

REWRITING A BLANK LINE IN AN URBAN POEM

Thesis by: Hiren P. SHAH

Year: 2006

Thesis Chair and Committee Member: Shahin Vassigh and Annette LeCuyer

Thesis's Argument

Major Issue: Deteriorating downtown life

- Central part of the city is lively only during office hours
- Few people live downtown
- Single use buildings (offices)
- At current state it does not support public life

Expected Outcome:

- Architectural design proposal for a mixed use building



Downtown Buffalo



Main Street: downtown Buffalo



Main place mall, Buffalo

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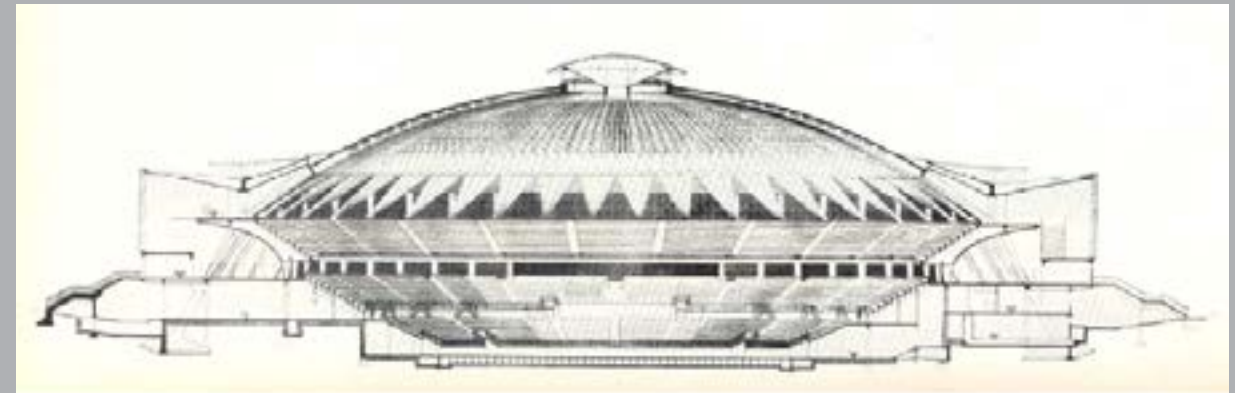
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Literature Review

Only based on case studies with focus on two aspects:

- **Precedent structures:** Several buildings were studied to suggest ideas regarding the design of public spaces
- **Innovative material:** The study of light-transmitting concrete suggests the importance of the use of new materials and technology



1960: Olympic Building, Rome, Pier Luigi Nervi



Stadelhofen Railway Station, Zurich, Santiago Calatrava



BCE place, Toronto, Santiago Calatrava



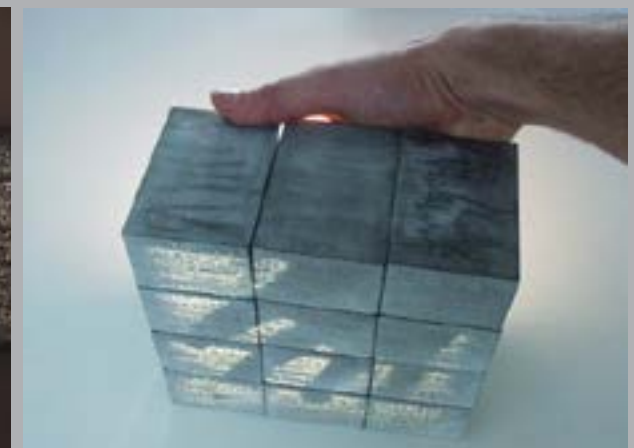
Stuttgart Railway Station, Germany, Ingenhoven and Partner, with Frei Otto



Ellicott Square Building, Downtown Buffalo, Daniel Burnham



Fruangen Church, competition



Stureplan, Stockholm

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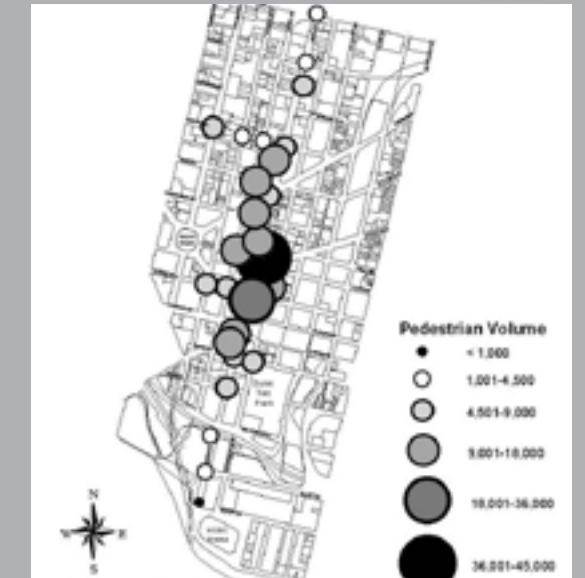
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Downtown Buffalo, traffic study, data-city of Buffalo-Planning

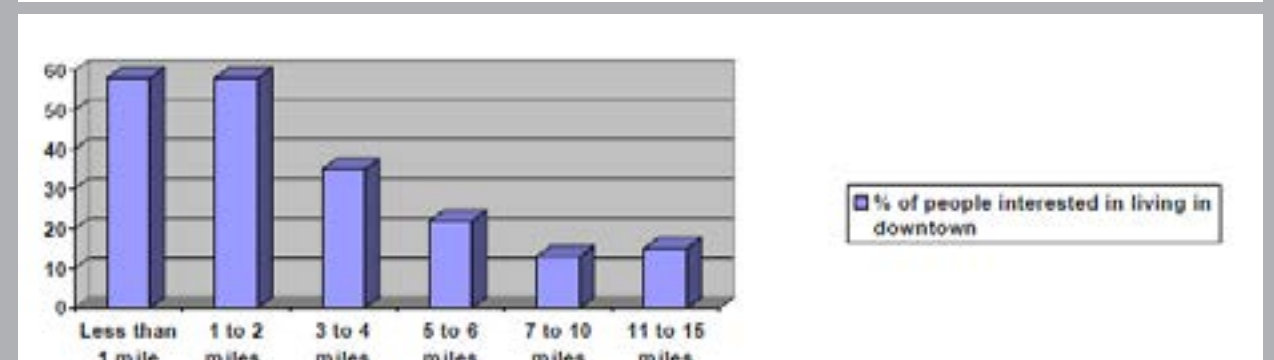
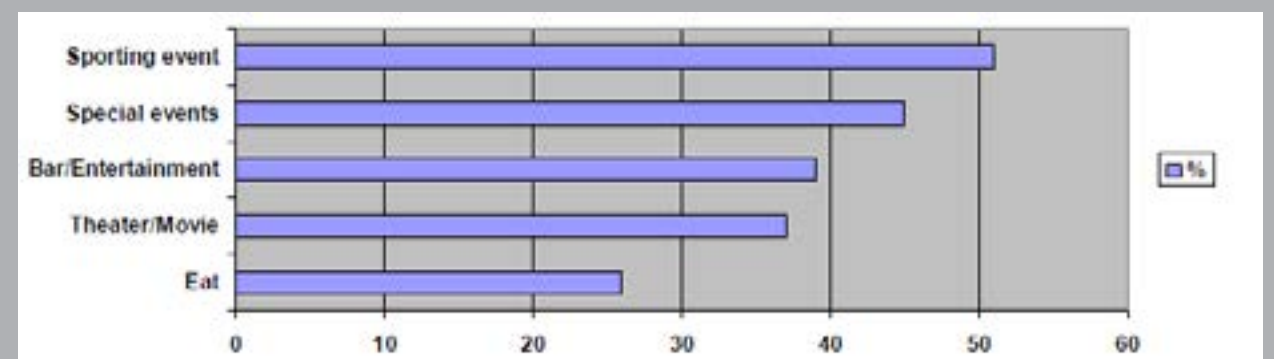
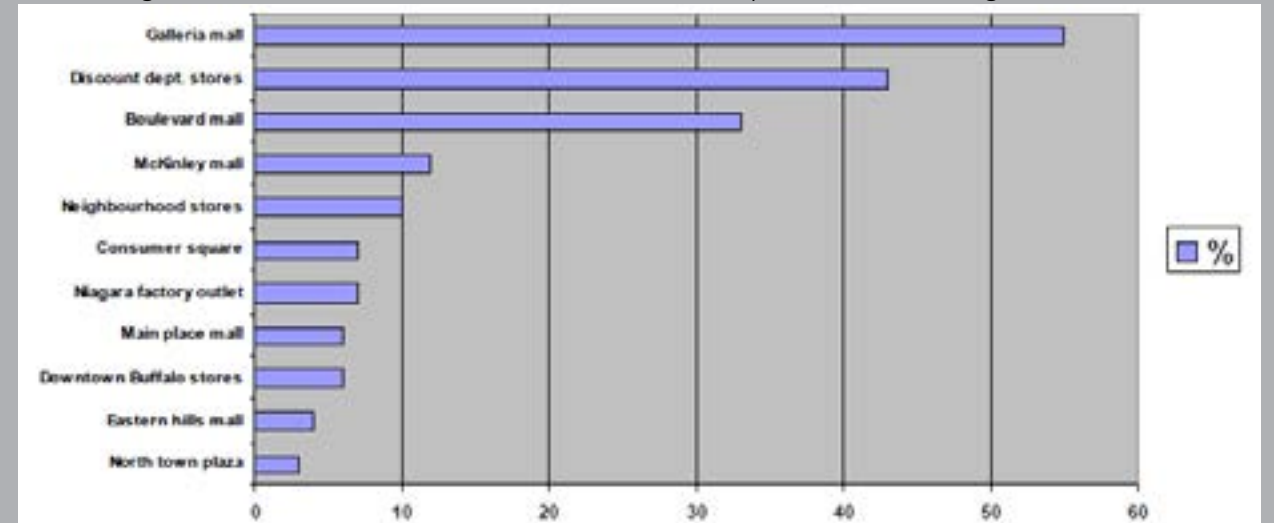


Downtown Buffalo, pedestrian traffic study, city of Buffalo- Planning

Methods and Procedures

Study of Buffalo downtown based on:

- Circulation
- Pedestrian traffic
- Shopping
- Attractions
- Living downtown



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Results

- Selecting the site: Main Place Mall
- Demolition of the existing building



Main Place Mall, Downtown Buffalo



Site-Buffalo, from UB, SUNY, the Urban Design Project



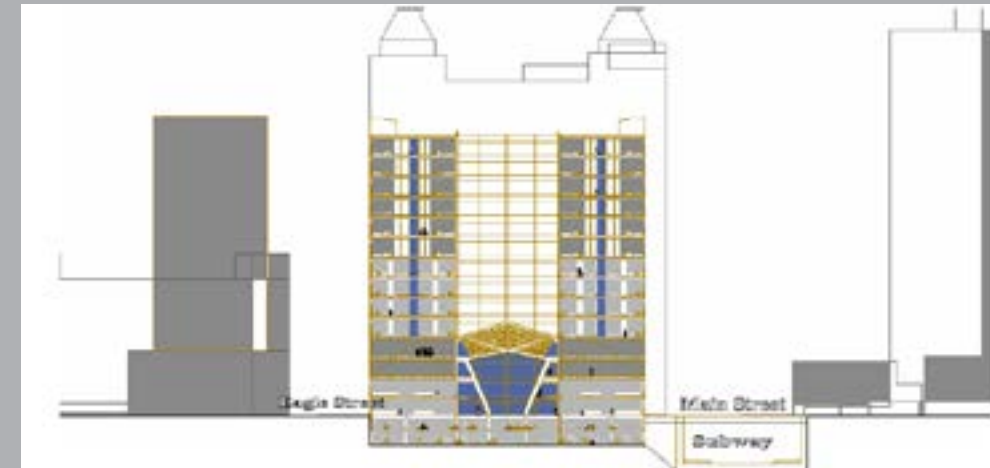
Existing Building massing model

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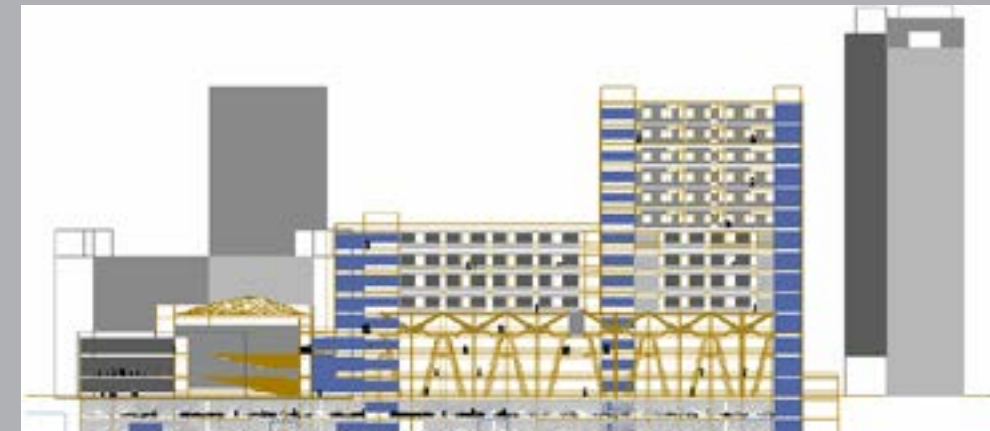
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Section 1: East West Section through housing



Ground floor Plan



Section 2: North South section



Circulation, 9th through 14th floor plan

Results

Design proposal: Multi function building with following applications

- Pedestrian streets within the building
- Retail
- Auditorium/ Foyer
- Food Court
- Erie Community College Classrooms
- Library
- Office
- Housing Units



Public space model study



Public space model study

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Critique on the Thesis as a Whole

Strength:

- Addressing a significant issue
- Being able to narrow down two broad topics and providing a bridge between them: Public space and material
- Good analysis for selecting the site location

Weakness:

- Hierarchical problem with the structure of the thesis
- Lack of a decent literature review
- There are no citations within the text
- The source of statistics and charts are not mentioned
- Bringing classrooms to a multi-function building might be associated with some problems