

SHIFTING STREET

A New Street form turn street into place

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ABSTRACT

The street is one of the key spaces that people spend their time at everyday. The experiences of the street are important to enhance the quality of people's life. There are lots of ways to build a street. With different situations, there should be different ways to organize the spaces of the street. However, the people's street life is not unalterable in a day. So my thesis focuses on using the idea of the street shifting to enhance space experiences of the street to help people enjoy their street life.

In many cases to enhance the street experiences, designers use the pavement, street furnitures, trees and lights, but all the components are unchangeable, which means they design for the major situation of the street. How about all these street components are alternating to adjust the form of street to meet people's different demands?

Using the shifting street is not to respond to one specific situation, but to build the street to prepare for different traffic volume and different situations. Building a shifting street to respond to more situations in the city street, especially the main street of a metropolis, which include many people's activities in a particular area. Because the changes of people's activities and traffic volume, we can not make sure what is the major function of the street in a particular time. Besides make an appropriate city plan, landscape should use a shifting street as a tool to enhance the street experiences.

Overall, this thesis looks at throughout the shifting street to enhance the street experiences to make the street space better for the pedestrian.



THESIS QUESTION

How can a dynamic street design change the experience and form of street in the urban area?



1 REDISCOVER THE STREET

With the urbanization and industrial development, streets became a unique part of the urban infrastructure. Nowadays, streets are the frame of the urban area and links between each parts of the city, they also carry the unique traits of the city. For most people, streets are epitomes of the city. Travelers recognized the city image by recognizing the street. The landscape of a city street composed a special view through each unique street, every city had its own unique streetscape. In addition, the streetscape also reflects characteristics of political, economic and cultural development of the city, and the core of the city's image and the urban landscape, such as the Chang'An Avenue in Beijing, Broadway in New York, and the Avenue des Champs-Élysées in Paris.

Because of the urban sprawl, people spend more time on the street than 20 years ago, and streets play an important role on people's social life and daily life. They are the vein and artery of the city. Streetscape, as the tool of urban planning, directly or indirectly effecting the life quality of people. Therefore, the urban streetscape design has become an important and indispensable part of urban planning and city development and gradually accepted and valued by more and more people and the research of the streetscape has become an urgent task nowadays in rapidly developing city.



RATIONALE

In the early twentieth century, all the american cities across the country experienced the influence of the City Beautiful Movement. This movement shaped the infrastructure and urban structure in many ways, especially the geometrical landscape design, tree-line boulevards, and public space. Because of the factors of politics, economy, culture and art, the functions of the street changes from walking, driving and the goods exchanging along the street, to becoming a complex linear living space. Notably the this change is occurring in the downtown area in the metropolis with the large population. Some

changes to the street as a result of this movement provided long term impacts and benefits. This lengthy movement has significant effects, which are still visible today. However, the population of the United States today is three times larger compared with 1920, the number of vehicles is over 200 times compared with 1920. With the national census projection by 2050, these numbers will grow to 4 times and 380 times compared with 1920. Can our existing street model actually afford this projection? Both people and the street need a new form of street design to balance the pressure on the population and traffic.

By redesigning the street as an adaptive system that manages the movement of pedestrians, vehicles, and other habitats within the intimate intersection of social space and transportation system, a "new dynamic" street form could emerge. One which has the potential to adapt to an increasing population and number of vehicles with the limited area, flexible space management as a response of these unpredictable changes, and create more opportunities for local commercial.



AIMS

The aim of this thesis is to develop a dynamic form of street design, which enables the coexistence of the pedestrians, vehicles and other elements within a flexible form of the streetscape. This kind of street is not only a vehicle based street form, but also a pedestrian friendly street form. It is the public space that pedestrians and vehicles shared and establish the connections among the all elements on the street.



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METHOD

Streetscape is a complextopic which is a mixture between the planning and landscape architecture. It's a design that incorporates the urban space and landscape in a specific area. Therefore, we, as landscape architects should use an unique method to study this topic. In this thesis, Research by Design method (Barnett 2013) noticed that in recent years this is the major research method to investigate possible designs and solutions to respond the thesis questions.

In Research by Design methods, there are three primary relevance tools used within the thesis were photography, mapping and graphic drawing.

Mapping was an investigation tool to analyze how the dynamic street forms effect the street and larger area surrounded this street. This analysis tries to understand how the movements and activities of pedestrians, vehicles, vegetations and other elements on the street and the adjacent area was effected by street shifting.

Photography was used as a relevance tool to record and analyze the surrounding situation and the street space that shifting happened. As an analyzed tool, photography is a good way to capture the atmosphere on the street and the experience of people. And it also was conducted to understand the relationships between pedestrians and vehicles on the street.

Graphic drawing is good way to understand and illustrate the possibilities and opportunities for shifting of pedestrians, vehicles and other factors on the street and the neighborhood. This kind of drawing is used to capture the changes on the street and compare the condition and experiences of people on the street in different situations.





THEORY FRAMEWORK

Based on urban development theory, the street refers to the spaces that are left after the formation of buildings. Part of these linear spaces which people can pass through and hold the social activities is the original form of the street. As Vitruvius mentioned in the ten books on architecture, the street system that is between the private property and public space is significant.

Developing a dynamic form of street design, which enables the coexistence of the pedestrians, vehicles and other users within a flexible form of streetscape. In landscape architecture, the dynamic street form theory was developed many significant concepts applied in urban design from 1920s. This theory is a complex one that combines urban planning, traffic engineering and landscape.

A street is a complex public space -including movement of pedestrians and vehicles which is generally described as linear, unpredictable, dynamic, and interactive. The street is characterized by traffic engineering of new trend and the ability to balance the pedestrians and vehicles in different period by themselves. Such a street has many benefits in the ecological, cultural and economic aspect.



CORRELATION THEORIES

Most of the previous studies of streetscape are based on the vehicle-based street, which means the first consideration is the traffic. With the time changing, the streets are designed more for the vehicle, but not the people. However, there are some pioneers try to rethinking the relationship among the pedestrian, vehicle and street.



Sir.Colin Buchanan

Yoshinobu Ashihara

BUCHANAN REPORT

Buchanan Report produced by the group of transport that was lead by British planner, Colin D. Buchanan. This report proposed how cities in the UK could be redesigned to accommodate growing vehicles. It is the first time that "environmental capacity" of the street is mentioned in the paper. The capacity of a street or an area needs to accommodate moving and stationary vehicles and to have regard to the need to maintain the environmental standards and balance that should be incorporated into the streetscape. The street should be a significant public space that is designed to meet the need of people.

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SHARED STREET

Shared street, also known as shared space, is an urban approach proposed by Dutch traffic engineer Hans Monderman. Shared street emphasized human interaction over mechanical traffic devices and tries to minimize the segregation of vehicles and pedestrians. This concept seeks to removing curbs, traffic signs, traffic lights, and unify the paver on the street. This concept emphasized the coexistence of people and cars, which means to improve the experience for all users. In the shared street, pedestrians and cars share one space and this space is designed to slow traffic to support social performance and all users need to negotiate their way through streets by interacting with, and reacting to, one another.

SECONDARY FACADE

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Yoshinobu Ashihara, a Japanese architect who wrote a book named the Aesthetic Townscape. In this book he talked about a concept of street -- secondary facade. Secondary facade is a term that refers to the attachments on the original facade, and follows the time changing, the attachments on the wall reshapes the street and effects the atmosphere in the street. This concept is not the main idea of this book, but it is a really interesting point to the street design. This concept illustrates the street changing the form (functions) and also changing atmosphere of the street (experience).

2 RECOGNIZE THE SITE

The site location is a section of Peachtree St. in Downtown Atlanta, Georgia. This area is one of the most busy and energetic areas in Atlanta. The history traces back to 1870 when Peachtree Street was once called Whitehall Street. Much of the city's historic and significant architecture is located along the street, such as the Atlanta Convention Center at Americamart and Peachtree Center where the site is located.

In 2007, Shirley Franklin, the mayor of Atlanta, announced a \$1 billion, 20-year plan to transform Peachtree Street with streetscape upgrades, public parks, underground utilities, and rail corridor. ATLANTA,GA

TEST SITE

HISTORY ON PEACHTREE ST

A trail known as the Peachtree Trail stretched from northeast Georgia to Standing Pitch Tree along the Chattahoochee River. The original Peachtree Road began in 1812 at Fort Daniel located at Hog Mountain in present-day Gwinnett County ran along the course of the trail to the Chattahoochee. Some portions of the present road trace this route.

In 1867, the name of Whitehall Street, the original road to White Hall Tavern in today's West End neighborhood, was changed to Peachtree Street from Marietta Street South to the railroad crossing (now "gulch") just north of Alabama Street.

Streets during 1940-1950 were made of permeable earthen material. The streets were not paved until later in the century.

In the late 1980s, the portion of Whitehall Street from Five Points South to Forsyth Street and Memorial Drive, a major shopping district from the Civil War through mid-20th century, was renamed Peachtree Street SE.

After hundreds of years of development, Peachtree St. became one of most busiest areas in downtown Atlanta.

Peachtree Street in 1864 - Hunnicutt's Drug Store on right and Marble Shop on left at intersection.

Print shows view of lower Peachtree Street in 1900 with Lester's I Store, the Flatiron Building, Piedmont Hotel, and the Candler Bu visible, also shows trolley cars.

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Peachtree St. after Atlantans celebrate V-J Day.(1945)

Peachtree Street, downtown Atlanta, 1974

UNDERSTANDING OF SITE Active Street

This active street should accommodate for multiple users and perform for multiple activities. For example, runners and exercisers can use this space for recreation in the morning. However, at noon, office workers can use this space to enjoy their launch. At night, restaurants and bars can use this space to accommodate for outdoor seating and nightlife entertainment.

Lunch

CASE STUDIES 1. The Creative Corridor: A Main Street Revitalization for Little Rock

The Creative Corridor retrofits a four-block segment of an endangered historic downtown Main Street through aggregation of the cultural arts rather than Main Street's traditional retail base. The goal is to structure an identity for the Creative Corridor based upon a mixed-use working and living environment anchored by the arts. The design approach restructures the corridor into a node utilizing the urbanism of streetscapes-landscape architecture, ecological engineering, public space configurations, frontage systems and other townscaping elements.(www.asla.org)

2.Yerba BuenaStreet Life Plan

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Yerba Buena Street Life Plan aims to create a scenario and street planning based on community input and a long-term needs assessment for the Yerba Buena District in San Francisco. The ultimate goal is to nurture urban life against the rough terrain surrounding the district. The projects are meant to establish character within the district while emphasizing the resident's wellbeing. (www.asla.org)

EVALUATION

These two case studies describe how to the street life in different cities.

relationship between working and Buena had influence on the design living environments with space of the street. The street form design management. After the completion is dynamic with positive attributes, of the Creative Corridor, people such as the mobile street furniture who live in Little Rock will have the that can easily form the street and opportunity to enjoy streetscapes. change the atmosphere on the This project emphasizes what street in low traffic situations with dynamic street design can contribute accessibility even during the peak to the making of public spaces with hours of the day. a simple and clear street form as the street design. The emphasis on The dynamic street form differs from generation.

the impact of street design for other users of the street. residents of the district. In this The Little Rock's case looks at the research, the residents of Yerba

shared spaces is really what street vehicle- based roads that move design needs to engage in the next traffic from point to point. Dynamic street captures the value of the

street and balances the relationship dynamic street form can contribute The case in Yerba Buena describes between pedestrians, vehicles and

$\mathbf{3}_{\mathsf{DESIGN}}$ exploration

Dynamic street form can balance relationships on the street in a new way–shifting street design. Design implementation on Peachtree St. at the Peachtree Center demonstrates the idea of how shifting streets can change the people's experience and form of the street.

This street design on Peachtree St aims to be a solution to fix the existing problems and provide a better vision on the street, which in turns the heavy traffic street into a safe public place.

TESTED STRATEGIES Movable Bollard

Because of the consideration of safety and space management, Bollards are a good way to divide the space for different users. The Movable Bollard can easily manage the space as the boundary between the pedestrian and vehicle lanes.

The bollard movement depends on the users's demand. In high traffic volume, moving the bollard back provides more lanes for vehicles. Conversely, moving the bollards closer together provides more space for pedestrians in the low traffic mode. In addition, the bollards can also reframe the street with parking spots to serve the people who want to park their cars rather than block a lane or violate parking in the pedestrian zone.

Shifting Facade

The Shifting Facade is a flexible way to manage the space. The facade here is actually is the secondary facade, which here refers to the lights, plants, or attachments on the building.

The Shifting Facade tries to create new facades to manage space vertically. The attachments on the building are a good method to organize the space both inside and outside of the building. Also, the Facade's movement also depends on the people's activities. Different activities need different qualities of space, and the Shifting Facade should associate with the Movable Bollard to manage space in multiple dimensions.

Growing Vegetation

The growing vegetation is a longterm strategy that aims to reform the atmosphere on the street. Because of the ephemerality of the plants, the transparency, color and dimensions of plants are ever-changing. These changes of vegetation work to morph the experience and atmosphere on the street. Also, the growing vegetation is a helpful tool to enhance the space quality.

AUTUMN

WINTER

Changeable Pavement

Without a doubt, pavement is a powerful tool that works to reshape the street in both function and experience. However, the paver has a big potential for directing the activities on the ground. For example, Unit pavers are easily arranged to make signage and the make visible by different patterns. Actually, Pavement is a way to program the street. If pavement is changeable, the function of street will be reprogrammed. In another aspect, the pattern and material of paving also effects people's feelings. So changeable paving is an important tool to building the shifting street.

There are many strategies that can Actually, the strategies mentioned a flexible way.

design, not all the strategies should pedestrian on both sides of the be applied together. Each of them street when used as a public space. should be carefully applied after a site analysis and a comprehensive This new model of dynamic street container. This is also a good tool to downtown of Atlanta. build a shifting street, but because Peachtree St. is bigger and much more busy, the container is not a good strategy to apply on this site.

help to build a shifting street. All above were selected as strategies the strategies proposed would which should work better for change the space management in Peachtree St. These strategies aim to help Peachtree St. to get rid of the limitation of the vehicle-However, in a truly successful street based model, and connects the

consideration. For example, the form will provide more options case study of Yerba Buena Street for people to move around, and life plan mentioned a mobile plant a new pattern of living in the busy

DYNAMIC NEIGHBORHOOD

As a part of city infrastructure, the street design should consider the impacts in a systematic angle. Thus, the shifting street also needs to consider the effects on the neighborhood or surrounding area.

In the downtown of Atlanta, the shifting street should associate with the adjacent streets. When the street form is changed by the poeple's activities on Peachtree St., the traffic pattern of the surrounding area should also shift in accordance to meet the traffic demand of the area.

TESTING SITE

increasing traffic caused by street area. form changing.

In planning, the street around the site should have some shifting features to support the major shifts happening on Peachtree St. For example, when events are held on the site, the whole street will be a public space and traffic will be blocked. After the traffic block on Peachtree, the traffic on Andrew Young International Blvd. and John Portman Blvd. will increase. In this

In the systematic considerations, situation, John Portman Blvd. and the shifting street on the Peachtree Andrew Young International Blvd. St. needs the help of John as the second level shifting street Portman Blvd. and Andrew Young should create more vehicle lanes Interantional Blvd. to balance the to solve the traffic problem in this

SHIFTING STREET

the site.

the space on the ground and create a semi-private shifting can associate with also makes the connection place for exercise. For the the solar roadway and build between the pedestrian on drivers, the trees shape the the different experiences in both sides. Also, the solar street as the facade. When different situation. roadway makes it possible for people drive through the some parts of vehicle lanes street, the changing viewshed that can change the color also changes the feelings of on the ground. This would drivers. depend directly on the people activities.

and function on Peachtree St., trees are not planted in a line street can rise up and fall multiple strategies apply on along the street. In the street down to shape the street exercise area, the trees are form and manage the space planted densely to change to provide more opportunities The pavement used to divide the people's experience for activities. The bollard

To change the experience As for the vegetation, The At last, the bollards on the

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VIEWSHED Trees create facades on the street. Driver's experience will changing by viewshed changing.

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In the design, the street space divides into many small parts that differ by the material and activities.

In the normal mode, the shifting street has no difference compared with the normal street. Both sides is pedestrian and the vehicle lanes in the middle of way. Each side provide the seats for people and the terrace just like a harbor for the people who want to find a place to have a rest.

When the traffic volume is decreasing, the major target user changing from the vehicle to the people. In this situation, the bollards can reshape the street with a bike lane or jogging track so that exercisers can enjoy their morning or weekends in the downtown rather than running in a gym. This space on both sides could be also enlarge the pedestrian when the people flow is heavy. For example, in the summer, the restaurant can provide more outside seats for guests without blocking the whole pedestrian.

Sometime, there will be some street events on the Peachtree St. In this situation, the street just keeps a very low traffic volume and provides more space for a larger group activities. For instance, the terrace on the pedestrian can change to amphitheater or open theater at night. The residents form this neighborhood can watch a movie or a street performance on the street.

In the proposal, The street could shut down on the weekends for holding larger events like a concert or open market. In this situation, the bollards on the intersections can pump up and block the traffic. The whole space of right of way changes to a public space just for the people. People can arrange the activities on the street and have an extraordinary experience.

4. REFLECTIONS

people understand the street. A more complex. functional and solid street model has replaced by a sharing, dynamic Functions of street and experiences of future.

and flexible that means street can and systematical thinking. change the form to adapt and meet

the design has been a gradual situations. It will enable future needs more practice. The design but significant shift in the way that designs to be richer, thicker, and just base on a theoretical feasibility.

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and safe street model. Applying were the primary shifting design In conclusion, nowadays crowded this theory for designing a street at moves within this thesis. However, city, this thesis looks throughout Peachtree Street in Atlanta in order some limitation of the project still the value of the street in a shifting to develop the street in a multi- exist. In this thesis research, all mode, which is able to enhance the functional and energetic way to graphics and texts developed in two experience and develop a multimeet the challenges and demands semesters. So the understanding functional space on the street is of the theory and project are still not strong enough. For example, design. The biggest achievement of this This thesis is focused on the critical research is the realization that the thinking on the design, there is still street form should be dynamic not strong enough on the planning

Over the past hundreds years, the different needs in different Additionally, this design approach It still need pushing further and into reality.

important to the future of street

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