URBAN IDENTITY

Symbiotic Infiltration

Urban progress is necessary in cities, but at what cost to the people? At what point is it the city's responsibility to accommodate those that are removed from their neighborhoods due to developments?

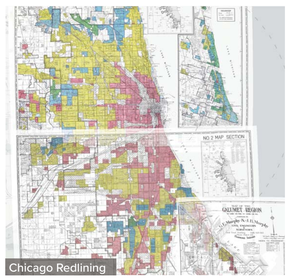
Economic isolationism, preventing low-income citizens from benefiting from developments in urban areas, is growing out of control. Urban development often negatively impacts a population, no matter the intentions. Historically based on race, today the impacts seem to be implicitly directed at the "have nots." These populations are not included in the new identity a city creates. ***The intent of this endeavor is to investigate the removal of urban populations, and what can be done to bring the culture, economics, and social forces to coexist in cities across the country.***

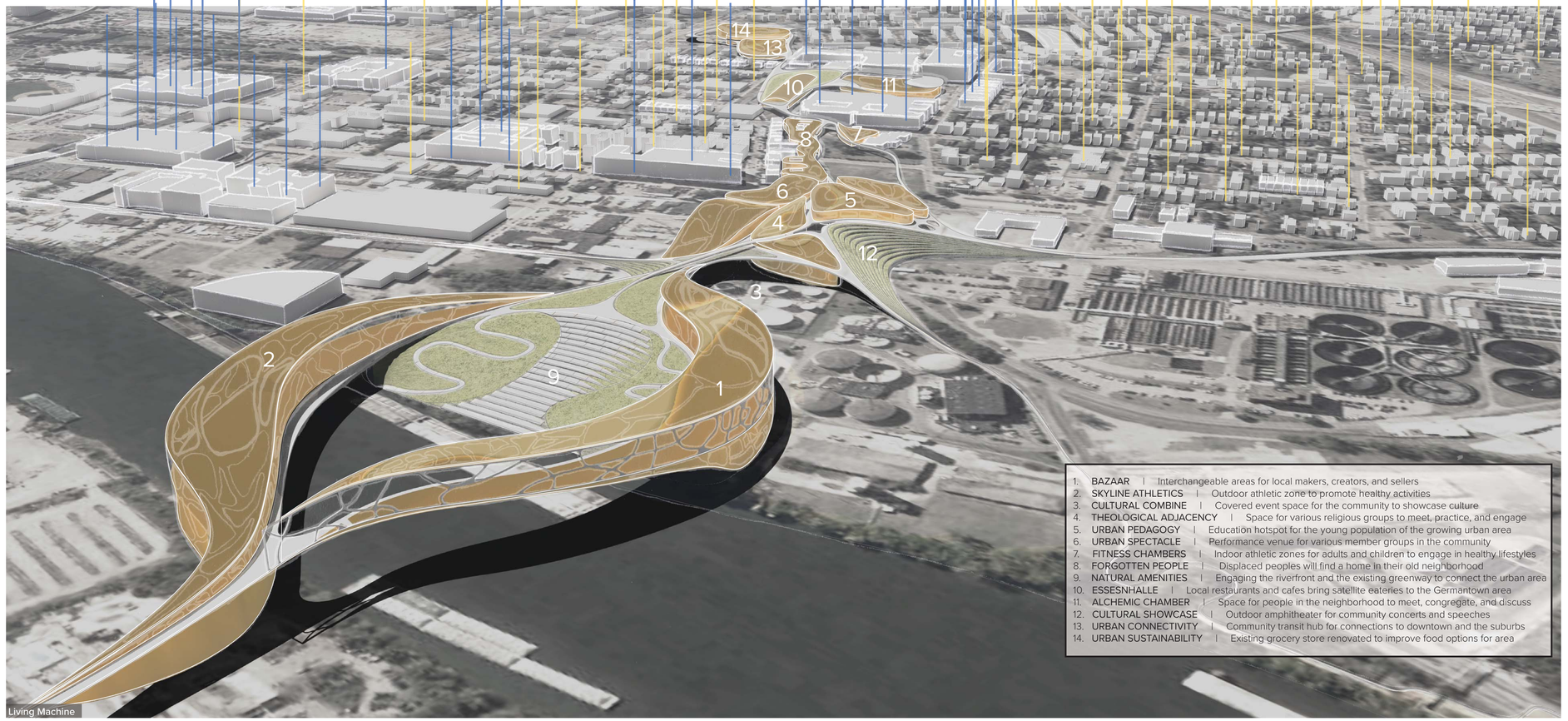
Historically, The Great Depression compounded social and economic issues in urban areas. President Franklin D. Roosevelt created a plan to help the country bring itself out of the depression through The New Deal. Intended to help the "forgotten man," the policies actually prevented blacks and other low-income people from reaping the benefits of subsidized economic stability. Stemming from The New Deal, redlining practices from the Public Works Administration and Homeowners Loan Corporation kept areas marked as "hazardous" or "definitely declining" from development over the years. Coupled with failed public housing projects and areas that remained stagnant over the years, crime increased, poverty levels remained low, and portions of cities became dangerous and undesirable.

Unfortunately, those historical urbanization issues continue to negatively impact cities today. Richard Florida, author of ***The New Urban Crisis***, suggests that recently cities have begun welcoming new types of development, at the detriment to low-income, service-class, and blue-collar citizens. The rise of the creative class, tech startups, and venture capitalist firms have brought a new culture to urban areas. As companies and employees relocate to urban centers, these developments are replacing the areas deemed undesirable with expensive residential and retail spaces. The gentrification of urban neighborhoods removes residents from their homes, and prevents people below a certain income level from benefiting from their city's progress.

What does it say about a city's identity that only a certain demographic can enjoy the spoils of the city? At what point is it an architect's responsibility to design for the client, while also prioritizing the ethical dilemma that faces many designers of the built environment today?


The Great Migration


Chicago Redlining



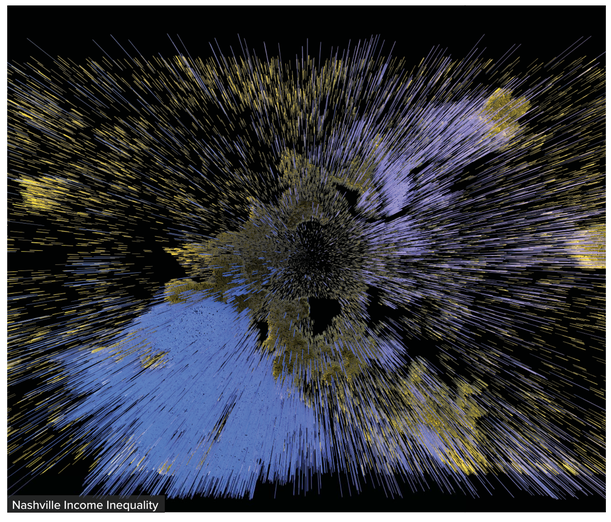
Living Machine

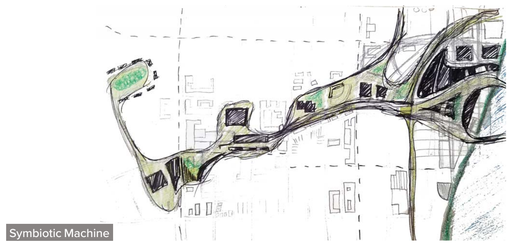
1. BAZAAR | Interchangeable areas for local makers, creators, and sellers
2. SKYLINE ATHLETICS | Outdoor athletic zone to promote healthy activities
3. CULTURAL COMBINE | Covered event space for the community to showcase culture
4. THEOLOGICAL ADJACENCY | Space for various religious groups to meet, practice, and engage
5. URBAN PEDAGOGY | Education hotspot for the young population of the growing urban area
6. URBAN SPECTACLE | Performance venue for various member groups in the community
7. FITNESS CHAMBERS | Indoor athletic zones for adults and children to engage in healthy lifestyles
8. FORGOTTEN PEOPLE | Displaced peoples will find a home in their old neighborhood
9. NATURAL AMENITIES | Engaging the riverfront and the existing greenway to connect the urban area
10. ESSESNHALLE | Local restaurants and cafes bring satellite eateries to the Germantown area
11. ALCHEMIC CHAMBER | Space for people in the neighborhood to meet, congregate, and discuss
12. CULTURAL SHOWCASE | Outdoor amphitheater for community concerts and speeches
13. URBAN CONNECTIVITY | Community transit hub for connections to downtown and the suburbs
14. URBAN SUSTAINABILITY | Existing grocery store renovated to improve food options for area

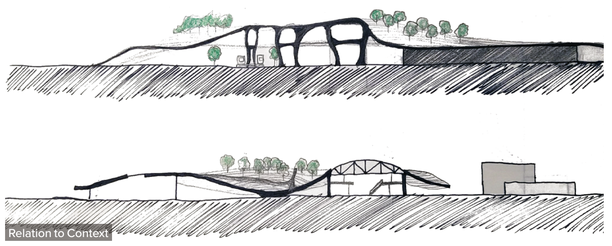


White Flight


Urban Renewal

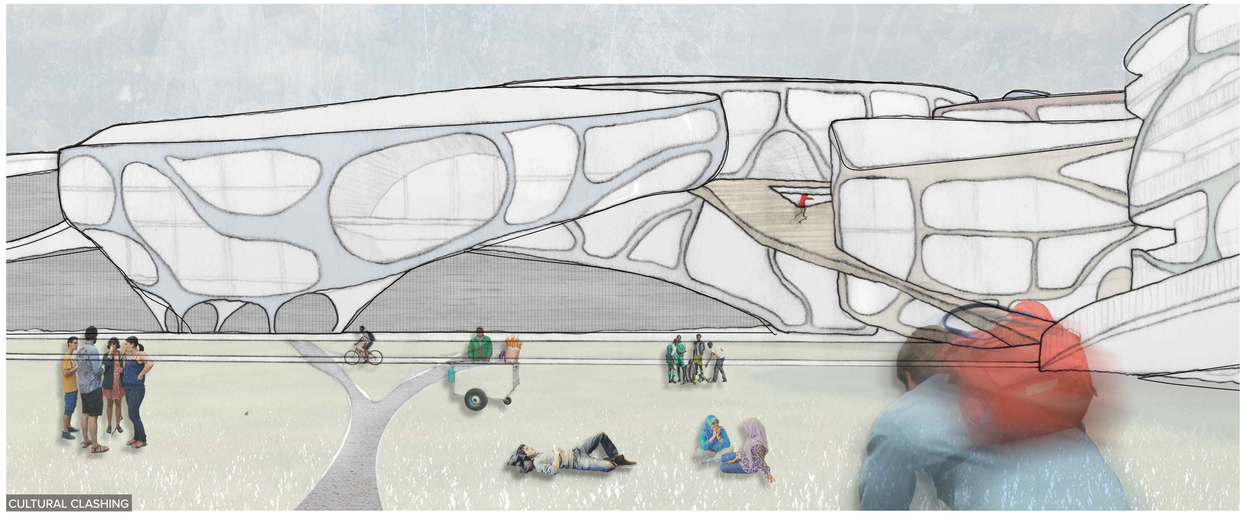

Nashville Income Inequality

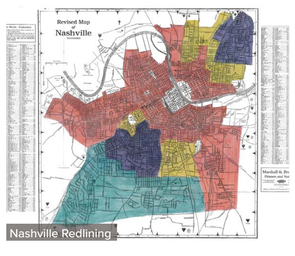

Symbiotic Machine


Relation to Context

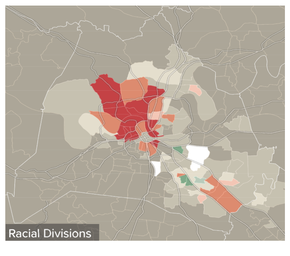

Germantown | Past

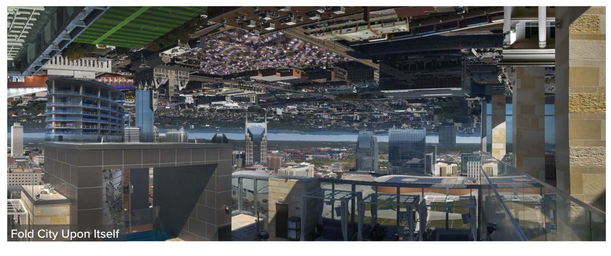

Germantown | Changes


CULTURAL CLASHING



Nashville Redlining


Racial Divisions


Fold City Upon Itself