

SouthLight

LIGHT URBANISM

THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

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INTRODUCTION

L ight Urbanism

Lightness is a concept that is antithetical to urbanism in any traditional sense of the word. Cities can be understood as a full-scale record of the elements of the built environment that have survived the test of time -- a litmus test of architectural durability both in form and in function. Changes to the urban record come about after slow deliberation, and what is constructed is valued for its physical permanence and its weight as a representation of the collective will.

This weight, though representative of a certain form of democratic process, conspires against other urban ideals, notably those of experimentation and transformative change. An alternative reading to the one presented above sees the city as a democracy of forms. A place where expression is unregulated within certain boundaries, and where each intervention can be read as an experimental new direction for the city and for architecture as a whole. This other city is lightweight, mutable, and open to change from within.

The images, drawings, and words contained in this booklet represent a snapshot in the process of a team of RISD Architecture and Landscape Architecture students in their efforts to formulate a version of this other city. Though visionary in nature, the designs share a pragmatist root borne of the belief that we as designers can only effect change inasmuch as we can build it.. To that end, the concept designs that have been produced this semester will be developed in further detail over the Winter and begin implementation in Summer 2016.

Fundamental to our approach has been a deep and ongoing conversation with the Providence community about the needs of Trinity Square and the role of design in improving the neighborhood for all its residents. It goes without saying that cities can no longer be designed purely from the comforts of the studio, and we have come to recognize through many months of meetings, presentations, and discussions, that a sketch has as much power in its ability to catalyze debate as it does to set forth an aesthetic vision. It is only through the vitality of this debate that our ideas can solidify into lasting change.

Aaron Forrest & Elettra Bordonaro
Rhode Island School of Design
Department of Architecture
December 2015

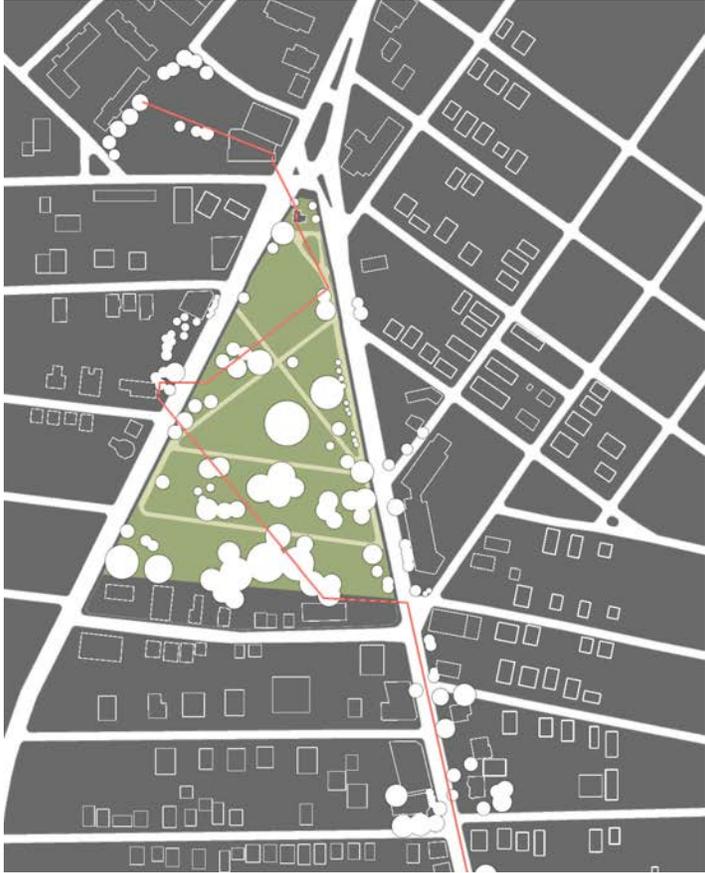
SITE ANALYSIS

FROM STUDIO TO SITE

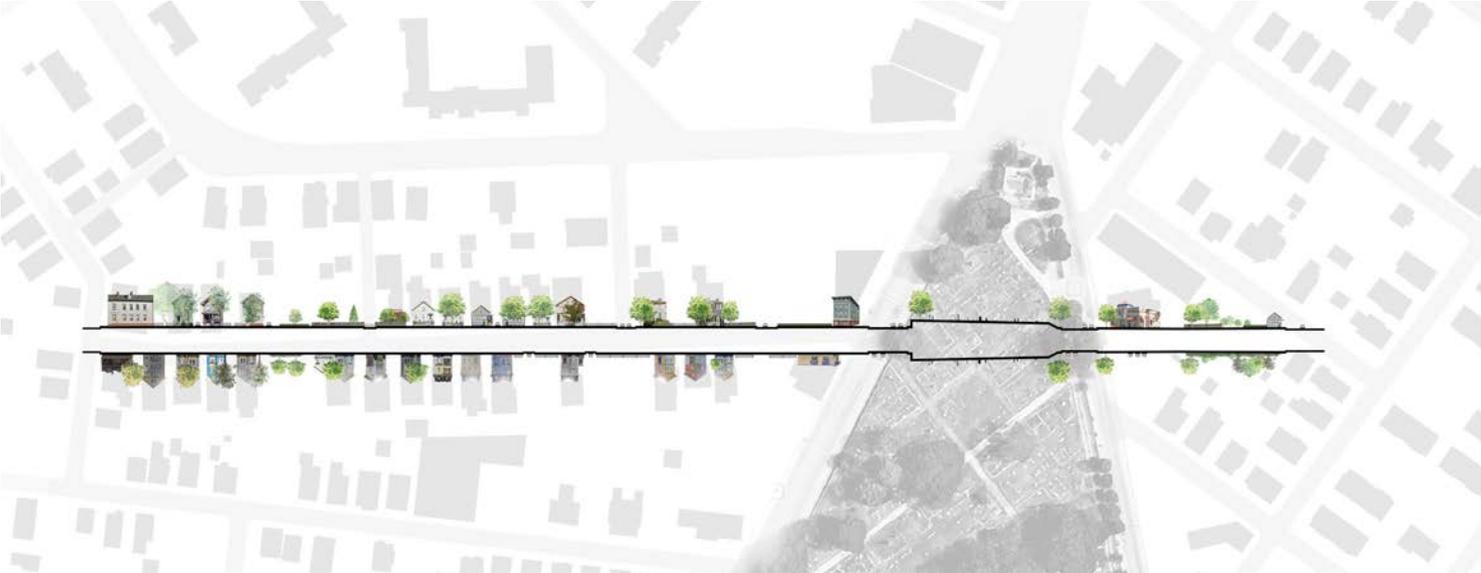
RISD SOUTHLIGHT

SITE ANALYSIS

GRACE CHURCH CEMETERY, TRINITY SQUARE

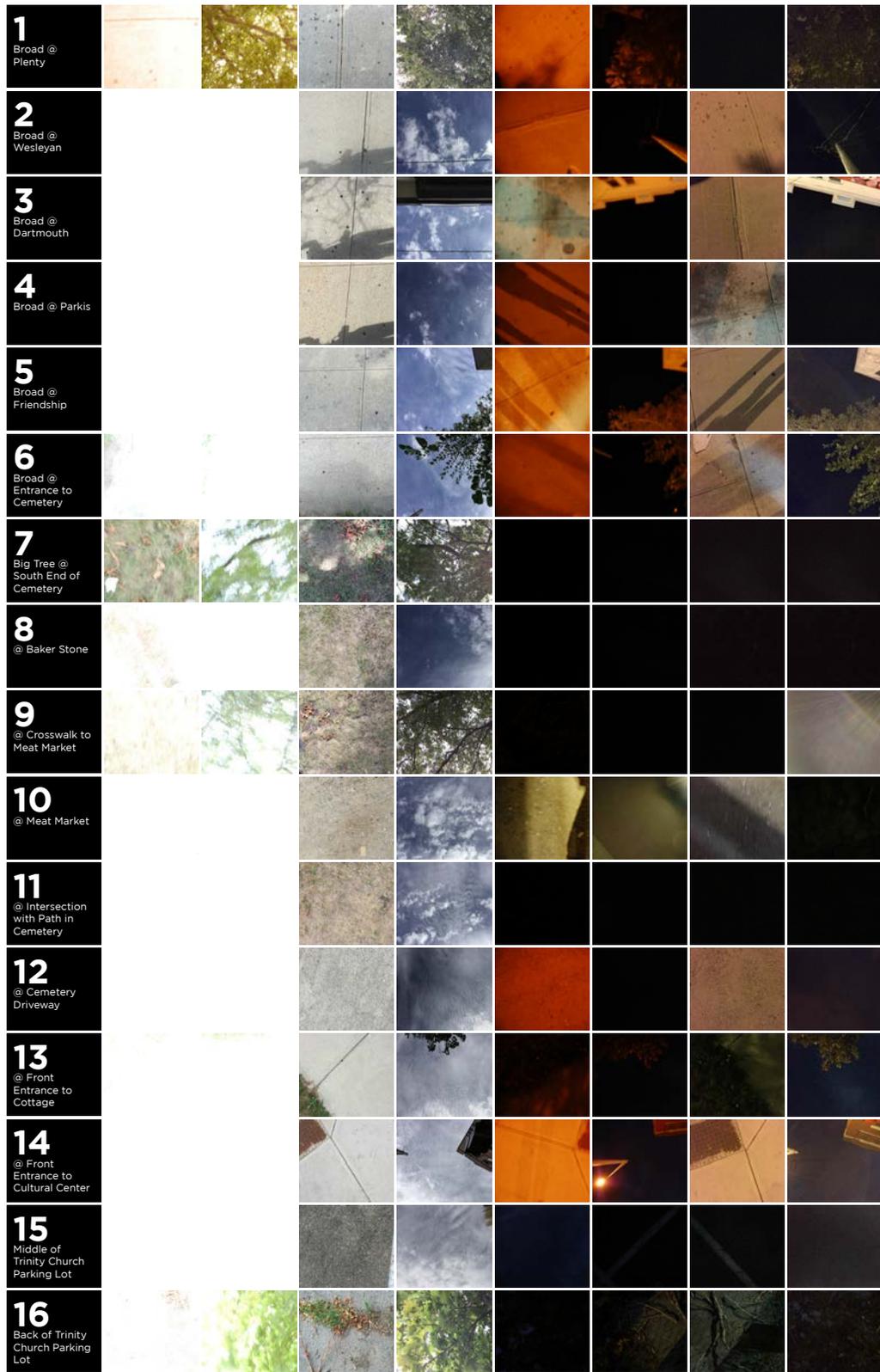


Tree Mapping

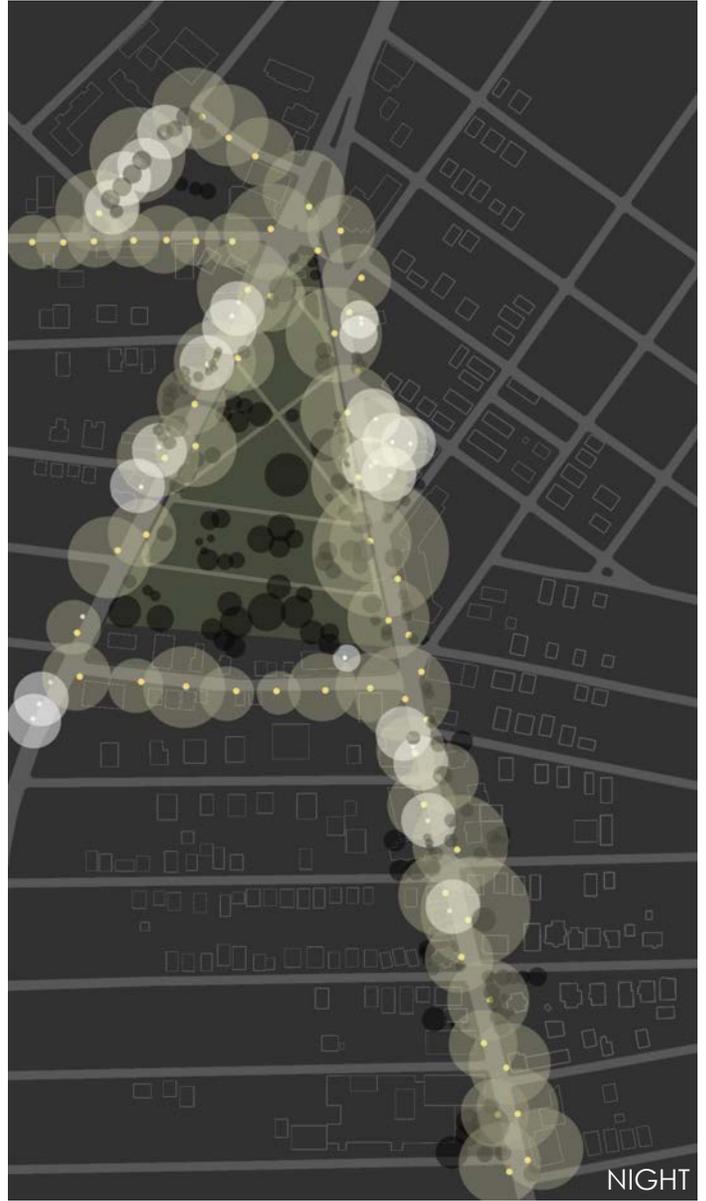


Section

RISD SOUTHLIGHT

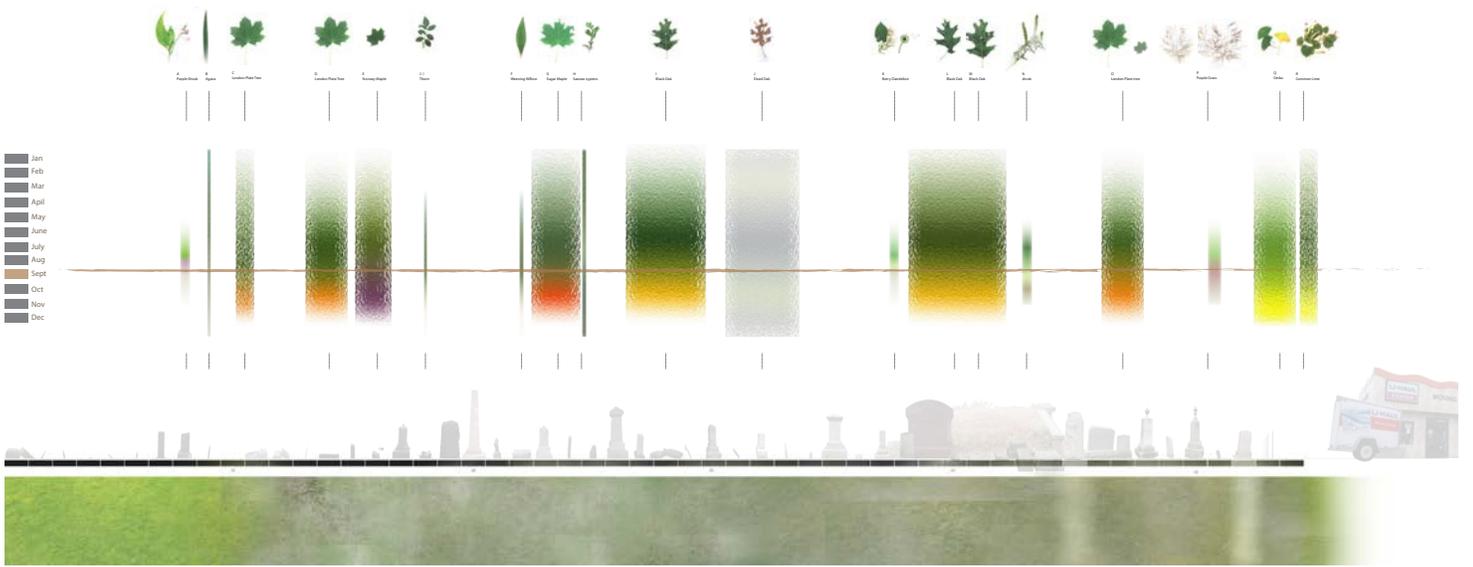


Light Analysis



Light Diagram Plans

RISD SOUTHLIGHT



Planting Typologies

LANDMARK CONVERGENCE

PETER KIM, SABA YAZDJERDI, JINGYAN ZHANG

Our localized landmark seeks to activate Trinity Square by creating a space of convergence that provides an opportunity for education, recreation, and social gathering. This fosters the development of the community by creating a space of interaction.



Site Plan - Day



Canopy Elevation [Day]



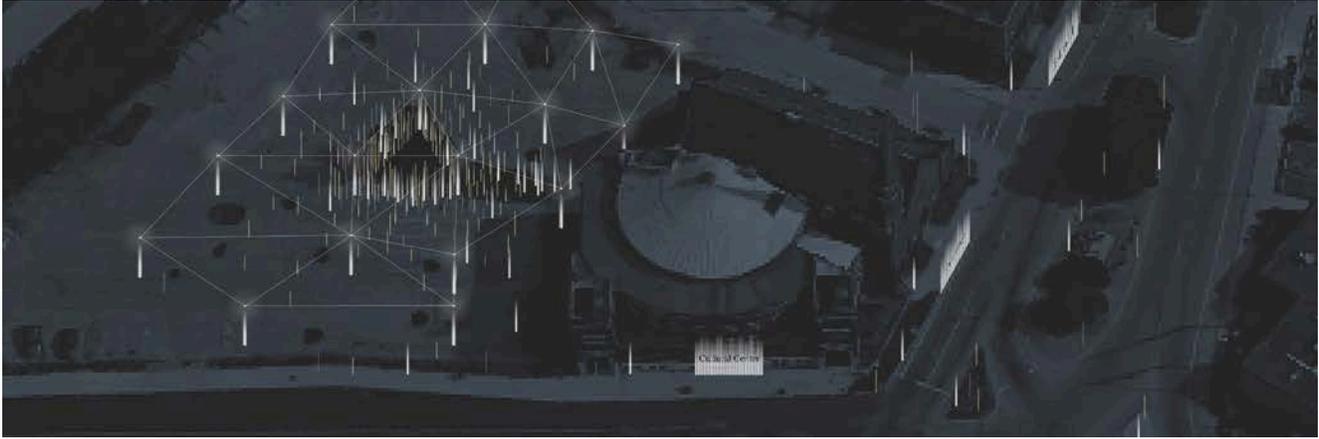
Canopy Elevation [Night]

RISD SOUTHLIGHT

TRINITY CONSTELLATION

ROBERT SUGAR, NATASHA RUIZ, TIANYU XU

A series of points surrounding Trinity Square are linked to provide spaces for gathering and reflection in a way that connects the neighborhood to stories of diversity, identity, and transformation.



Trinity Constellation

POTTER Home of JAMES A POTTER and MARY POTTER (1836)
yellow pine lumber still creaks under our feet
debajo nuestros pies sigue crujiendo madera de pino amarillo

HALL Home of CLYTONA HALL (1836)
an architect who left his mark on providence
un arquitecto que dejó su huella en la ciudad de providence

TRINITY TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1836) is
an anchor of trinity square holds steadfast in time
un ancla de la plaza de la trinidad, se mantiene firme en tiempo

PARISH PARISH HOUSE BUILDING (1836 + 19)
echoes of stories told ring in this auditorium
los ecos de los cuentos contados en este auditorio siguen resonando

HOME Mill Housing (ca. 1800 - 1850)
Traces of mill worker houses loom under this lot
restos de las casas de los trabajadores de los molinos asoman bajo este lote

COTTAGE LAURENCE WINTERS'S COTTAGE (ca. 1830)
modest home keeps watch over square and cemetery
una casa modesta vigila la plaza y el cementerio

GRADE SPACE CHURCH CEMETERY (1836)
nine acres of diamond diversity and timbered shade
nueve hectareas de diversidad estan asombradas por arboles

future stories accumulate over time

cultural center area plan

Storie Labeling

illumination

textual information

POTTER

YELLOW PINE LUMBER

YELLOW PINE LUMBER

Material Information

parking

parklet

market

concert

community square

Program



Light Pole Plan Perspective

RISD SOUTHLIGHT

THE BOULEVARD

CHLOE RENEE JENSEN, GENEVIEVE MARSH, SENBO YANG

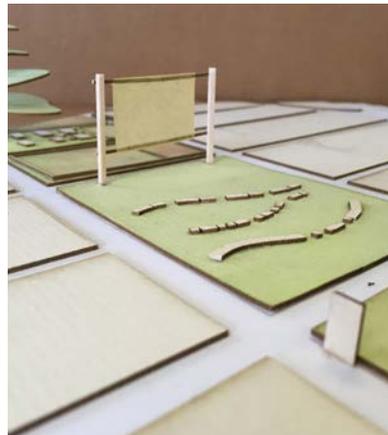
This project sought to rebrand a portion of the Grace Church Cemetery as a community venue, through its transformation into a Boulevard. Painted streets distinguish the blvd. while people enter and can meander through the wildflower gardens or sit in one of the several moments for gathering. The Boulevard quickly becomes a public relaxation space and forum for community activism.



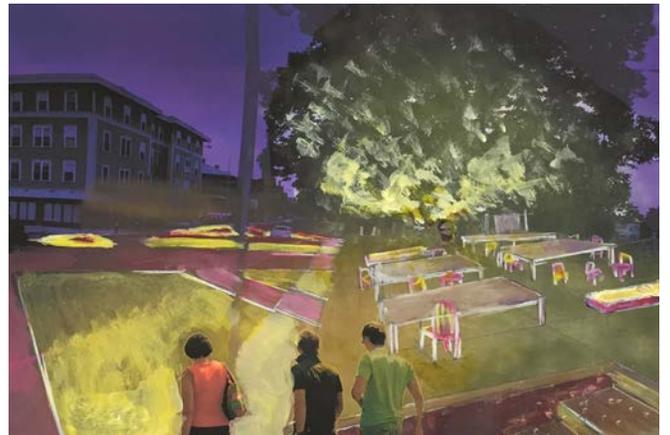
Arch St. Panorama



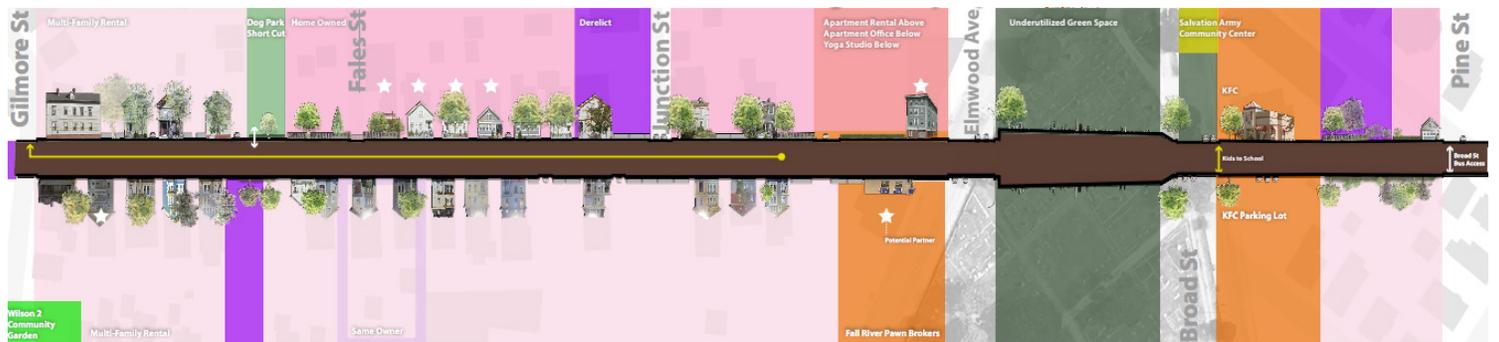
Site Plan



Site Model



Painted Perspective



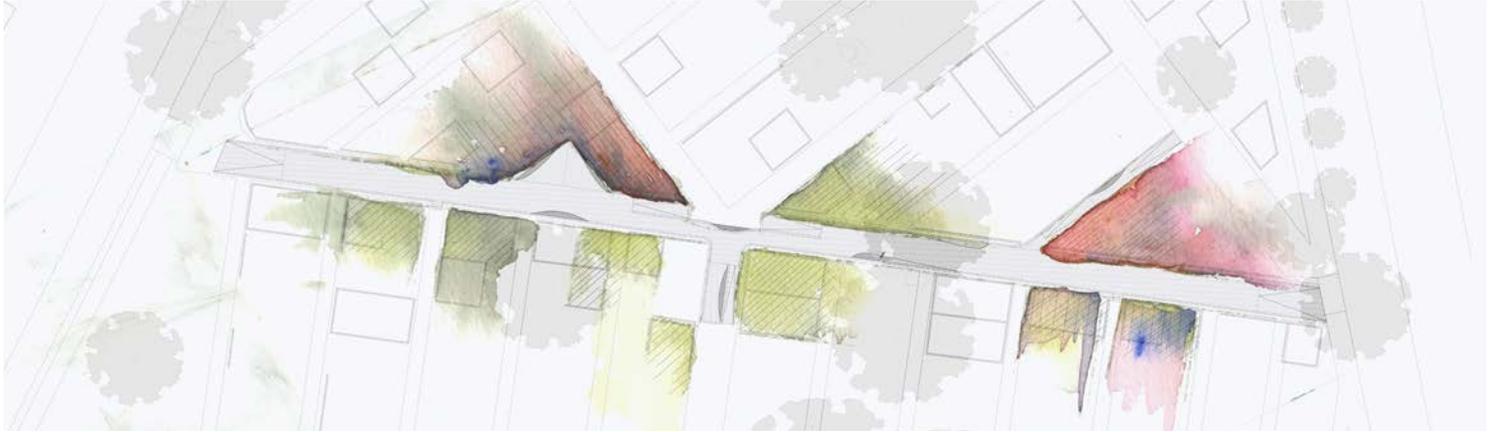
Section of the line

RISD SOUTHLIGHT

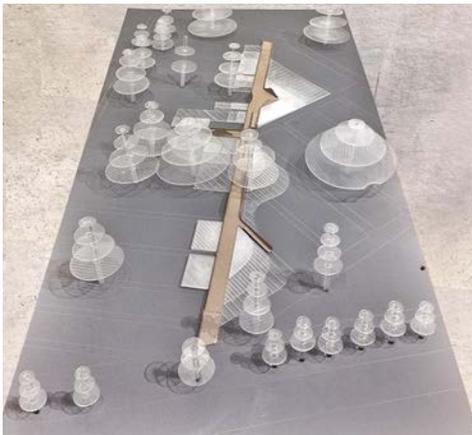
TRINITY BRIDGE

SARP ARDITI, YIN FU, NANDI LU

The path serves to create a mediated experience in pacifying the uneasiness that the cemetery arouses while ameliorating the qualities provided by the space's beautiful foliage. Acting as a bridge and concentrating traffic, the path creates an easy, safe, and more frequently used route across the cemetery for the everyday passer-by.



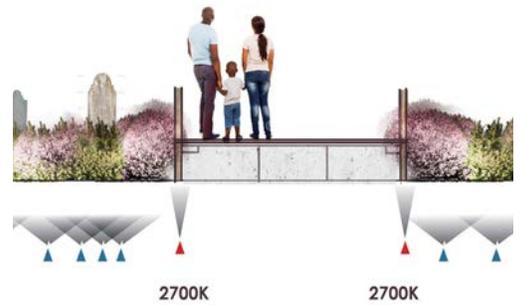
Planting Logic Plan



Site Model



Wandering Space Perspective



Ornamental Garden Section



Site Plan

GLOWING FIELD

WILLIAM GANT, ALEXANDER KIM, JING LI

Choose several spaces around trees that connect the cemetery and surroundings. This gives people more possibilities to use the space and explore the cemetery through a series of systematic interventions.



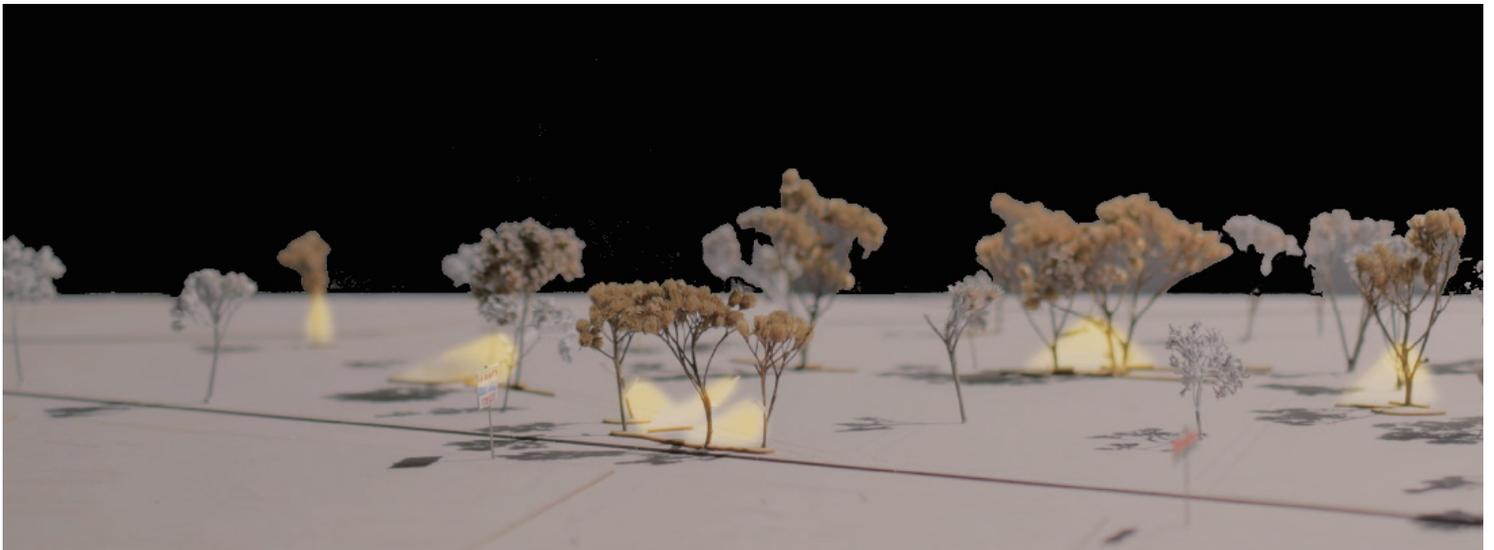
Concept Drawing



Site Plan



Site Section

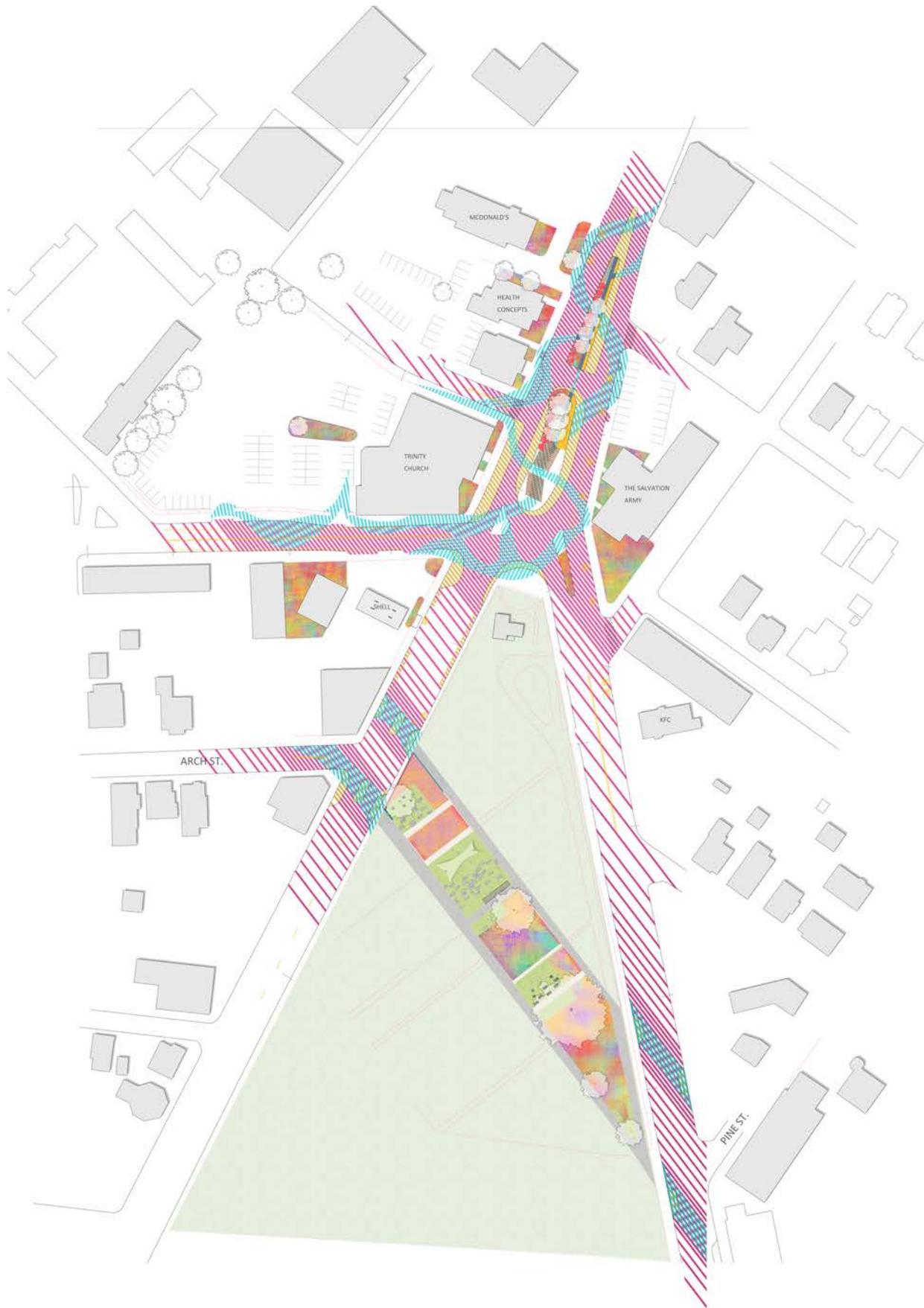


Site Model

RISD SOUTHLIGHT

ILLUMINATING TRINITY

THE COLLECTIVE EFFORT



Site Plan

RISD SOUTHLIGHT



Night View Rendering

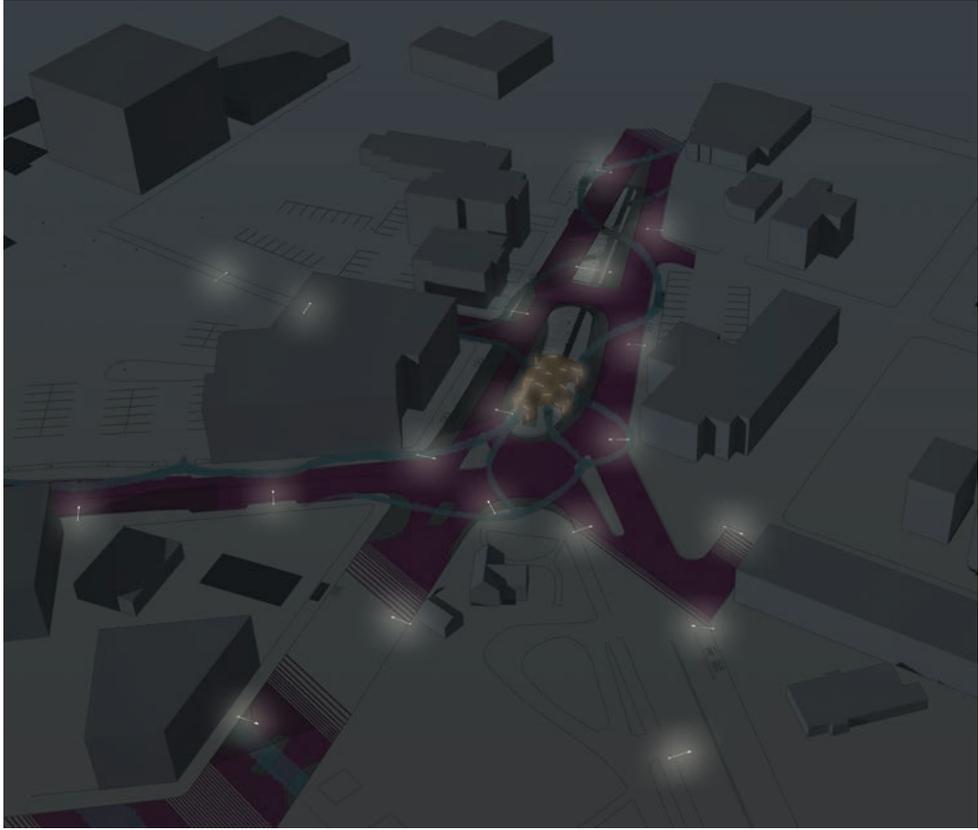


Church View Rendering

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Perspective Plan [Day]



Perspective Plan [Night]

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Illumination Plan

RISD SOUTHLIGHT



Trinity Sq. Perspective Render [Day]



Trinity Sq. Perspective Render [Night]

RISD SOUTHLIGHT



Boulevard East Entrance Perspective Render [Night]

RISD SOUTHLIGHT

FALL 2015
analysis
concept
proposal

WINTER 2015
detailing
landscape prep

SPRING 2015
landscaping
construction prep

SUMMER 2015
construction



Boulevard Master Plan

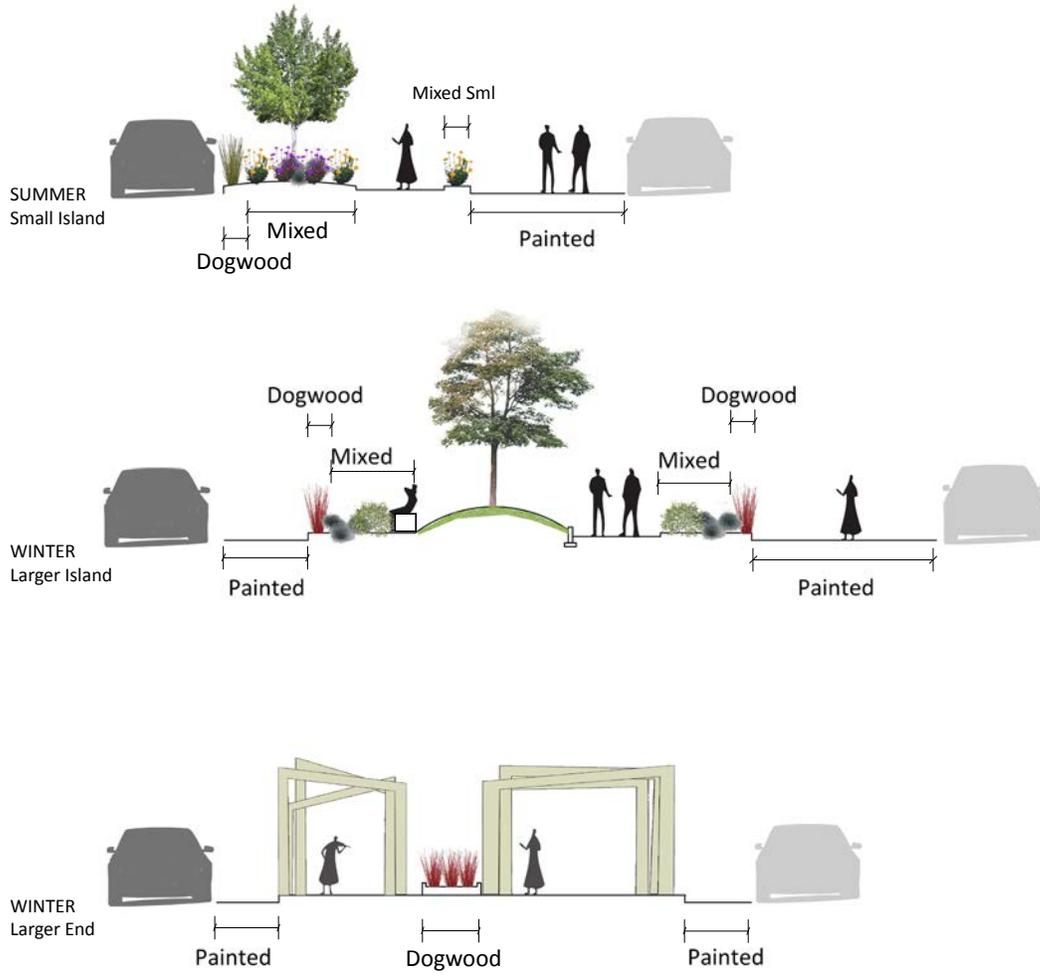


Boulevard Section

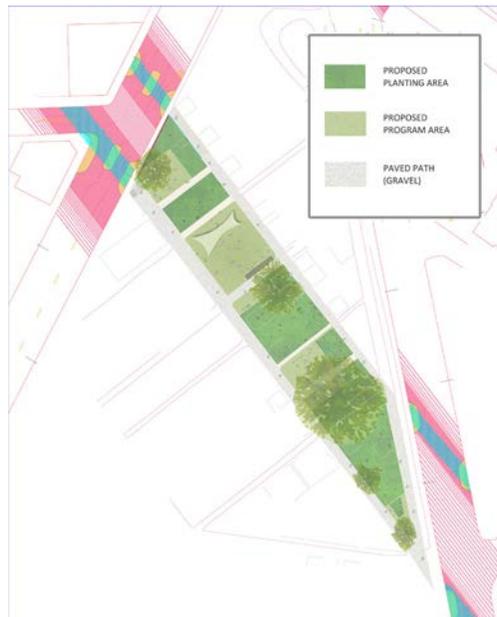
RISD SOUTHLIGHT

POTENTIAL PLANTING SCHEMES

ELEVATION AND PLANTING STRATEGY



Planting Strategy Elevation



Boulevard Plan w/ Planting

RISD SOUTHLIGHT

fall season



spring season



winter season



summer season





Boulevard East Entrance

fall season



winter season



Boulevard West Entrance



RISD SOUTHLIGHT



spring season



summer season

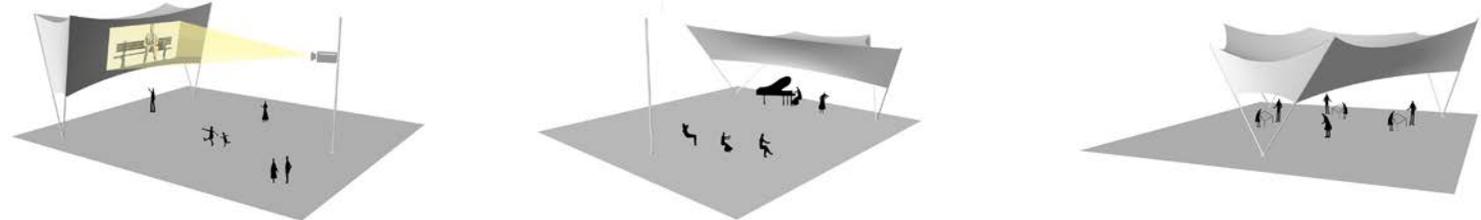


RISD SOUTHLIGHT

MOVIE SCREEN



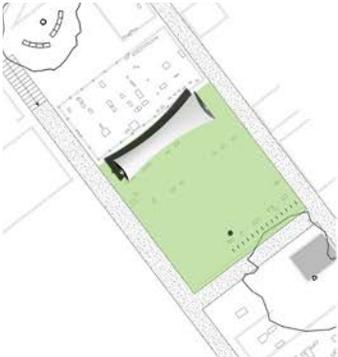
Movie Screen Model



Movie Screen Typologies



Boulevard West Entrance Perspective



Movie Screen Typologies [Plan]

RISD SOUTHLIGHT

COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS

FROM THE STUDIO TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

EXCERPTS: COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS

GRACE CHURCH CEMETERY, TRINITY SQUARE

Anthony

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015

The Salvation Army, Broad Street

Anthony, in his late twenties, works for The Salvation Army on Broad Street. We approach him as he is sweeping the entrance. Anthony does not live in the Trinity Square area, but further south in Cranston. He works from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, heading to a second job after his shift. He's been working in community-related organizations for five years, and he is familiar with some of the groups that get together and organize events. He explains that there are a good amount of volunteers who help out at The Salvation Army, specifically those who have community service hour requirements to complete. These are often high school students.

Anthony explains that while there are many community organizations in the area, few of them end up working together or collaborating on projects, specifically because of their partnerships and because service is often done to advertise and acquire a reputation. While he does not frown upon these organizations and the way they work, he does believe that collaboration and dedication by parties involved would be more successful in benefiting the community. He lists off a few examples, like the Institute for the Study and Practice of NonViolence off of Broad Street, It's On Us, Restoration Worship Ministries, and an individual named Kobi Dennis who has organized a Midnight Basketball League in the area. Anthony asserts that cases like these inspire him to help create a better community, especially because he was born and raised in the Providence area.

At one point in the interview we ask Anthony if he knows what Trinity Square is. He says he does not know, and once we explain that it's more or less the square in which he works, he is surprised. He suggests that the name could be an interesting platform onto which the area could build an identity, because that is something the area lacks. He thinks about what the place is called and reiterates that he does not have a name for the area, but sounds excited about the prospect of generating a sense of unity in Trinity Square under the name.



S_{ai}

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015
Outside KFC, Broad Street

Sai is a college-age boy who we approach outside of KFC as he is walking home from CCRI. He explains that this is his regular route between home (close to Federal Hill) and CCRI Providence, where he takes General Ed. classes. He repeats the route on foot every time, and has never gone through the cemetery. He does not have a specific name for the area, and settles on “the cemetery” as what he would call Trinity Square and the cemetery.

Sai is American and states that he was born in America, but adds that his parents are Laotian. He explains that he went to Central High School, one of the three major schools in the area. He has many friends from high school who he still sees often, in addition to friends from the other nearby high schools. Most of the kids who’ve graduated from these schools have stayed in the area, he adds. He explains that there are kids from all over the neighborhood in each of the three high schools, and that there isn’t much of a division in regards to where you live.

We mention that there are several soccer and football fields near the high schools, and he points out that football and basketball are the dominant sports in the area. He plays volleyball. Sai is also somewhat particular about what he wears. He shops at the Providence Place Mall and prefers Vans to other shoes.



C_{ourtney}

Courtney has lived in the neighborhood her whole life. Everyday, she walks across the cemetery to and from work at an after school program. In the winter, it’s dark when she walks around 5 PM. She says the cemetery is risky and that she would rather walk around if she has her son with her. The daytime is better, she says. Courtney explains that we will not have trouble engaging the community and suggests food and water to gather people together.



Donna

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015

Broad Off Somerset Bus Stop

Donna is a woman in her fifties. We approach her as she appears to be waiting for the bus, though not sitting down with the group that occupies the bus stop for large parts of the day. Donna is slightly hesitant about being interviewed, but warms up to us quickly. She lives on Dean Street, across the highway from downtown and across the street from the Providence Police Department building.

Donna explains that she is taking the bus to grab groceries and get her phone repaired in Cranston because it is cheaper there. We ask her about the Trinity Square area, which she very confidently points out as the space between the two bus stops on either side of Elmwood Avenue, including the nearby stores in her rectangle. She finds the abundance of homeless individuals in the area to be very negative, and asserts that the city has to get rid of them. She avoids the area as much as she can and hates feeling apprehensive every time she takes the bus.

She explains that she is a Portuguese American from Providence and used to live in Fox Point specifically on Ives Street, where a significant Portuguese American community used to exist. She has moved across the highway because the rent has gotten too expensive for her.

Angel

Angel is a student from Elmwood. He walks through the cemetery everyday. He says he has never really thought about the cemetery but agrees it might be cleaned up. Angel enjoys the neighborhood and has lived here for several years. When asked about the homeless he says, "they're chill."



Dominique

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015

In front Meat Market

Dominique was born in Providence, RI and lived in Elmwood until she was 12. Her family moved to Missouri that year because her mom believed she would not finish school if she stayed in Providence due to all the high schools dropout rates in that area. When she finally graduated from Missouri College of Cosmetology she decided to return to Providence, as of last December. Now she lives in a house only a few blocks away from the cemetery on Cromwell St. She walks to and from work, leaving work around 4. Within the time she lived in Providence, she said she had never crossed or even thought of crossing the cemetery because she believes it is unsafe. Dominique mentioned that there often are shootings in the area, one of them being the most recent about 2 months ago around 8pm. When we asked if she had to get to the other side of the cemetery would she cross it or walk around, she answered that she would in fact walk around the cemetery even though the path through would have been quicker. At the end of the interview, we asked to take a picture. She took a moment to brush her hair and disapproved of the background, which would have been the Meat Market's parking lot with a lot of trash thrown around or the cemetery. It seemed that her main concerns was the accumulation of trash in the area and the crime rate.

Mr. Mo

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015

Asian Market, Trinity Square

Mr. Mo is a Chinese man from the Grounddong Province who has been in America for ten years. He has some family in Providence, including his sister who runs the store. He explains that a large number of Asian people came to America in the 1970s during the war period.

Mr. Mo works on the South Side. He is taking a break from work at his sister's store as we interview him. He sees many police cars and officers in Trinity Square throughout the day, which makes him feel safe. The store also closes around 6:00 or 7:00 PM, so they do not stay too late. This contributes to their feeling of safety.



Shai

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015

Outside KFC, Broad Street

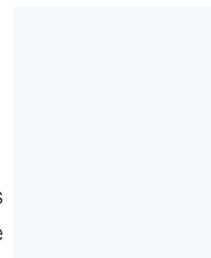


Shai is in Trinity Square to visit her grandmother . She is a primarily Spanishspeaking fourteen yearold who lives in Cranston. She is well-dressed, somewhat quiet and tothepoint, but it seems that she is enjoying the interview. We approach her as she is heading into the KFC to grab lunch. Shai explains that she and her mother used to live off of Broad Street when she was younger, but moved because it became too expensive. Her grandmother, however, is still renting a house in the area, and Shai visits her very often. She still has childhood friends in the neighborhood, and feels at home on the streets. She feels fairly safe and is not specifically concerned about her safety. She has visited the cemetery several times, but does not go there for the sake of leisure or for social reasons. She and her friends tend to stay on their side of the cemetery, and kids from the Elmwood end don't really know the kids from the Broad Street end. Shai explains that there are three high schools in the area; ECTG, Central, and Classical, but that she goes to school in Cranston.

Lydia

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015

Elmwood Ave. along cemetery



Lydia always walks around the cemetery and not through it. However, this is not because she feels the cemetery is dangerous, but out of respect for those buried there. She felt that the neighborhood needs to be cleaner, and thought that Barrington was a good example of a place where cleanliness made a good impression.

Joe (JoJo Doodles)
Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015
Grace Church Cemetery

Joe is a man in his forties. He has been in Providence for a long time following his move from Brooklyn, his hometown. We run into Joe at the Williamson couch. He is standing in the marked out Williamson space, and is smoking a cigar. We ask him how he's doing, he says fine and slowly makes his way over. Joe talks about all of the trash that folks leave by the Williamson's grave. He is against drug use and thinks it's a shame that drug abuse goes on in the cemetery. While he does not know who the family is, he says he respects their commitment to maintaining the stones. Joe explains that he is homeless, and often stays at the cemetery, but does have some acquaintances in the area who take him in once in a while. He takes the bus when he needs to get around town. He tells us about his godson, who has nicknamed him Jojo, and explains that he can't see him anymore because his godson's parents don't approve. In regards to the cemetery, he acknowledges that it isn't a safe place to be at night, especially if you are a woman. He maintains that he does not get involved in any altercations, avoiding fights and violence. He jokes that he's too old to fight and that he'd get his ass kicked immediately, but asserts that he could have taken anyone when he was younger. Despite the hostility he describes in the cemetery, Joe exchanges greetings with a man who drops by the Williamson couch. The man is also homeless, and walks with a cane. Joe and him appear to be on good terms, and Joe mentions that the man comes in regularly.

Joe mentions that he is of Irish origin, and that he has been to Ireland to travel. He explains that him and his exwife, who he was married to for fifteen years, took an impromptu trip to Ireland when they were younger, on a whim, and stayed with his ex-wife's cousins. He tells that the girls played Madonna's Material Girl (1984) all night so he couldn't sleep. Sleepless, he went driving the next day to tour the west coast, drove on the wrong side of the road, and swerved after almost hitting a garbage truck which saw them land in a creek in ditch on the side of the road. The police came and helped him out, asked him for rental car papers, and just handed him a new car, which he was very surprised about. Joe has some illustrations and graphic art up online on a few websites. His illustrations include black and white line drawings of fish and other objects that look like they have topographic contours on them. He uses the name JoJoDoodles, crediting his godson for the name. We run into Joe again several days later at the bus stop. He's looking to get a beer, asks for some change but we don't have any. He's good about it and gives us a fistbump each..



IN PROCESS

THE STUDIO AT WORK

RISD SOUTHLIGHT

WORK IN PROGRESS

RISD, GRACE CHURCH CEMETERY, TRINITY SQUARE



Critique



Studio Work

RISD SOUTHLIGHT



Critique



Site Visit



Installation Test

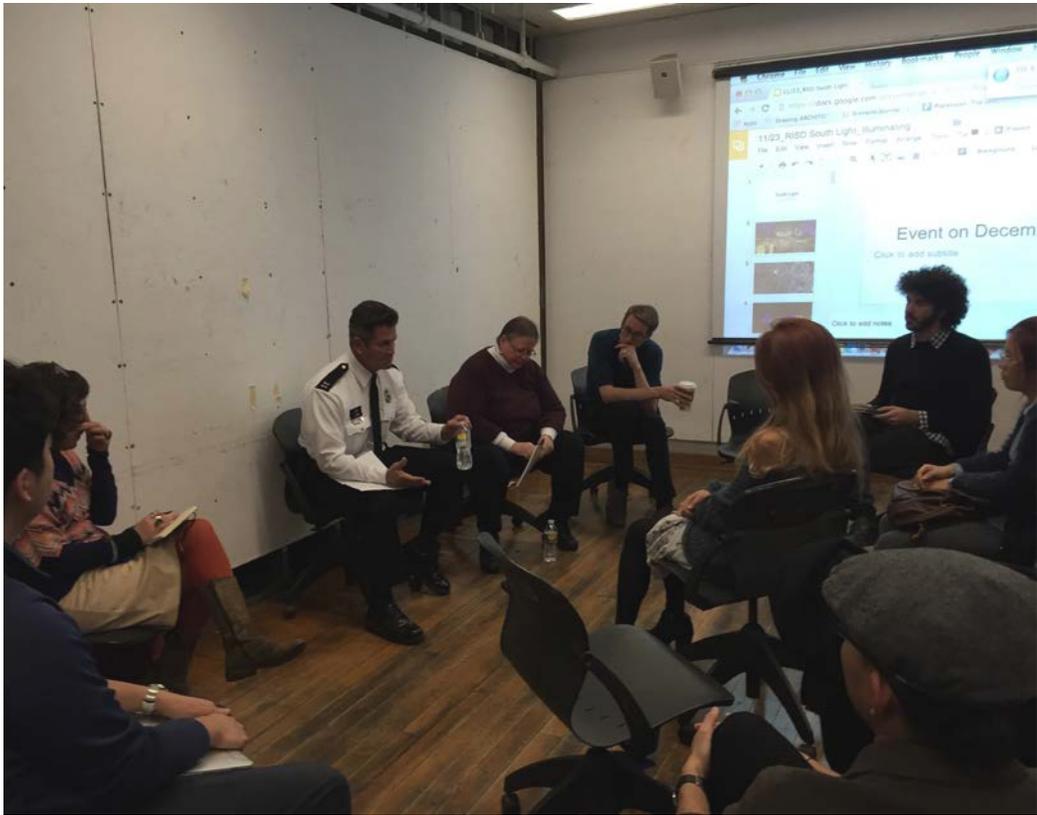


Presentation with Community Members

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Presentation with Community Members



Presentation with Community Members

RISD SOUTHLIGHT

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Grace Episcopal Church

Southside Cultural Center

LISC

Groundwork Providence

Social Light Movement

The City of Providence

Stop Wasting Abandoning Property

Providence Police Department

RI Coalition for the Homeless

RI Latino Arts

RI Black Storytellers

