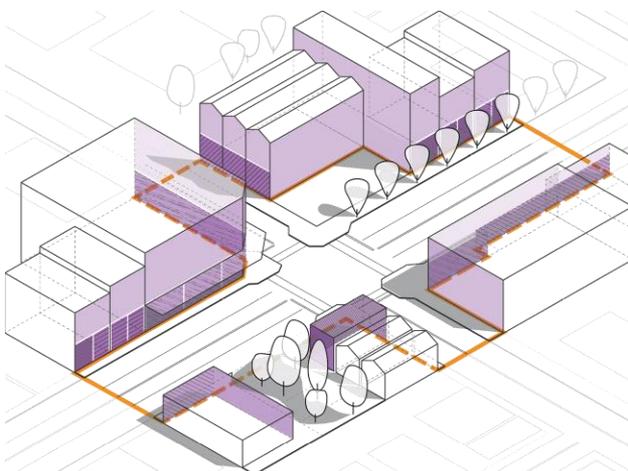
Congress Square is a high quality, distinctive urban space that epitomizes the **Arts District** while remaining accessible and **inviting to all**. Year-round, the Square provides a welcome break in the dense, historic district street wall where one encounters a **range of activities** including events and installations that celebrate local arts and culture, and fosters spontaneity, informal gathering, and fun. As a gateway intersection, the redesigned Congress Square places **priority on the pedestrian** experience and safety while accommodating all transportation modes in an efficient manner.



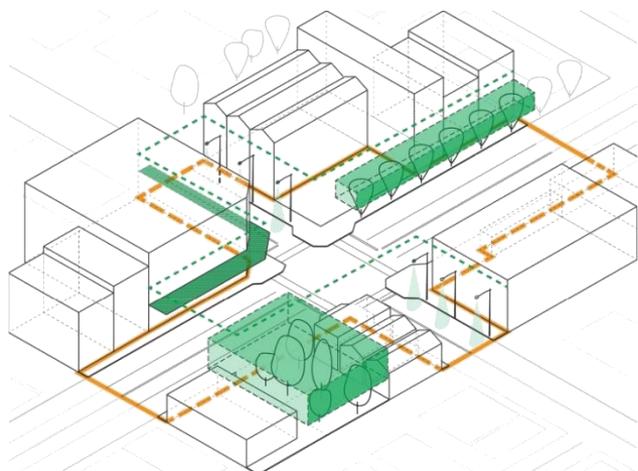
# Re-cap of the February meeting



*Ground*



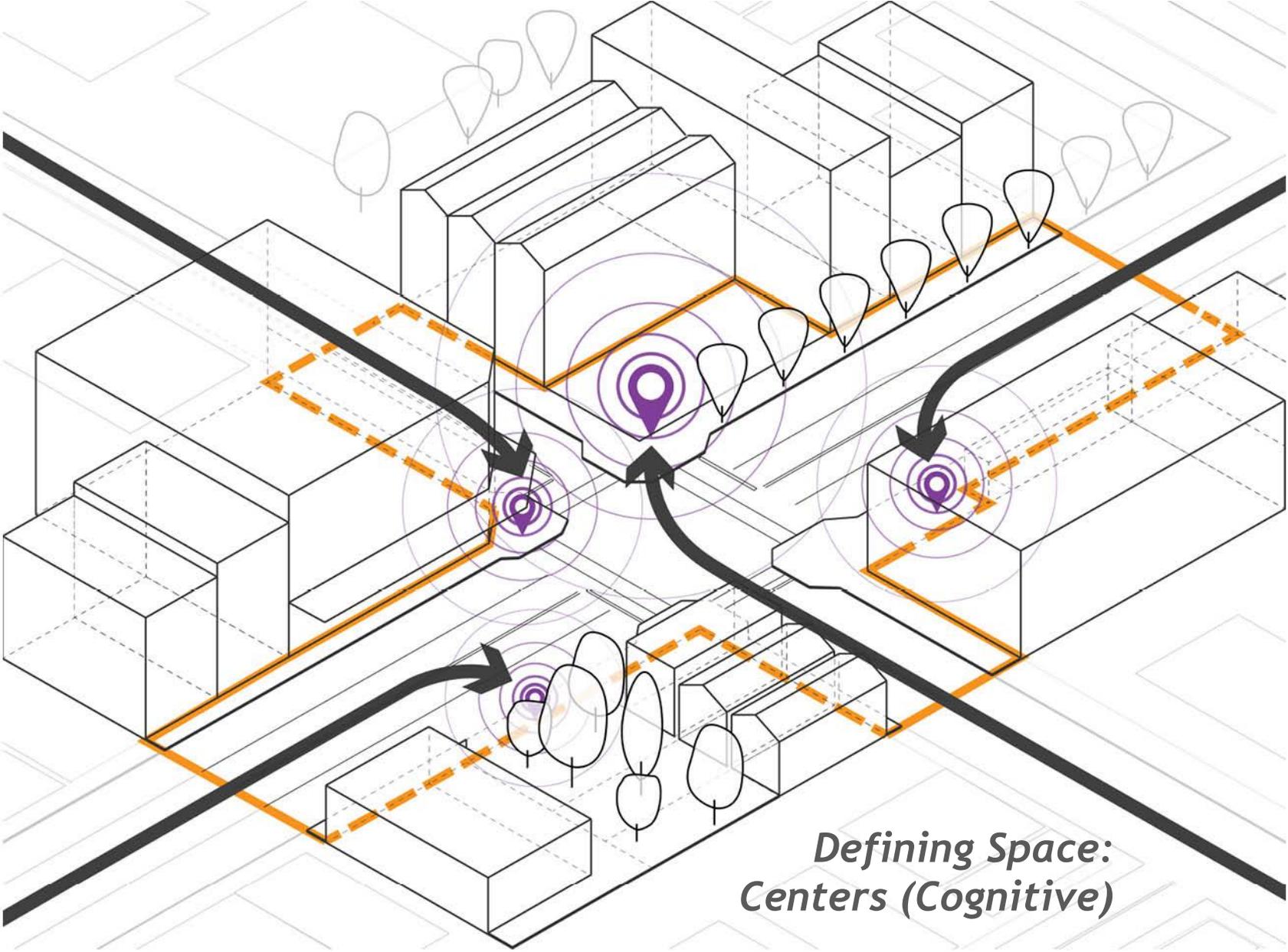
*Vertical*



*Canopy*



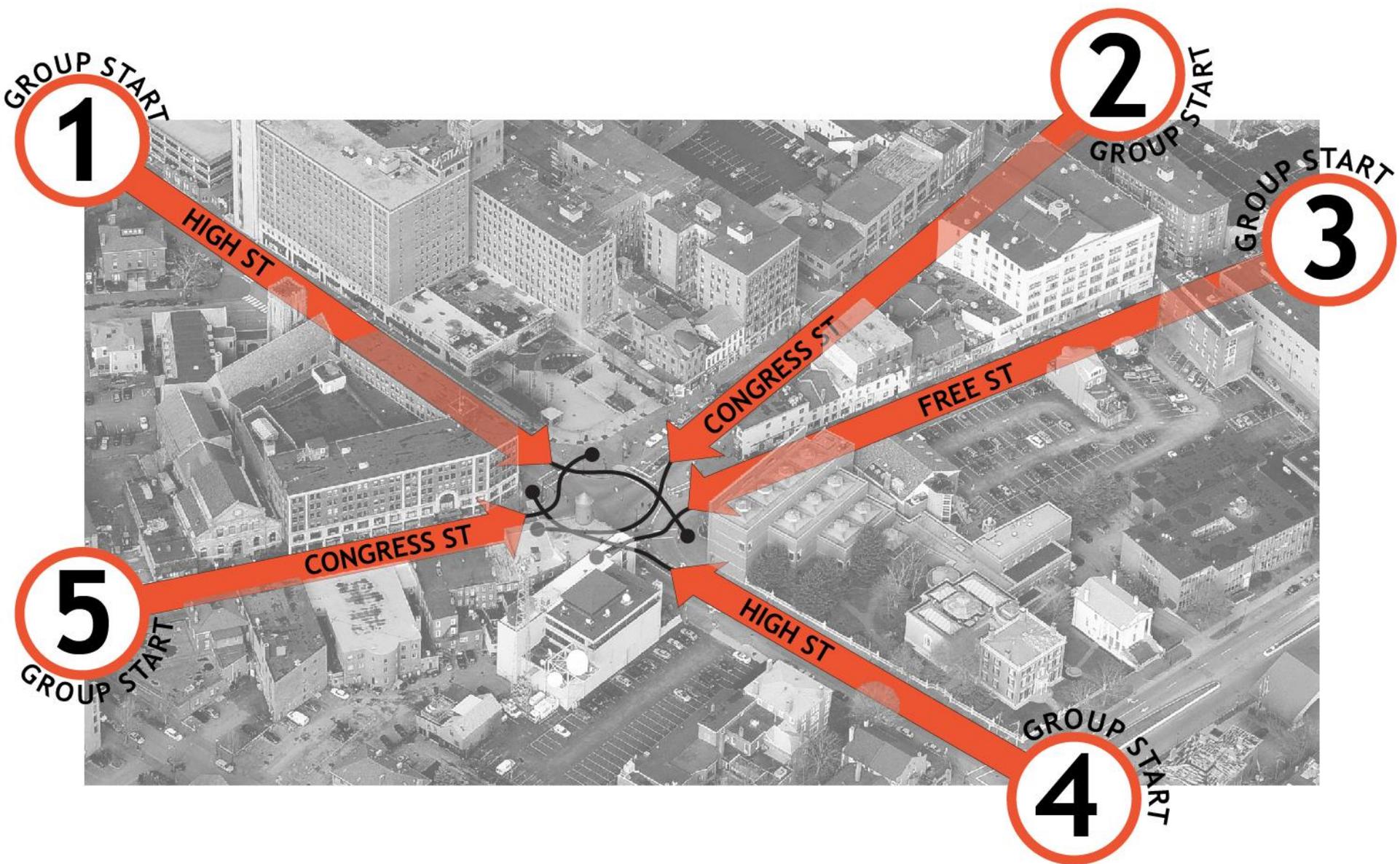
# Re-cap of the February meeting



*Defining Space:  
Centers (Cognitive)*



# Re-cap of the February meeting



# Re-cap of the February meeting

## Congress Square Evaluation Tool

Rate the following statements on the scale of 1-5.  
 1= strongly disagree 2= disagree 3= neutral 4=agree 5=strongly agree

### Access

The square is easily visible from a distance.	1	2	3	4	5
The edges of the square are clear and reinforce the square's identity.	1	2	3	4	5
There is adequate wayfinding (directional signage, location information).	1	2	3	4	5
Automobiles do not detract from the pedestrian experience.	1	2	3	4	5
Bicycling facilities are provided in the travelway.	1	2	3	4	5
Bicycle routes are well marked.	1	2	3	4	5
Public Transit stops and routes are convenient to the square.	1	2	3	4	5
Automobiles are able to move safely and efficiently.	1	2	3	4	5
High parking turnover is provided.	1	2	3	4	5
Pedestrians can easily walk throughout the area.	1	2	3	4	5
All parts of the square are accessible for differing levels of mobility.	1	2	3	4	5
Pedestrian access is safe and convenient:					
- Each area of the square is well connected	1	2	3	4	5
- Crosswalks are well located	1	2	3	4	5
- Crossing distances are minimal	1	2	3	4	5

### Comfort and Image

The square is attractive and fits its surroundings.	1	2	3	4	5
The square reflects and highlights its position within the Arts District.	1	2	3	4	5
The square is a meaningful destination.	1	2	3	4	5
The square respects and highlights important cultural and historic features (historic landmarks, Union Station clock, museum, theater).	1	2	3	4	5
The space feels safe and well cared for.	1	2	3	4	5
The square provides a comfortable environment to occupy the space.	1	2	3	4	5

### Congress Square Evaluation Tool

The materials that create the square properly reflect its image.	1	2	3	4	5
The square reflects the seasonal changes of the Portland climate.	1	2	3	4	5
There is adequate sun and shade accommodation in winter and summer (trees, shade structures, open space)	1	2	3	4	5

### Use and Activities

Different experiences are provided within the square.	1	2	3	4	5
There are enough places to sit.	1	2	3	4	5
There are gathering points within the square.	1	2	3	4	5
Bicycle parking is adequate.	1	2	3	4	5
Existing features encourage interaction and use.	1	2	3	4	5
Activity happens throughout the square.	1	2	3	4	5
Planned programs and events take place in the square.	1	2	3	4	5
The edges of the square contribute to activity and use.	1	2	3	4	5
The square supports flexibility of programming and activity.	1	2	3	4	5

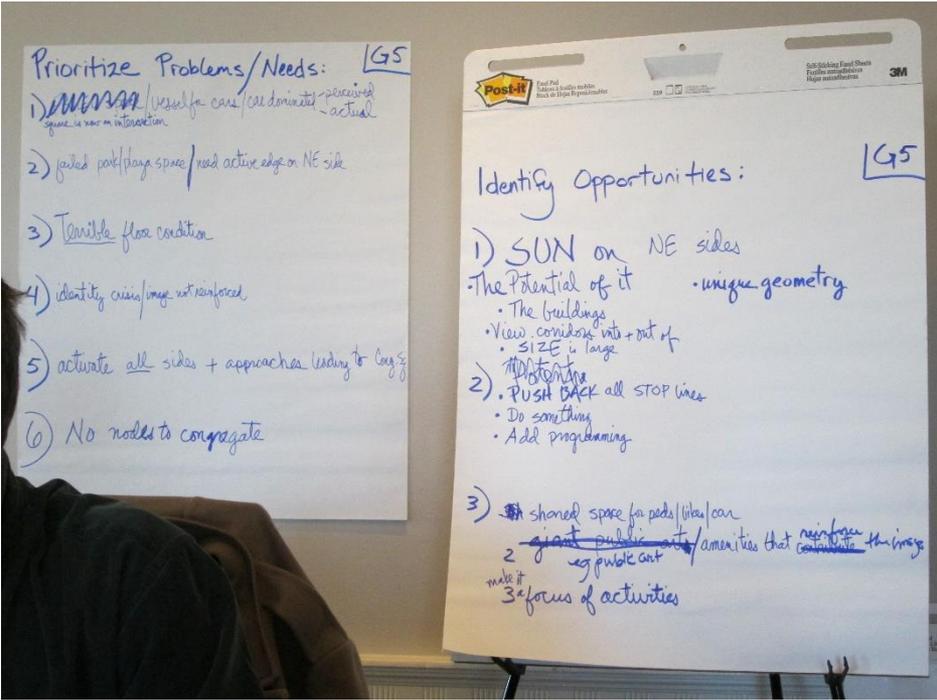
### Sociability

Different groups of people feel comfortable occupying the space.	1	2	3	4	5
The square is used all times of day.	1	2	3	4	5
The square contributes to neighborliness and unplanned interaction.	1	2	3	4	5
The square encourages social interaction.	1	2	3	4	5
The square has places for larger and smaller groups and single people to gather.	1	2	3	4	5

### Spatial

The edges of Congress Square create a legible space.	1	2	3	4	5
The buildings are supported with adequate open space to support flow between inside and outside	1	2	3	4	5
Facades of buildings play an active role in the identity and feeling of the square.	1	2	3	4	5

# Re-cap of the February meeting



**What we heard:**  
**Take-aways from the Evaluation Exercise**





PRIORITIZE PROBLEMS / NEEDS

- (PROBLEMS)  
1 | PSYCHOLOGICALLY STRESSFUL TO CROSS AS A PEDESTRIAN
- (PROBLEMS)  
2 | WE NEVER SAY LET'S GO TO CONGRESS SQUARE TO MEET & THEN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO. (CONGRESS SQUARE IS NOT A PLACE)
- (PROBLEMS)  
3 | THERE IS NO "PLACE" TO BE OUTDOORS THAT IS ACCOMMODATING/ NO PHYSICAL DEFINITION
- (NEEDS)  
4 | IT SHOULD BE "MUSEUM SQUARE"
- (PROBLEMS)  
5 | LACK OF EDGE ACTIVITY/ART

1 high nw  
GROUP RESPONSE

SUN @ VINLAND  
NEXUS OF ART & MUSEUM  
4.5 CORNERS OF GREAT ARCHITECTURE  
HIGH POINT OF TOWN  
LARGEST HOTEL IN MAINE  
FOOD TRUCKS  
MOVEABLE FURNITURE

IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES

PRIORITIZE PROBLEMS / NEEDS

- (PROBLEMS)  
1 | VEHICLE DISRUPTION
- (NEEDS)  
2 | NEIGHBORHOOD BACK YARD
- (PROBLEMS)  
3 | ILLICIT ACTIVITY
- (NEEDS)  
4 | CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SPACE
- (PROBLEMS)  
5 | LARGE BUILDING DON'T INTERACT WITH SQUARE

1 | WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE SQUARE CURRENTLY?  
SOLAR ACCESS  
SPACE AVAILABLE  
BUILD ON APPROACH FROM EAST

2 | LIST A FEW THINGS THAT YOU WOULD DO TO IMPROVE THE SQUARE THAT COULD BE DONE RIGHT AWAY WITH LOW COST.  
PLAZA FROM HARDSCAPE TO LANDSCAPE  
SWARTZ BUILDING FINISHED  
CHANGE TRAFFIC PATTERN WITH TEMPORARY MEASURES (CREATE PEDESTRIAN SPACE)

GROUP RESPONSE

2 congress nw

3 | WHAT 3 CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE TO THE SQUARE IN THE LONG TERM THAT YOU FEEL WOULD MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT?  
1 | COMMUNITY SAFETY PROGRAMMING  
2 | HIGH ST. TWO-WAY TRAFFIC (PED. DOMINANT)  
3 | OUTSIDE FOCAL POINT/LANDMARK

IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES

PRIORITIZE PROBLEMS / NEEDS

- (PROBLEMS)  
1 | VEHICLE TRAFFIC, ESP. SPEED, LIMITS POTENTIAL FOR PEDESTRIAN
- (PROBLEMS)  
2 | GROUND PLANE ILL-DEFINED
- (PROBLEMS)  
3 | LIMITED TREE CANOPY
- (PROBLEMS)  
4 | FREE ST. READS AS "BACK OF HOUSE" (E.G. TRASHCANS)
- (PROBLEMS)  
5 | LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION

3 free e  
GROUP RESPONSE

1 | WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE SQUARE CURRENTLY?  
SQUARE OPENS UP AS YOU APPROACH IT  
VIBRANT BUSINESS, CULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL CONTEXT  
FACADES OF SURROUNDING BLDGS. ARE STRONG  
TOPOGRAPHICAL HIGH POINT

2 | LIST A FEW THINGS THAT YOU WOULD DO TO IMPROVE THE SQUARE THAT COULD BE DONE RIGHT AWAY WITH LOW COST.  
CLEAN UP STREET, SIDEWALK, CLUTTER OF REGULATORY SIGNS, ETC.  
TREES, BENCHES, SEASONAL COLOR

3 | WHAT 3 CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE TO THE SQUARE IN THE LONG TERM THAT YOU FEEL WOULD MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT?  
PUBLIC ART - MAJOR PIECE  
REGULAR PROGRAMMING  
2-WAY TRAFFIC  
IMPROVE PLAZA

IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES

PRIORITIZE PROBLEMS / NEEDS

- (PROBLEMS)  
1 | HIGH ST. TRAFFIC  
CONFUSING INTERSECTION IN FRONT OF MUSEUM (FREE, HIGH AND CONGRESS)  
VELOCITIES OF TRAFFIC VARY AND CONVERGE AT SQUARE / PERCEPTUAL CUES DIFFER BASED UPON MODE OF TRANSPORTATION AND DIRECTION OF TRAVEL
- (PROBLEMS)  
2 | LACK OF CLEAR IDENTITY OF SQUARE
- (PROBLEMS)  
3 | LACK OF GREEN/VEGETATION
- (NEEDS)  
4 | IMPROVE "FLOW" IN ALL DIRECTIONS - PARTICULARLY TO WEST
- (PROBLEMS)  
5 | NO DEFINITION ON THE PEDESTRIAN SCALE OF SQUARE
- (PROBLEMS)  
6 | PUBLIC ART - LIMITED

4 high se  
GROUP RESPONSE

CREATE A STRONG IDENTITY THROUGH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AT STREET SCALE  
OPPORTUNITY FOR MANY TYPES OF GATHERING ACTIVITIES  
PUBLIC ART!

IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES

PRIORITIZE PROBLEMS / NEEDS

not at ped scale limited public art  
LACK OF IDENTITY lack of vegetation  
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC  
LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION  
ground plane ill-defined buildings/square don't relate free st reads as back of house  
lack of edge activity

OVERALL RESPONSE

opportunity for gathering unique geometry  
SUN available space  
ARCHITECTURE high point  
VIEW the potential cultural context largest hotel in maine

1 | WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE SQUARE CURRENTLY?  
change traffic patterns  
clean up street  
do something to push back all stop lines  
moveable furniture  
add green to landscape  
change traffic patterns  
schwartz building finished  
trees, benches, seasonal color  
plaza from hardscape to landscape

2 | LIST A FEW THINGS THAT YOU WOULD DO TO IMPROVE THE SQUARE THAT COULD BE DONE RIGHT AWAY WITH LOW COST.  
community safety programming  
PUBLIC ART  
TWO-WAY TRAFFIC  
create a strong identity  
regular programming

3 | WHAT 3 CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE TO THE SQUARE IN THE LONG TERM THAT YOU FEEL WOULD MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT?

IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES

PRIORITIZE PROBLEMS / NEEDS

- (PROBLEMS)  
1 | A VESSEL FOR CARS/  
CAR DOMINATED PERCEIVED AND ACTUAL SQUARE IS NOW AN INTERSECTION
- (PROBLEMS)  
2 | FAILED PARK / PLAZA SPACE / NEED ACTIVE EDGE ON NE SIDE
- (PROBLEMS)  
3 | TERRIBLE FLOOR CONDITION
- (PROBLEMS)  
4 | IDENTITY CRISIS / IMAGE NOT REINFORCED
- (NEEDS)  
5 | ACTIVATE ALL SIDES & APPROACHES LEADING TO CONGRESS SQ
- (PROBLEMS)  
6 | NO NODES TO CONGREGATE

5 congress sw

1 | WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE SQUARE CURRENTLY?  
SUN ON NE SIDES  
THE POTENTIAL OF IT  
UNIQUE GEOMETRY  
THE BUILDINGS  
VIEW CORRIDORS IN AND OUT  
SIZE IS LARGE

2 | LIST A FEW THINGS THAT YOU WOULD DO TO IMPROVE THE SQUARE THAT COULD BE DONE RIGHT AWAY WITH LOW COST.  
PUSH BACK ALL STOP LINES  
DO SOMETHING  
ADD PROGRAMMING

3 | WHAT 3 CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE TO THE SQUARE IN THE LONG TERM THAT YOU FEEL WOULD MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT?  
SHARED SPACE FOR PEDS/BIKES/CAR  
AMENITIES THAT REINFORCE THE IMAGE E.G. PUBLIC ART  
MAKE IT A FOCUS OF ACTIVITIES

IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES



# Prioritize the problems/needs

Considering your evaluation of the square, which problems/needs do you think are of greatest priority to address?

not at ped scale limited public art  
LACK OF IDENTITY lack of vegetation  
**VEHICULAR TRAFFIC**  
illicit activity LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE  
FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION  
ground plane ill-defined buildings/square don't relate  
lack of edge activity free st reads as back of house



# Identify Opportunities

1. What do you like best about the square currently?

opportunity for gathering

unique geometry

SUN available space

ARCHITECTURE high point

the potential

VIEW cultural context

largest hotel in maine



# Identify Opportunities

2. List a few things that you would do to improve the square that could be done right away with low cost.

clean up street  
do something  
moveable furniture

add programming  
food trucks

change traffic patterns  
schwartz building finished  
push back all stop lines  
trees, benches, seasonal color  
plaza from hardscape to landscape



# Identify Opportunities

3. What 3 changes would you make to the square in the long term that you feel would make the biggest impact?

community safety programming  
PUBLIC ART  
TWO-WAY TRAFFIC  
create a strong identity  
regular programming  
shared space  
improve plaza



# Congress Square Evaluation Tool

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## Spatial

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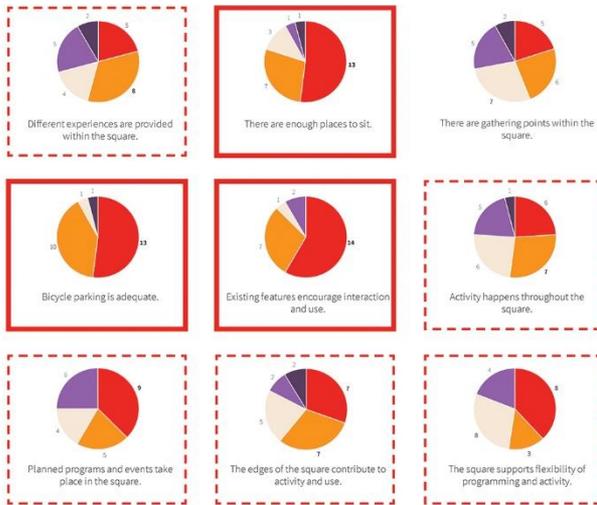
# Access



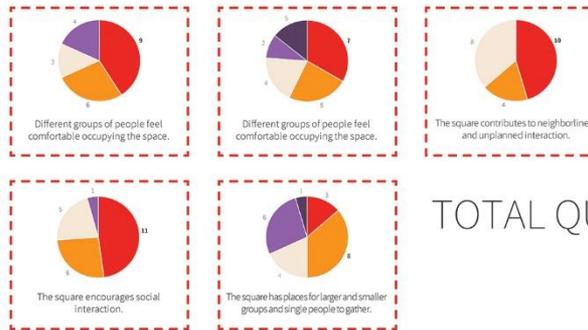
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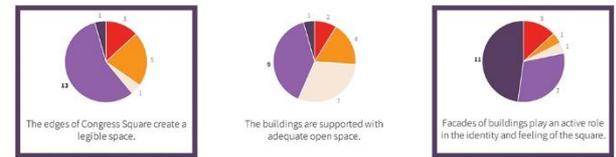
# Use and Activities



# Sociability

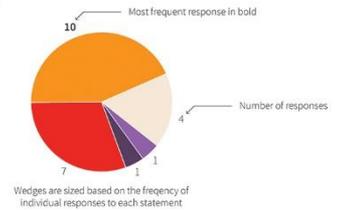


# Spatial

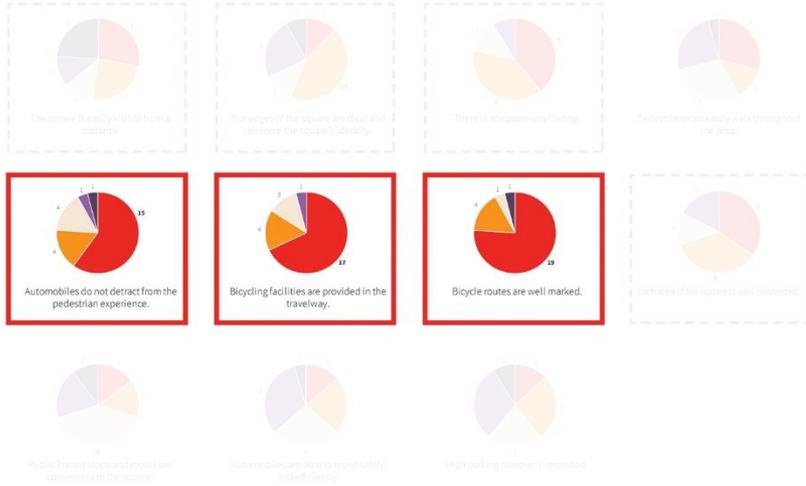


## TOTAL QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

### READING THE CHART



access



# Automobiles detract from the pedestrian experience

# Bicycling facilities are not adequate

# There are not enough places to sit

use and activities

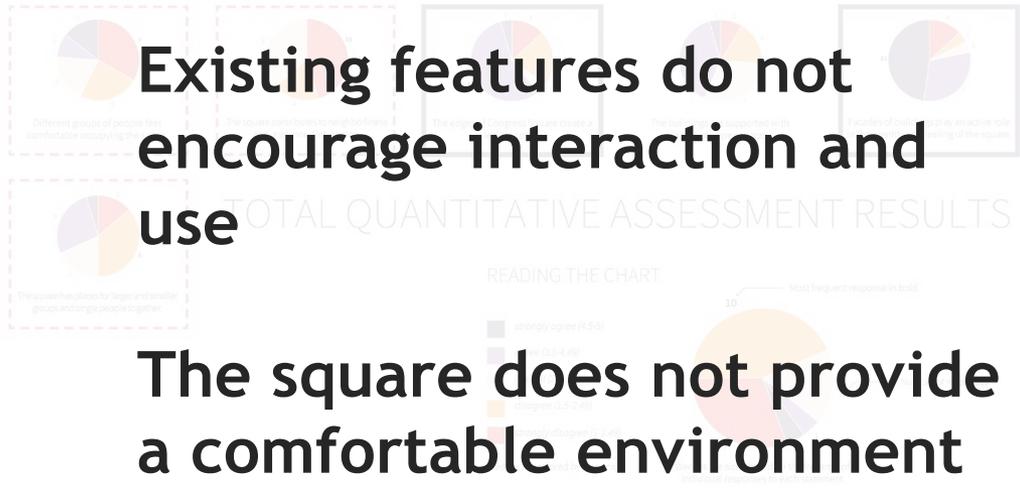


sociability

# Existing features do not encourage interaction and use

# The square does not provide a comfortable environment to occupy the space

spatial



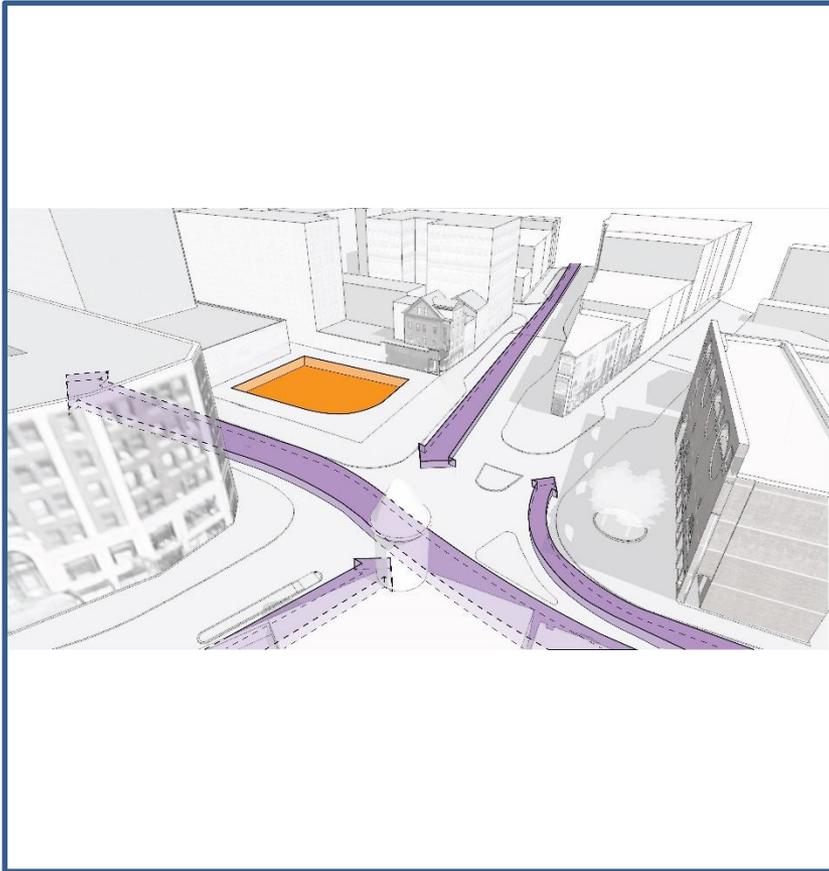
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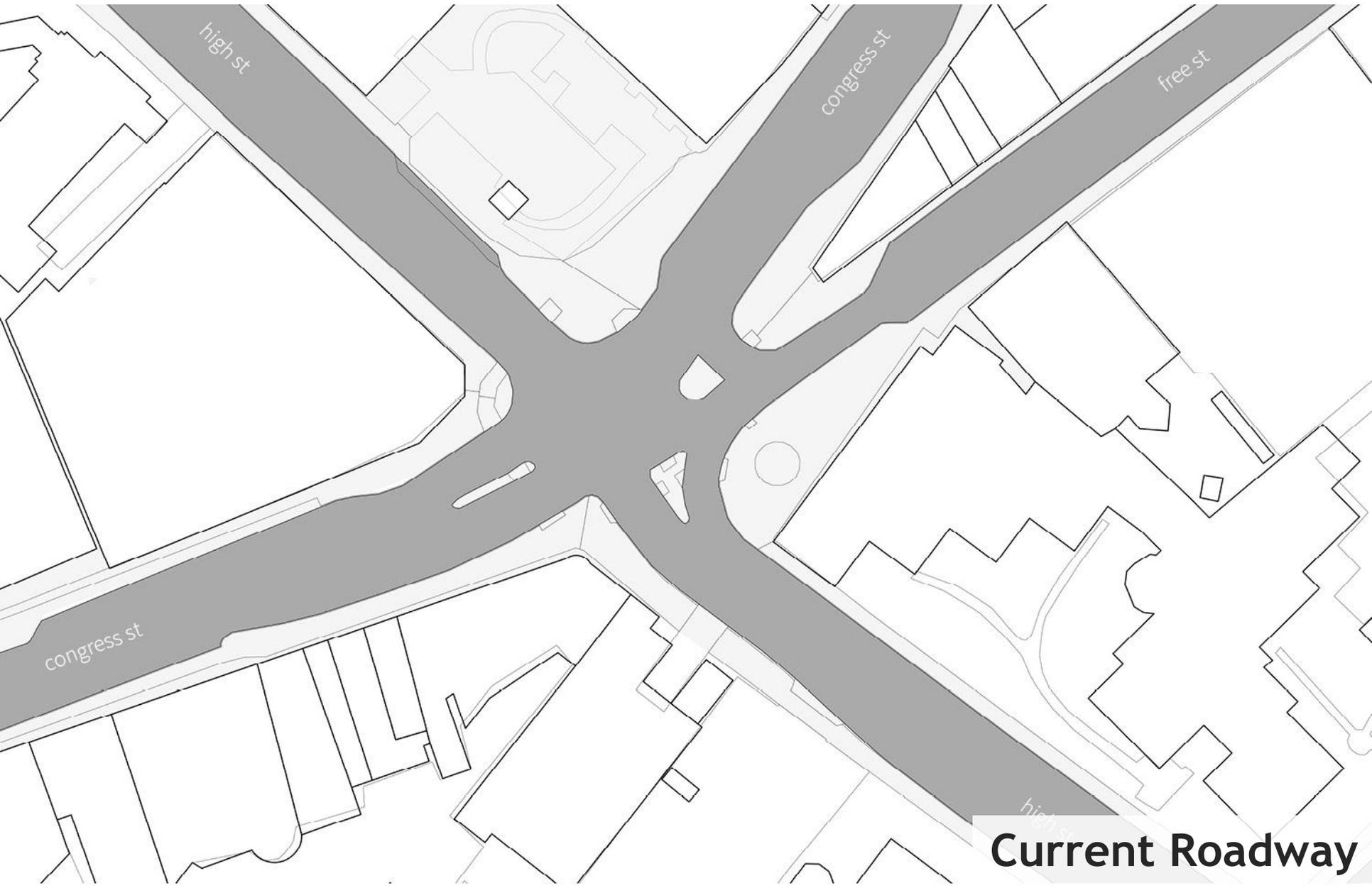
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# Roadway Concept: Expanding the Pedestrian Realm





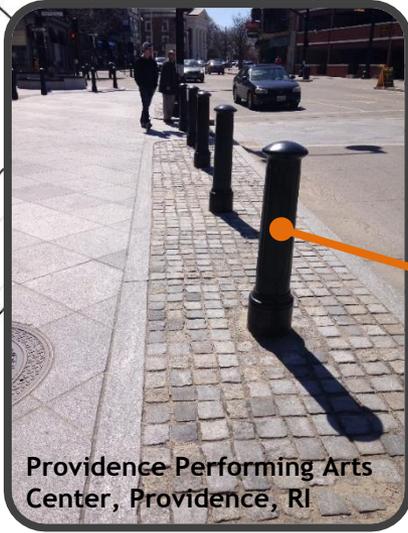
# Current Roadway



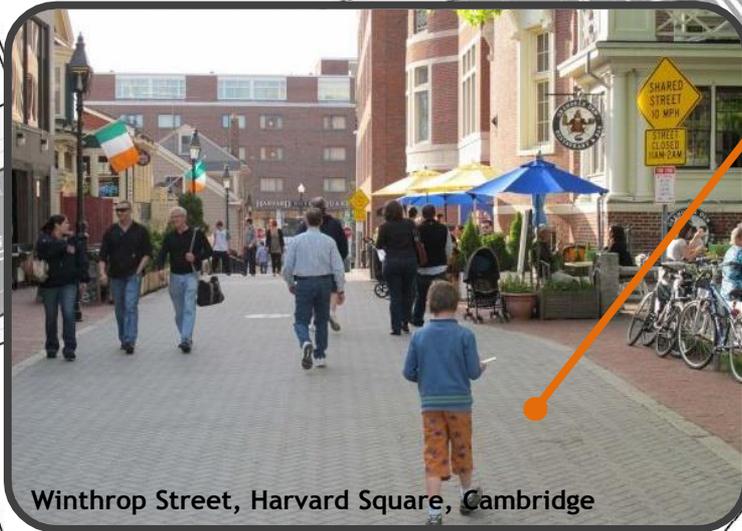


# Free St. w/ Table





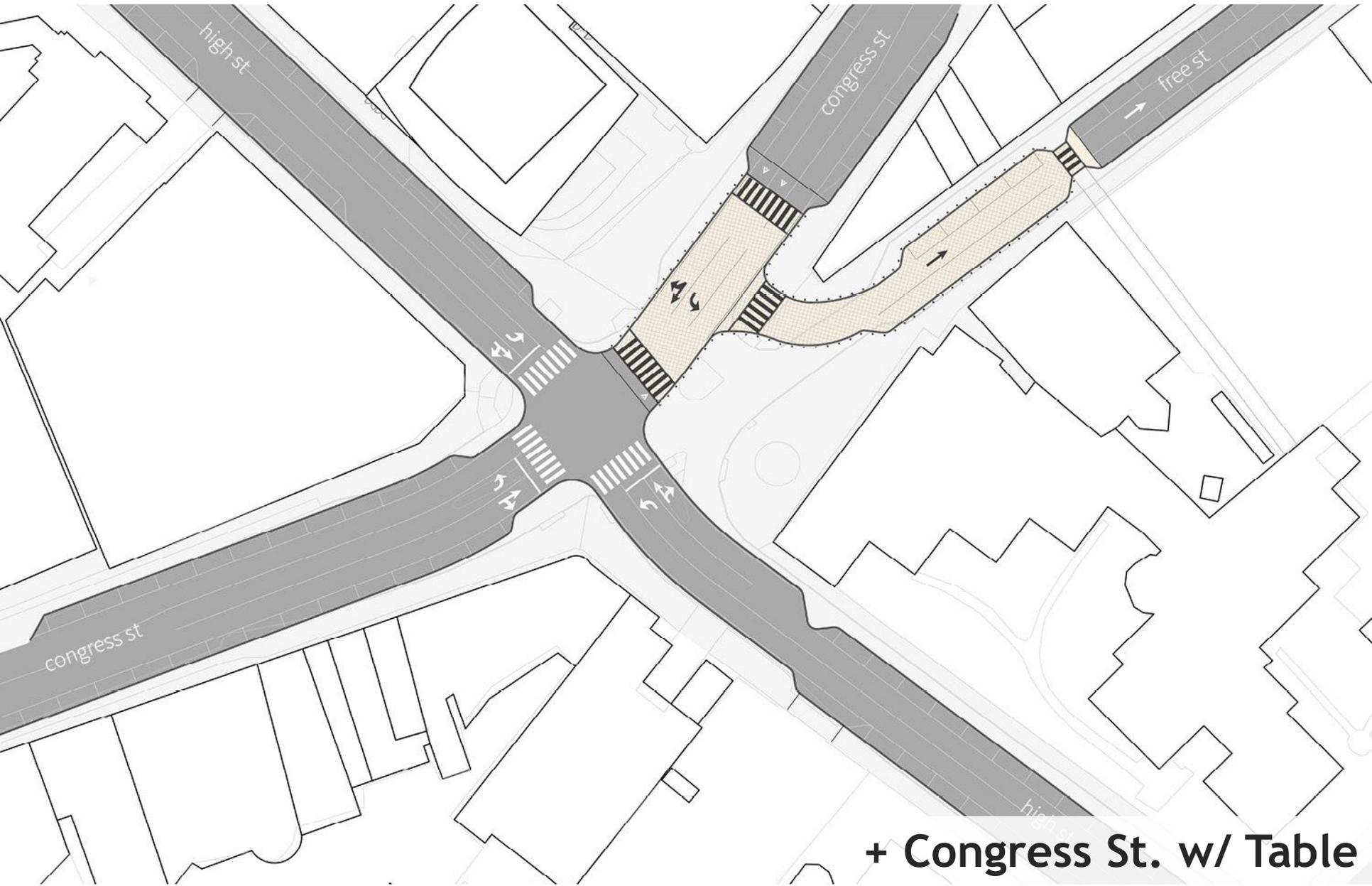
Providence Performing Arts Center, Providence, RI



Winthrop Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge

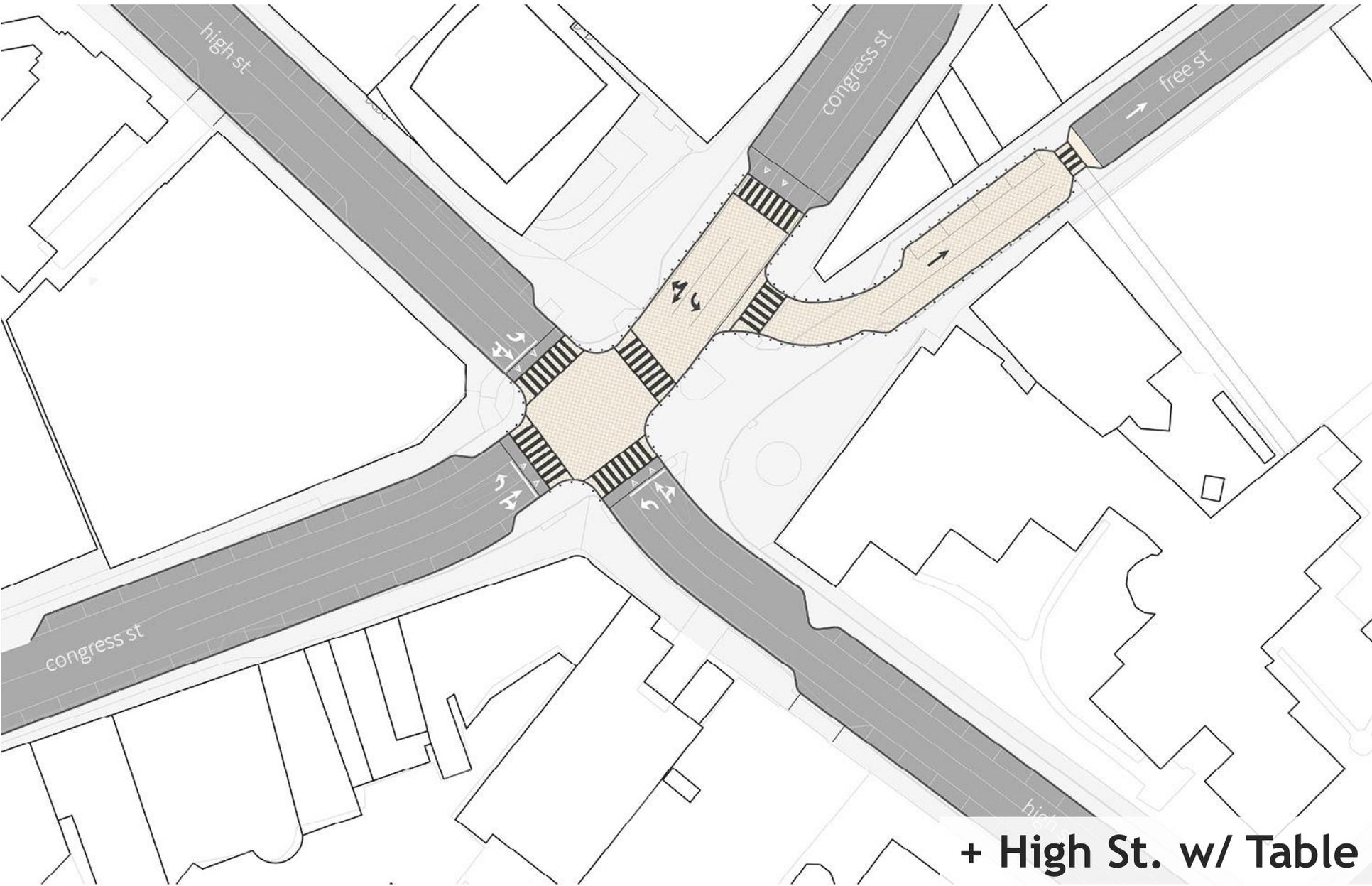


New Road, South Kensington, London



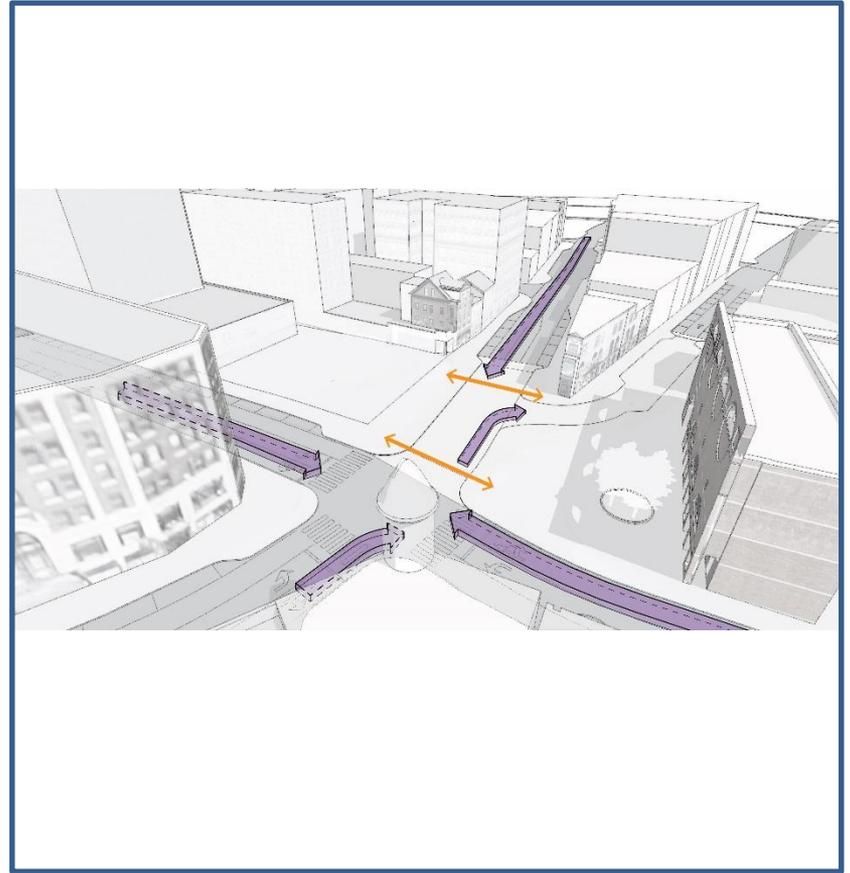
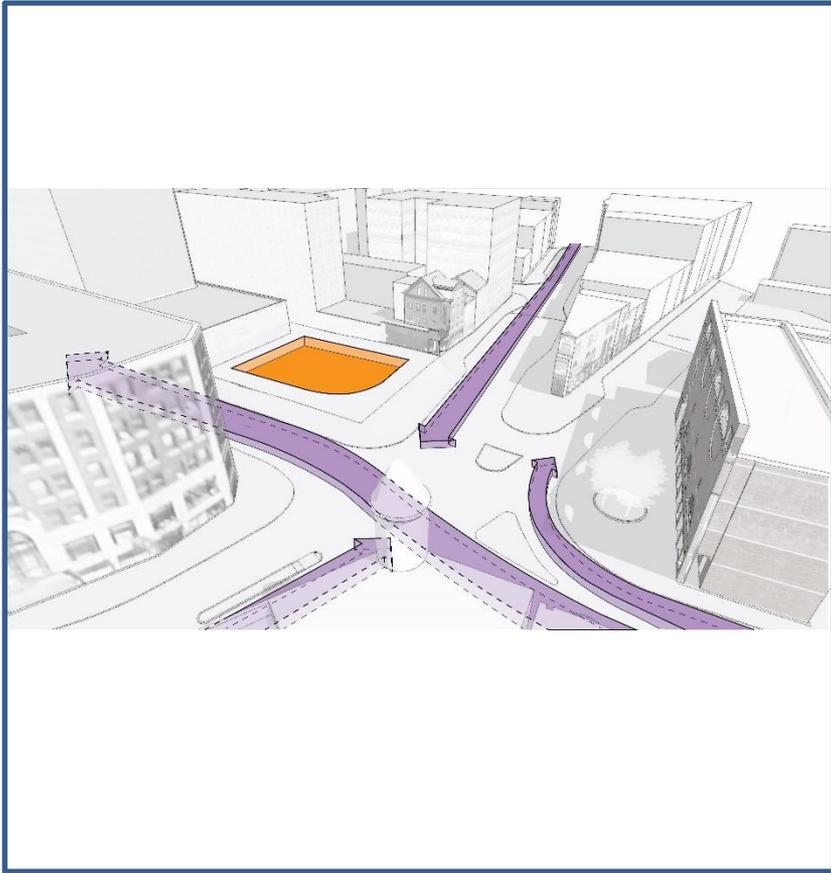
**+ Congress St. w/ Table**





**+ High St. w/ Table**



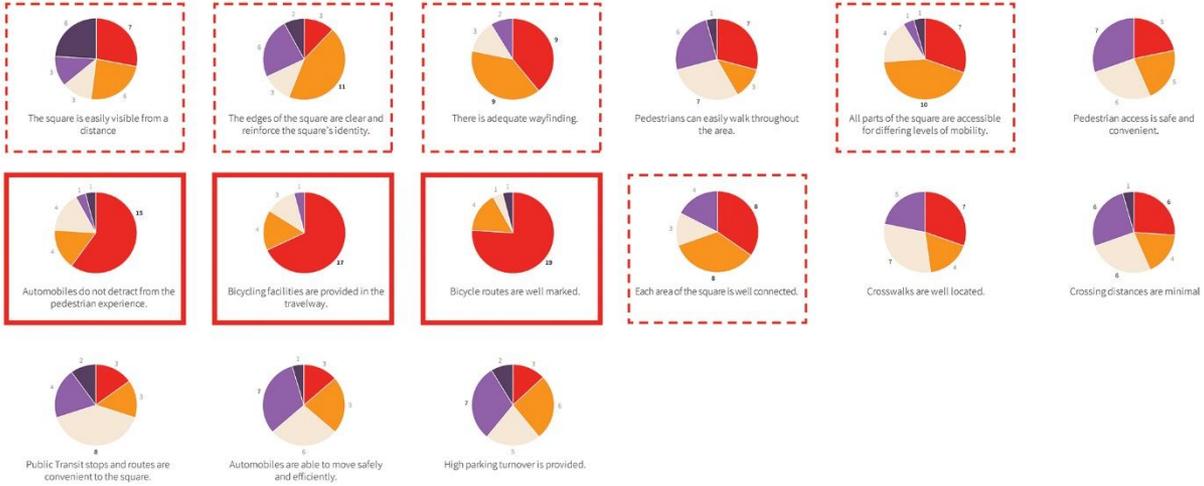


# Vision Statement:

Congress Square is a high quality, distinctive urban space that epitomizes the Arts District while remaining accessible and inviting to all. Year-round, the Square provides a welcome break in the dense, historic district street wall where one encounters a range of activities including events and installations that celebrate local arts and culture, and fosters spontaneity, informal gathering, and fun. **As a gateway intersection, the redesigned Congress Square places priority on the pedestrian experience and safety while accommodating all transportation modes in an efficient manner.**



# Access



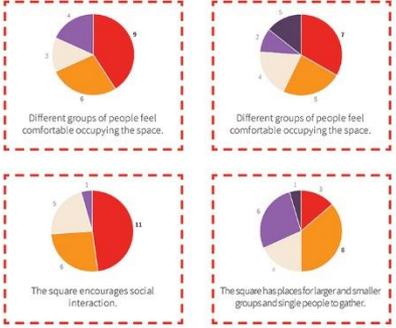
# Comfort and Image



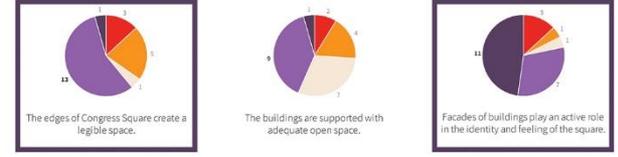
# Use and Activities



# Sociability



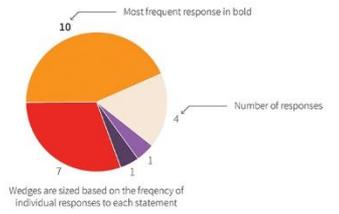
# Spatial



## TOTAL QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

### READING THE CHART

- strongly agree** (4.5-5)
  - agree** (3.5-4.49)
  - neutral** (2.5-3.49)
  - disagree** (1.5-2.49)
  - strongly disagree** (1-1.49)
- Wedges are colored by response



access

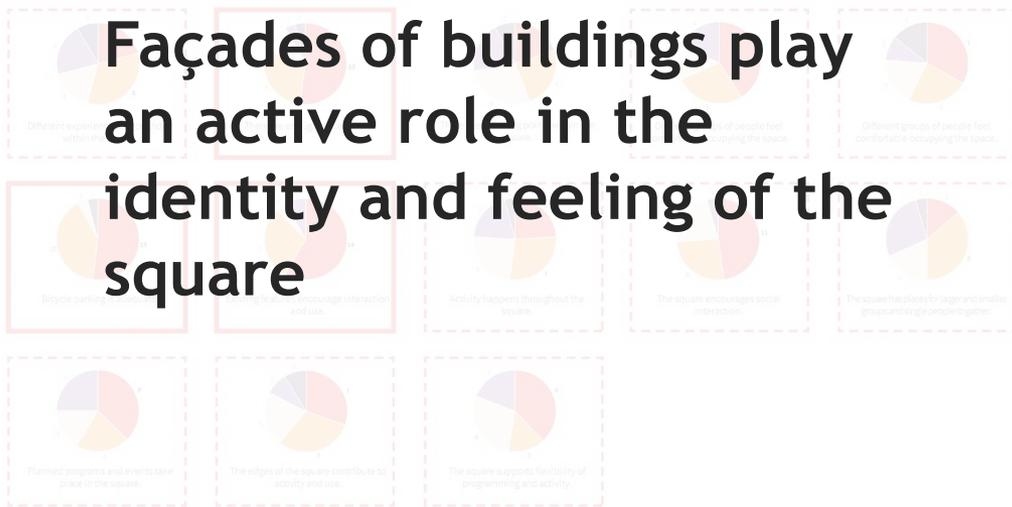


comfort and image



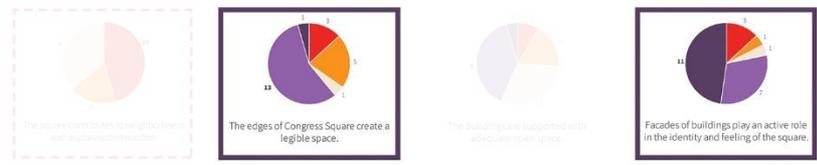
**The edges of Congress Square create a legible space**

use and activities



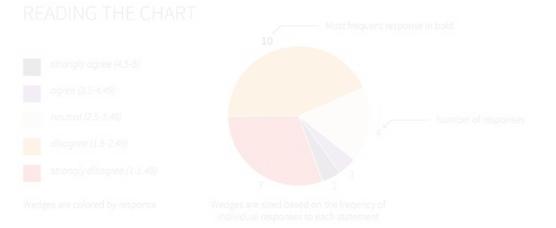
sociability

spatial



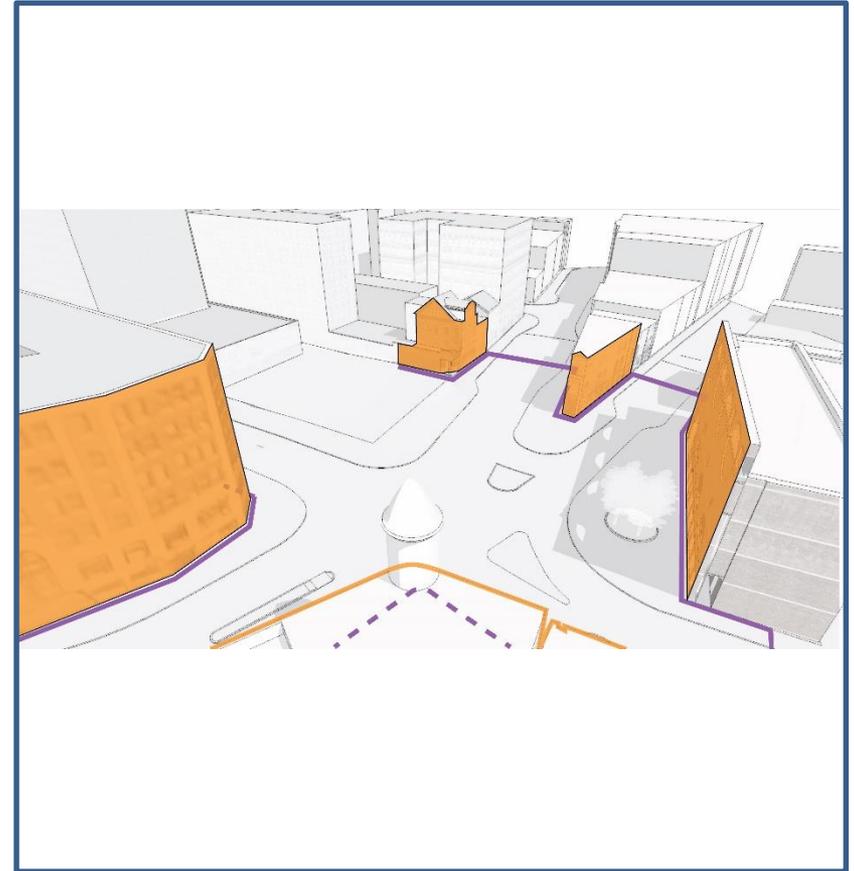
**Façades of buildings play an active role in the identity and feeling of the square**

TOTAL QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT RESULTS



**The edges of Congress Square create a legible space**

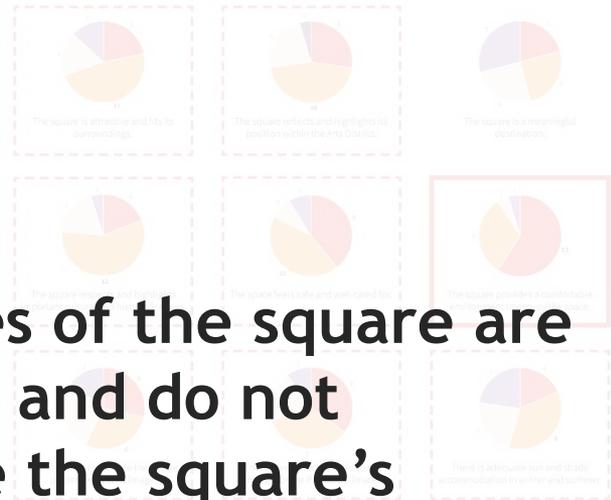
**Façades of buildings play an active role in the identity and feeling of the square**



access



comfort and image



The edges of the square are not clear and do not reinforce the square's identity

use and activities



sociability

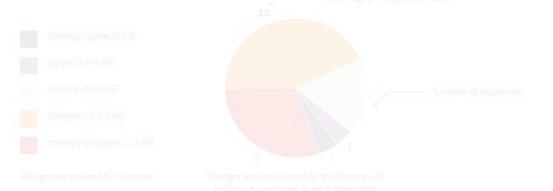


spatial



The edges of the square do not contribute to activity and use

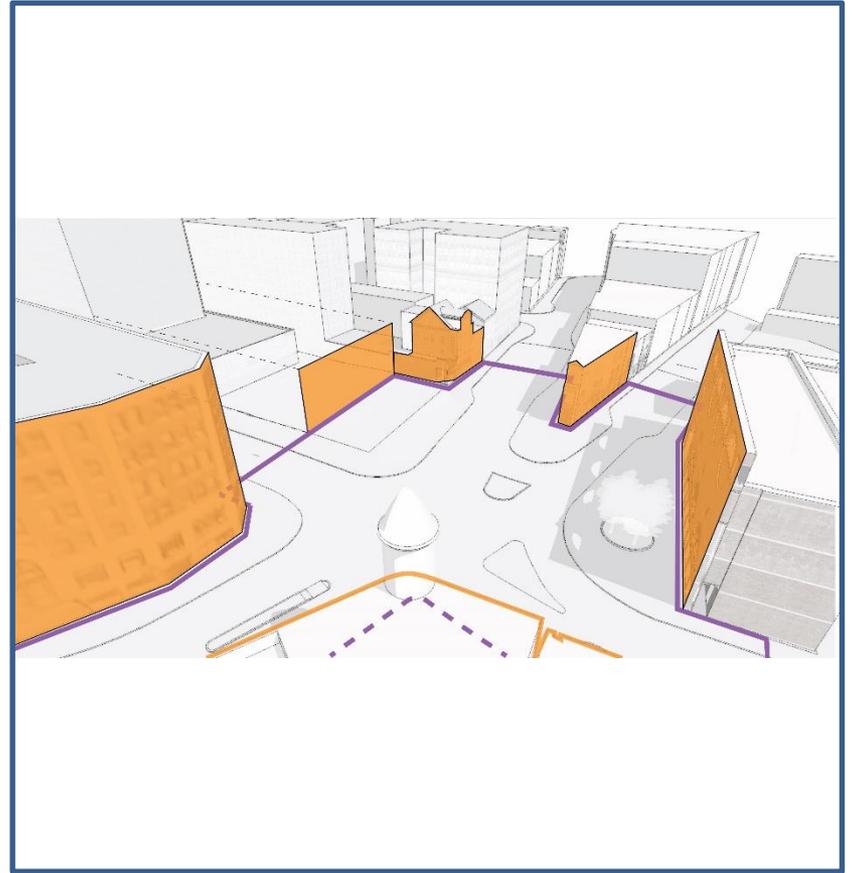
READING THE CHART





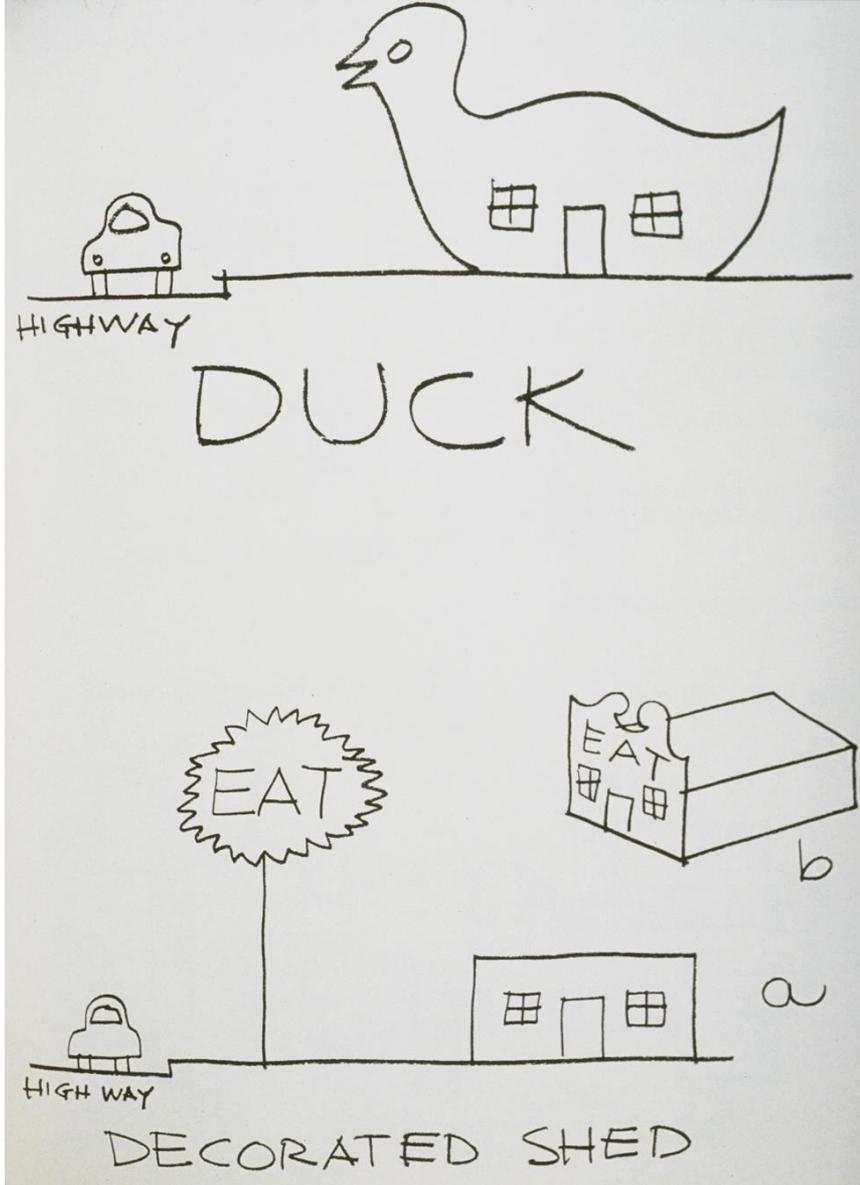
**The edges of the square are not clear and do not reinforce the square's identity**

**The edges of the square do not contribute to activity and use**

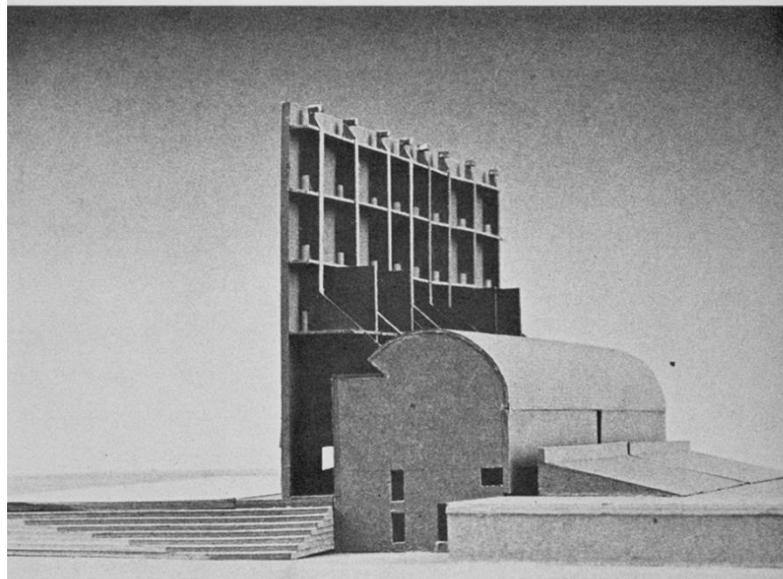
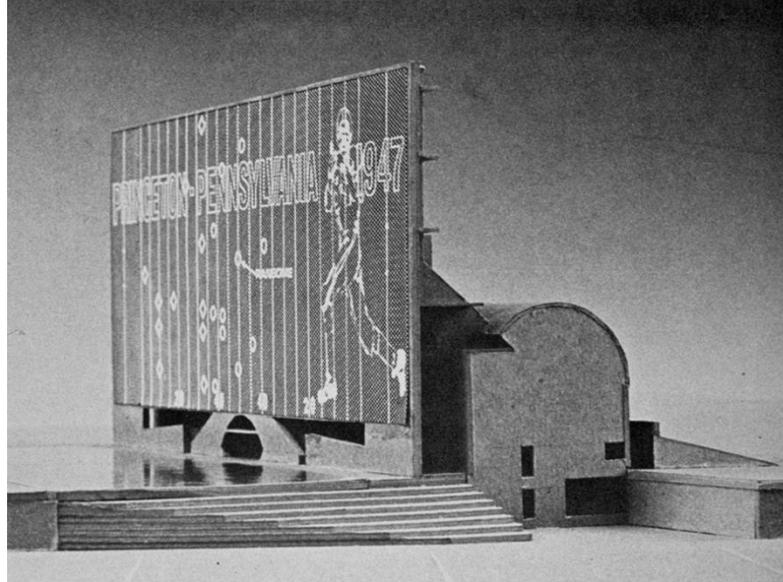


# Event Center & Plaza Concepts: Façades as Wall to Outdoor Rooms

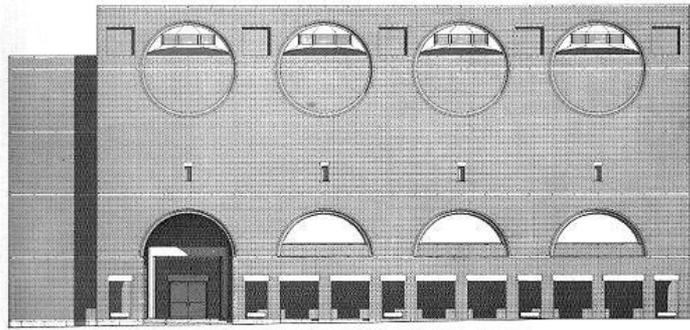




Robert Venturi, *Learning from Las Vegas*, The MIT Press, 1972



Robert Venturi: National Football Hall of Fame (project), 1967



Harry Cobb: Portland Museum of Art, 1978-1982





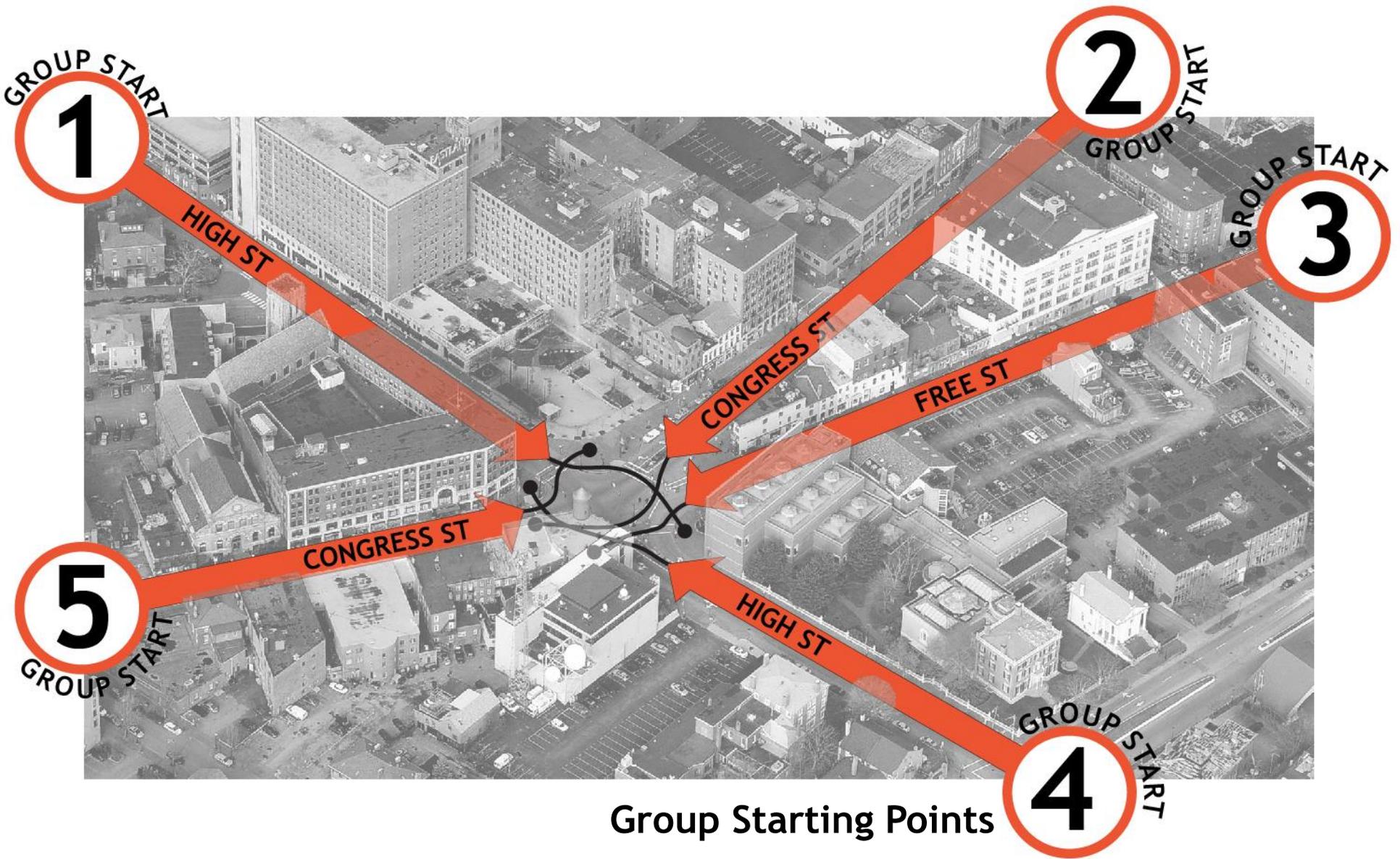
Harry Cobb: Portland Museum of Art, 1978-1982





Harry Cobb: Portland Museum of Art, 1978-1982



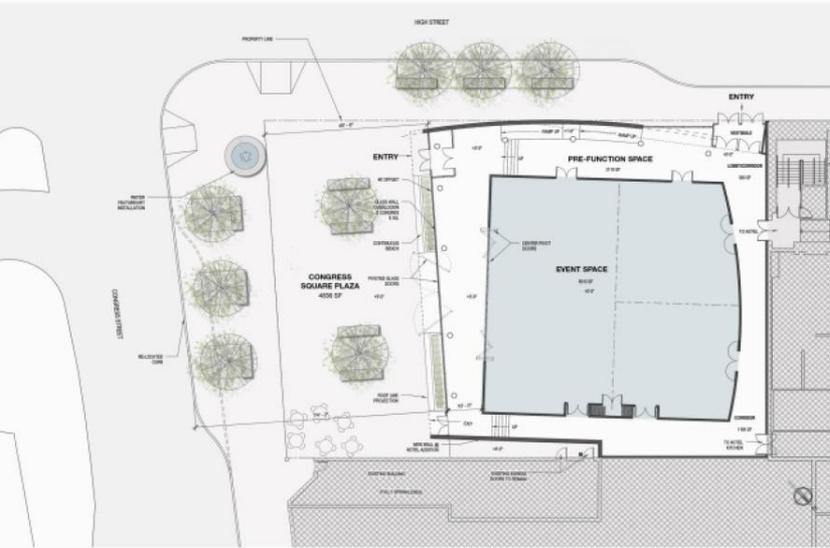




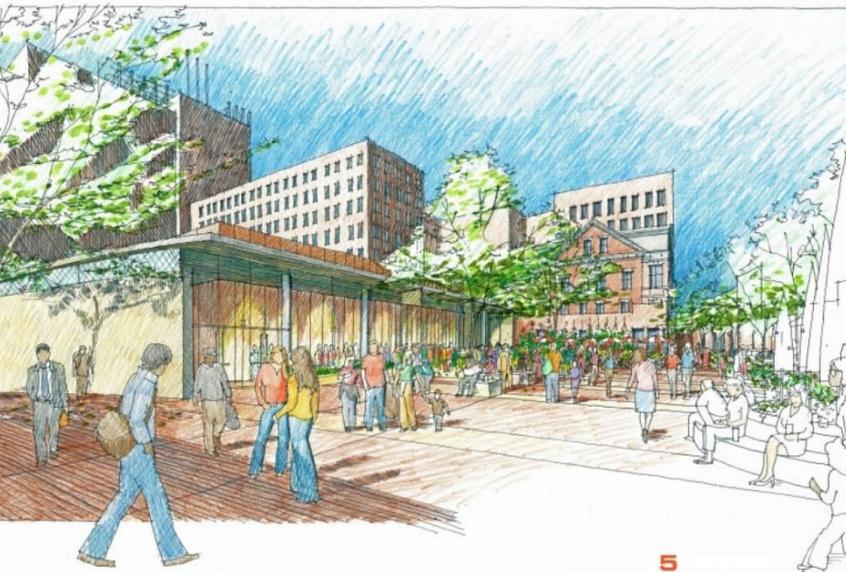
Norman Foster, Nimes Carre D'art

Machado & Silveti Associates: Silver Spring Civic Building, Silver Spring, MD, 2008-2010



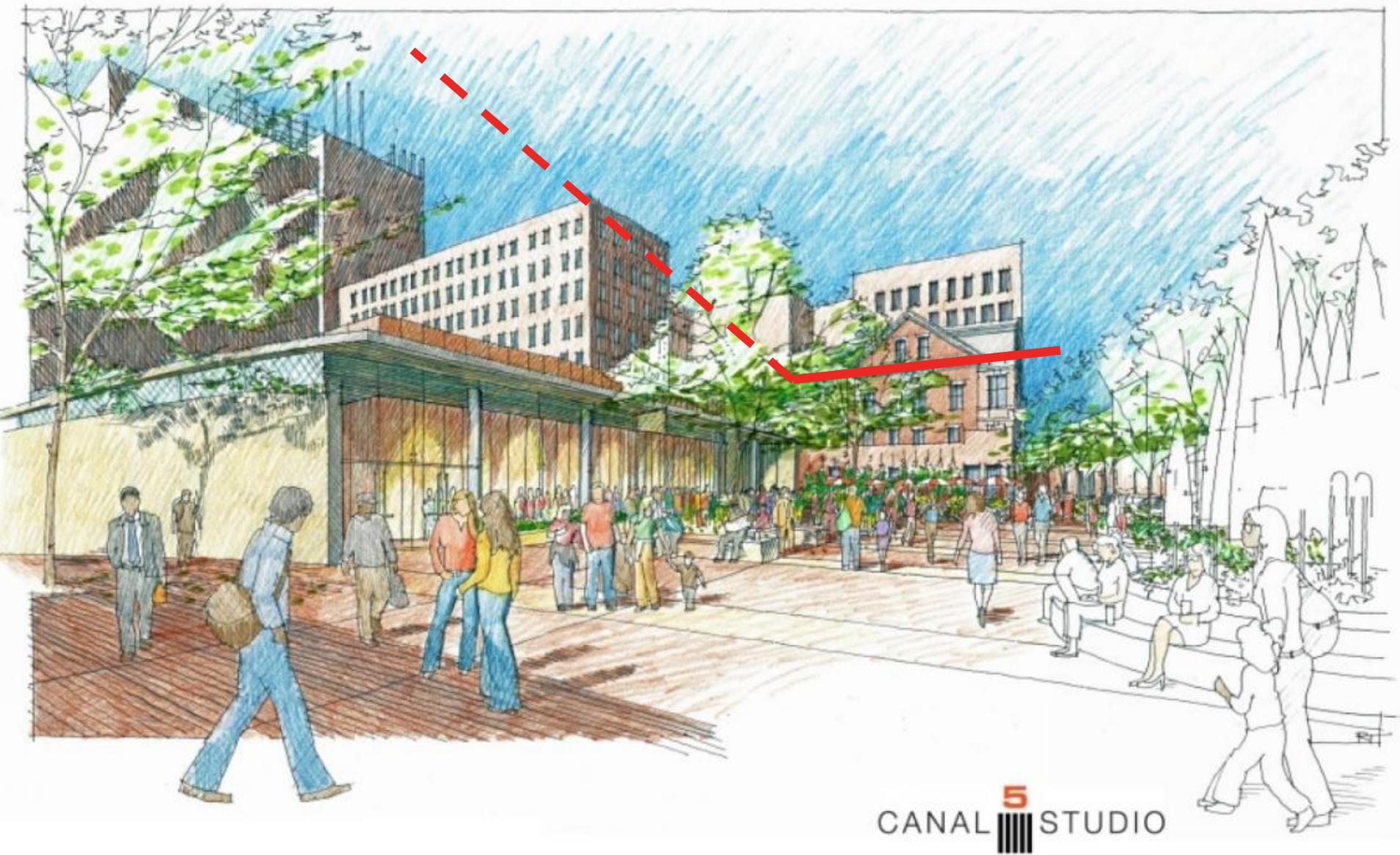


CANAL **5** STUDIO



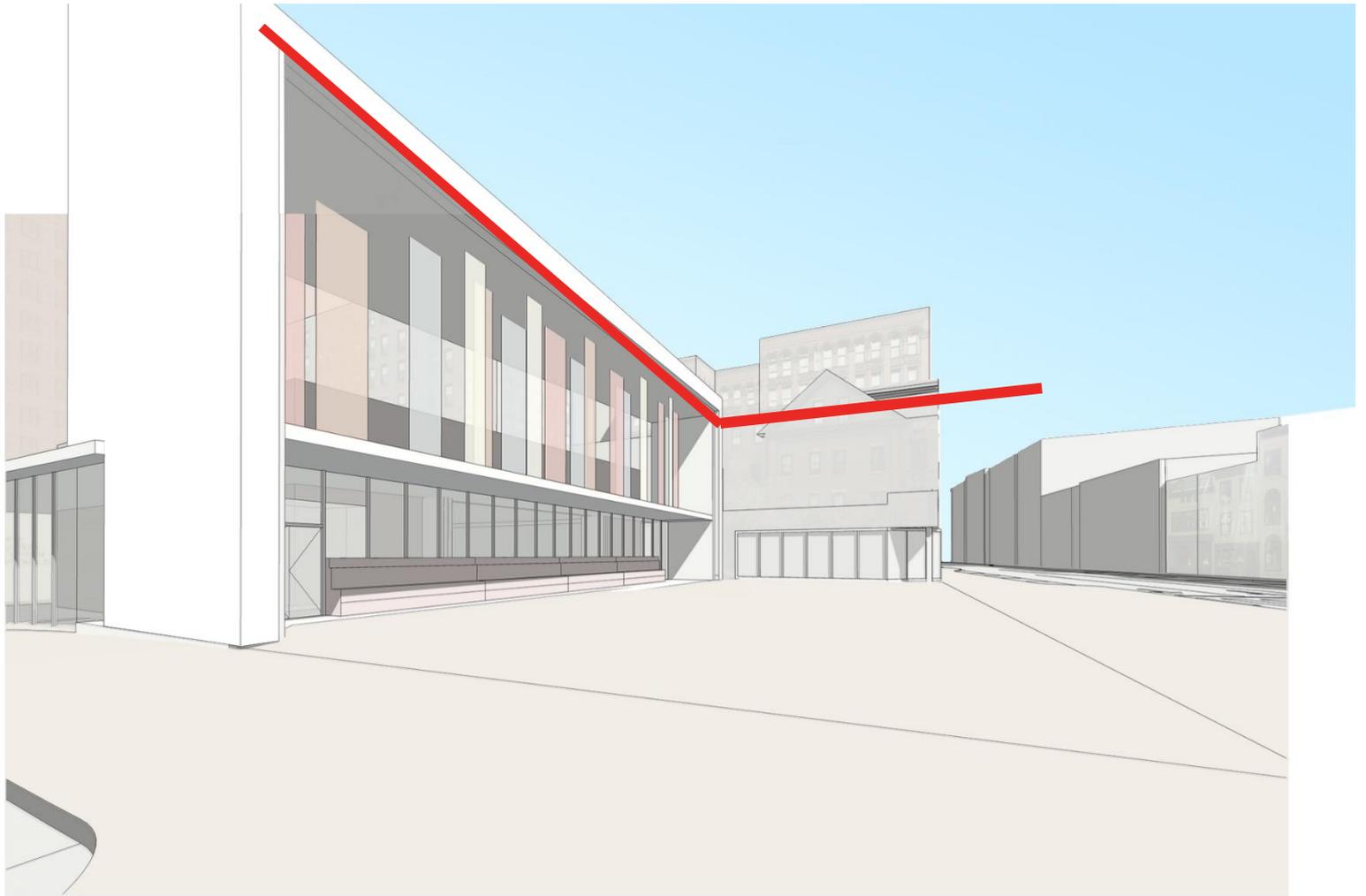
CANAL **5** STUDIO



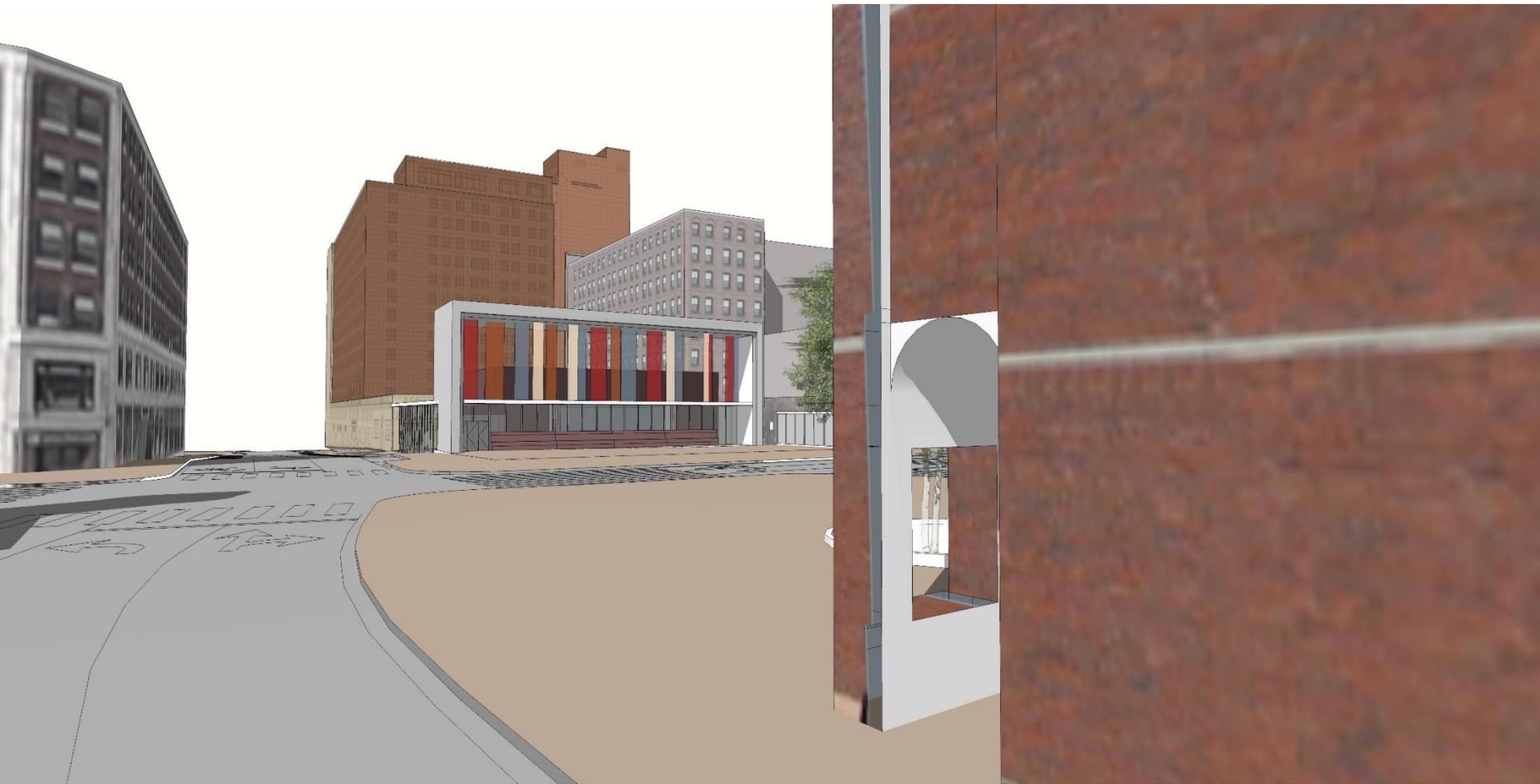


CANAL **5** STUDIO















Peter Walker and Partners (courtyard), Novartis , Basel

Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art  
Overland Park, Kansas



Ken Smith, Orange County Park, 2010



UnitedVisualArtists, Canopy + Connection, Toronto



Ellsworth Kelly, *Sculpture for a Large Wall (Transportation Building Lobby Sculpture)*, Penn Center, Philadelphia, 1957



Ned Kahn, Vertical Canal, Utrecht Water Department Building, the Netherlands



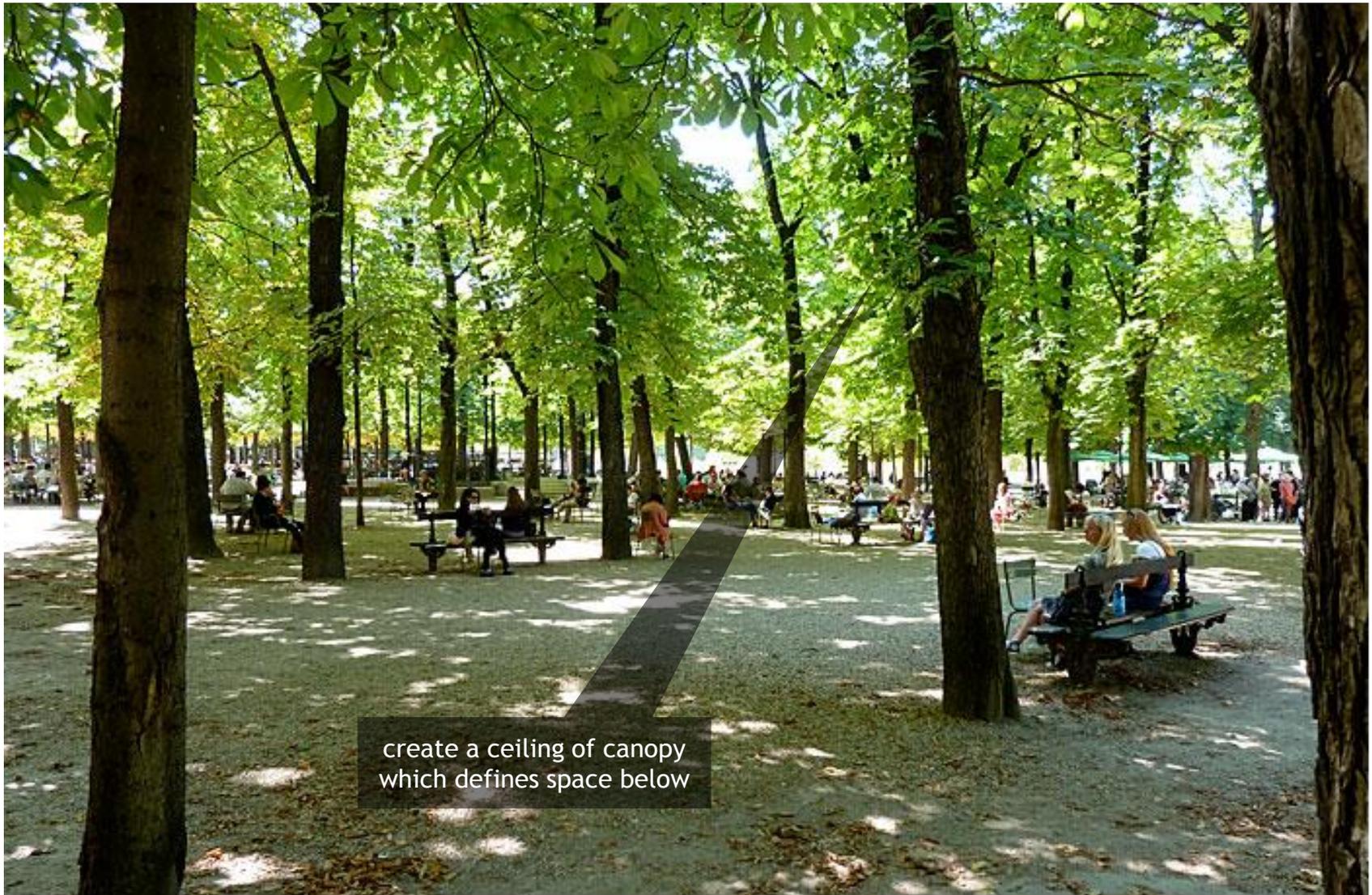
# Vision Statement:

Congress Square is a high quality, distinctive urban space that epitomizes the Arts District while remaining accessible and inviting to all. Year-round, the Square provides a welcome break in the dense, historic district street wall where one encounters a range of activities including events and installations that celebrate local arts and culture, and fosters spontaneity, informal gathering, and fun. As a gateway intersection, the redesigned Congress Square places priority on the pedestrian experience and safety while accommodating all transportation modes in an efficient manner.



# Square Design: Ground Plane & Canopy





create a ceiling of canopy  
which defines space below

The Luxembourg Gardens in Paris come to mind.



distinguish clear pedestrian realms w/ a pattern

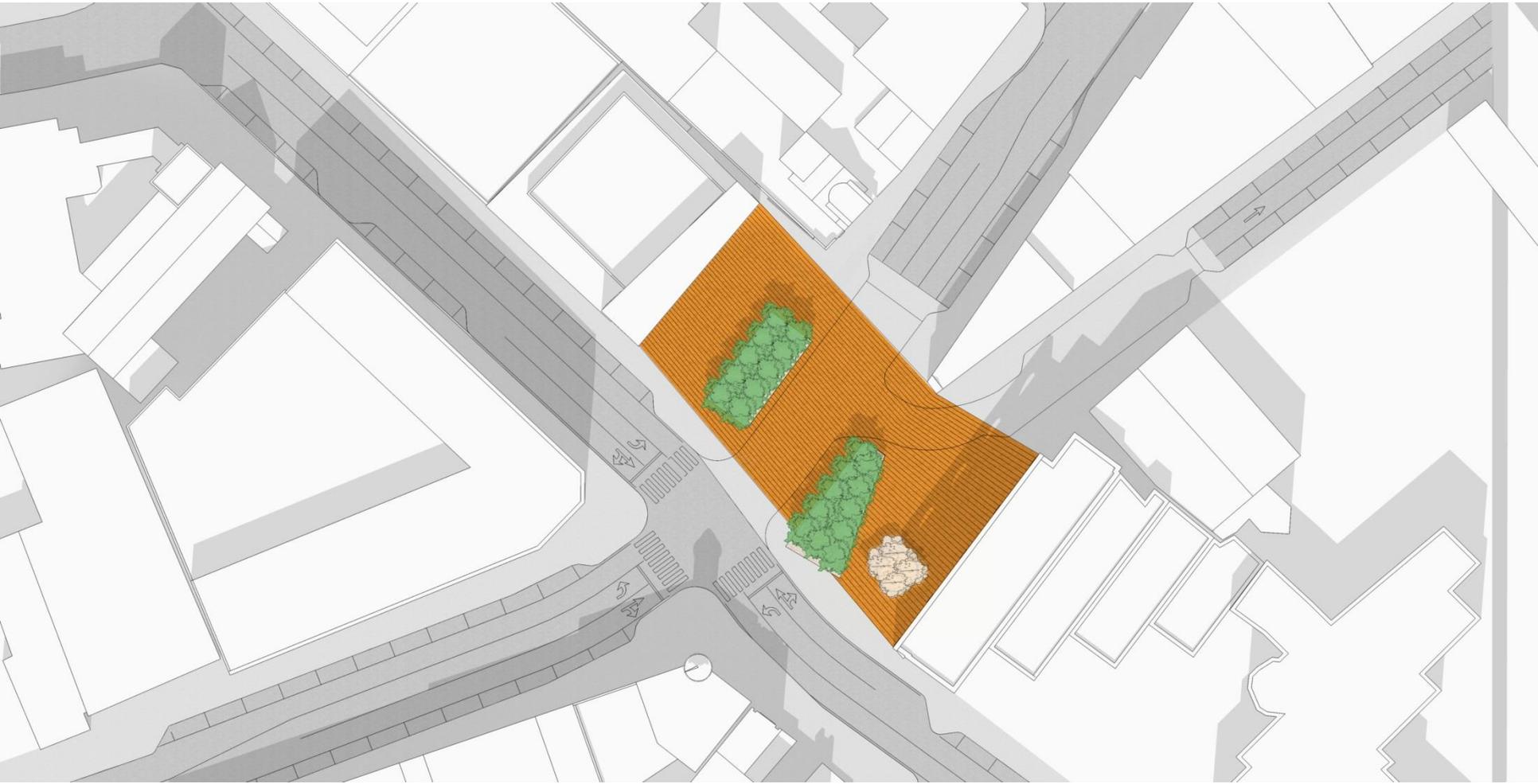
TCL, Lonsdale Street, Victoria Australia



## Scheme A: FACE-OFF



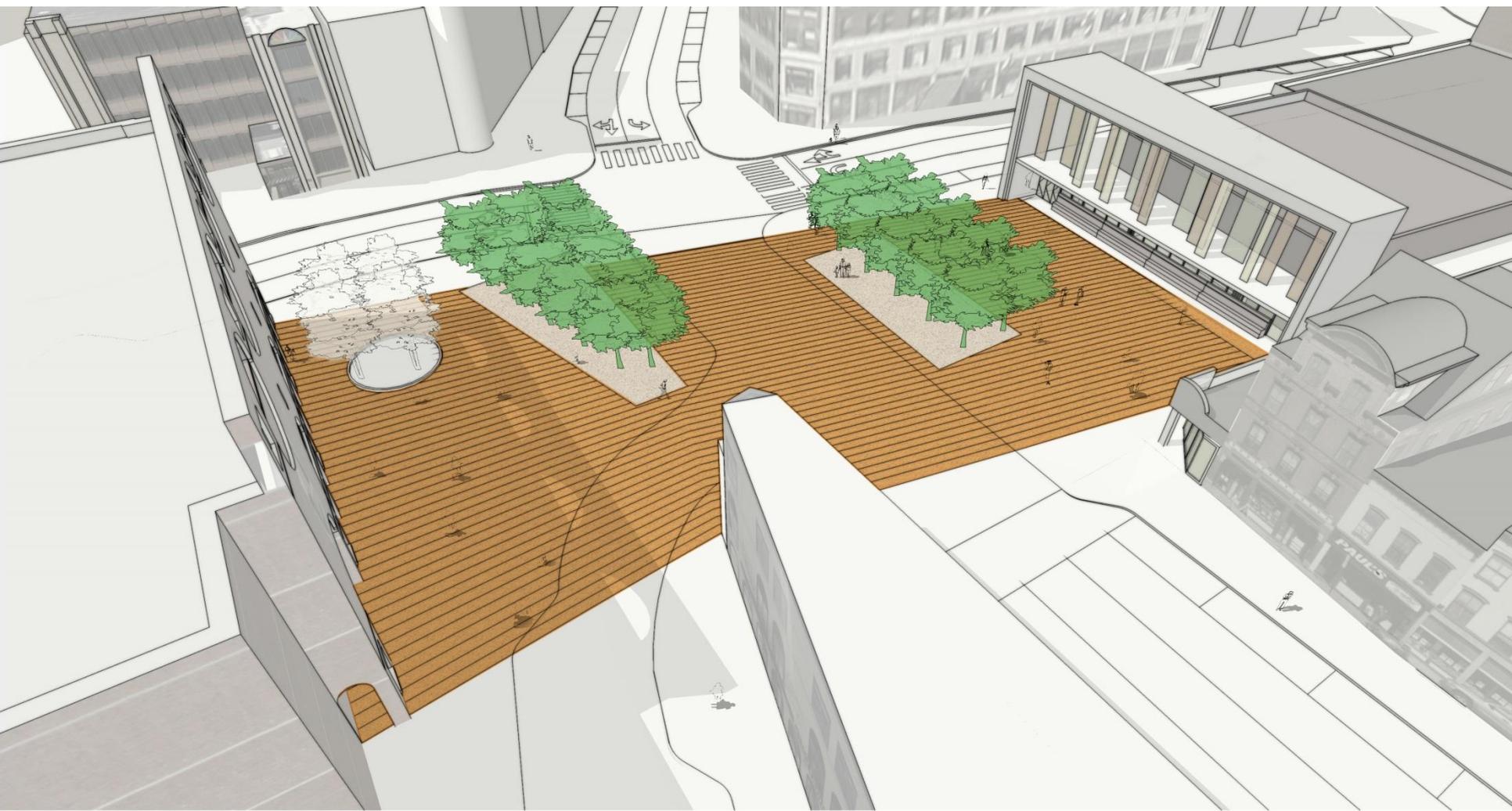
# Scheme A: FACE-OFF



# Scheme A: FACE-OFF



# Scheme A: FACE-OFF



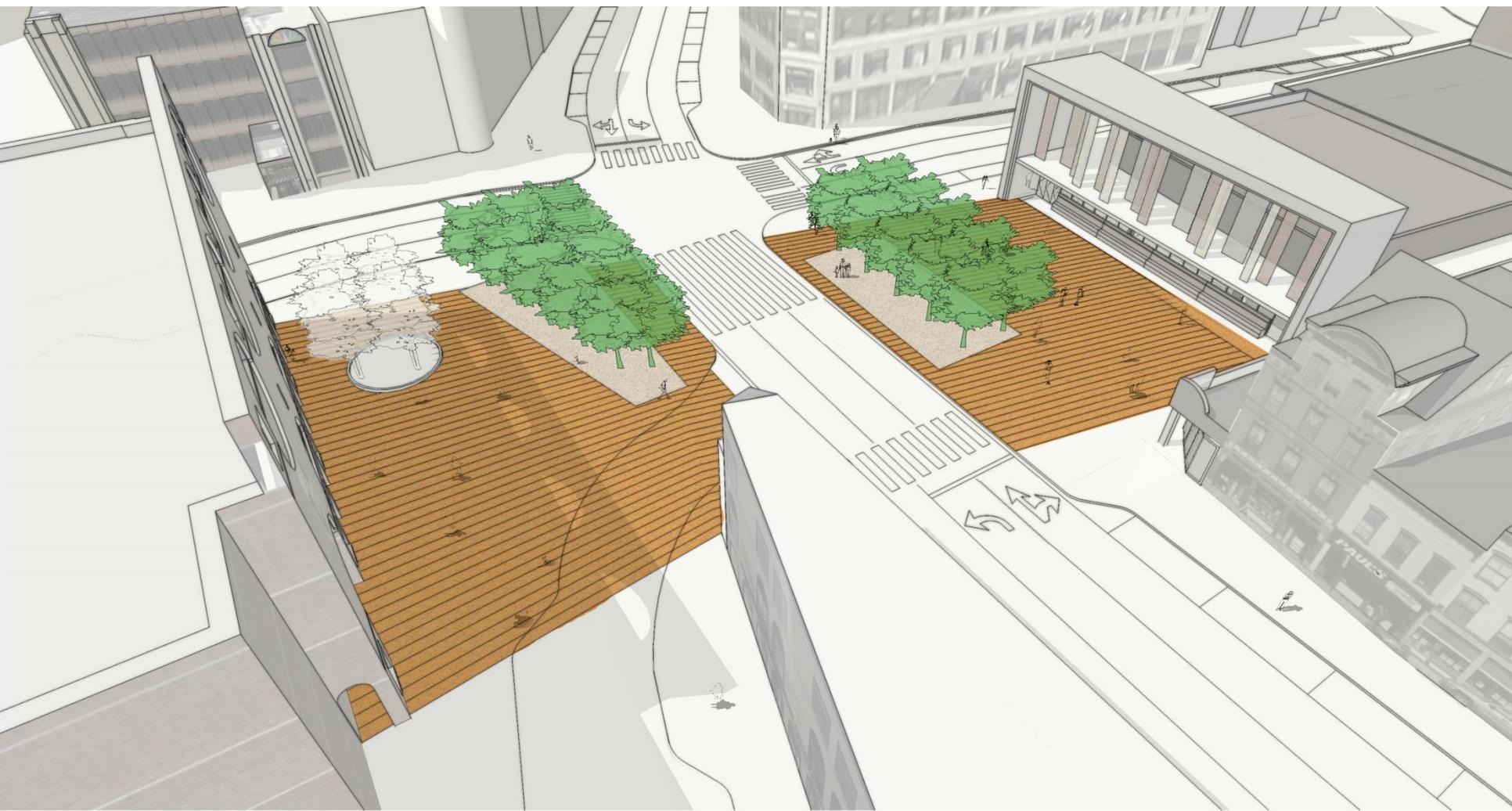
# Scheme A: FACE-OFF



# Scheme A: FACE-OFF

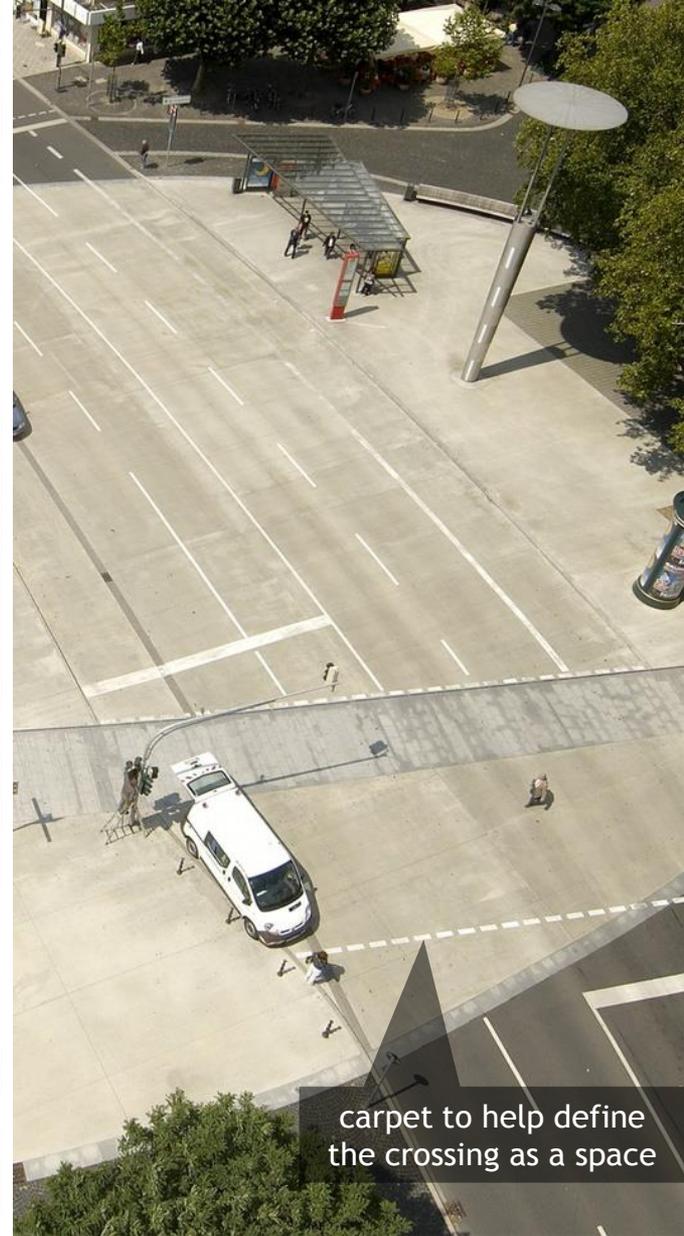


# Scheme A: FACE-OFF





maintain the character of distinct streets at the edges



carpet to help define the crossing as a space

HH+F Architekten, Bahnhofplatz, Aachen Germany



Use of paving to make distinctive and clear spaces day and night





Groves of trees in dialogue  
with building



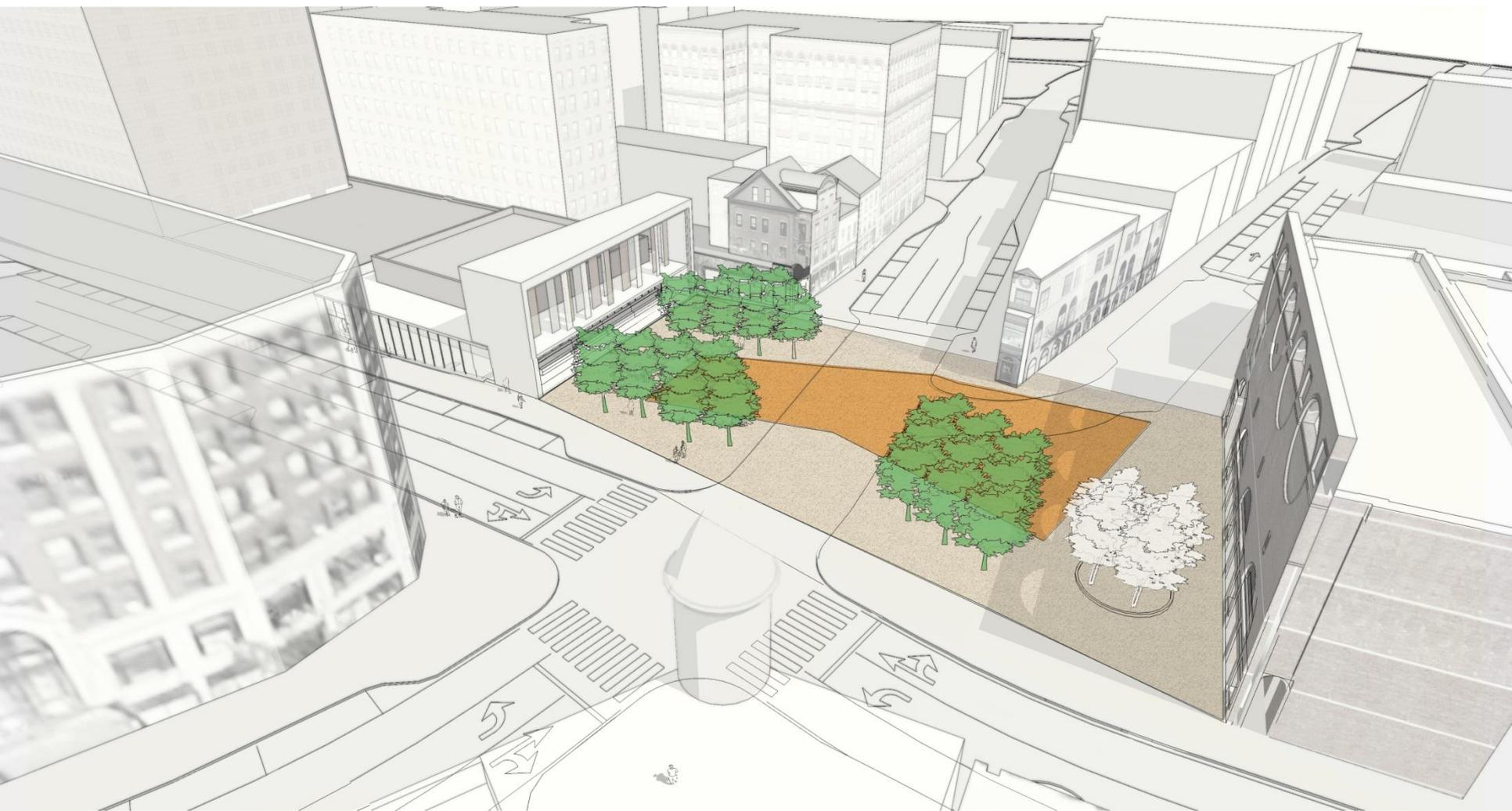
## Scheme B: NESTING FRAMES



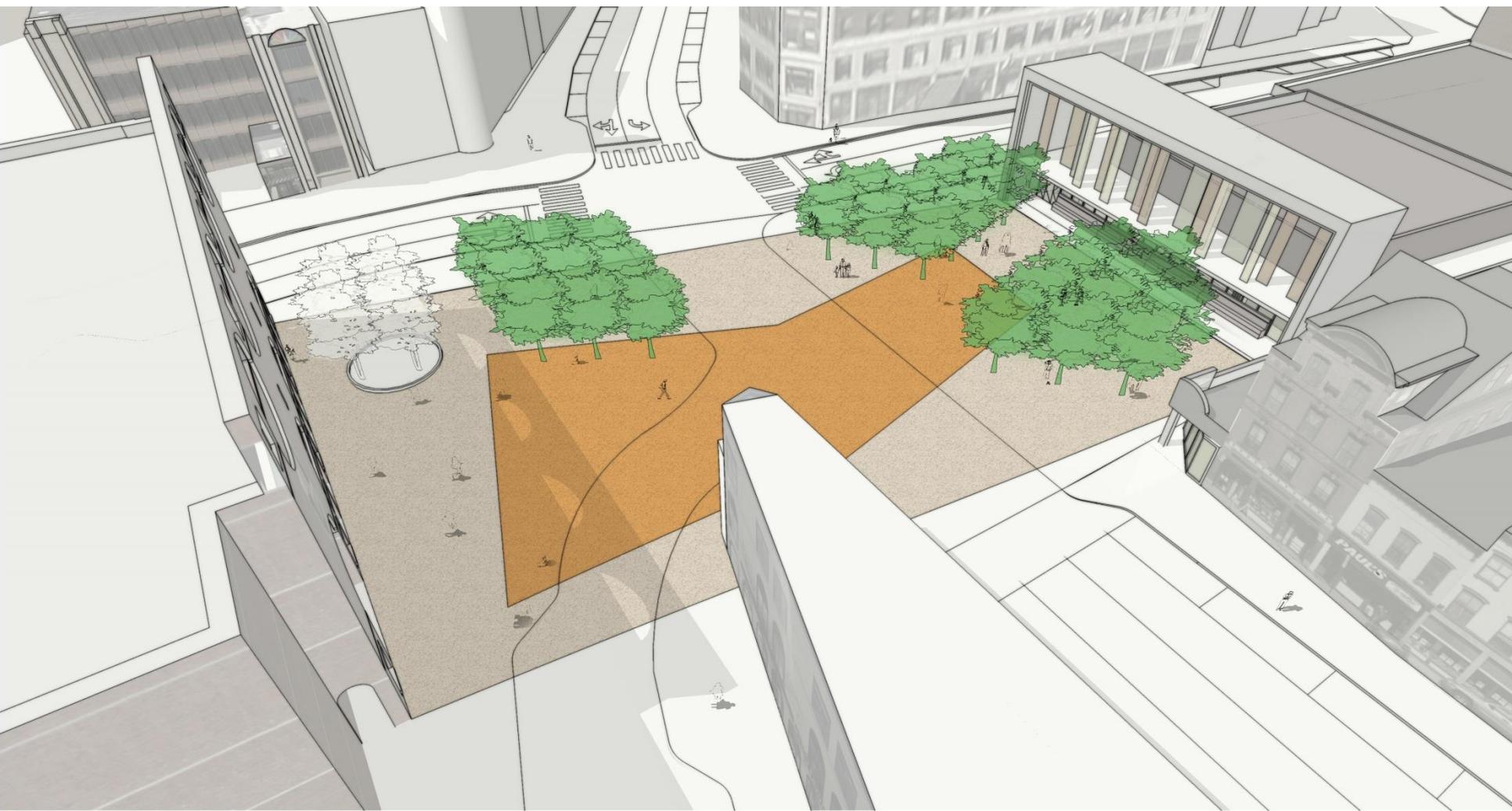
# Scheme B: NESTED FRAMES



# Scheme B: NESTED FRAMES



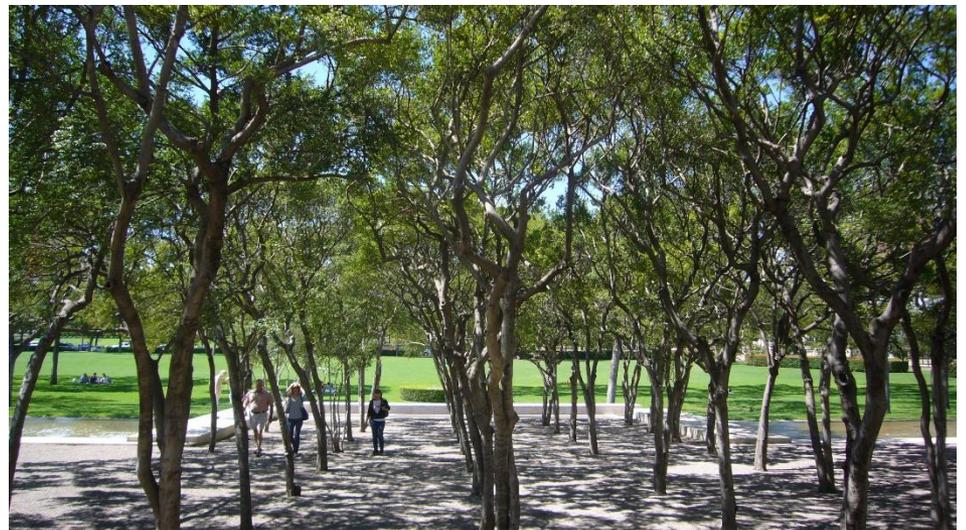
# Scheme B: NESTED FRAMES





Trees frame space





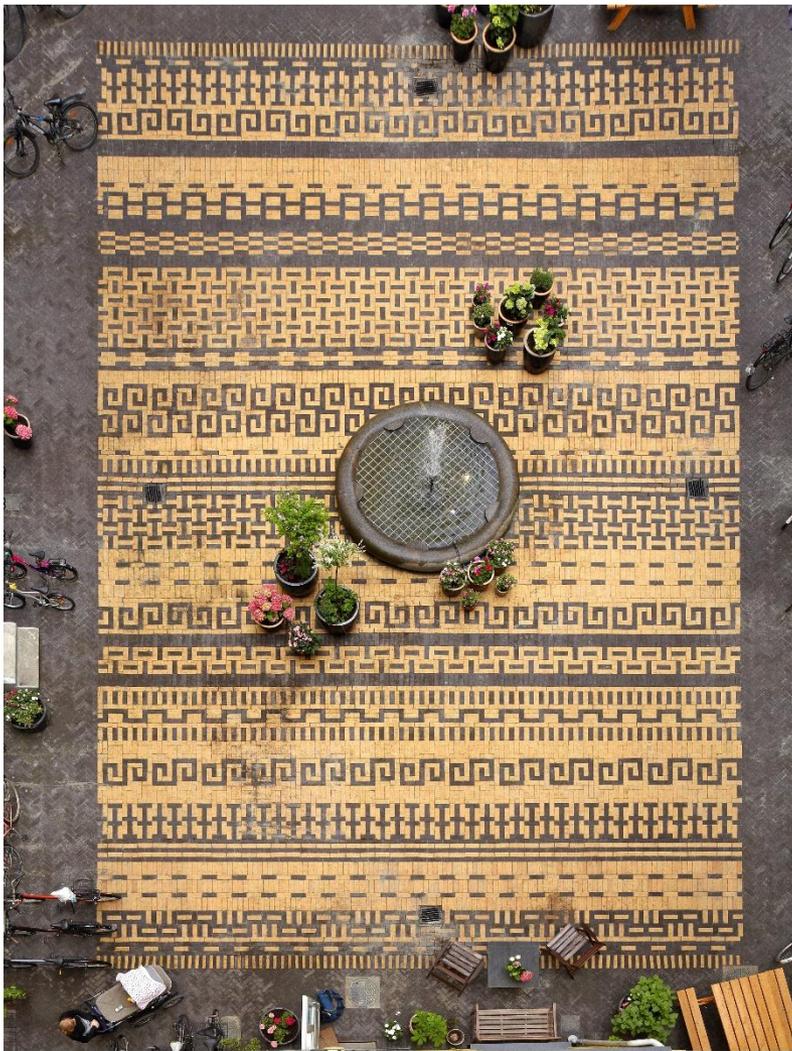
Kimball Museum, Dan Kiley

distinguish clear pedestrian realms w/ a pattern



TCL, Lonsdale Street, Victoria Australia





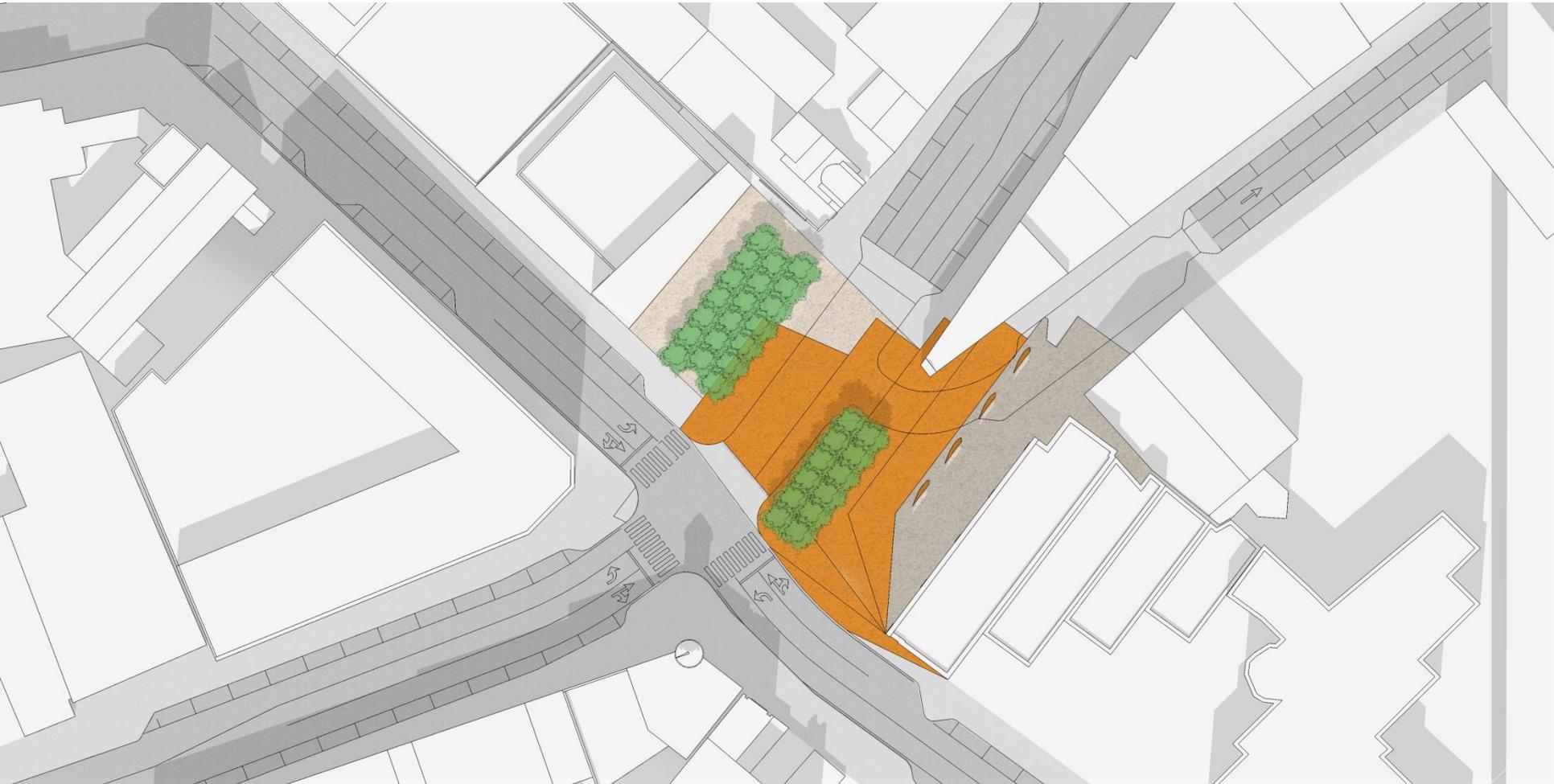
Carpet of paving defines a space

Copenhagen, Denmark

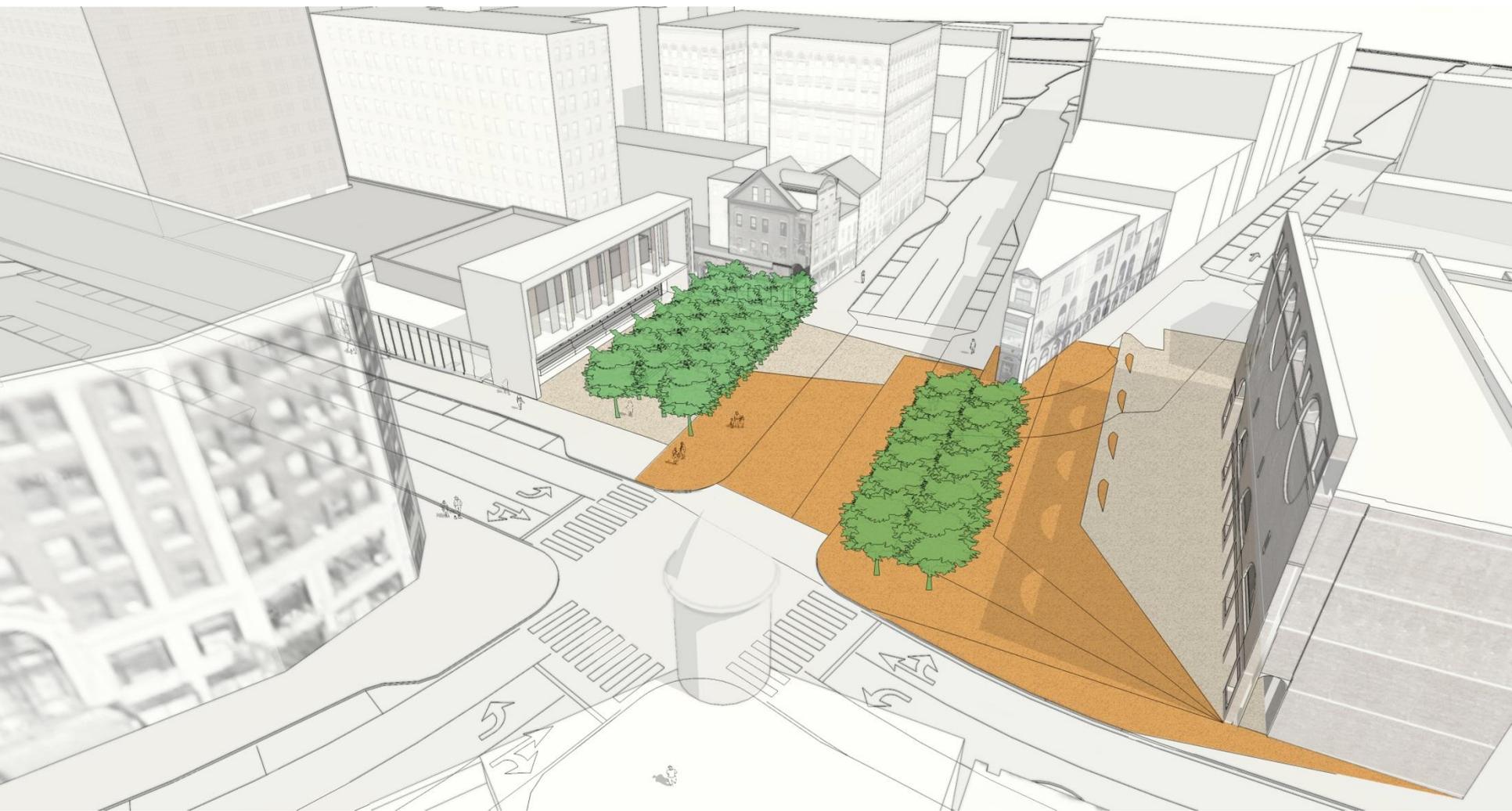
## Scheme C: EQUINOX



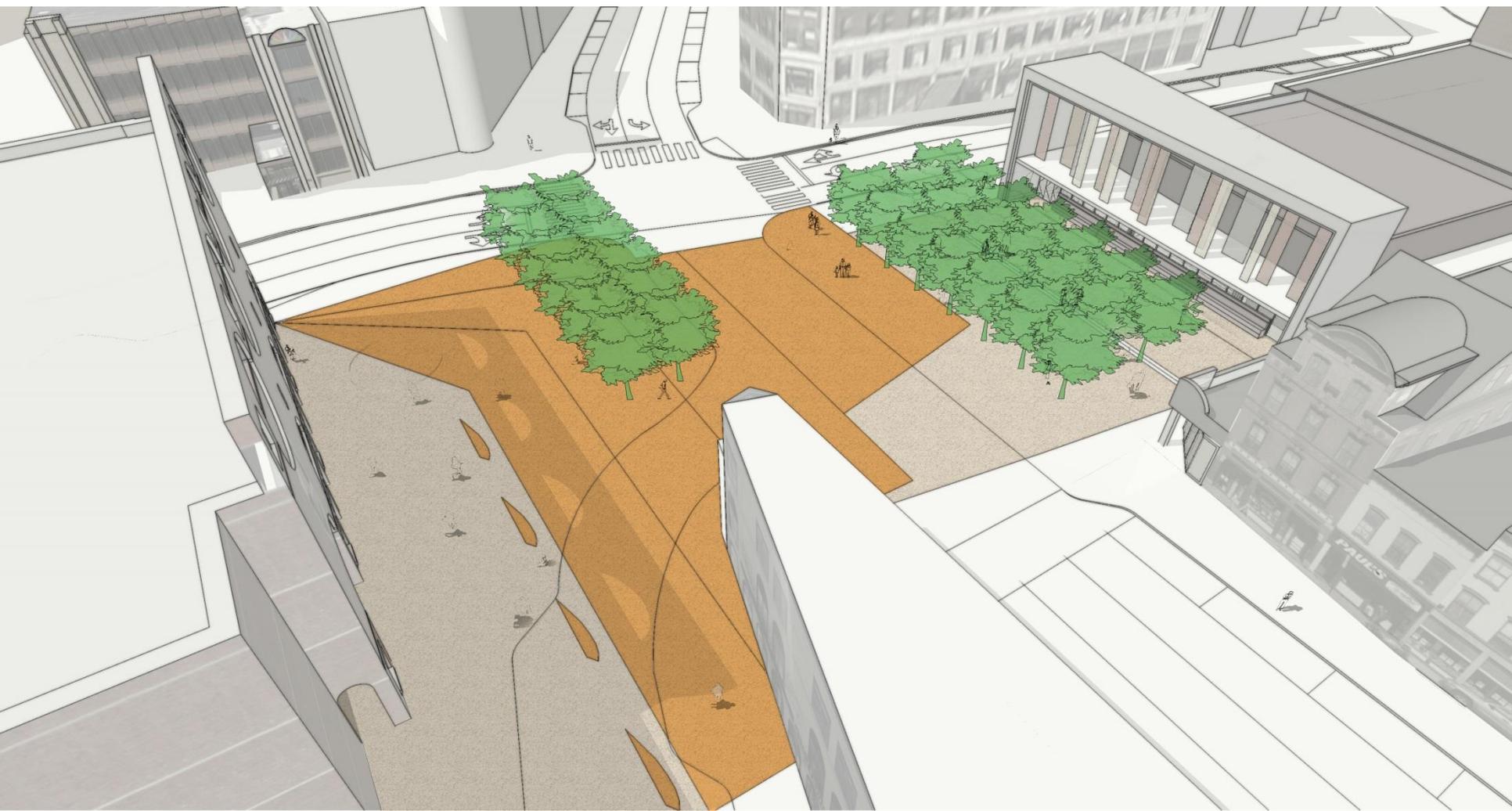
# Scheme C: EQUINOX



# Scheme C: EQUINOX



# Scheme C: EQUINOX



Town Hall Square, Janet Rosenberg Landscape Architects, Toronto



BSA Board

BFA - exhibitions committee  
development committee

ick - urban design quality  
lack of dialogue

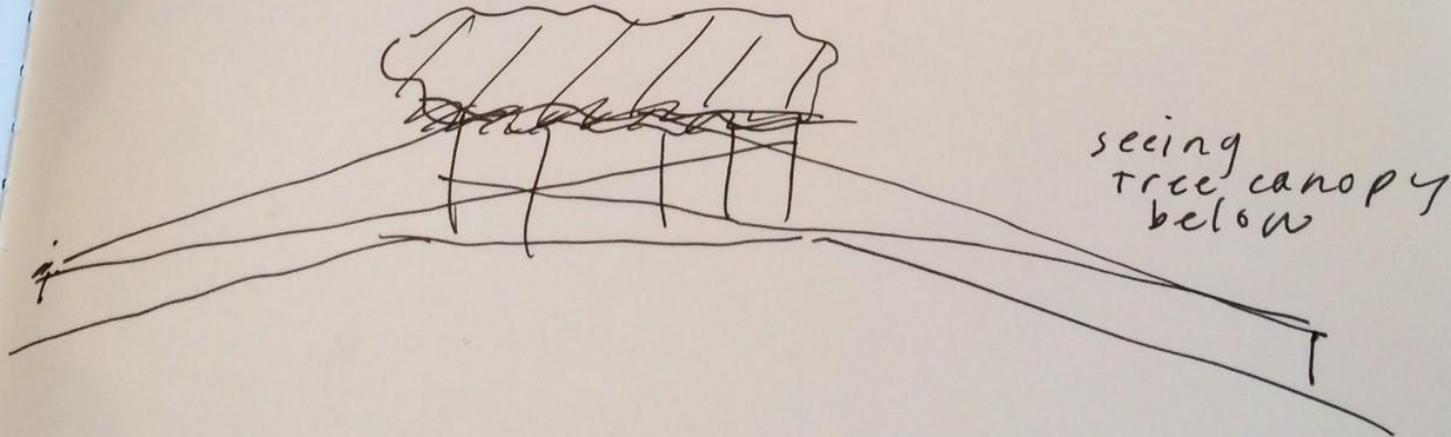
"quality design + the built  
# environment"

Congress Square 2.28.2014

datum of first floor of the  
hotel works

walking from below - you have  
no idea that a square is there.

get official Portland bike route map



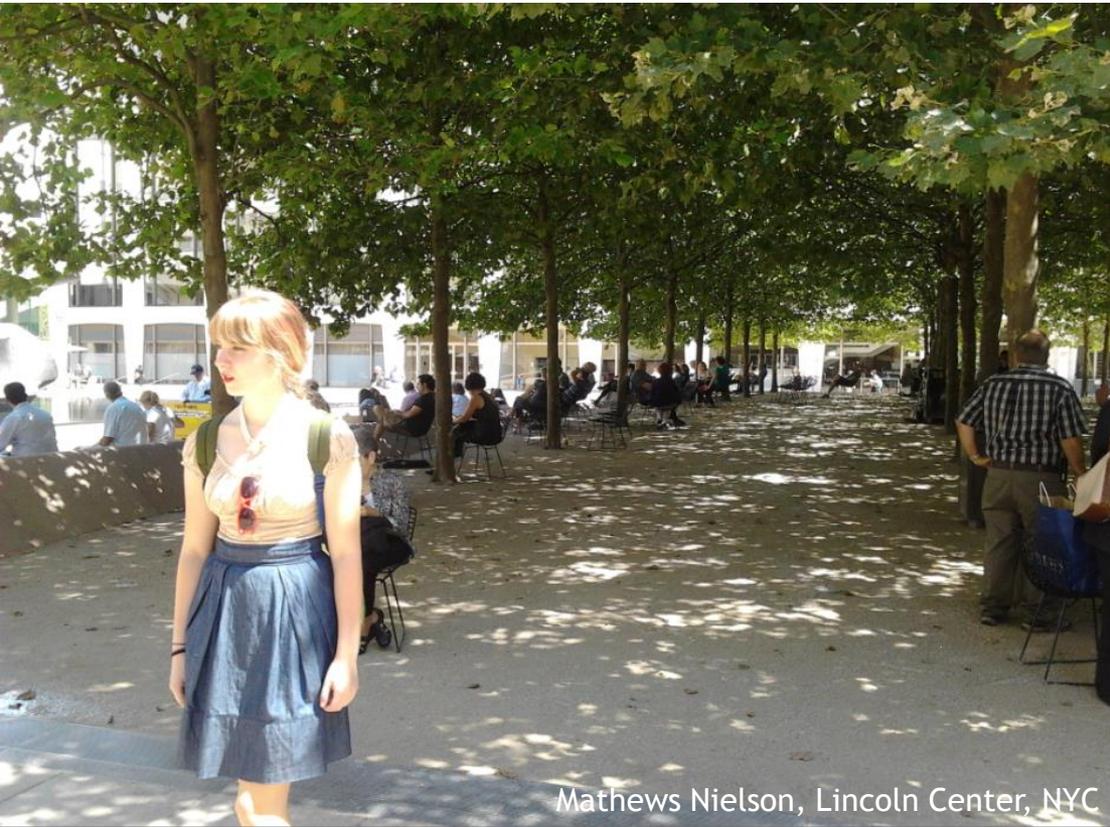
seeing  
tree canopy  
below



Union Sq., Somerville



South Station, Boston



Mathews Nielson, Lincoln Center, NYC



Reed Hilderbrand, Koch Institute Cambridge



Schwartz Smith Meyer, Village Yorkville Park, Toronto



Koch Institute, Reed Hilderbrand, Cambridge, MA



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# Meeting Agenda:

- Re-cap of the February meeting
- What we heard from the February meeting
- Conceptual Roadway + Curb Alignment
- Event Center & Plaza Concepts
- Congress Square Concepts
- Discussion / Next steps



