Adaptive Reuse

James Dubois

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Adaptive Reuse
Fifth Year Interior Architecture Studio
Critic: James Dubois

Octave Chanute, Squared
Patrick Dugaw
Lara Frashier

Metropolis. The city. Culturally, and otherwise, it provides its inhabitants with everything needed to sustain life. It is the responsibility of the architect to make this a Quality life.

The Garment district in downtown Kansas City, once functioning as a manufacturing and warehouse center, is currently becoming an accessible residential and public area. The existing empty warehouse structures lining the streets and the addition of a green space, make the Garment district a promising area for development. Our proposal entails the renovation of the Octave Chanute building, one of the existing warehouses.

The Octave Chanute houses 30 apartments totaling 21,942 sq. ft. of leaseable space and the bottom three floors, including the basement, are retail space with a total leaseable area of 18,813 sq. ft. This proposal is to harmoniously combine the retail with the residential in one building. The retail spaces will be specialty shops for the residents of the building and other downtown residents. The design motif for the interior is based on the square, from the middle of the building a volume has been removed to create a stepped atrium. On each consecutive floor one square has been taken away, and by the fifth floor, only one large square opening remains which is covered by a skylight, mirroring that same shape. There are various other design details that emphasize the square; razing details, glass block details, fountains, tables, and floor tile patterns.
Reshaping the Garment District

Amy Knezevich
Kent Williams
Tom Willow

As significant as the opportunity to contribute to the forming of cities may be, the opportunity to reshape existing urban places may be of greater consequence. But in the course of this reshaping, the surgery may leave vulnerable that which already is.

For this fifth year Interior Architecture Studio the opportunity to reform an urban place was presented in a project for the H.T. Poindexter Building in downtown Kansas City’s historic garment district. The garment industry is gone, but the district retains some life thanks to the beginning renovation of the residential stock in the area.

This district however deserves a life greater than that of a downtown suburb. It was intended to support industry and

now the addition of “family” alone leaves it still missing its former vitality. The solution developed by the Studio, is to introduce an educational center into the district that will allow it to function as a new system ... one that supplements and supports the re-emerging life in the district.

This facility was designed to support a graduate studies program or a satellite program of a large university with emphasis in the applied arts. Goals included creating a means for public and professional interaction, while facilitating a self contained environment, which would be in service to the students, professionals, and the community in general. The public entry and lower floors contain a central commons area with access to the auditorium, library, gallery, bookstore, fitness center and supporting retail spaces. The middle level floors contain administration offices, conference rooms, class rooms, and studios. The upper level floors provide student housing, garden spaces, and support for related activities.