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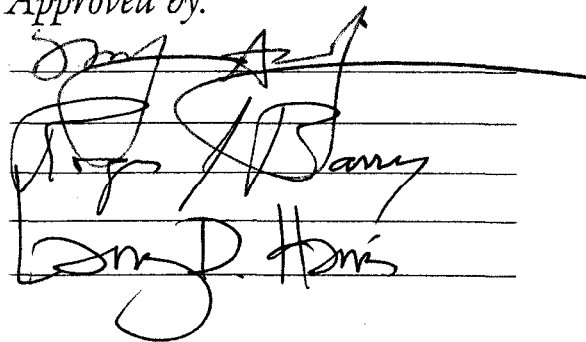
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hereby submit this as part of the requirements for the degree of:
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_____ A Case Study Approach _____

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University of Cincinnati

**THE ROLE OF PUBLIC SPACE IN PLACE MAKING:
A CASE-STUDY APPROACH**

A thesis submitted to the

Division of Research and Advanced Studies

in candidacy for the degree of

MASTER OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

in the School of Planning
of the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning

May, 2002

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ABSTRACT

Many of the American communities lack a 'unique' look and feel. They are pervaded with "sameness" and in effect, "lack places worth caring about".

This research focuses on public spaces, as a signature element, to address the issue of creating uniqueness or place-making. An observational study of four public spaces in Cincinnati, based on its typology, is conducted. The case-studies are Ludlow Avenue for a street, Hyde Park Square for a neighborhood square, Hyde Park Plaza for a plaza and C.B.D. Fountain Square for an urban city square. From the content analysis of field notes, behavioral maps, photographs, contextual land use maps and literature, an interaction between pattern of activities and pattern of spaces holding those activities is derived. A connection between pattern of activities and place-making is established through literature. The uniqueness and commonalties of these four different types of public spaces are found out. It is interesting to see how each of the public spaces contributed to place making in their own right.

The scope of further research on this subject would be collecting a series of interviews with the users of those public spaces.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Statement of Problem

America faces a problem of “barren urban landscapes” (Southworth, 1989), which began with the extensive urban renewal projects of the 1950s and 1960s. These communities, pervaded with sameness, have lost their unique identity and meaning. The cookie cutter building forms and strip developments contributed to the rise of ‘placelessness’ (Relph, 1976) such that people lack a sense of community or attachment to the place. In short, the quality of place is deteriorating. This research addresses a part of this problem: public space. It aims to study the importance of public spaces in restoring an identity for their community.

Fig. 1: Houses, one after the other, the symbol of suburbia



Source: Levittown, 1958. Smithsonian's "Yesterday's Tommorows" Exhibit

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Thesis Development

This study originates from the research conducted by students of the School of Planning in University of Cincinnati, under the guidance of Dr. Mahyar Arefi. It recognizes the importance of 'difference' and diversity in creating identity for a place. It observes that the uniqueness of a place largely depended on the degree to which a place was perceived to be different from other areas by its residents. Four categories were employed to describe the unique characteristics of two selected case studies in Ohio as experienced by their residents. These categories involved outlining:

- Areas that were and /or looked very 'different' from each other;
- Areas that were most 'meaningful';
- Areas that don't 'belong' to those communities;
- Areas that are 'home' to their residents.

This questionnaire survey, involved both graphic representations of differences on each community's map as well as respondents' narratives about the ways in which they believed those areas were different (or similar) from other areas. The maps showed that people identified different land uses (activity), the perceived physical and social features, their perceived boundaries in each community (identity), and the distinctiveness of forms in their territories. The emergent pattern of the most meaningful places to participants in both communities consisted of: public spaces, social amenities, landmarks, and 'home' (neighborhood).

This study focuses on public spaces as one of the most meaningful 'places' for the neighborhood or city.

1.2.2 Recreating places; what is it that makes a place great?

“Place making”, a new development trend discussed at the Urban Land Institute’s first place-making conference held in June of 1999 in Chicago, focused on reinventing dozens of suburban communities across the country as well as new development, creating places where there were none. Place, in whichever form it might be, from main streets and town squares, to traditional big-city downtowns, to newly developed suburban town centers, tries to create a public realm that gives a community its heart, its character, its identity. Place builds and supports the local economy, nurtures and defines community identity, fosters more frequent and meaningful interaction, creates improved accessibility, promotes a greater sense of comfort and draws a more diverse population.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

An extensive review of books and articles focused on the literature of place, sense of place and public spaces has been completed which has tried to cover all aspects of place. In order to summarize the literature review, it has been classified into three broad categories:

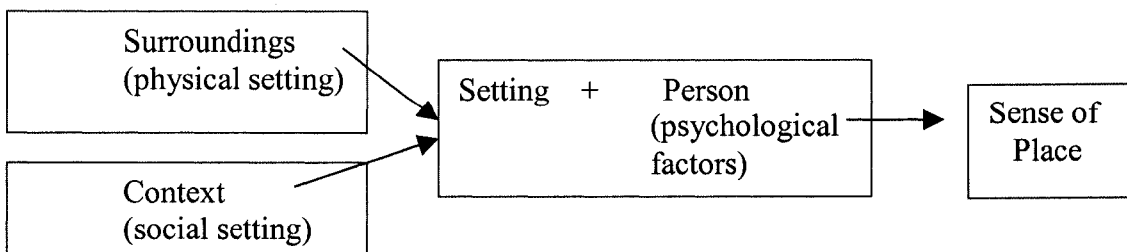
1. Place making
2. Public spaces
3. Contribution of public spaces to place making

2.1 Place making

Discussions that scrutinize 'place' in place making can be classified into two groups. The first group focuses on sense of place as rhetoric, expressions as perceived differently by different people. The second group analyzes sense of place through uniqueness; it examines urban imageability and legibility as a way of understanding the environment, people interaction and, sense of place.

Fritz (1981) defines "sense of place" as the pattern of reactions that a setting stimulates for a person. These reactions are a product of both features of the setting and aspects the person brings to it:

Fig. 2: Definition of Sense of Place



(Source: Fritz, S. 1981. *The Sense of Place*.)

2.1.1 Sense of Place as rhetoric

Place means something more than location, it has a particular identity or character. According to Norberg-Schulz (1980) the character of a place is a function of time, which changes with seasons and years. It is also the character of a “family” of buildings and its characteristic motifs. It depends on how things are made, the technical realization of ‘buildings’.

Fritz (1981) points out that sense of place is an interactional concept: a person comes into contact with a setting, which produces reactions. These include feelings, perceptions, behaviors, and the outcomes associated with one’s being in that location. She mentions several types of experiences, including immediate feelings, occupational experiences, intimate knowledge of a spot, memories and fantasies, recognition or newness, a sense of enjoyment or displeasure. There are certain physical and social settings, which have a strong spirit of place, maybe special physical features, spirit of people, spirit of mystery or spirit of personal place.

Place and sense of place cannot be analyzed scientifically as they are bound up with all emotions. Relph (1976) begins to identify the ways in which places are experienced and has classified them into four main themes:

1. relationship between space and place
2. exploration of the different components and intensities of place experiences.
3. analysis of the nature of the identity of places and the identity of people with places.
4. the ways in which sense of place and attachment to place are clearly revealed in the making of places.

The phenomenon of place is investigated along with the parallel phenomenon of “placelessness”, insensitivity to the significance of place. The essence of place can be revealed by examining the various properties of place, such as location, landscape and personal involvement, some assessment can be made of the degree to which these are essential to our experience and sense of place.

Place and location – Susanne Langer argues that places are culturally defined and that location is merely an incidental quality of place.

“In contemporary society the most mobile and transient people are not automatically homeless or placeless, but may be able to achieve very quickly an attachment to new places either because those people are open to new experiences or because the landscapes are similar to ones already known.”

Place and landscape – Place has a physical, visual form – a landscape. The spirit of a place lies in its landscape.

“There is the common sensation of returning to a familiar place after an absence of several years and feeling that everything has changed even though there have been no important changes in its appearance. It is because – before we were involved in the scene, now we are an outsider, an observer, and can recapture the significance of the former place only by some act of memory.”

Place and time – The changing character of places through time is of course related to the modifications of buildings and landscapes as well as to changes in our attitudes.

Similarly, the persistence of the character of places is apparently related to a community both in our experience of change and in the very nature of change that serves to reinforce a sense of association and attachment to those places. Places themselves are the current expressions of past experiences and events and of hopes for the future.

Place and community – In present-day western society many people feel at home wherever they are with people of similar interests, regardless of the particular place they are in. It is important to mention the two types of communities: the “community of

limited liability” and the “liberated community”. The concept of these two communities is that people have become more footloose and geographically disperse. The limited liability community argues that people are interested and rooted in their communities to the point that meets their needs. They satisfy their other needs outside their communities.

Private and personal places – All places and landscapes are individually experienced, since everyone sees them through the lens of their own unique circumstances.

“In contemporary society, the most mobile and transient people may be able to achieve very quickly an attachment to new places either because they are open to new experiences or because the landscapes are similar to ones already known.” (Relph, 1976)

This signifies that location is merely an incidental quality of place. Place has a physical, visual form – a landscape in which the spirit of a place lies. Also, the changing character of places through time is related to modifications of landscapes and buildings as well as to changes in our attitudes. The persistence of the character of places is related to the community that serves to reinforce a sense of association and attachment to those places. Relph provides a ranking scale for sense of place:

1. no knowledge about the place (alienated, just for shelter)
2. knowledge / familiarity of the place (it is fine to go anywhere else too)
3. belonging to the place (familiar and feels a part of the community)
4. attachment to the place (love the place, but not actively involved)
5. commitment to the place (involved in some group or organization working for that community)
6. sacrifice for the place (ready to do anything for the love of the place)

Norberg-Schulz says that a place where man dwells involves two psychological functions. One is orientation, to know where he is, and the other is identification, to know

how he is at a certain place. Where the system of orientation is weak, image making becomes difficult and man feels lost. Identification is to become friends with a particular environment. When there is orientation but no identification, the man does not feel at home. In the other case he feels at home but has no acquaintance with the place.

Relph identifies that places are experienced only in the presence of people and many times, attachment to a place is clearly revealed in the making of places. Hence it is disturbing when so much planning and remaking of landscapes proceeds apparently in ignorance of the importance of place.

Fig. 3: 'Sameness' seen in Levittowns



Source: <http://tigger.uic.edu/~pbhales/Levittown.html>

J. B. Jackson (1994) also emphasizes this point when he states “the sameness of the American Landscape overwhelms and liberates you from any sense of place.” He describes the way roads produced their own kind of landscape beauty and sense of place in the past as compared to the present roads, which just generate their own patterns of

movement, and settlement, and work. Similarly in the past, architecture symbolized hierarchy, permanence, sacredness and collective identity. Architecture no longer provides these important symbols. Also “sense of place” now means very little. Shamai (1991) calls the sense of place as “fuzzy”, “confused” literature. In classical times, a locality derived its unique quality from the presence of some kind of spirit, which the inhabitants were always aware of and paid reverence to it on many occasions with celebration or ritual. Modernism has rejected this notion and so it is translated as “the genius of a place”, meaning its influence. “We now use it to describe the atmosphere to a place, the quality of its environment.”(Jackson, 1994) Jackson argues that our urban environment makes us increasingly concerned with time and movement rather than place and permanence.

2.1.2 Sense of Place through uniqueness

Difference and diversity play an important role in giving identity to the built environment. Different places invoke different emotions in us and help us to remember them better; especially in an era fraught with “barren urban landscapes” (Southworth, 1989). Part of this dilemma can be attributed to the extensive urban renewal projects of the 1950s and 1960s, which completely disrupted socially and physically distinct enclaves. Planners and designers were blameworthy for neglecting socio-cultural values in their designs, which contributed to the rise of “placelessness”(Relph, 1976). Kunstler (1993) calls them “geographies of nowhere”. Cookie cutter building forms, strip developments, and the rise of urban sprawl contributed to the loss of sense of place, loss of meaning, and the loss of community character.

While some lament this sense of loss, the importance of ‘difference’ and diversity and their role in creating identity is being increasingly recognized. Madanipour (1996:344) considers “losing the ability to live with a difference is a major problem of the contemporary city.” Hence it was timely, therefore, for Arefi (2001, ISUF Conference Proceedings) to examine sense of place in terms of territorial uniqueness or by seeking what makes urban landscapes unique or different from each other. How would people perceive such differences within and among urban landscapes? This question could be well answered against the backdrop of the city as a social and physical construct and the way it is “experienced, perceived, and imagined” (Lefebvre, 1991).

Gregory Bateson (1972) argues that humans focus on perceived difference as a way to make sense of the world, and that is the difference that creates boundaries. Difference, in fact, gives shape and form to the world by providing the differentiation and features that allow the areas to be classified.

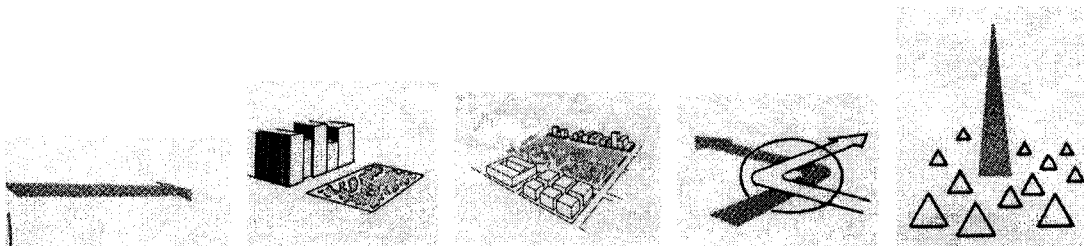
Setha Low (2000), in her search for cultural and political significance of public space strongly feels that the boundary is nothing more than the marked transition from one sphere of control to that of another. Some areas are perceived to be bounded or distinct because the activities and people within the territory are distinct from the people and activities outside of it. For instance, imagine a public space where people and social activities were evenly sprinkled throughout space and time. Would one then experience or observe any spatial boundaries? The boundaries are said to exist only where there is difference and contrast. To explore the implications of this reconceptualization of spatial boundaries as locales where different people, activities, and ideas come into contact with

one another, she examines the microgeographies of everyday life in the plazas at Costa Rica.

Many planners use the perception of 'difference' and its constituent components to think about 'sense of place' in more operational terms. People perceive different landscapes based on distinct images they evoke and their different (social) meanings. 'Meaning' as rhetoric deals with the degree to which a place affects people and the emotional strength of their feeling toward that place, or the experience and memories that they hold of that place.

Using urban perception as a way to understand the human-environment relationship, the other group has explored uniqueness in terms of urban imageability and environmental perception. Cognitive mapping has been used as a technique to represent this relationship. People recognize the built environment through distinct elements. Configurations of these elements vary from place to place and constitute distinct place-based identity. Kevin Lynch (1960) initiated this technique by measuring urban imageability through five types of elements.

Fig 4 Paths, Edges, Districts, Nodes and Landmarks as shown below in the same order.



Source: Lynch, 1960. pp: 47-48

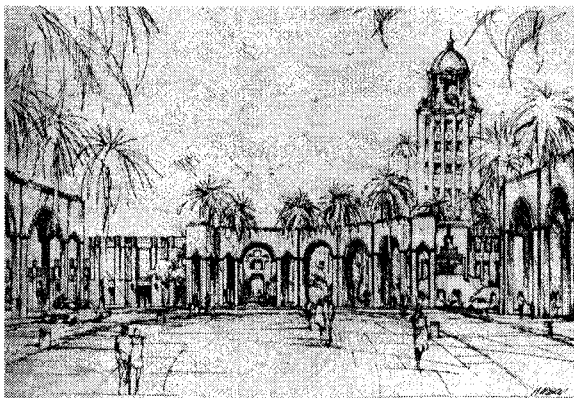
Others extended his work to examine different perceptual categories including the relationship between urban form and activity (Steinitz, 1968), urban livability (Appleyard

and Lintell, 1972), landscape and social identity (Duncan, 1973), environmental cognition (Evans, 1980), and urban “likability” (Nasar, 1990).

Lynch’s characterization of a locality as a “set of places” and as a “set of journeys” (City Sense and City Design) is extended as a “set of differences” by Arefi (The Structure of Difference, unpublished).

Cullen very well explains the “set of differences” in terms of ‘experiences’. Cullen (1961) holds that we produce different reactions to the narrowness of a tunnel and to the wideness of the square. Hence towns are designed from the point of view of the moving person (pedestrian or car-borne), “it is easy to see how the whole city becomes a plastic experience, a journey through pressures and vacuums, a sequence of exposures and enclosures, of constraint and relief.” This creates a sense of identity or belonging with the environment while being in that space, entering it or leaving it. Some of the greatest townscape effects are created by a skillful relationship between the ‘here’ and the ‘there’. In trying to translate the existing ‘environment for walking stomachs’ into a home for human beings, the difficulty lies in finding the gateway into the castle. Cullen discovered three gateways, that of “motion”, that of “position” and that of “content”.

Fig. 5 Artist's Conception of Moore's Civic Center Scheme



Source: Lyndon. P-173

It is entirely through vision that the environment is apprehended, and that it evokes our memories and experiences. Through the exercise of vision it became apparent that motion was in fact two things: the Existing and the Revealed view.

He also discovered that the human being is constantly aware of his position in the environment, that he feels the need for a sense of place and that this sense of identity is coupled with an awareness of elsewhere. “Conformity killed whereas the agreement to differ gave life.” (Cullen, 1961)

Fig. 6: Market Street Entrance of the Gallery in Philadelphia



Source: Whyte, 1983. p-78

It is the kind of reactions to a space or the kind of experiences in a space, which makes it unique. For example, though the overstructured, formulaic places like shopping malls serve the purpose of attracting a diverse population, they are very different from the open public spaces. The experience of *moving to* a space, *moving through* a space and *being within* a space is not achieved in shopping malls, since a person drives in, parks his car and

then finds himself already inside. Again, there needs to be a good balance of the three points mentioned in the last sentence.

2.2 The social psychology of a place and its public space

In the past, people constructed their social systems in the physical space of the evolving city. Today, new forms of communication have made an active aspatial public life available for any through computers, radio, and T.V. even so, much of traditional public life still occurs in physical public spaces, such as the city plaza, town square or city park. According to Giddens (1979), society is not “aspatial”; it uses its physical settings as a means of establishing itself. He believes that people understand and actively use their social and spatial environments as ways to reinforce their society’s beliefs and ideas.

Fig. 7: Street band drawing people



Source: Whyte, 1983. p-95

Echoing this sentiment,
“Collectively, public open spaces reflect ourselves, our private beliefs and public values. They are the common ground where public culture is expressed and community life developed.” (Francis, 1988)

Physical settings where human interaction takes place provide social meaning and symbols, which are recognized by society. They help people as individuals and as groups interpret and understand relations within the community or city. This physical setting, or locale, provides the spatial context for the language and symbols of what Dickens calls the “expressive order” (1990). He states that the expressive order is how people, in face-to-face contact, understand society and themselves. People communicate with each other through both verbal and non-verbal means, for example, through their style of dress, their

posture or stance and through their material possessions. An important aspect of any city is that it provides a common ground where people can come together, face-to-face, to gather these clues for understanding (Carr et al, 1992; Crowhurst-Lennard and Lennard, 1987; Francis, 1988; Jacobs, 1961; Lofland, 1973; Olmsted, 1870; Whyte, 1988). Urban public space gives people the opportunity to develop their skills for learning about diversity in ways that aspatial places, such as TV or computer networks, cannot. It gives them a chance to rub elbows with different types of people, and to become comfortable with, or at least better understand each other's differences. Without this one-to-one contact, the public has to rely on other sources of information to draw conclusions about unfamiliar populations. Indirect means of communication such as the telephone, television or computer are being relied upon more and more as actual human contact decreases (Gruen, 1964; Mumford, 1961).

Lyn Lofland's "world of strangers" is located in the city's public spaces. A stranger is defined as "anyone personally unknown to the actor of reference, but visually available to him" (1973). Because of the sprawl of today's modern cities, Lofland contends that location is a major key to providing clues about people we do not know, even more so than appearance. Since industrial times, spatial segregation of activities has occurred to a large extent, reducing the amount and type of activity that takes place in public. There is still much public life in the cities but it has become more and more specialized, ordered as to what sort of activity is appropriate to certain areas and times and by whom. In pre-industrial cities, segregation of public space was not as profound; appearances provided many of the clues needed to identify and classify strangers, thus allowing a sense of order in the world. Now, mass exposure to universal schooling and

the media has made the appearance of people or their speech less reliable as clues for identification. An example of this would be the ability to classify someone by the type of clothes one wears, a more important clue would be where one shops and dines, or in what part of town one lives.

Not only do public spaces provide physical settings for garnering clues about individual and group identity, they relay information about the history and culture of the population. They serve as a “social binder” for a group of people or community by providing sensory information such as sight, sound, touch, smell and even sometimes, taste with which people share and relate. They are teachers about the past – markers of collective history (Francis, 1988; Kowinski, 1985; Shankland, 1975).

2.3 Public Spaces

Public Spaces can be defined in a clear way by understanding the meaning of public. Firstly it means that everything that is open and, can be seen and heard by

Fig. 8 : A mime at Exxon Park, Rockefeller



Source: PPS, 1984. p- 14

everybody. And secondly it signifies the world itself, in so far as it is common to all of us and distinguished from our privately owned place in it (Arendt, 1958).

The presence of people, activities, events, inspiration, and stimulation

comprise some of the important qualities of public spaces. Gehl (1987) emphasizes that physical environment (quality) of the public space would attract people and that social activities would occur spontaneously, as a direct consequence of people moving about and being in the same space.

Fig. 9: Parklet in front of Boston Five-Cent Savings Bank.



Source: Whyte, 1980. p-23

Whyte (1980) also examines the close connection between qualities of public spaces in cities and city activities. He documents how often simple physical alterations can noticeably improve the use of the city space.

Comparable results have been achieved in a number of improvement projects executed in New York and other

U.S. cities (Project for Public Spaces). Traffic reduction schemes, courtyard cleaning, the

laying out of parks, and comparable outdoor improvements have had a marked effect in getting people to use the city's public spaces.

Conversely, a study of three neighboring, residential streets in San Francisco, carried out in 1970-71, showed the effect of deterioration of quality on activities (Appleyard and Lintell, 1972). In the streets where there was only little traffic (2000 vehicles per day), a great number of outdoor activities were registered. In the second street (16,000 vehicles per day), outdoor activities became practically nonexistent and neighbor contacts were poorly developed. In the third street (8,000 vehicles per day), a surprisingly great reduction in activities and contacts was noted, emphasizing that even a relatively limited deterioration of the quality of the outdoor environment can have a disproportionately severe negative effect on the extent of outdoor activities.

Jacobs and Appleyard (1987) value pedestrians and public life and are concerned about the fact that in the face of giantism and fragmentation, public life especially life in public places has been seriously eroded.

The role of public spaces in western urban life has been an important social question, debated in philosophical, historical, and practical terms. Hannah Arendt's celebrated book, *The Human Condition* (1958), is the most recent sustained examination of the philosophical distinction between the public and private realms. The distinctive characteristics of the public realm are that it is what we hold in common and it is what we make for ourselves. The public world is a shared world that overcomes our private isolation in order to achieve "publicity" in speech for the sharing of common experience. And this "publicity" in turn allows us to create our shared public world together, filling it with timeless, humanly-fabricated objects meant to serve more than one generation. Mass

society has eroded this intergenerational public world, leaving us within separate private worlds that are at once lonely and depressingly indistinguishable.

Senett (1974) and Tuan (1982) believe that advanced industrial and post industrial American society has become so self-absorbed that the importance of knowing oneself has become an end rather than the means for knowing the world. Both Senett and Goodwin state that this obsession with the individual undermines society and its structures by looking at them as restraints on liberty and obstructions to free will. Because of this self-absorption, many Americans no longer have the good of their society in mind, but rather only that of the individual, thus weakening the community and shared social experiences. Every experience is becoming so personalized that many Americans are losing their ability to understand how to function as a society. De Tocqueville, a 19th century political philosopher, quoted in Mumford's *The City in History*, felt that each person in suburban America was "living apart, is a stranger to the fate of all the rest... he exists but in himself and for himself alone" (1961, p513).

Current metropolitan forms are often criticized as fostering an overly privatized world, which severely limits the opportunities for social interaction. The standard suburban model in particular is condemned for its failure to provide decent public places (Duany and Plater-Zyberk, 1992). The loss of "community" is seen to be largely a function of the failure of metropolitan development to provide a setting for repetitive chance encounters that serve to strengthen community bonds (Achimore, 1993).

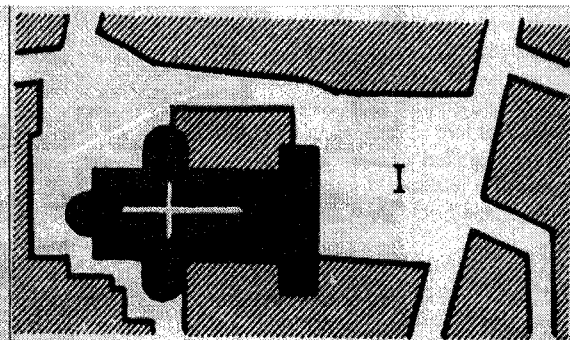
Roger Scruton argues in "*Public Space and the Classical Vernacular*" (1984) that this public/ private distinction in social life must be drawn resolutely by those in the public sphere, and can be expressed most clearly in the facades of buildings that divide

street from home. Streets preserve publicness by treating the street as an end in itself, and not as a means only.

Richard Senett, in *The Fall of Public Man* (1977), says that public spaces have been in decline since the rise of secularism in the nineteenth century. Since then we have grown psychologically accustomed to the supremacy of “intimate” private life, the consequences of which may be seen in the “dead public spaces” of our modern architecture that reflect and reinforce our isolation and self-absorption.

The historical rise of public space would appropriately begin with Sitte’s *City Planning according to Artistic Principles* (1889) in which he emphasized the distinctiveness of the public realm in ancient life and the nature of its organic growth over the centuries.

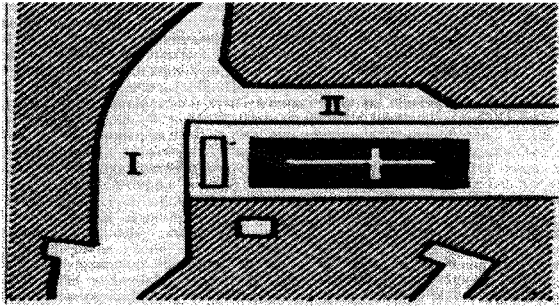
Fig. 10: Padua- Piazza Del Duomo.



Source: Sitte. 1889. p-54 in Glazer, Lilla. 1987

He was disturbed by the dissolution of the physical public/private boundary in European cities and the decline of the communal activity once staged in plazas. He lays much of the blame at the feet of nineteenth-century planners who, in pursuit of pure geometric “symmetry”, removed public sculptures from their places and destroyed the subjective enjoyment of “irregular” proportion.

Fig. 11: Syracuse - Piazza.

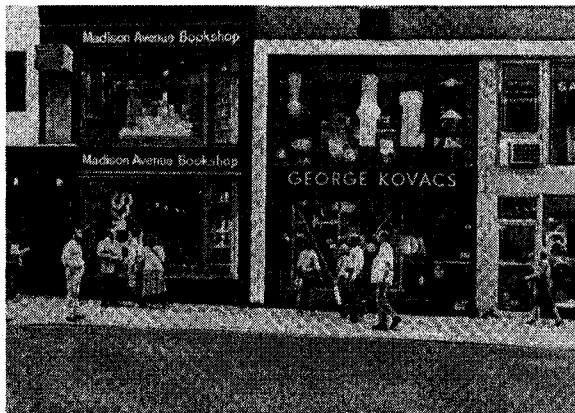


Source: Sitte. 1889. p-54 in Glazer, Lilla. 1987

Irregularities displayed in medieval towns meant that the public /private distinction was never strictly maintained: cathedrals were surrounded with private dwellings, and private residents maintained public streets.

Jackson's essay, "*The Discovery of the Street*" (1980), shows how the street was "discovered" as the first public space as markets grew to meet rising trade in the later medieval period.

Fig. 12: New York's Madison Avenue



Source: Whyte. 1980. p-93

Modern urban public spaces allow people to come together in the course of daily life or during special events. They give people the opportunity to participate in public life.

Modern urban public spaces allow people to come together in the course of daily life or during special events. They give people the opportunity to participate in public life.

Mumford's *The City in History* (1961) emphasizes the extraordinary adaptability of the informal, organic character of medieval planning. The sensitivity to geographical and social

Jane Jacob's *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961) is included in the practical discussions of architecture in the public sphere. With an almost anthropological eye, she gives a "thick description" of the public functions of modern city streets, and shows how, if an

as members of the community. Three primary values of successful public space are described by Carr et. al. (1992) as:

1. Responsive – Meeting the needs of its users for comfort, relaxation, active and passive engagement and discovery;
2. Democratic – being accessible to all, providing freedom of action and temporary claim of ownership;
3. Meaningful – a place to make connections between place and social context, in other words, to help understand where one fits into the larger picture. This third point is of more interest to this study.

Public space is more open to the diversity of people and uses than is privately owned space. The traditional forms of urban public space are the street, the park and the town square or plaza.

Fig. 13: 49th Street, alongside McGrawHill Bldg,



Source: Whyte. 1983. p-55

Usually public space is a paved area surrounded by streets and high-density structures and is often the focus of activity in that area. Features such as fountains and benches are positioned to encourage the gathering of people (Lynch, 1981).

Based on those found in San Francisco, Cooper-Marcus and Francis (1990) distinguishes between the five types of city plazas. Nevertheless, they assert these five types can be found anywhere in the U.S.

1. Street plaza – an open space with seating, almost an extension of the sidewalk;

2. Corporate plaza – usually a privately owned, but publicly accessible, image enhancer found at the foot of a tall corporate building;
3. Urban oasis – park like plaza that is partially secluded from the street;
4. Transit Foyer – found heavily used public transit areas to create easy access;
5. The grand public place – the most traditional form of plaza and with the greatest diversity of users and functions, usually publicly owned.

Fig. 14: Basic food facilities- seed a place with activity

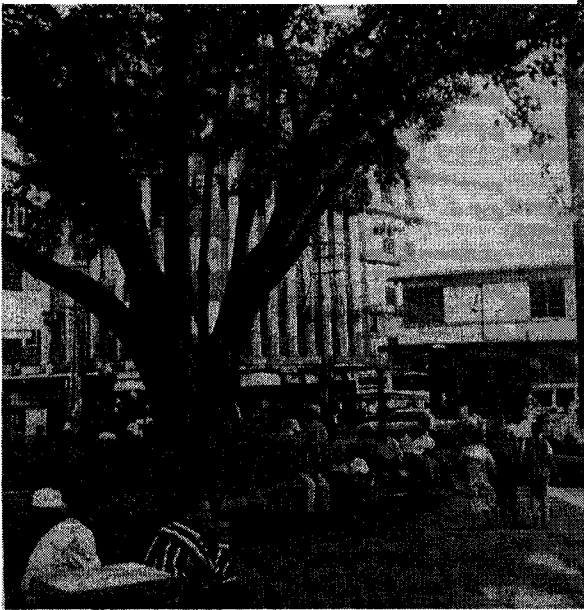


Source: Whyte. 1983. p-51

Most city plazas and squares serve many functions. They are a place for workers to eat lunch; the setting for special events such as concerts, festivals, charitable fund-raises and political rallies; a place for watching and meeting people; or just relaxing (Whyte, 1980).

The setting or location of the plaza can be influential in the type of activities that occur. Examples of this would be historic celebrations taking place in a plaza located in a historic area or civic activities in a plaza near government buildings.

Fig. 15: Sitting Area in Parque Central



Source: Low. 2000. p-14

Neighborhood gathering places give “heart” to community (Langdon, 1994). It serves as symbols of civic pride and sense of place- created simply by paying attention to sense of space through proper design and placement of public space (Duany and Plater-Zyberk, 1992). Only when the uses are arranged at a fine grain, are urban environments with some degree of complexity thought to promote pedestrianism.

2.4 Contribution of public spaces in place making

Sitte (1889) observed squares and plazas in cities all over Europe in order to develop his principles for designing cities. Sitte's theories demonstrate a profound belief in the importance of public places as venues to celebrate human life.

There is a body of work that blames public space, as an element of urban form, for the loss of meaningful landscapes. These writings examine the political economy of place and the historical roots of the loss of public space and eventually public realm (Banerjee, 2001) as an historical phenomenon that needs to be rectified. Recently public space has been dying out; we no longer need or use it (Brill, 1989; Chidister, 1998; Senett, 1974).

There is another school of thought, which states that we need public space and that there is a renaissance in the demand for and use of it (Carr, et al, 1992; Cooper-Marcus and Francis, 1990; Crowhurst-Lennard and Lennard, 1984; Gehl, 1987; Whyte, 1980).

Walzer (1986) distinguishes between two types of public space: "single-minded" and "open-minded". He advocates open-minded spaces because they accommodate 'differences' in terms of "unforeseen uses, and used by citizens who do different things and are prepared to tolerate, even take an interest in, thing they don't do" (1986:470).

To Rustin, social space is conducive to "a more inclusive pluralism" (p.493) in which different life-style may coexist. Others (Berman, 1986; Senett, 1974) seek differentiation through social diversity and spaces that are open to the underclass.

The third school of thought can be described as cautionary, acknowledging the realities of contemporary city spatial and social structures, but also warning about the course cities are taking by eliminating public spaces (Kowinski, 1985; Sorkin, 1992).

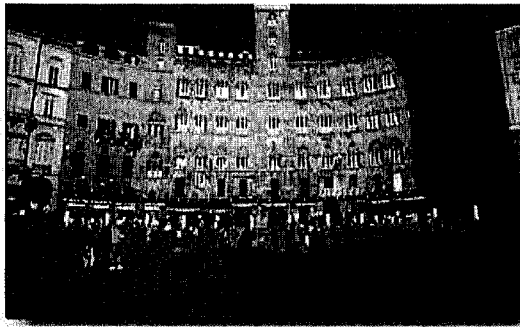
Another approach to exploring territorial uniqueness focuses on planning documents, i.e. comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances (Southworth, 1989; Shirvani, 1990). Southworth for example, has examined 70 cities across the United States and has criticized what he calls “boilerplate urban design solutions”. Instead he calls for solutions based on “what is unique and special about the city” (p.401). Evaluating the planning documents of a number of cities across the U.S., Shirvani (1981: 1990) also criticizes duplicating the procedures of other cities and calls for adopting processes based on each individual case.

2.4.1 Urban Planning and Architectural Trends

The planning trends of medieval cities, renaissance and baroque cities, cities from early phases of industrialization, garden cities inspired by romanticism, and functionalistic, automobile-dominated cities from 1930s would be briefly described as follows:

- During the medieval period, the city was not a goal in itself, but a tool formed by use. Hence, the cities and self-evolved small towns were urban spaces, based on a multitude of collected experiences and even today offer good conditions for social activities.

Fig. 16: The Piazza Del Campo, Siena's main square



Source: Italian photo gallery.
<http://goeurope.about.com/library/>

Example: Piazza Del Campo in Siena. Its feeling of enclosure, orientation with regard to sun and climate, its meticulously placed fountains and bollards, form an ideal arrangement for a meeting place and public living room for its citizens.

- During the Renaissance period, a transition took place from freely evolved to planned cities. Professional planners assumed the work of building cities and developed theories about how cities ought to be. The city was no longer merely a tool but became to a greater degree a work of art, conceived, perceived, and executed as a whole. The visual expression of cities and buildings was emphasized.

Fig. 17: Palmanova, the fortress city



Source: <http://www.traveleurope.it/>

Example: The star-formed Renaissance city in Palmanova, in Venice, has streets of the same width – regardless of purpose and placement in the city plan.

- After the 1930s came the era of Functionalism, when physical-functional aspects of cities and buildings were developed as a dimension. Dwellings were to have light, air, sun, and ventilation, and the residents were to be assured access to open

spaces. The requirement for the separation of residential and work areas was formulated during this period. The functionalists made no mention of the psychological and social aspects of the design of buildings or public spaces.

Streets and Squares started disappearing.

- Throughout the entire history of cities, streets and squares had formed focal points and gathering places, but with the advent of functionalism, they were declared unwanted. Instead, they were replaced by roads, paths, and endless grass lawns.

Great distances between people, events, and functions characterize the new city areas.

Transportation systems, based on the automobile, further contributed to reducing outdoor activities.

2.4.2 Public Spaces in downtown context

Whyte is a strong proponent for the central city squares as gathering places “where people come together face-to-face to share new ideas, make deals, gossip or start parades” (1988: 341). He asserts that even though the city has lost some of its functions, it has retained the most ancient one, a gathering place. He compares the central city to the old Greek agora, with both sharing characteristics such as centrality, concentration and diversity.

The livable city, according to Crowhurst-Lennard and Lennard, is one with a healthy, vital core, which promotes not only “economic processes but the social, moral and cultural life of the community” as well (1987: 3). They identify two main roles for the city center: one of function and the other of symbol. The functions are 1) easy access,

and 2) the location of buildings and spaces that house commercial, residential and cultural activities.

Fig. 18: Farragut Square, Washington D.C.



Source: Whyte., 1980. p-40.

Residents of the city also see the core as the “heart” of the city because of its historic significance with monuments and historic buildings serving as landmarks. The “strongest image of the essence of the city” can be found here (Cooper-Marcus and Francis, 1990; Crowhurst-Lennard and

Lennard, 1987).

The need for diversity of use as well as users is a central theme for many proponents of a healthy downtown. This diversity and the social and economic support it provides, is the key to great city public life (Jacobs, 1961; Crowhurst- Lennard and Lennard, 1987; Cooper-Marcus and Francis, 1990).

2.4.3 New Urbanism – a new design alternative

Emily Talen (2000) states that New Urbanism is a movement which seeks to promote sense of community by adhering to certain principles about the physical arrangement of space – and that brings about the use of public space and its effect on social life. New Urbanism stresses the need to resurrect a more civic focus in town planning principles via the provision of public space (Kunstler, 1996; Hochstein, 1994), a view based on the premise that the value of public gathering places in generating a sense of community is paramount (Boyer, 1994; Hayden, 1995). Sense of community is defined

as “the sense of belongingness, fellowship, ‘we-ness,’ identity, etc., experienced in the context of a (geographically based) collective” (Buckner, 1988:773). Buckner identifies

Fig.19: View of Seaside, Florida

paces – intended ultimately to foster sense of

community – can be put into a measurable context.



Source: <http://www.seasidefl.com/>

According to New Urbanist theory, there are essentially two ways in which public space can be used to strengthen resident interaction and promote a sense of community: 1)

integrating private residential space with surrounding public space, and 2) careful

design and place public space. These elements promote two social goals: 1) resident interaction and 2) place attachment.

2.4.4 Operational Definitions

1. PLACE-MAKING

Space + People = Place (Fritz, 1981. *The Sense of Place*) i.e. the interaction of 'people with people' and, 'people and space', within a space forms a "place."

Place making is creating a 'sense of place' for that space. Also, place has a physical, visual form – a landscape, and spirit of a place lies in its landscape (Relph, 1976). But places are experienced only in the presence of people. Sense of place is based on physical environment and experience, but experiences change with changes in the physical environment.

Place is also a set of places, a set of journeys (Lynch) and a set of differences (Arefi). The 'uniqueness' of each place determines its identity and gives a character to the place.

2. PUBLIC SPACE

Public Space can be split into "public-ness" and "space." 'Public' could be defined as "a region of social life.... including a wide diversity of people" (Scruton, 1979). 'Space' is "the perceived boundaries, created by human labor" as in the making of structures. It is also 'phenomenological space', which is perception of space through observation.

Public Space is an "active and permeable membrane" (Kunstler, 1993), in which you get in or out, without any permission and at any time.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Theory

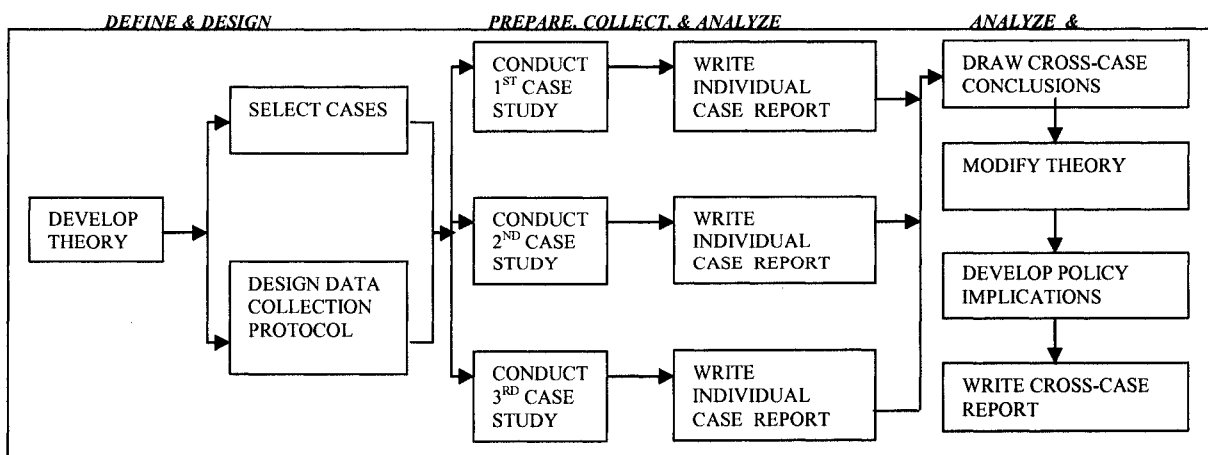
The research question asks *how* public spaces contribute in place making. The research seeks to explore the relationship between public space and place-making through a number of case-studies.

The “how” part determines the research strategy to be a **case study**, as it requires no control over behavioral events as in the case of an experiment. Case study focuses on contemporary events. The effect of context is considered highly pertinent to public spaces (Chidister, Mark. 1988).

Multiple case studies are used for a comparative study, covering contextual conditions. The case studies will help in determining the ways in which the selected public spaces were unique, and give character to their location.

Direct, detailed observation along with photographs is used as the main source of data. The research is by nature exploratory and hence it does not lend itself to generalization of findings from the four case-studies.

Fig. 20: Case Study Method



Source: COSMOS Corporation

3.2 Case Study Approach

Through case studies of different public spaces based on its scale and type, it is to be examined how neighborhood- public space relationships might be optimized through its physical design.

Table 1: Typology of public spaces taken for case-study

	Type	Scale / Size	Use
Ludlow Street	Street	3 blocks covering the street, Clifton Neighborhood	Multi-functional environment: shopping, eating, walking
Hyde Park Square	Park Square	Neighborhoods	Entertainment, relief point
Hyde Park Plaza	Plaza	Neighborhoods	Shopping, eating
Fountain Square	Urban Square	City	Gathering point, special events

Source: Author

Paul Gobster (2001) uses the same kind of classification of open spaces (parks) but on a scale ranging from small parks to regional parks. His research examines neighborhood-open space relationships at four scales of concern: quasi-public space within an immediate neighborhood; a public park that spans different neighborhoods; regional greenways; and a metropolitan bioserve. Here he looks at people's perceptions and uses of urban open space.

Emily Talen (2000) offers a methodology for measuring public space differentials at the neighborhood level. The method builds on the work of Owens (1993) and Southworth and Owens (1993) to provide a practical measure of the "public realm." The goal is to facilitate the discussion of the use, meaning, and role of public space by delineating, in pragmatic terms, the geographic dimension of public life and how it varies

from one neighborhood to the next. The bases of this differentiation are the public space design components embedded in New Urbanist theory.

She believes that the interaction between the physical and social environment is very complex, and involves reciprocal relationships in which the social environment both affects and is affected by the physical realm. Thus while there are intervening factors in the translation from the physical dimension of public space to the event of social interaction, these intervening variables also have some bearing on the form, content and spatial arrangement of the physical dimension itself. Social interaction is limited both by constraints on access to public space, as well as constraints on interaction, which may occur once access to public space is obtained. This involves the complex relationship between environment and behavior in public spaces, a relationship that has been treated by numerous researchers (in addition to New Urbanists, see Jacobs, 1961; Whyte, 1998; Sorkin, 1992; Rofe, 1995)

The three neighborhoods chosen for the case-studies function as bounded, socially identifiable areas; they represented geographic units within which certain social relationships are assumed to exist (see Anthony Downs' study of neighborhoods, 1981). The study talked about the differences in each, even though bounded by a commonality, the years when they were built, size differences, and corresponding differences in median household income. Then taxonomy of public spaces was developed. Built into GIS, it showed the distribution of public spaces within each. It included only those that were truly public and those, which any individual could at least theoretically have, access to. The delineation of neighborhood form was primarily intended to strengthen knowledge and understanding of the urban environment. Talen's paper argues that the size

characteristics, spatial distribution of public spaces, as well as the residential grain and transport environment of neighborhoods can be used together to characterize the urban public realm in a quantitative way. The emphasis was on quantification of the public realm, which could then be used in conjunction with other types of analyses used in comparative research (i.e. qualitative research).

3.3 Observation Method as a tool for Case Study

The tool for the case studies is similar to what **Mark Chidister** (1986) used to study the effect of context on the use of urban plazas.

“Use was measured on four consecutive days.... Simple counts of use were collected for each plaza an average of seven times. The counts were obtained by walking a two mile loop that connected the plazas, and upon arrival at each plaza counting the number of people present. The counts did not discriminate between types of use and included everyone within the boundaries of the plaza.”

Environment, with its organisms, comprises a place. Environment means the space, things, events and situations. Organisms could be animals, plants and people. This research focuses mainly on space and people interaction and elements of space and people interaction. In an indirect way, it observes the pattern of events/ activities that occur and the pattern of spaces that it forms with use. Observing people as separate from the four environmental concerns turns out to be a prerequisite for observing people as they and the environment interact or do not interact.

The method adopted is one of objective observations, which follow measurement guidelines, i.e. define the observation and measure its variables.

People:

Age, Sex, Manner of Dress, Hurried Pace, Being alone or with others, kinds of expression

Activity:

Chatting, Relaxation, Shopping, Eating, Business discussion, etc.

Interactions: This includes people and space interaction as well as person to person interaction. These interactions are categorized as:

- 1) Physical Characteristics of the Space (area, trees, seating, landmark, design)
- 2) Level of use (characteristics of people using the space, by observation)
- 3) Contextual Factors (land uses in vicinity)

Two observations are done on each site, on two separate days, one on a working day of the week, and the other on a weekend. The time chosen are the peak hours of use (11:40am. to 12:40pm.) and, on a weekend it may be any time between 11:00am. to 7:30pm. The study conducted in Mariemont and Lebanon in the spring of 2001, and also general familiarity with the place helped to determine the peak hours.

Physical Characteristics – 1. area

2. approximate number and density of trees
3. location and kind of seating and its density, whether comfortable, fixed or movable
4. pedestrian-friendliness: a) no. of pedestrian crossings
b) vehicular speed limit, c) width of pavement
5. whether visible to and from street
6. adjacent to how many streets
7. any particular architectural style or landmark

Level of Use –

1. no. and type of users (race and age)
2. light use/ consistent use / heavily used at certain times

Contextual factors –

1. land uses (characteristics of vicinity within quarter mile)
2. activities and social interactions

GIS Maps of that public space and on-site observations and measurements can help determine the physical characteristics of the space. Land uses such as small retail stores, department stores, restaurants, bars, housing (rental and occupied), offices, banks, parking facilities, church, school and others were to be understood within quarter mile radius centering the public space. For finding out the number of people using the space, simple count is taken twice (one hour each), once on a weekday and the other on a weekend.

3.4 Review of methodology adopted by other people

1. William Whyte also studied people's behavior in public places. He deduced that the best-used public spaces are sociable places. He noted the way people distribute themselves over the space, their standing, walking and sitting patterns, their movements, the pedestrian flow, traveling conversations, favored places for sitting and picnicking, when and where people stop to have conversations- is the normally unused buffer space next to buildings used, the pause points, where did lovers prefer to be, whether plazas were ideal places for striking acquaintances. He also looked at the main users of the space, the male-female ratio, what attracted people most - people or designed urban spaces, do people like to sit in the middle of a crowd, where do people tend to sit – where there are places to sit, whether people like to station themselves near objects, such as flagpole or statue, do they anytime choose the middle of a large place, whether corners are best used and for what purposes, whether walkers mind people sitting, the impulse to move chairs, the placement of trees, whether trees and sitting spaces have been combined, effects of water on behavior of people, food brings activity, street corner activities – not wall it off, whether it is accessible to the public at all times, the strongest similarities in the places studied. He did all this using an inconspicuous camera, which covered any desired angle and ran unattended for 48 hours.

2. Seth Low did a similar kind of study but the methodology she adopted was personal on-field observations. She wrote about all her trips as field notes. The questions she wanted to address required the integration of architectural, archaeological, historical, ethnographic, and phenomenological materials to construct a multilayered analysis and nuanced account.

The ethnographic descriptions and phenomenological portions of the research are based on long-term fieldwork in the two plazas selected for study. She utilized three different observational strategies:

- a. Each plaza was observed by sector, and everything that occurred in that sector was recorded for a designated period of time, throughout the day on both weekends and weekdays. A series of behavioral maps locating activities and counts of people by location, sex, and age were also created.
- b. After the first month of time/space sampling, a map of activity locations had emerged, so a second set of observations concentrated on documenting these activities and the people engaged in them.
- c. During the third phase, she carried a map and camera, spoke to people, and became more involved in everyday plaza life.

At the conclusion of these observations, she collected a series of interviews with plaza users, using questions that had emerged during the observational period. Blueprints and plans for the plazas were collected. Interviews with ministers and architects involved with those projects were also conducted. Throughout the field visits, photographs were taken to document the physical changes in the design and use of each plaza and the surrounding city. These photographs soon became an irreplaceable source of data as the plazas began to change.

These methodologies and procedures were effective in providing different kinds of data that could be compared and analyzed. The content analysis of field notes, interviews, maps, photographs, and historical documents generated a series of themes and theoretical typologies that illuminate the cultural underpinnings of plaza design and use.

This research would be an extension or a practical study of what Christopher Alexander (1993) states in *The Pattern Language*, "Every place is given its character by certain pattern of events that keep on happening there. These patterns of events are interlocked with certain geometric patterns in space." The life of a place, shared experiences, depend not only on the physical environment but also on the pattern of events/activities. Hence the action and the space are indivisible. Any kind of activity is supported by the kind of space it is functioning in or the space supports the kind of action. It does not mean that space creates events, it supports the event. It is interesting to note the interaction between patterns of events and patterns of space. Alexander writes:

"Each sidewalk is a unitary system, which includes both the field of geometrical relationships which define its concrete geometry, and the field of human actions and events, which are associated with it. For since space is made up of these living elements, these labeled patterns of events in space, we see that what seems at first sight like the dead geometry we call a building or town is indeed a quick thing, a living system, a collection of interacting, and adjacent, patterns of events in space, each one repeating certain events over and over again, yet always anchored by its place in space. And, if we hope to understand the life which happens in a building or a town, we must therefore try to understand the structure of space itself."

3.5 Methodology for this research

Fritz Steele defines “sense of place” as the pattern of reactions that a setting stimulates for a person. This research would analyze the pattern of activities that is frequently happening in certain pattern of the spaces.

The research takes a phenomenological approach (Relph) by drawing conclusions from day-to-day activities. It is an inductive type of research (Patton), wherein the researcher goes out into the field with an open mind, not forcing a format she wants to see and then analyzing the observations.

The pattern of activities and the pattern of spaces are derived from the on-field observation study that is conducted twice in each place, for a period of one hour each. Again the observations are done by sector, 20 minutes observation of each sector. The time chosen for each observation was the peak hours when the public space was in maximum use. The peak hours are known through general observation and talking to people living in that area. Field notes give a summary of each trip.

Four case-studies of different classifications of public spaces in Cincinnati are conducted as mentioned previously. They are different scales of public spaces creating different experiences in terms of environment. The public spaces selected for case study are common to Cincinnati and experienced by a majority of people living in the area.

“Every place is given its character by certain pattern of events that keep on happening there. These patterns of events are interlocked with certain geometric patterns in space” (Alexander, C. 1993)

Table 2: Methodology derived from a set of issues

Issues	What to Observe	Method
Events	Activities	Determine the day-to-day activities, in different sectors of the public space
Pattern of Events	Frequency of activities	Determine the activities which happen again and again in that same public space, during the one-hour study of a public space for two different days
Spaces	The spaces supporting some kind of activity or not supporting any activity	Determine the physical description of a space holding an activity, or a space which is functionless
Patterns in Space	The spaces repeating certain events over and over again.... And do they range from casual –formal spaces, or purposefulness to no purpose	Determine the physical description of a space which repeats certain kind of activity frequently.
Accessibility	Whether walled off, or fenced.....	Determine the physical description of the place as a whole
	Any other kind of barrier which restricts some group of people	Determine the age, race or ethnicity, sex of the people using the space
Pull effect, Or push effect	The kinds of spaces or things which attract people to come in this public space, or not bring in people	Effect of context, land uses, the variety of shops
		The design of small or large spaces
		Any special landscape features or landmarks or history
Pattern of Movement	Different types of movement of people and their expressions	Determine the movements of people, their manner of dress, pace, expression Whether it can be categorized as- 'moving through', 'moving to' and 'being in'
Pause points	Where people stop or take a break in their movement	Determine the physical description of the spaces where people pause
Dominant pattern of flow	Whether linear, spread-out.....	From all the observations, a flow should be established, and determine the reasons for such an observed flow

Source: Author

4. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

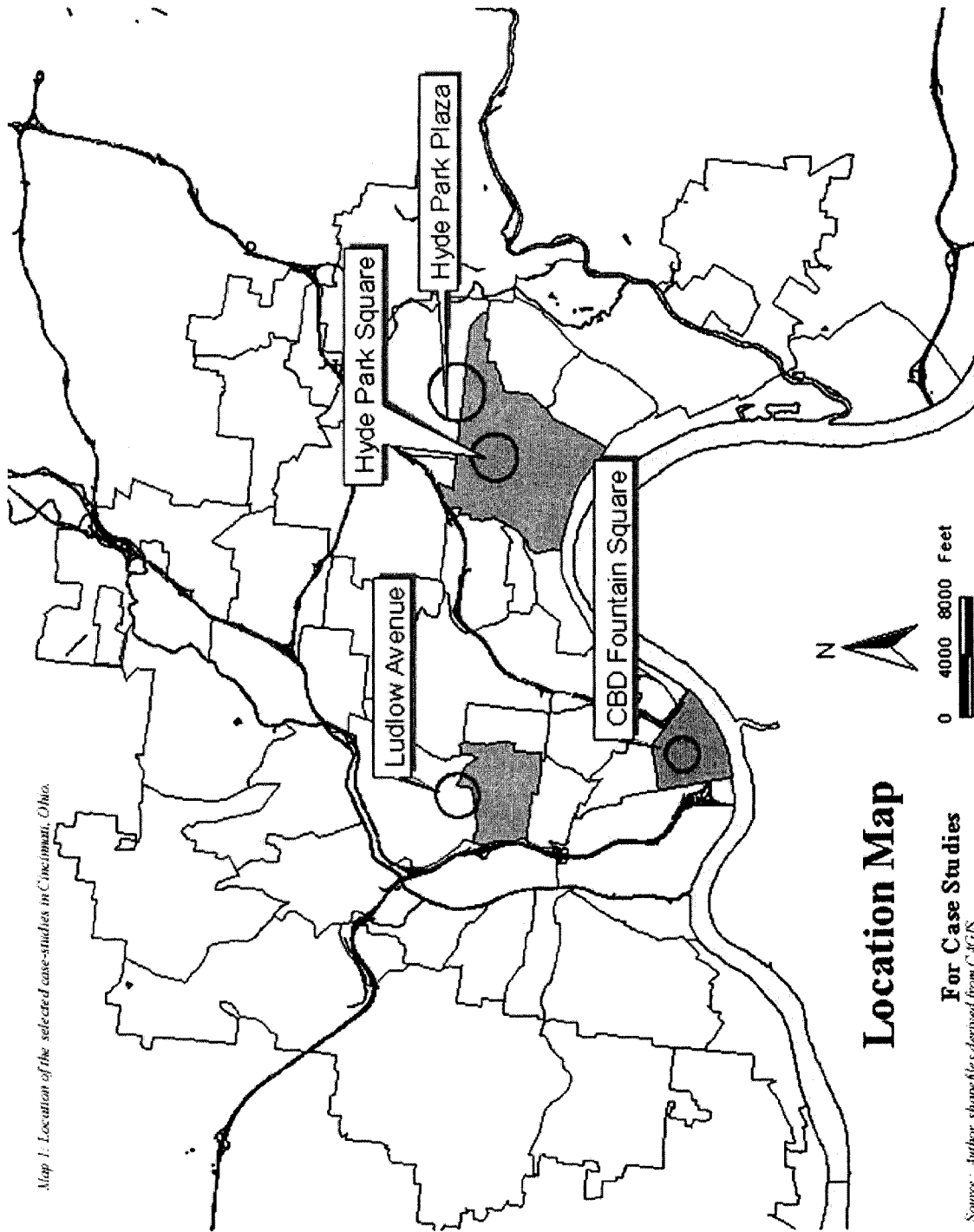
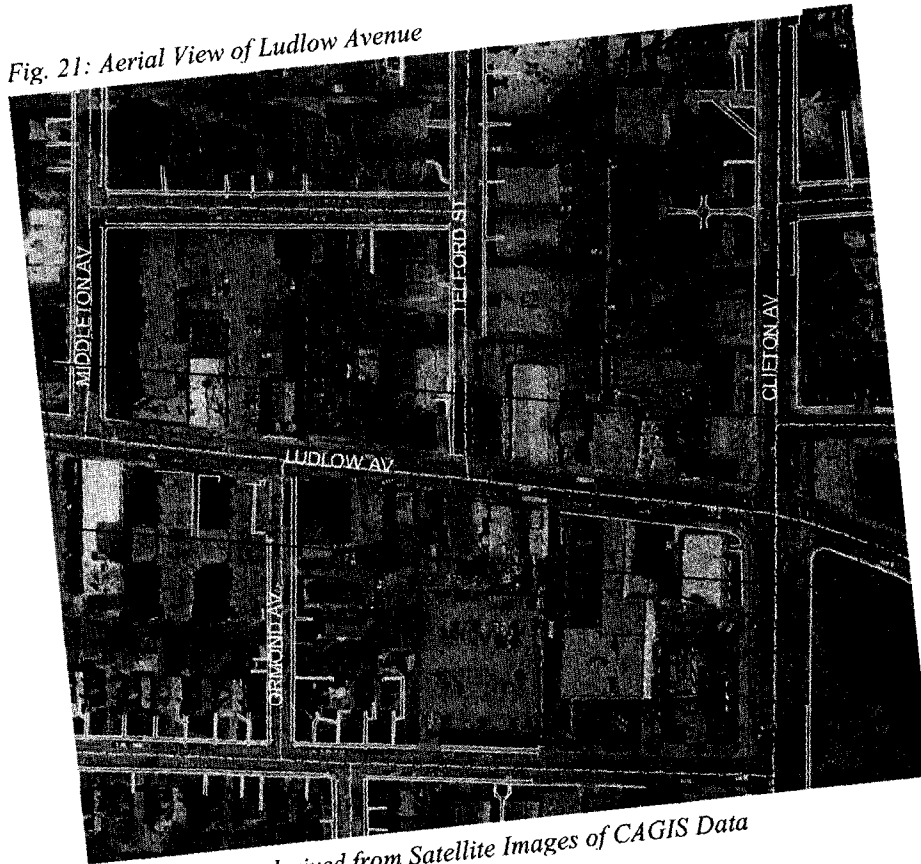


Fig. 21: Aerial View of Ludlow Avenue

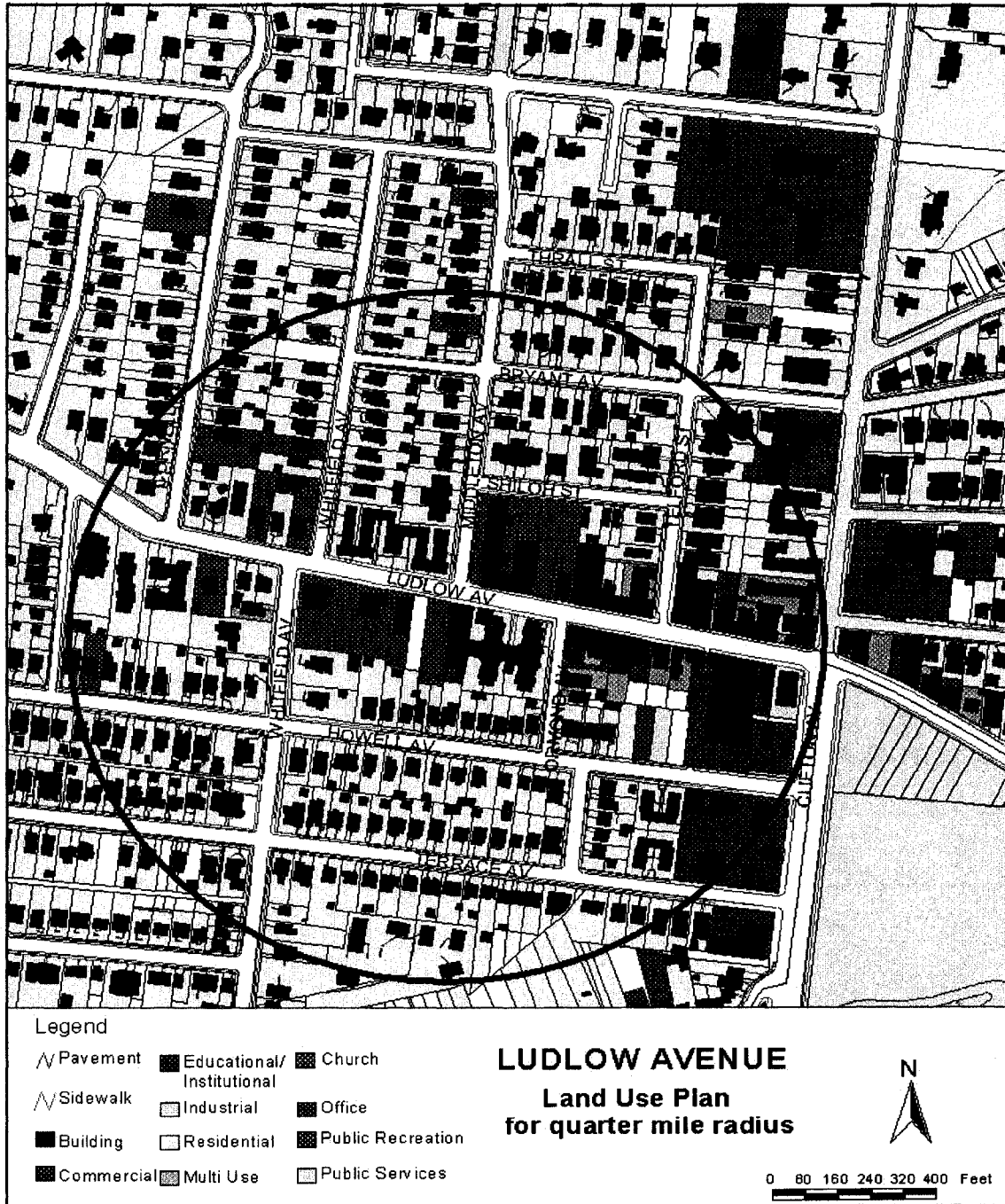


Source: Author, derived from Satellite Images of CAGIS Data

LUDLOW AVENUE

Ludlow Avenue is mainly a commercial area, and contains residential and mixed use areas in the immediate vicinity, with some public utility like the gas station. It also has public recreation areas like Burnett Woods nearby.

Map 2: Land Use Plan for Ludlow Avenue



Source: Author, derived from CAGIS data.

4.1.2 Field Notes

Ludlow Street Study- Trip 2

It was in the afternoon of Saturday Feb 9th, from 1:00 to 2:00 that I went to Ludlow Street for the observational study. It was a bright sunny day and lots of people were outdoors. I had taken another friend along with me for company. The walk from Clifton to Ludlow Ave was wonderful, as it was very rare to have such good weather day during the winter. As soon as we reached Ludlow, it was a different scene altogether.... lot of people walking on sidewalks.

We walked the whole street once and then decided on my three positions.

First Sector: I took position at the junction of Ormond and Ludlow, and on the side of Public Library. Since it was lunch time, there were lots of people coming there to eating places like Ambar, Amol and, Habanero restaurants. There were also neighborhood people going into and out of the Public Library. The postman was also delivering mail at that time.

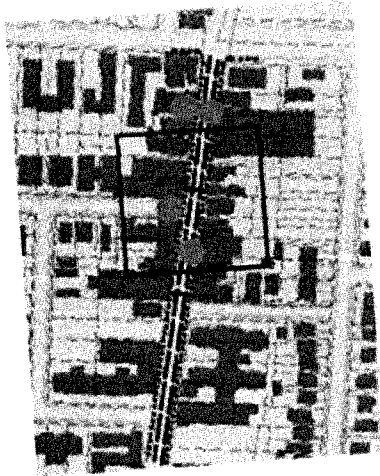
Second Sector: I took position on the same side of street but in the direction of Clifton, and opposite to Graeters (well known ice-cream shop). There were few people coming out of Graeters with coffee or ice cream. Just outside that, the sidewalk is expanded and there is a tree bark used as a bulletin board to put on fliers. I saw two ladies come there and take note of something from the fliers. There were also four people standing on that side, trying to repair a motor bike. Few people were smoking at the sidewalk at any non-specific positions. Also there were quite a lot of people waiting outside the Esquire Theater, probably that was the time for a movie show. Some people were seen walking out of IGA with grocery bags towards their homes in that neighborhood.

Third Sector: Now we moved to a position closer to the crossroad of Clifton and Ludlow, near the bus-stop there. Here I saw more people grocery shopping or strolling or just sitting outside on benches provided. There was an old man sitting at a bench much behind the bus –stop, watching movement of people and vehicles, I guess. He was sitting there for approximately 15 minutes. There were few boys bicycling, they even waited and had a friendly talk with that old man.

Ludlow Street Study- Trip 1

Trip 1 was conducted on a Tuesday February 5, 2002 from 6:00 to 7:00pm. I had taken the same positions for observations and covered the same sectors like in the second trip. It was cold on that day so people did not want to wait outside; they were hurriedly going to their destinations.

Map # Observations at Ludlow Avenue, Trip 1, Sector 2.



KEY PLAN

- LEGEND**
- High activity zone
 - Landmark
 - Vehicular movement
 - Pedestrian movement

LUDLOW AVENUE

NOTES:

The observations were done on 5th Feb '02.
 Tuesday from 6:25 pm. to 6:40 pm.
 It was quite cold.

Source: Author



Map 5: Observations at Ludlow Avenue, Trip 1, Sector 3



KEY PLAN

- LEGEND**
- High activity zone
 - Landmark
 - Vehicular movement
 - Pedestrian movement

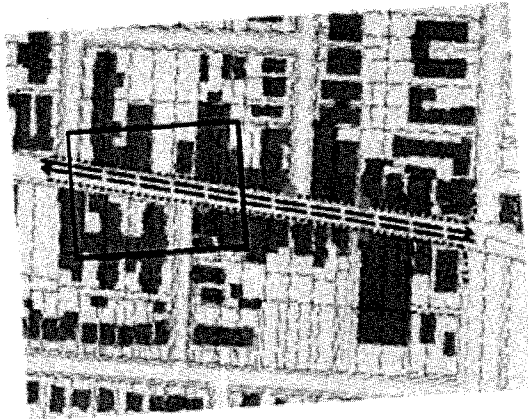
LUDLOW AVENUE

NOTES:

The observations were done on 5th Feb '02, Tuesday from 6:45 pm. to 6:55 pm. It was quite cold.

Source: Author

Map 6: Observations at Ludlow Avenue, Trip 2, Sector 1



KEY PLAN

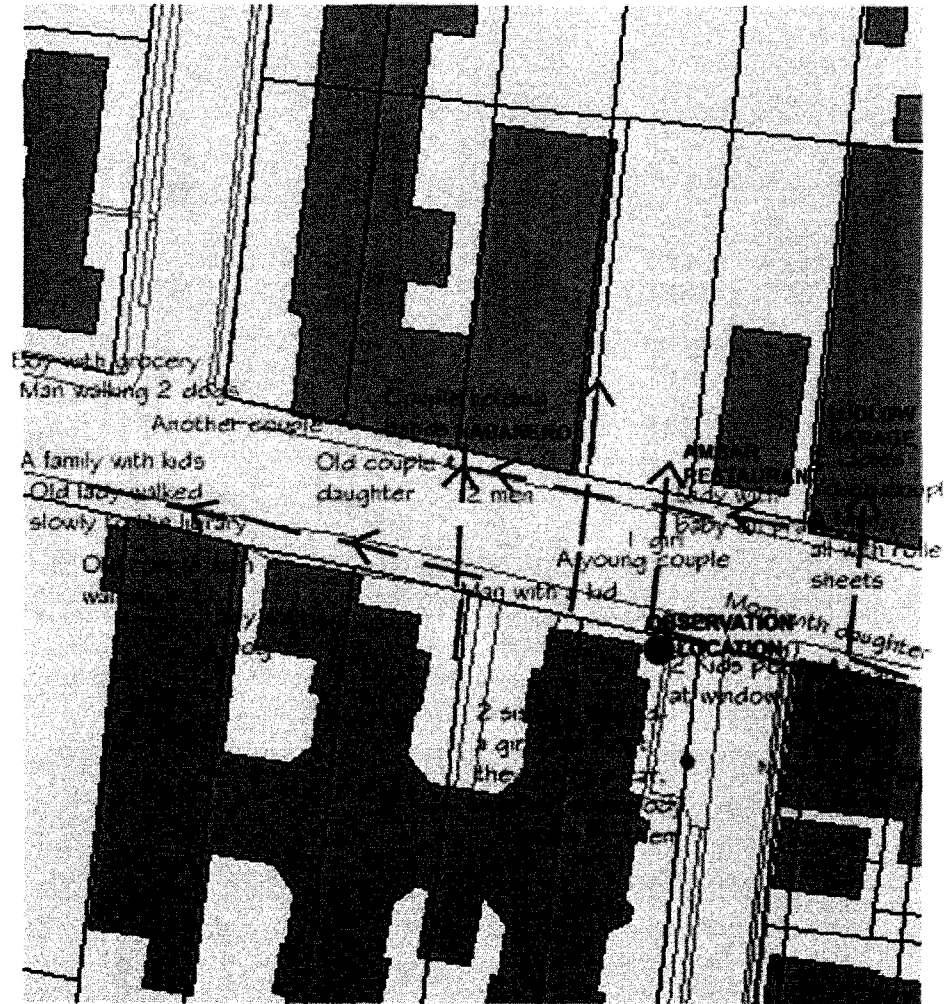
LEGEND

- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- ... Pedestrian movement

LUDLOW AVENUE

NOTES:

The observations were taken on 9th Feb, '02 saturday, from 1:00 to 1:20 pm. It was a good sunny weather.



LUDLOW STREET







Table 3 - Synthesized data from observation of activities in Ludlow Street

Activity	Frequency of the activity Trip 2 on Saturday, 9 th Feb, 1:00 to 2:00 pm. (good sunny weather)		Frequency of the activity Trip 1 on Tuesday, 5 th Feb, 6:00 to 7:00 pm. (quite cold weather)	
	Sidewalk 1	Sidewalk 2	Sidewalk 1	Sidewalk 2
Jogging/ skating/ bicycling	1	8	3	2
Walking dog/ baby	5	5	2	2
Strolling	4	5	-	1 couple
Window Shopping/ Book shop	2	8	1	1 couple
Cycling	4	-	-	5
Going to restaurant/ cafe	2 couples + 1+ 3 + 3 + family	-	3 couples + 13	-
Going to library	-	5	-	4
Eating (sitting on benches outside)	3	-	-	-
Group chatting	6	2	1	-
Looking at art exhibition on outside	2	-	-	-
Sitting on bench to rest	3	7	-	1
Using Public Phone	1	-	-	-
Theater	9	-	-	-
Just passing through	38	50	25	58
Moving from /towards car	-	1	3	4
Selling newspaper	-	-	-	1

Source: Author

4.1.5 Pattern Table

Table 4: Establishment of Patterns of events and spaces in Ludlow Avenue

PATTERN OF EVENTS		PATTERN OF SPACES	
Category	Description	Category & Description	Understanding
Physical fitness 	Jogging/ walking dog/ cycling	Sidewalks 	<p>Safe and protected, because people are there.</p> <p>Many people jog on that sidewalk, as there are not a lot of obstructions like benches. The glass shop fronts creates interest to look at while you are walking, The scale of the street and 3 storey building ht. surrounding it, all create a sense of enclosure.</p> <p>Shops like Graeters (ice cream shop) have full glass fronts, so people who are inside also can take advantage of their being in a good street life without getting into public.</p>
Fun 	Strolling/ window shopping	pedestrian friendly, safe, shop fronts(enclaves)- has shady awnings in front of shops, has benches at bus stops and in front of very few shops, where people can sit for a while to rest.	
Move through to reach a destination 	Going to eat/ library/ book shop	At crossings, outside theater, in public library, outside IGA (grocery store) 	
Socializing 	Group chatting	Where people wait to cross	

Source: Author

4.1.6 Issues and Reflections

Table 5: Ludlow Reflections

ISSUES	REFLECTION
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with all age groups and races are seen here. They move in groups and alone. They move as a couple, family, walk with dogs, in groups of friends or family. Many are seen with kids. • Physically it is again accessible to all, it has an open sidewalk system.
Pull/ Push effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop fronts and theater attracts the user to a destination and makes the place more lively and interesting on the street front. These places act as pull points on the street. • There are a lot of offices around, hence there is a lot of office-going crowd coming here for lunch or a break for casual talks. • The variety of destinations for eating (different types of cuisine), entertainment (theater), hobbies (books, videos at public library) act as holding factor and major pull factor to the people.
Pattern of movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Passing through</u> – This street often serves as “moving through” space because of its linearity and open end on both sides. They are no large open spaces that hold a passer by for a long time. There are destinations and points of pause but no holding place. Most of the activities occurring here come under passing through category e.g. jogging, skating, walking dog / baby, strolling, cycling, etc. • <u>Pause points</u> – The shop fronts with displays, bus stops, few benches on the street, pedestrian crossings, theater front forms the point of pause. At crossings, benches and bus stops serve as areas of pause. At these points, people while they are waiting even tend to talk. • <u>Destinations</u> – Eating places (different cuisines), theater, art shops, book stores, grocery stores, coffee house, public library etc. are quite distinct and attractive. They attract a user from one point destination to another.
Dominant pattern of flow	Linear pattern

Source: Author

Fig. 22: Aerial View of Hyde Park Square



Source: Author, derived from Satellite Images of CAGIS Data

HYDE PARK SQUARE

Hyde Park Square is mainly a commercial and office area, and contains residential and institutional areas in the immediate vicinity.

Map 9: Land Use Plan for Hyde Park Square



Source: Author, derived from CAGIS data.

4.2.2 Field Notes

Hyde Park Square Study – Trip 1

It was on the afternoon of Saturday 27th Jan (supposed to be cold winters), it was unusually sunny and there was good weather with a temperature of around 54° F, that I made my trip to Hyde Park Square with my friend.

We started walking from Hyde Park Center at 1:30 pm. And reached the square at 1:42 pm. In the last block away from the square, I saw many more people walking too. For 2-3 minutes I just looked around and found the place full of life... people engaged in different kinds of activities. I decided on the three positions for viewing to capture all activity zones.

First Sector: I stood at a point from where I could view the perpendicular streets to the square, and their sidewalks. I saw people crossing the streets, coming across acquaintances or friends, waiting at junctions and talking. There was a lady at the traffic island selling newspapers, probably that was a very strategic location for her since people crossing the streets as well as cars that stopped at the light peeped out of their windows and bought a newspaper. Meanwhile, my friend took pictures of the activities.

Second Sector: We crossed the street and walked to the park. The park was at a higher level than the street. For 20 minutes, I noted the activities taking place on one side of the park including the street and the sidewalk. People parked their cars, walked on the sidewalk looking at displayed items at shop fronts, discussing them or window-shopping. Some neighborhood people were jogging or walking their dogs. There was one art exhibition too. Not many eating places were seen on that side.

Third Sector: At the same time my friend was facing the opposite street and was taking a

note of the activities on that side. This sidewalk contained a variety of shops and eating places and hence more people. People were engaged in various activities either alone or in a group. There was Graeters, which attracted a lot of people. People of every age group, as couples, families or singles were seen during this weekend. It was observed that some people took a break in their trip in car and bought an ice cream or coffee from Graeters and relaxed in the park.

Hyde Park Square Study –Trip 2

Trip 2 was conducted on Monday February 12, 2002 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. I had taken the same positions for observations and covered the same sectors like in the first trip.



KEY PLAN

- LEGEND**
- High activity zone
 - Landmark
 - Vehicular movement
 - ⋯ Pedestrian movement

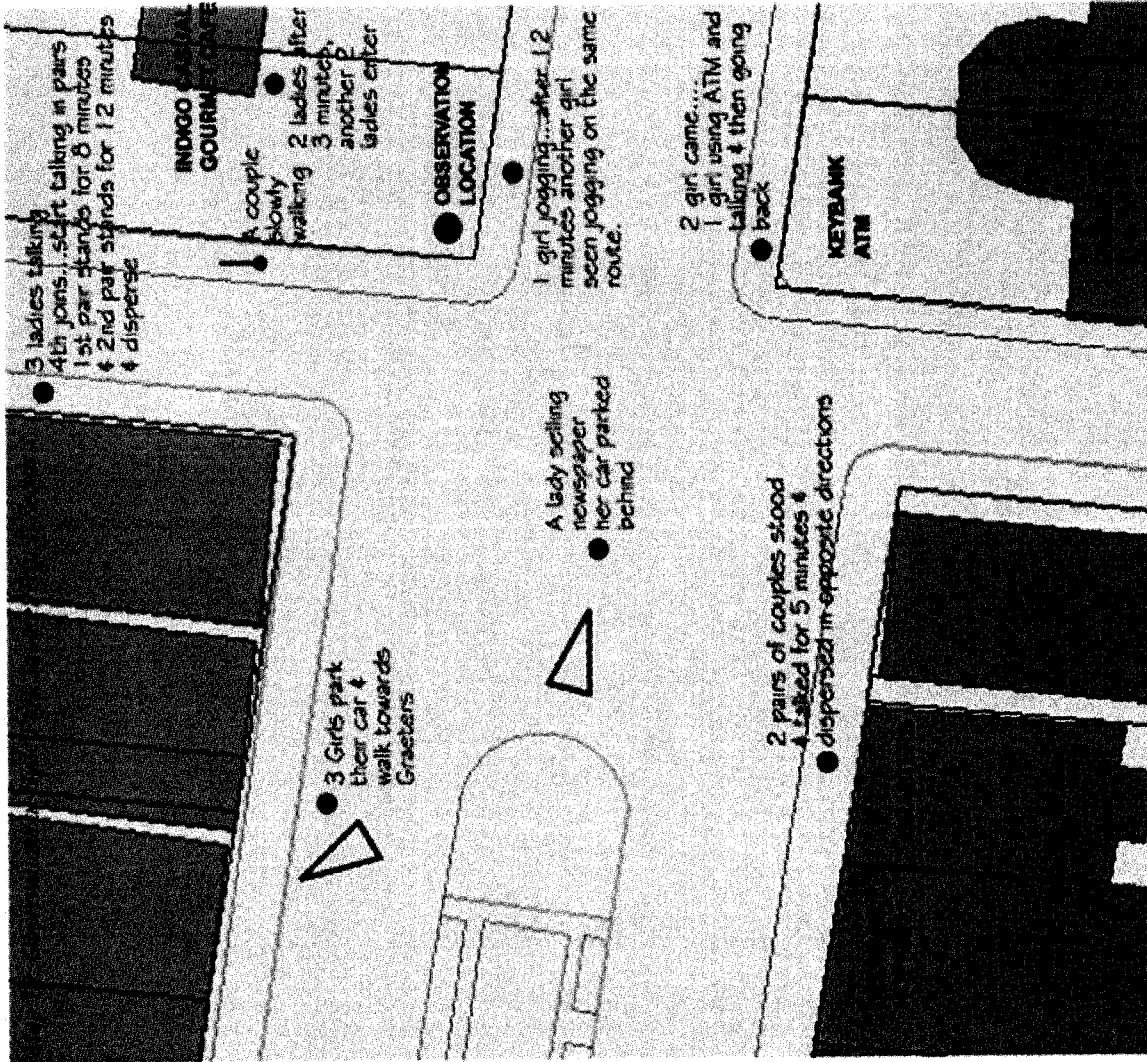
HYDE PARK SQUARE

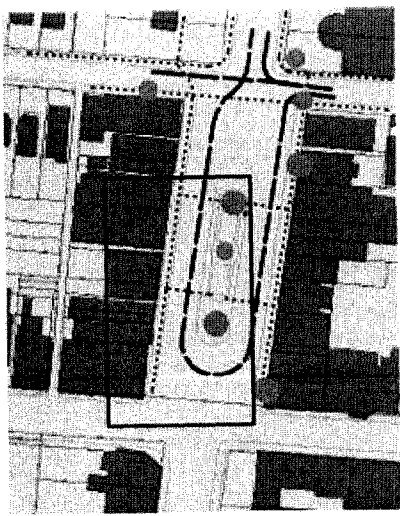
NOTES:

The observations were done on 27th Jan '02
 Sunday from 1:45 pm to 2:05 pm.

The weather was very sunny with clear sky
 and temperature around 65 deg F.

Source: Author





KEY PLAN

- LEGEND**
- High activity zone
 - Landmark
 - Vehicular movement
 - Pedestrian movement

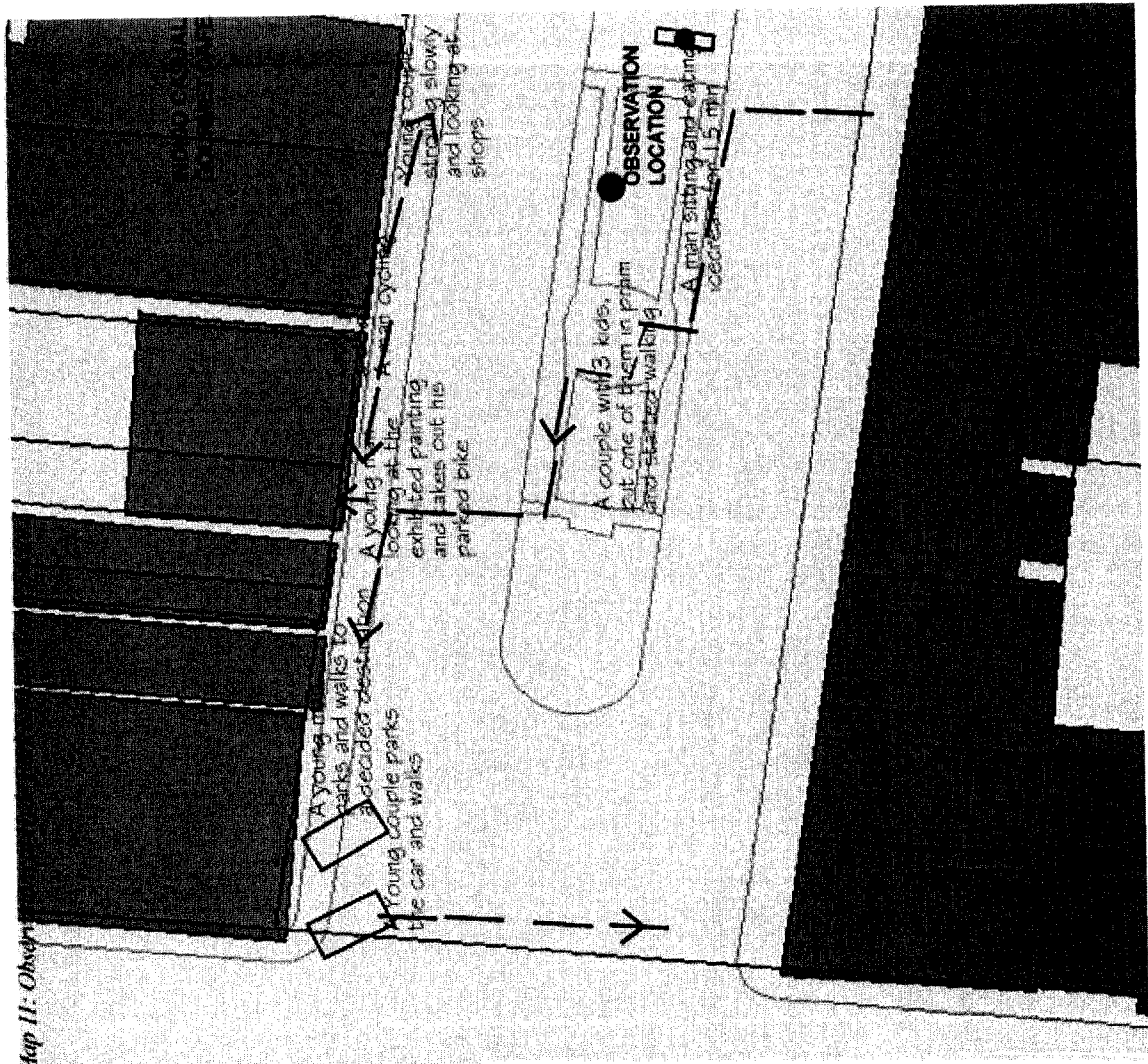
HYDE PARK SQUARE

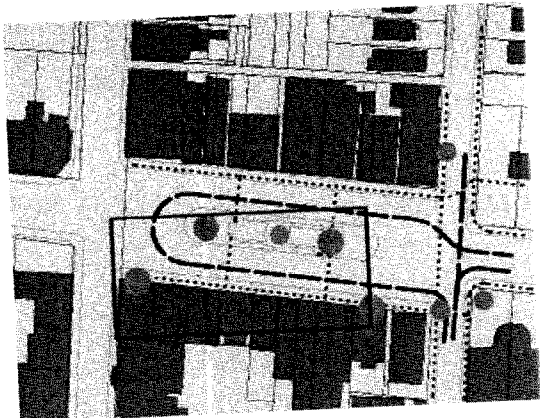
NOTES:

The observations were done on 27th Jan'02
 Sunday from 2:15 pm to 2:35 pm.
 The weather was very sunny with clear sky
 and temperature around 65 deg F.

Source: Author

Map 11: Observations





KEY PLAN

LEGEND

- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- Pedestrian movement

HYDE PARK SQUARE

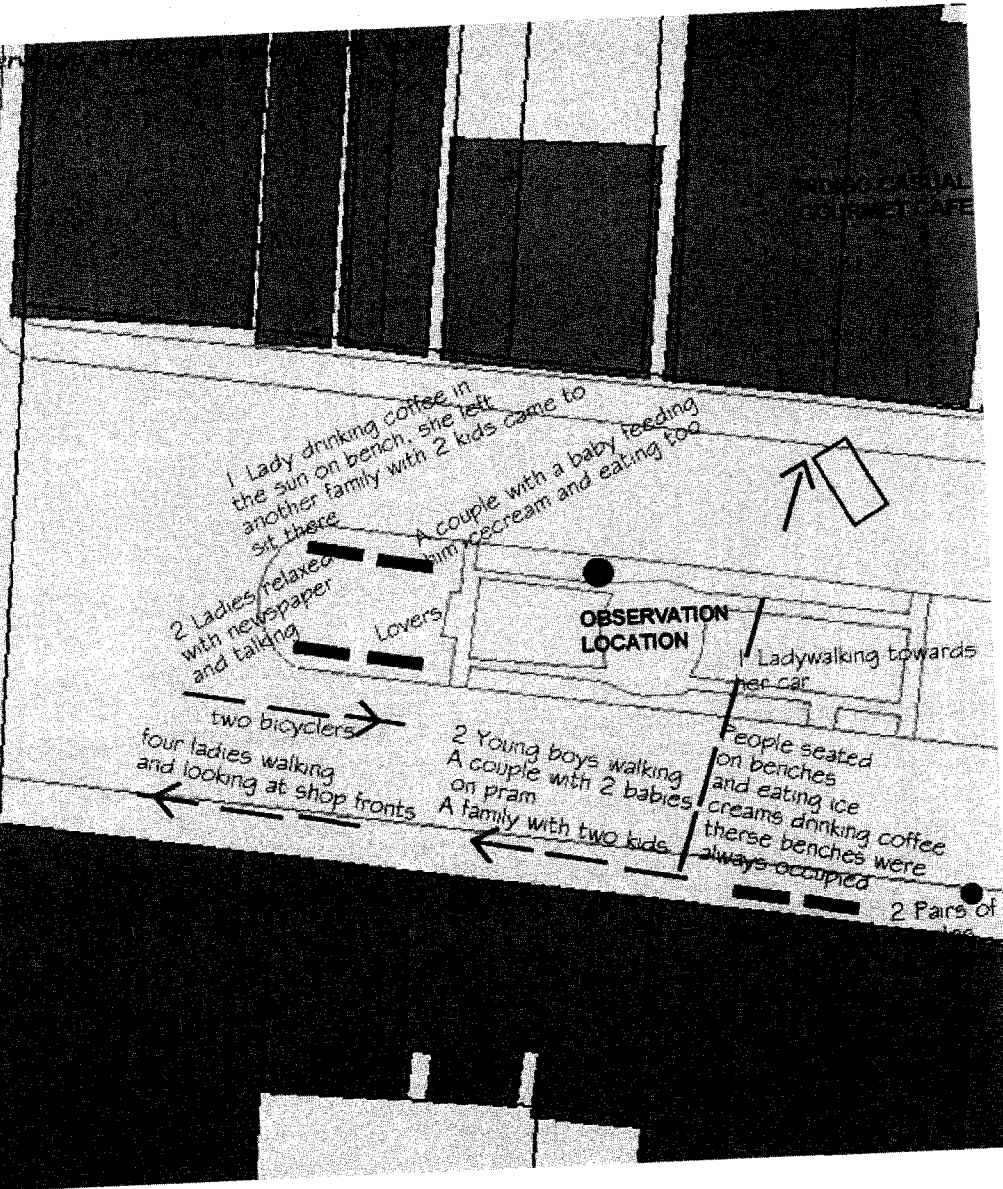
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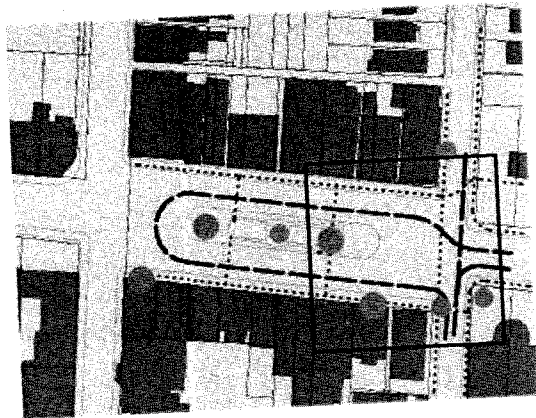
The observations were done on 27th Jan'02
 sunday from 2:40 pm to 2:55 pm.

The weather was very sunny with clear sky
 and temperature around 65 deg F.

Source: Author

Map12: Observ





KEY PLAN

LEGEND

- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- Pedestrian movement

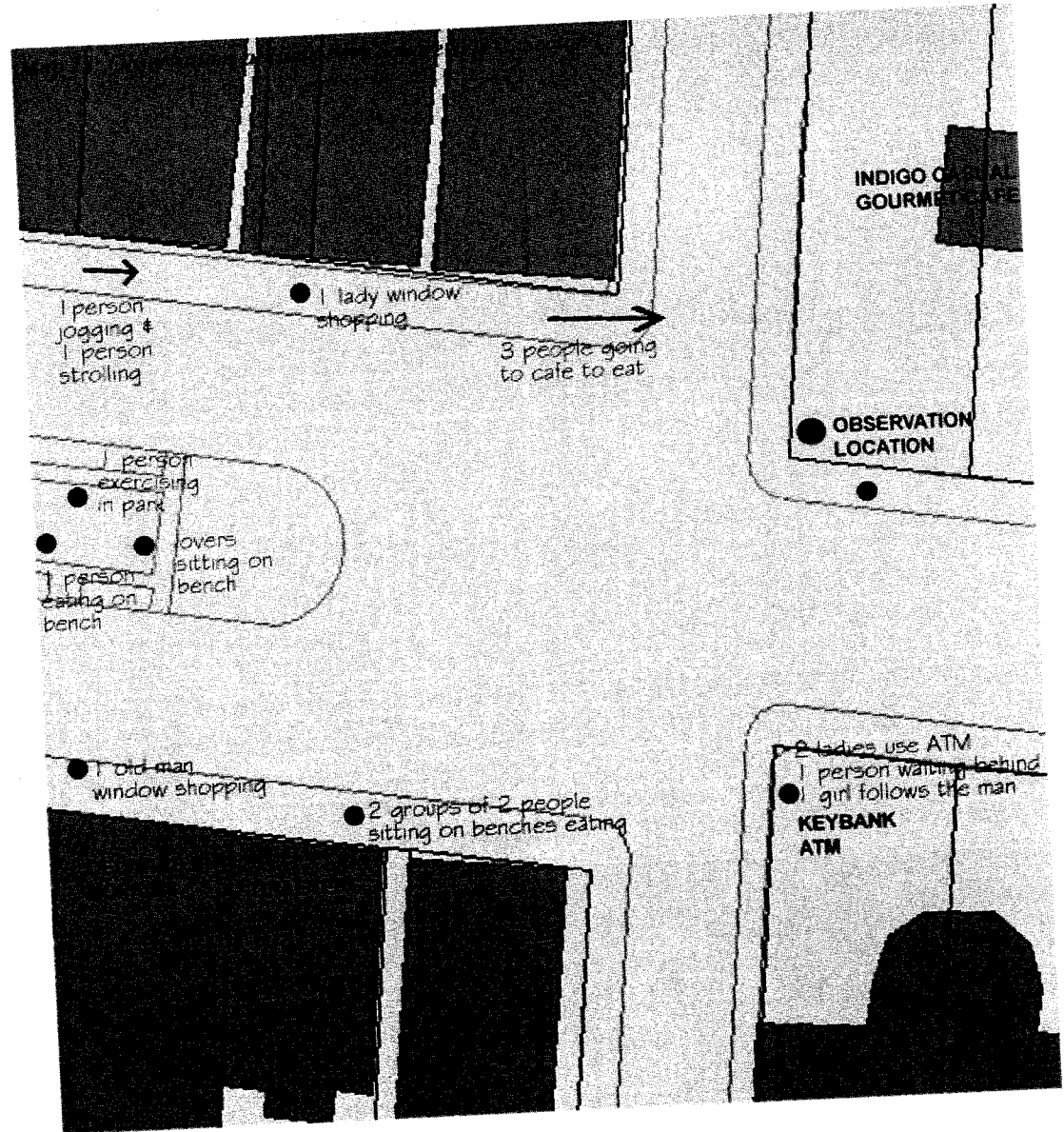
HYDE PARK SQUARE

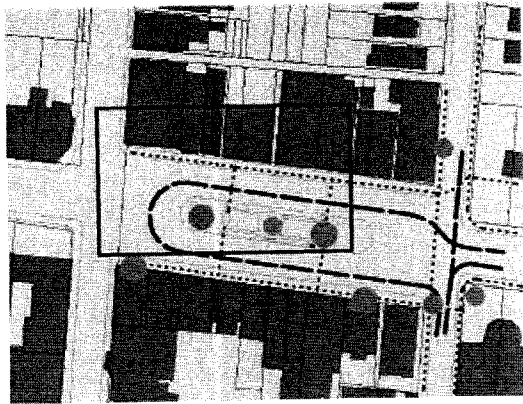
NOTES:

The observations were done on Monday 12th Feb '02, 12:30 pm to 12.50 pm.

The weather was not very cold, partially clouded.

Source: Author





KEY PLAN

LEGEND

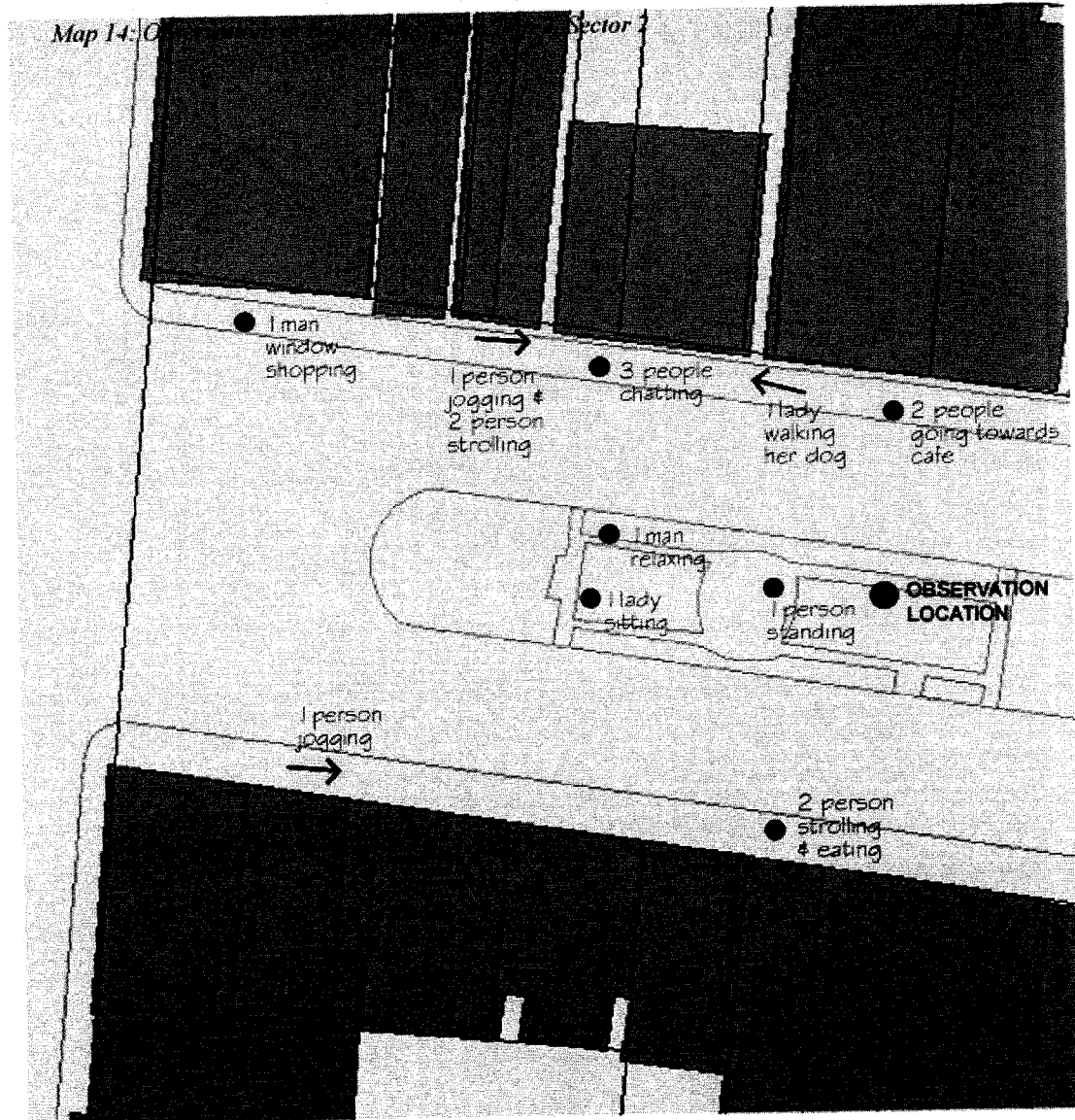
- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- Pedestrian movement

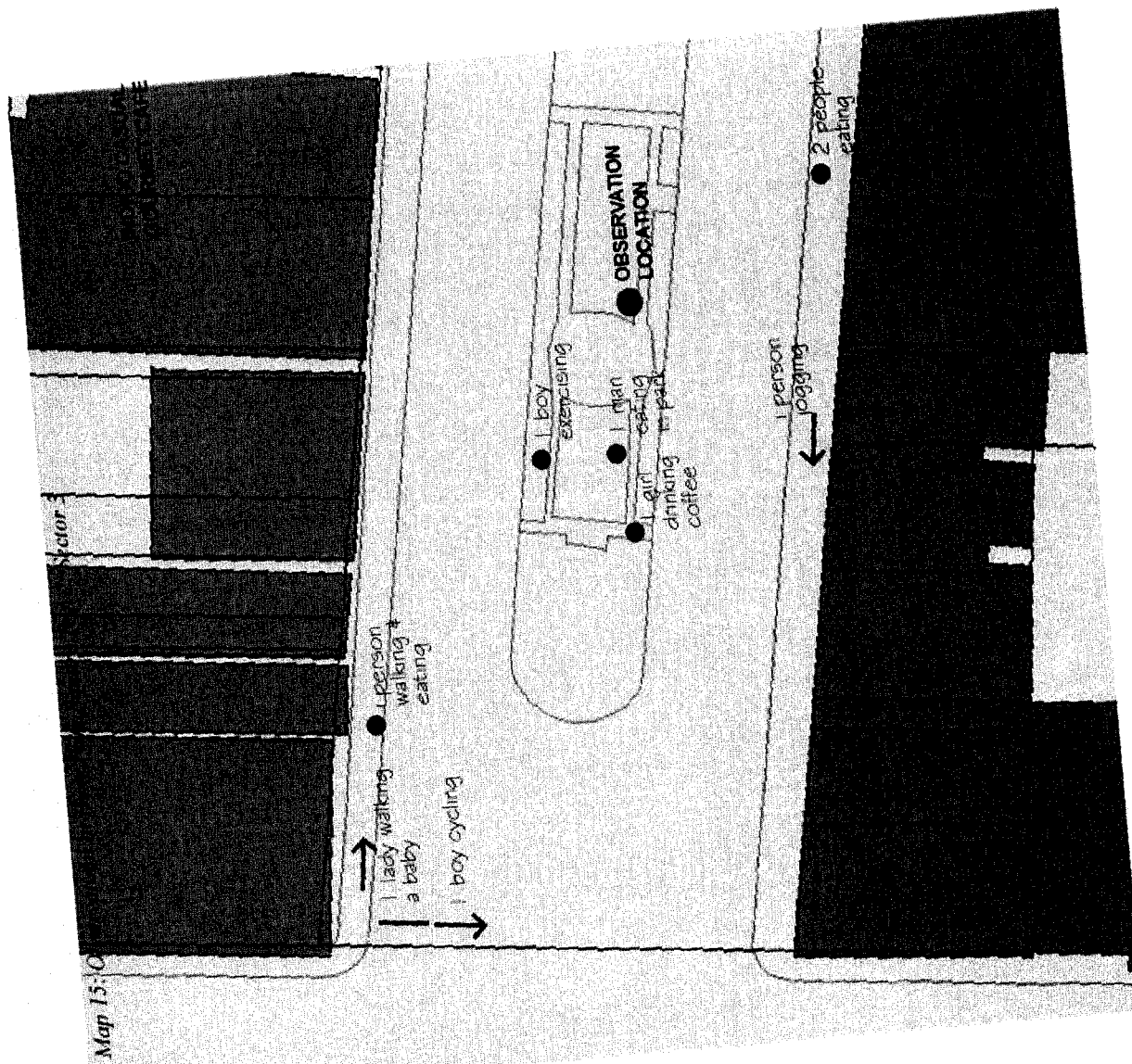
HYDE PARK SQUARE

NOTES:

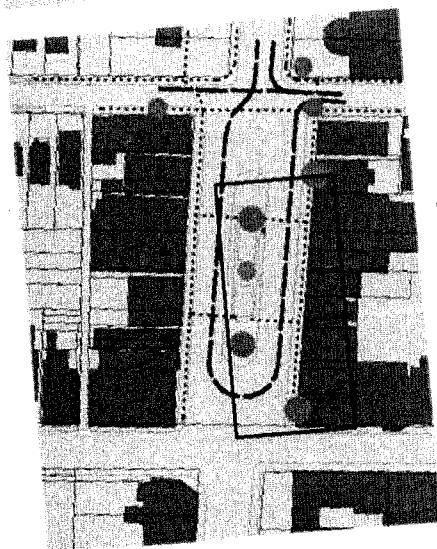
The observations were done on Monday
 12th Feb '02, 12:50 pm to 1.10 pm.
 The weather was not very cold, partially
 clouded.

Source: Author





Map 15:0



KEY PLAN

LEGEND

- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- Pedestrian movement

HYDE PARK SQUARE

NOTES:

The observations were done on Monday 12th Feb '02, 1:10 pm to 1:30 pm. The weather was not very cold, partially clouded.

Source: Author

HYDE PARK SQUARE







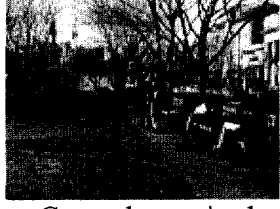
Table 6: Synthesized data from observation of activities in Hyde Park Square.

Activity	Frequency of the activity Trip 1 on Sunday, 27 th Jan, 2:00 to 3:00 pm. (Sunny & good weather)			Frequency of the activity Trip 2 on a Monday, 12 th Feb, 12:30 to 1:30pm. (not very cold, partially clouded)		
	Sidewalk 1	Park	Sidewalk 2	Sidewalk 1	Park	Sidewalk 2
Jogging	4	-	1	2	-	1
Walking dog/ baby Strolling	3 1 family & 1 single	-	1 family 2	2 1 couple & 2 single	-	- 1
Window Shopping	1 couple	-	4	2 single	-	2
Cycling	1	1 kid	-	1	-	-
Going to eating / cafe	4	-	4	6	-	-
Eating (sitting on benches outside)	-	2 single & 2 family	Continuously occupied – at one time 10 could sit there- I counted 25 people in 15 min	-	3 single 1 family	8
Group chatting	4	-	2 couples (twice)	3	-	3
Looking at art exhibition on outside	1	-	-	-	-	-
Relaxation	-	4	-	-	2	-
Reading	-	2	-	-	-	-
Exercising	-	1	-	-	2	-
Lovers on bench	-	1 couple	-	-	2	-
ATM Banking	-	-	2	-	-	4

Source: Author

4.2.5 Pattern Table

Table 7: Establishment of Patterns of events and spaces in Hyde Park Square

PATTERN OF EVENTS		PATTERN OF SPACES	
Category	Description	Category & Description	Reflection
Physical fitness 	Jogging/Walking dog or baby/ Cycling	Sidewalks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safe and protected, because people are there. ▪ Not many people jog on that sidewalk where there are lots of benches occupied by people, who are eating, may be they cause obstruction in their speed. ▪ The glass shop fronts creates interest to look at while you are walking, also the park on the other side of the road which has a fountain too at the center. All create a sense of enclosure. ▪ The benches are placed just outside shops like Graeter's, where people go for coffee or ice creams (items for just relaxing and enjoying)- so when it's a sunny day, people would like to sun bask also while eating and watch other people and activities (all happening) – enjoy the street life. ▪ While sitting outside they still have the awnings on top, creating a sense of enclosure.
Fun 	Strolling /Window shopping		
Eating 	Sitting outside on benches to eat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ pedestrian friendly, safe, shop fronts (enclaves) ▪ shady awnings in front of shops, ▪ benches too where people can sit for a while and enjoy the street ambience. 	
Socializing 	Group chatting	At or near junctions of two adjacent sidewalks	
Relaxation 	Reading / Exercising/ romantic moments	Park Space 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green, less noisy has benches, trees and a fountain. ▪ shrubs on all sides 	

Source: Author

4.2.6 Issues and Reflections

Table 8: Hyde Park Square Reflections

ISSUES	REFLECTION
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technically the square has entrance from six streets and passes through the square. There is visual and physical connection between all these streets. The square is very pedestrian friendly, encouraging events related to walking, shopping, eating, etc. • About people, all different ages seen, but mainly white population. • The level difference of park from street physically separates the park, yet maintaining the visual link, which is inviting to people to pass through it.
Pull/ Push effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shops like Graeter's, food restaurants and retail shopping near offices and good ambience are the primary pullers of people. • Green island between streets breaks the monotony of street network grid and makes the space distinct or 'unique' from the other streets. • Width of streets and park is almost the same. This continuity retains the visual link between streetscapes on both sides of the square. • The overall scale of the square: 400' (one block length) and width less than half a block makes it possible for people to walk through the space and relate to it.
Pattern of movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Passing through</u> – The streets often serve as “moving through” spaces because of its linearity and open end on both sides. But they also serve as holding place, especially due to the park in the median. ▪ <u>Pause points</u> – Pedestrian Crossings – The network of pedestrian crossings provide multiple points of pause and a different view of the same space. At these points, people while they are waiting even tend to talk. Green Island – The central location gives people the opportunity to make a choice of the route they want to without stopping as the width of the park is 50' and cross to the other side. Graeter's ice cream shop – The benches on sidewalk in front of Graeters provide a stopping point to eat, stop by and watch the moving life. Street parking – Becomes a waiting point. It also acts as a buffer between sidewalk and vehicular traffic. The connectivity to green island reduces the speed of vehicular traffic. ▪ <u>Destinations</u> – There are a few destinations too, for example, it was noted that people come by car, stop by Graeters, buy ice cream and are back into their car.
Dominant pattern of flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network of pedestrian pathways encourage pedestrian activities. Eight crossings for two junctions show the dominance of pedestrian movement as compared to vehicular. • Combination of green space, vehicular and pedestrian access and retail shopping encourage people to gather in that space. This leads to mixed use of open space. • 'Passing through' is a dominant pattern, but at a slow speed due to more efficient sidewalk system. Comparative less provision of sit-outs/ stop points gives secondary importance to relaxation. But still it is an important pattern considering the location of the square i.e. in the street network.

Source: Author

Fig. 23: Aerial View of Hyde Park Plaza

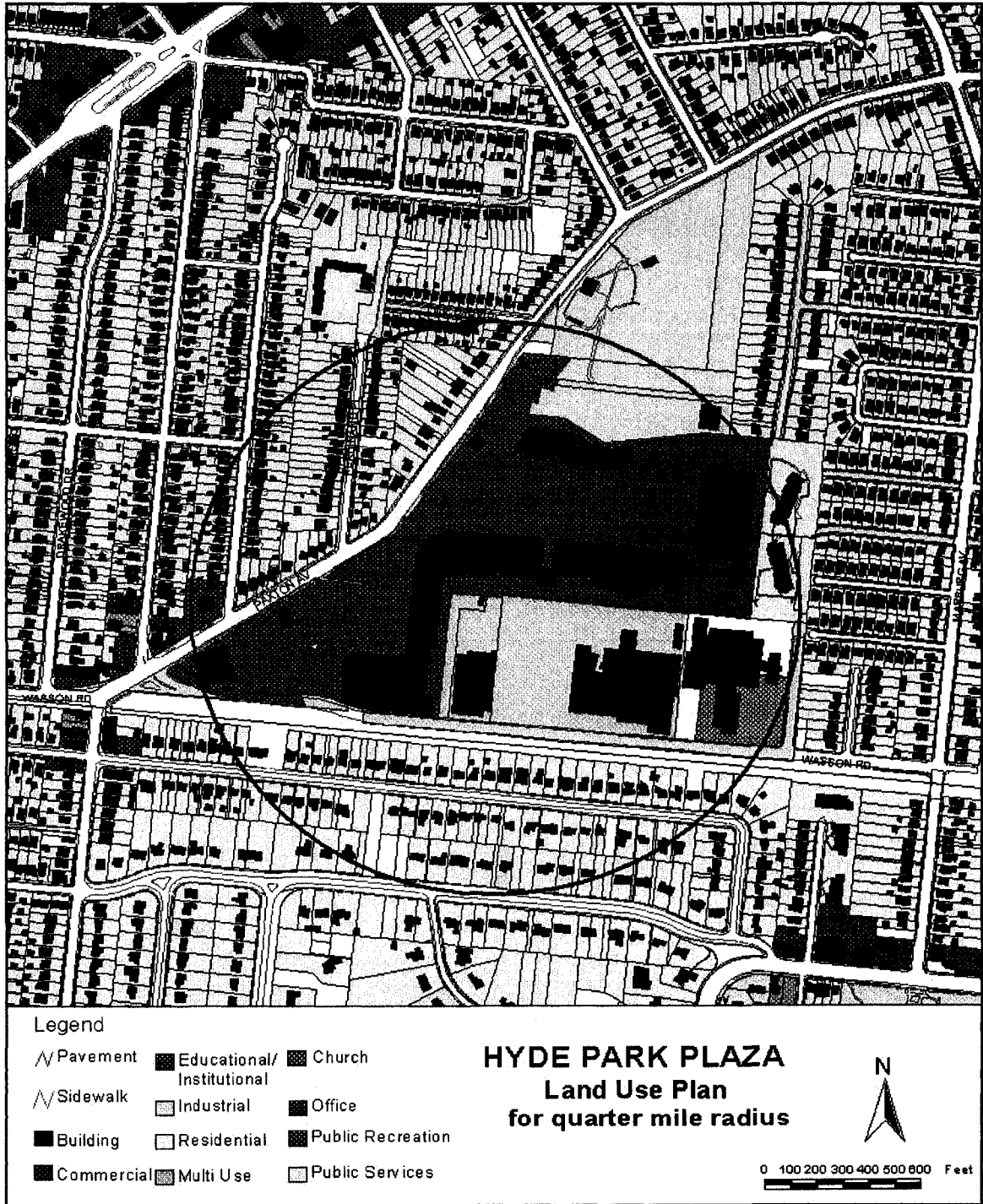


Source: Author, derived from Satellite Images of CAGIS Data

HYDE PARK PLAZA

Hyde Park Plaza is a commercial area. It contains residential and some light industrial areas in the immediate vicinity, with some public utility areas too.

Map 16: Land Use Plan for Hyde Park Plaza



Source: Author, derived from CAGIS data.

4.3.2 Field Notes

Hyde Park Plaza Study-Trip 1

This public space is known by many people, just like the other selected cases, but I did not find this pedestrian friendly like the others. There is a large parking lot in the middle; I thought it was perceived that people would be coming here only by their vehicle, though there is a bus-stop outside the plaza. I conducted this study with another friend in Planning on Saturday, March 23 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. It was not very cold and it was sunny. Here I needed her help to study the area in an hour, as this was a huge place to be covered by one person. Four sectors were chosen to cover the whole area. Each sector was observed for 20 minutes.

First Sector: My friend took the position at the parking lot, at such a distance from the arcade that a major portion of that side could be viewed. She was facing Breugger's Bagel Bakery. What she observed was that many people came there, but did not spend much time. They came there for some specific purpose; it was not a place for relaxing or enjoying the weather, it was more mall-type. The arcade was covered by a roof, yet was in the open and that was what made it different from the malls.

Second Sector: Simultaneously, I covered the other side of the parking lot facing McDonalds. People came to McDonalds in the same way, as they would have gone to any other McDonalds, there was nothing special about it. Parents came along with their children to shops like 'Play It Again' or 'PetsMart'. So in fact it was successful in attracting all age groups and people of all races.

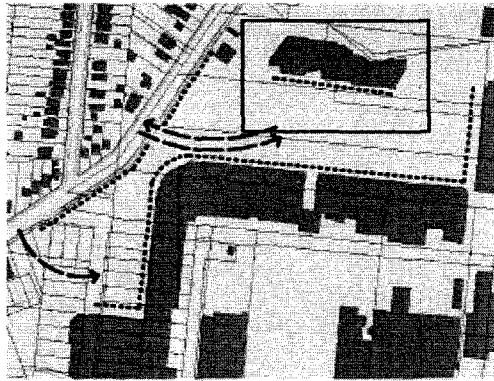
Third Sector: Next, my friend took position opposite 'Panera' bakery. She now observed many more people shopping, walking in the arcade looking out for the right shop for buying the pre-decided items. There were a lot of people who smelled the bakery and

went into Panera. There were some tables and chairs put around in the expanded corner, and some old people sat there to rest.

Fourth Sector: In those 20 minutes, I tried to cover the other area facing Starbucks and the pastry shop. There were a lot of people going to this area, either to Cooker, Starbucks or mainly the pastry shop. It seems to me that the pastry shop is well renowned and people from far come here for it. So it was for such shops and restaurants that people like to come here, even if they spend very little time.

Hyde Park Plaza Study-Trip 2

Trip 2 was conducted on Monday February 12, 2002 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. I had taken the same positions for observations and covered the same sectors like in the first trip.



KEY PLAN

LEGEND

- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- Pedestrian movement

HYDE PARK PLAZA

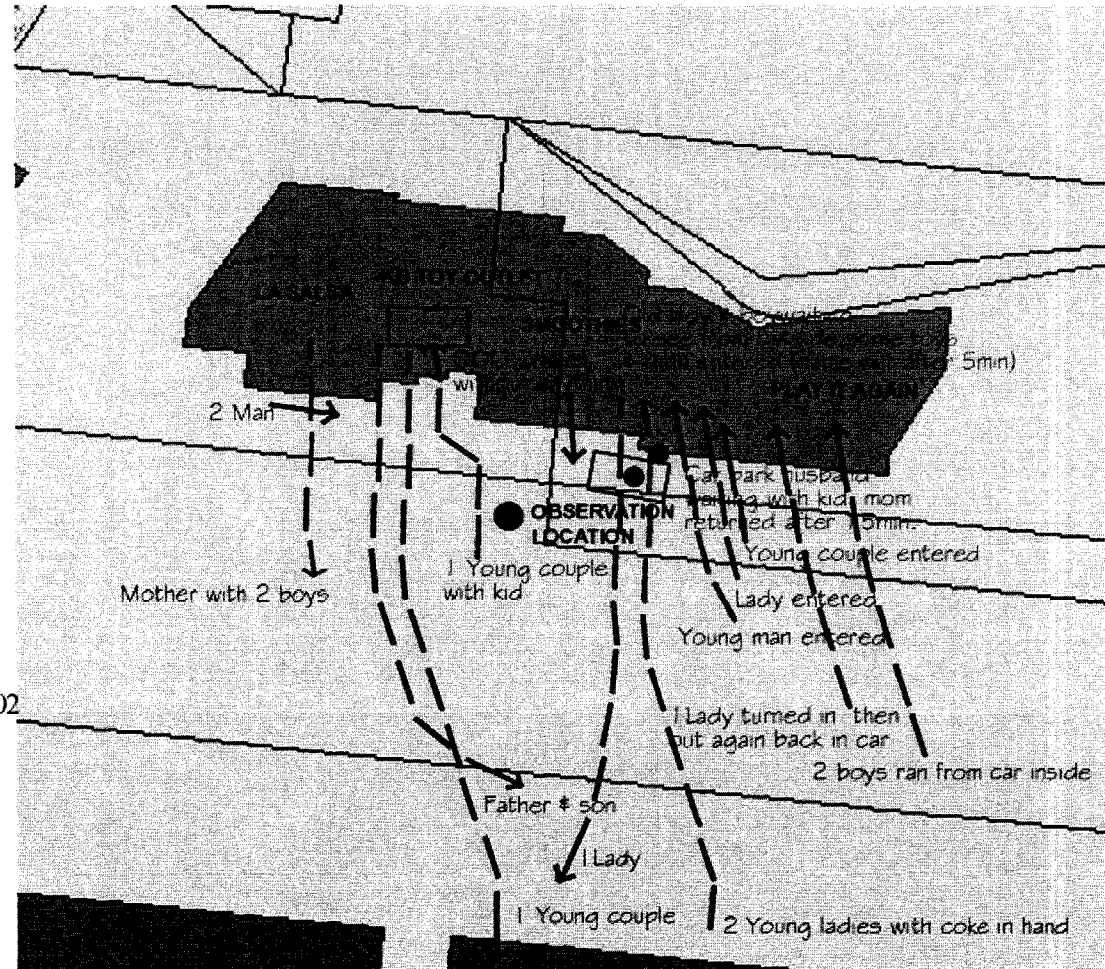
NOTES:

The observations were done on 23 rd Mar '02 (Saturday) 3:00 pm to 3:15 pm.

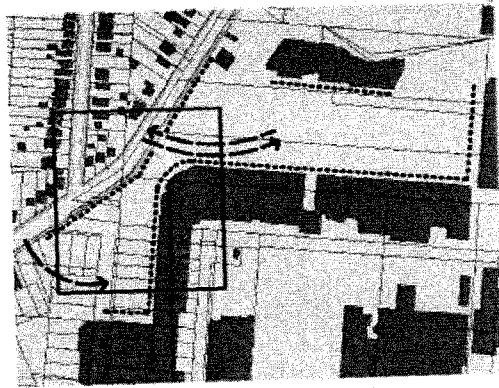
The weather was very sunny but cold wind was blowing.

Source: Author

Map 17: Observations at Hyde Park Plaza, Trip 1, Sector: 1.



Map 19: Observations at Hyde Park Plaza, Trip 1, Sector 3



KEY PLAN

LEGEND

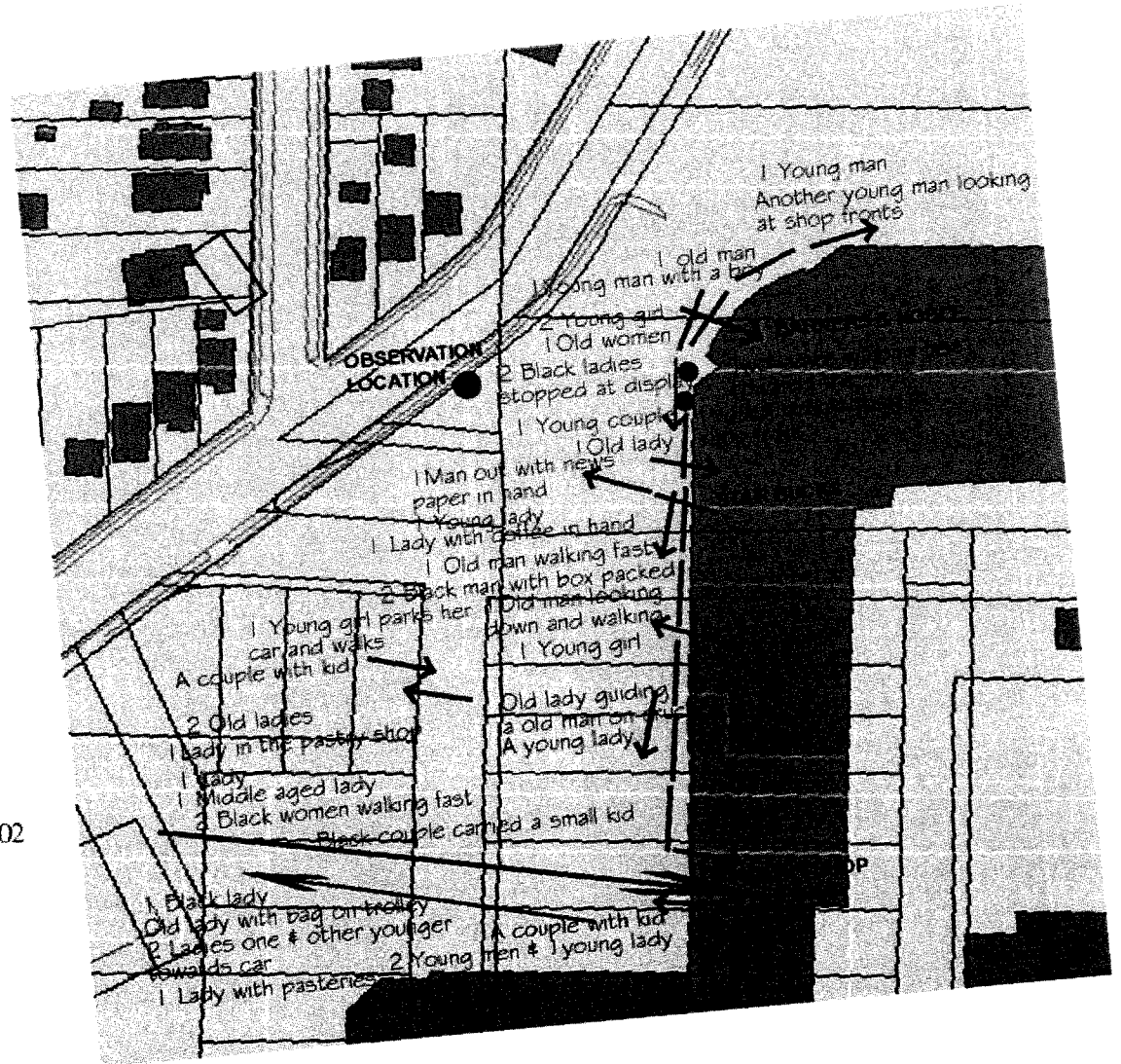
- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- Pedestrian movement

HYDE PARK PLAZA

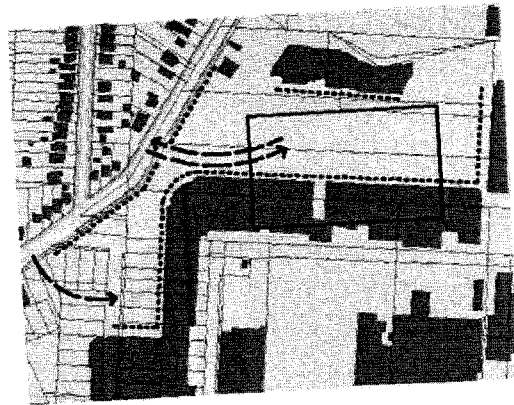
NOTES:

The observations were done on 23rd Mar'02
 (Saturday) 2:35 pm to 2:50 pm.
 The weather was quite sunny but
 cold wind was blowing.

Source: Author



Map 20: Observations at Hyde Park Plaza, Trip 2, Sector 1



KEY PLAN

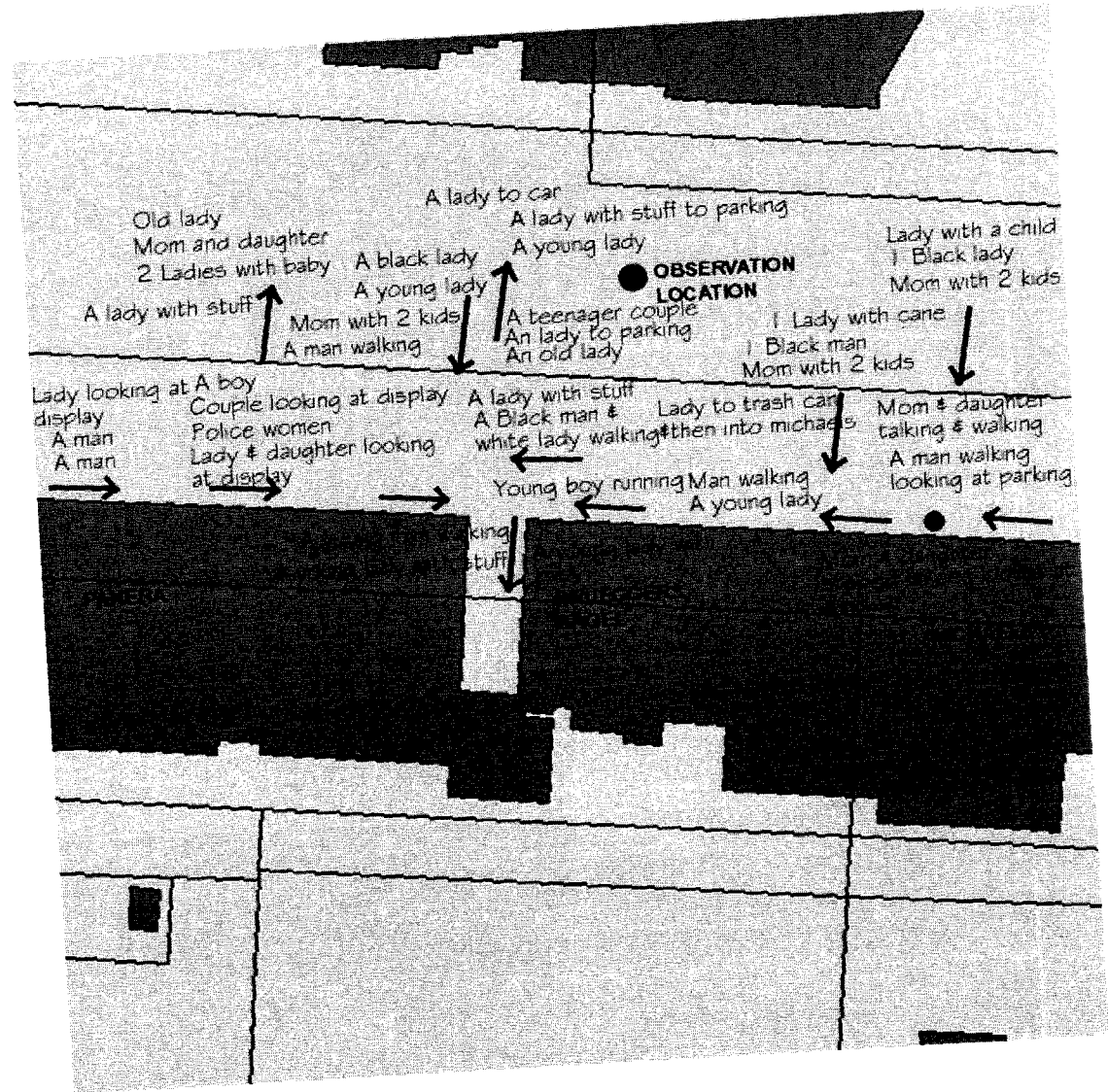
LEGEND

- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- Pedestrian movement

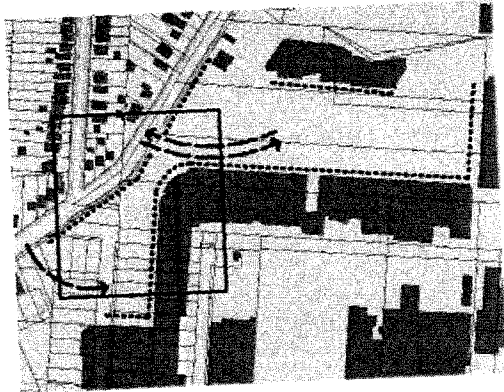
HYDE PARK PLAZA

NOTES:

The observations were done on 26th Mar '02,
 Tuesday, 12:30 pm to 12:50 pm.
 The weather quite cold.



Source: Author



KEY PLAN

LEGEND

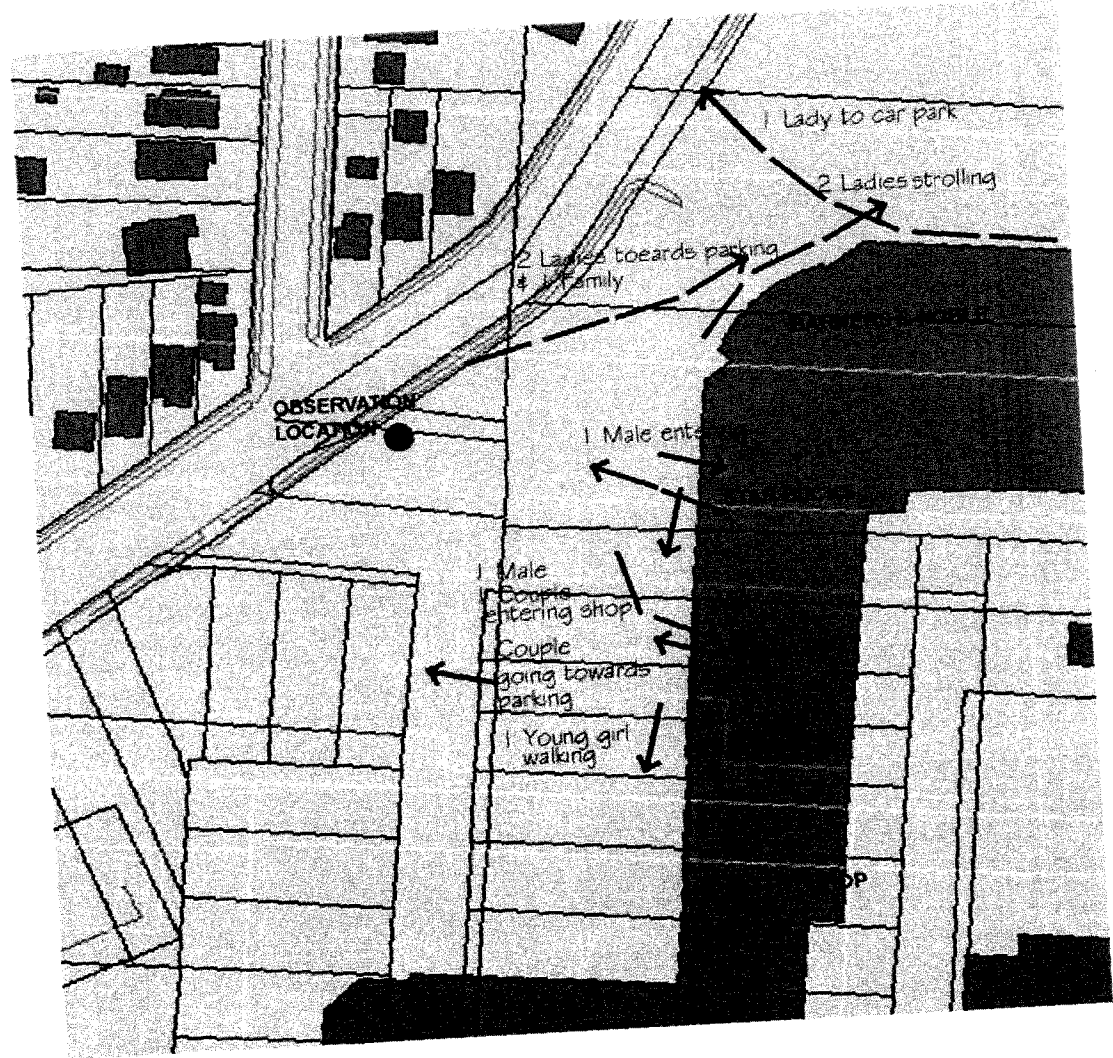
- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- Pedestrian movement

HYDE PARK PLAZA

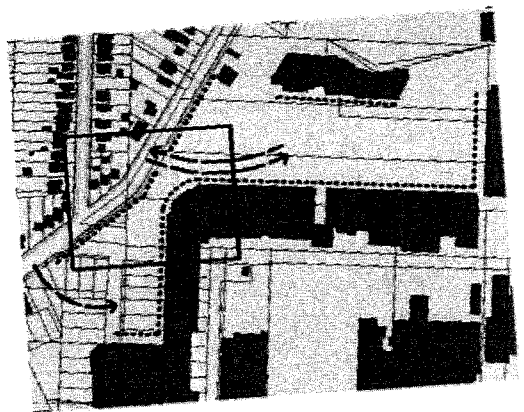
NOTES:

The observations were done on 23rd Mar'02
 (Wednesday) 1:20 pm to 1:40 pm.
 The weather was quite cold.

Map 21: Observations at Hyde Park Plaza, Trip 2, Sector 2



Source: Author



KEY PLAN

LEGEND

- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- Pedestrian movement

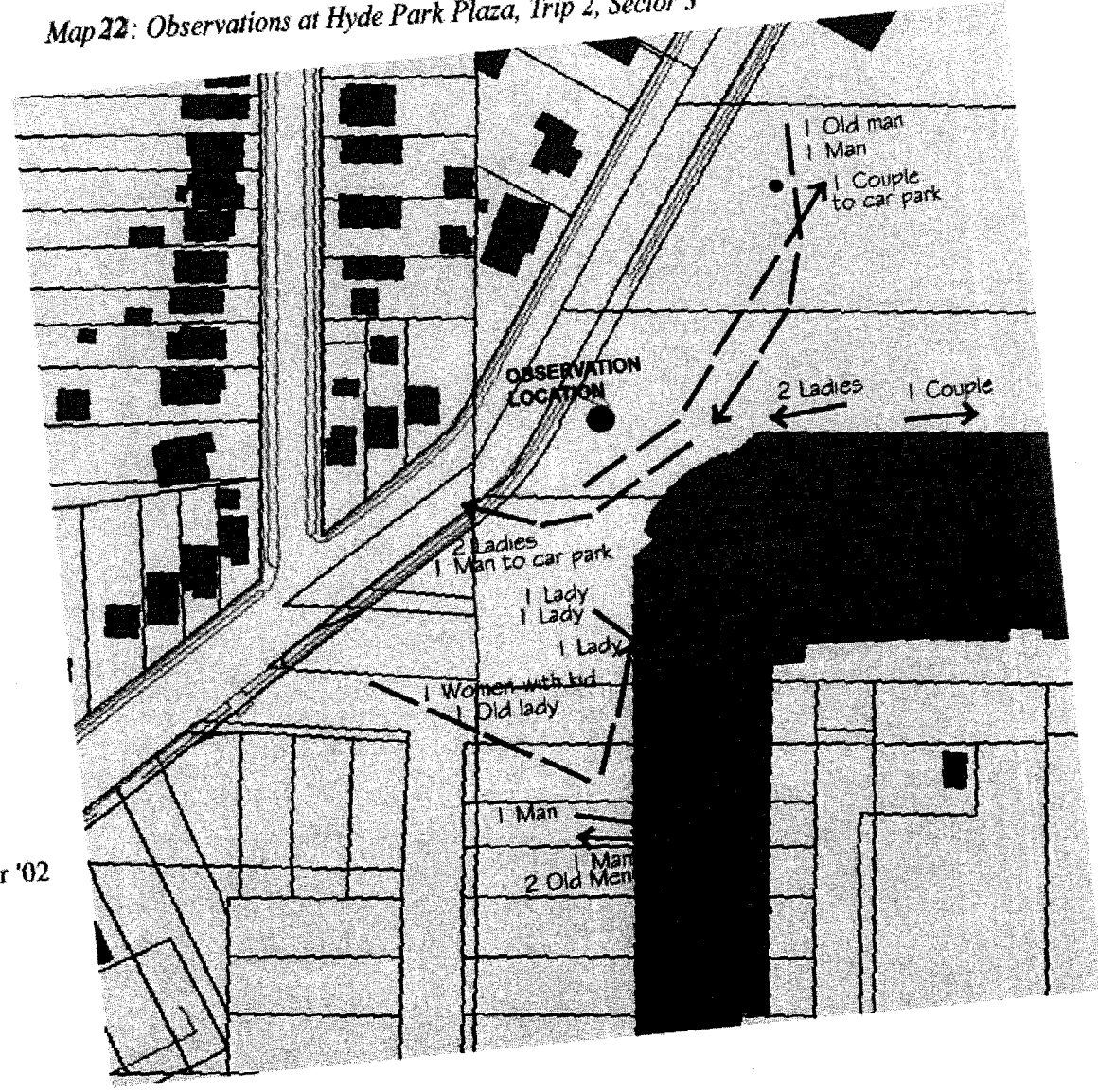
HYDE PARK SQUARE

NOTES:

The observations were done on 26th Mar '02
 12:55 pm to 1:15 pm.
 The weather was quite cold.

Source: Author

Map 22: Observations at Hyde Park Plaza, Trip 2, Sector 3



HYDE PARK PLAZA

Table 9: Synthesized data from observation of activities in Hyde Park Plaza




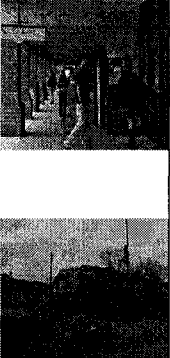

*L – ladies, *M - men

Activity	Frequency of the activity	Frequency of the activity
	Trip 1 on Saturday, March 23, 1:00 to 2:00 pm. Not very cold and, sunny weather.	Trip 2 on Tuesday, March 26, 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Quite cold weather.
	Only one zone	Only one zone
Walking & looking at display	3L + 2M + 1 couple	2L + 1 couple
Walking dog & watching display	1	-
Just walking	11L + 6M + 3 couples	4L + 2M
Walking from car-park to corridor	11L + 10M + 2 couples + 2 families	5L + 4M + 1 family
Walking from corridor to car-park	16L + 3M + 3 couples + 5 families	4L + 3M + 1 couple
Walking towards one destination	Pastry shop – 5L + 1 couple Starbucks coffee – 1 old couple Cookeer Restaurant– 1 couple Smoothies Kit– 1L + 1M + 1 couple Play it Again – 4 boys K.B. Toy Outlet – 1L La Salsa – 1 family Panera Bread– 4M	Starbucks coffee – 2L Cookeer Restaurant– 2 couples + 2M Panera Bread– 2M
Walking specifically out of a particular store	Cookeer – 3M + 1 couple + 1 family Starbucks – 1M + 1 family La Salsa Restaurant – 2M + 1 couple + 1 family Barnes & Nobles, bookstore – 2L	Cookeer Restaurant– 2M
Just walking on corridor/ strolling	14L + 7M + 5 couples	1 couple + 2L
Kids running or playing around	1 girl + 1 boy skating, 2 kids running.	-

Source: Author

4.3.5 Pattern Table

Table 10: Establishment of Pattern of Events and spaces in Hyde Park Plaza

PATTERN OF EVENTS		PATTERN OF SPACES	
Category	Description	Category & Description	Understanding
Shopping 	Strolling /Window shopping /Walking & looking at display/ Walking dog & watching display.	Covered arcade  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pedestrian friendly, safe, shop fronts (enclaves)- covered front of shops, has benches too where people can sit for a while and enjoy the street ambience. After some distances, especially outside shops like Starbucks (coffee), Bruegger's Bagel Bakery and at expanded perpendicular junctions of aisles, there are tables and chairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good variety of shops so people like to come here for shopping and buying eating stuff. Quite safe and protected, because people are moving around, but not after the shops close like around 8pm, it becomes almost dead. Nobody jogs here because it is not located in the heart of neighborhood, it has a specific purpose of shopping. The glass shop fronts creates interest to look at while you are walking, That creates a sense of enclosure. The benches are placed just outside shops like Starbucks, where people go for coffee or ice creams (items for just relaxing and enjoying) and may be read newspapers. While sitting outside they still have covered top, creating a sense of enclosure.
Eating 	Sitting outside on benches to eat, Walking towards one destination, Walking specifically out of a particular store	(Continued from above)	
Shopping/ eating 	Walking from car-park to corridor, Walking from corridor to car-park	Car parking lot to covered arcade  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People come there usually by their own vehicles, park in the parking lot (just in front of the stores) and then walk to the covered aisles 	

Source: Author

4.3.6 Issues and Reflections

Table 11: Hyde Park Plaza Reflections

ISSUES	REFLECTION
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with all age groups and races are seen here. They move in groups and alone. They move as a couple, family, walk with dogs, in groups of friends or family. Many couples are seen. • Physically it is again accessible to all, it has an covered aisle system. But the large acre parking lot in front suggests that people would come in their own vehicles. But they do have a bus stop outside the plaza, which also suggests that people who cannot afford cars also would come there for shopping.
Pull/ Push effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The variety and quality of shops (Michaels, a craft shop and, especially smell from panera, starbucks, pastry shop....) and also the shop fronts attracts the user to a destination. These places act as pull points on the street.
Pattern of movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>'Being in'</u> The plaza has mainly being in spaces that is you would not pass through the plaza to reach somewhere else nor would you move through it for purposes other than shopping or eating. This is mainly because it is offset from the street, stands alone in the neighborhood without other uses. People, who come there, come there for a specific activity. After entering it, they do have destinations and points of pause. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Pause points</u> – The shop fronts with displays, few benches on the aisle, pedestrian crossings, forms the point of pause. • <u>Destinations</u> – Eating places, art shops, bookstores, grocery stores, coffeehouse, bakeries and pastry shops etc. are quite distinct and attractive. They attract a user from one point destination to another.
Dominant pattern of flow	<p>The dominant pattern of flow is from the car-parking lot to the arcade and vice versa and the form of flow is much along the lines on the arcade.</p>

Source: Author

Fig. 24: Aerial View of C.B.D. Fountain Square

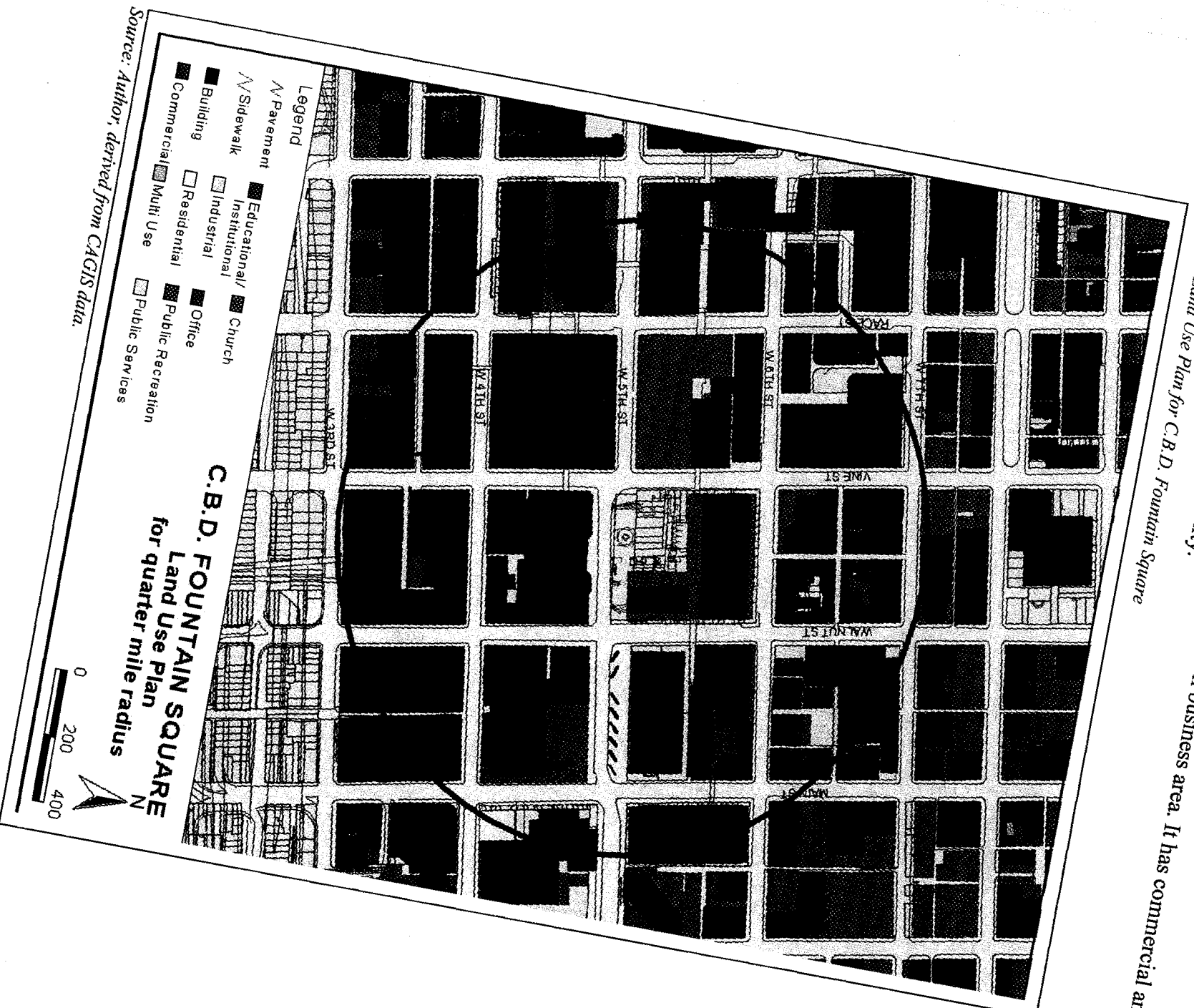


Source: Author, derived from Satellite Images of CAGIS Data

C.B.D. FOUNTAIN SQUARE

C.B.D. Fountain Square is located in the downtown business area. It has commercial and office areas in the immediate vicinity.

Map 23: Land Use Plan for C.B.D. Fountain Square



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4.4.2 Field Notes

C.B.D. Fountain Square Study- Trip 1

This study was conducted on Friday, Feb 15th from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. The weather was good, in the sense that it was sunny, but I still had to wear my winter jacket as a cold breeze was still blowing. I decided on the strategic three positions, after looking around the whole square and from where people came in or were going out.

First Sector: From the first position, I viewed the Vine Street side, inside the square with the large open space and the fountain. There were a lot of people entering and leaving the square through that side. People came here mainly as a short cut to many other places.... either their offices or any eating places during lunch. This was even the meeting place decided by many friends who were working in downtown. I saw a lot of people, while they were moving through the square, were also admiring the fountain and the tall buildings around. There was also a group of people who came specially to see the fountain.

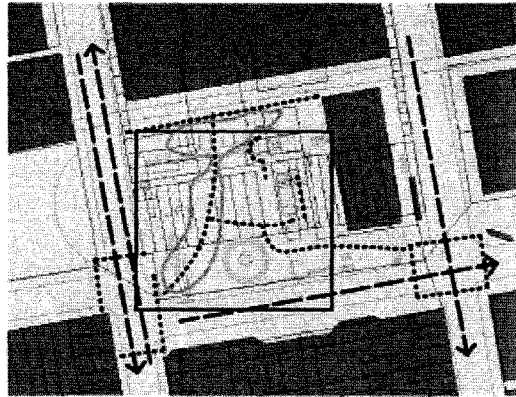
Second Sector: I went upstairs and stood looking at the outdoor café / seating area with round tables and chairs. There were people chatting in groups and drinking coffee, and also some who sat alone and read the newspaper or just looked at other people, or were involved in some deep thought.

Third Sector: I walked on the same level towards the Walnut side and was now observing the lower area of the square, which was at a lower level than the rest It kind of looked a little private to me. There were two benches placed in that area. There was a lady who sat there on a bench and was smoking. Later, a boy came and sat on another bench and did nothing, but just sat for 6-7 minutes and went away. There were a few people on my level who were looking at the square below and smoking, as it was open and yet covered

on top. This area was also used by some to go to places, may be their offices on that side of the street.

C.B.D. Fountain Square Study- Trip 2

Trip 2 was conducted on Thursday March 21, 2002 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. I had taken the same positions for observations and covered the same sectors like in the first trip.



KEY PLAN

LEGEND

- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- - - Pedestrian movement

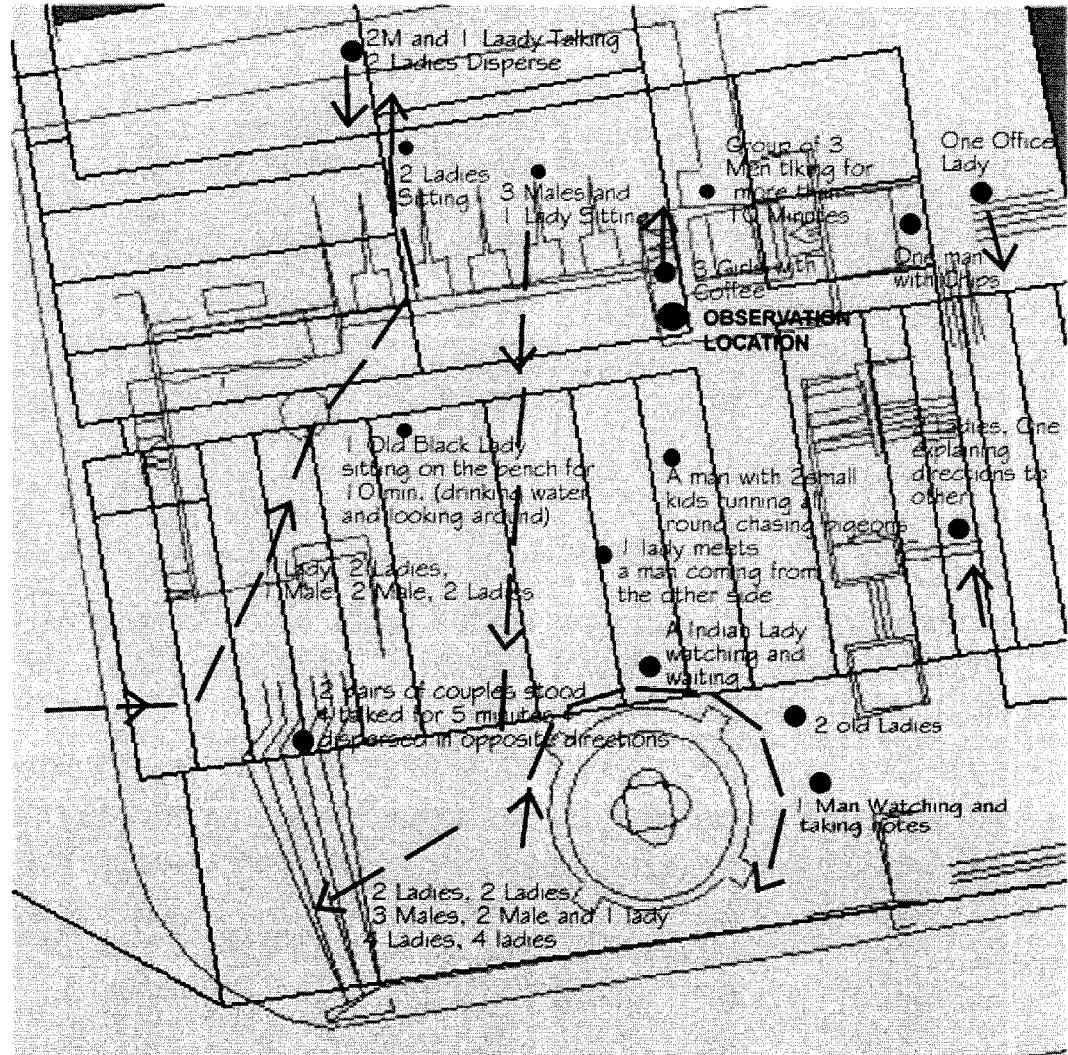
C.B.D FOUNTAIN SQUARE

NOTES:

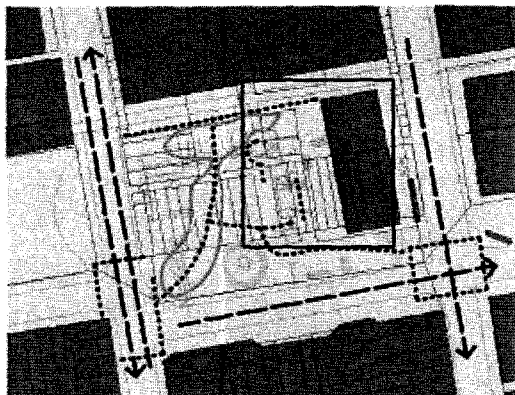
The observations were done on 15th Feb'02
 friday from 12:10 pm to 12.25 pm.

The weather was sunny but a little cold.

Map 24: Observations at C.B.D. Fountain Square, Trip1, Sector1



Source: Author



KEY PLAN

LEGEND

- High activity zone
- Landmark
- Vehicular movement
- Pedestrian movement

C.B.D FOUNTAIN SQUARE

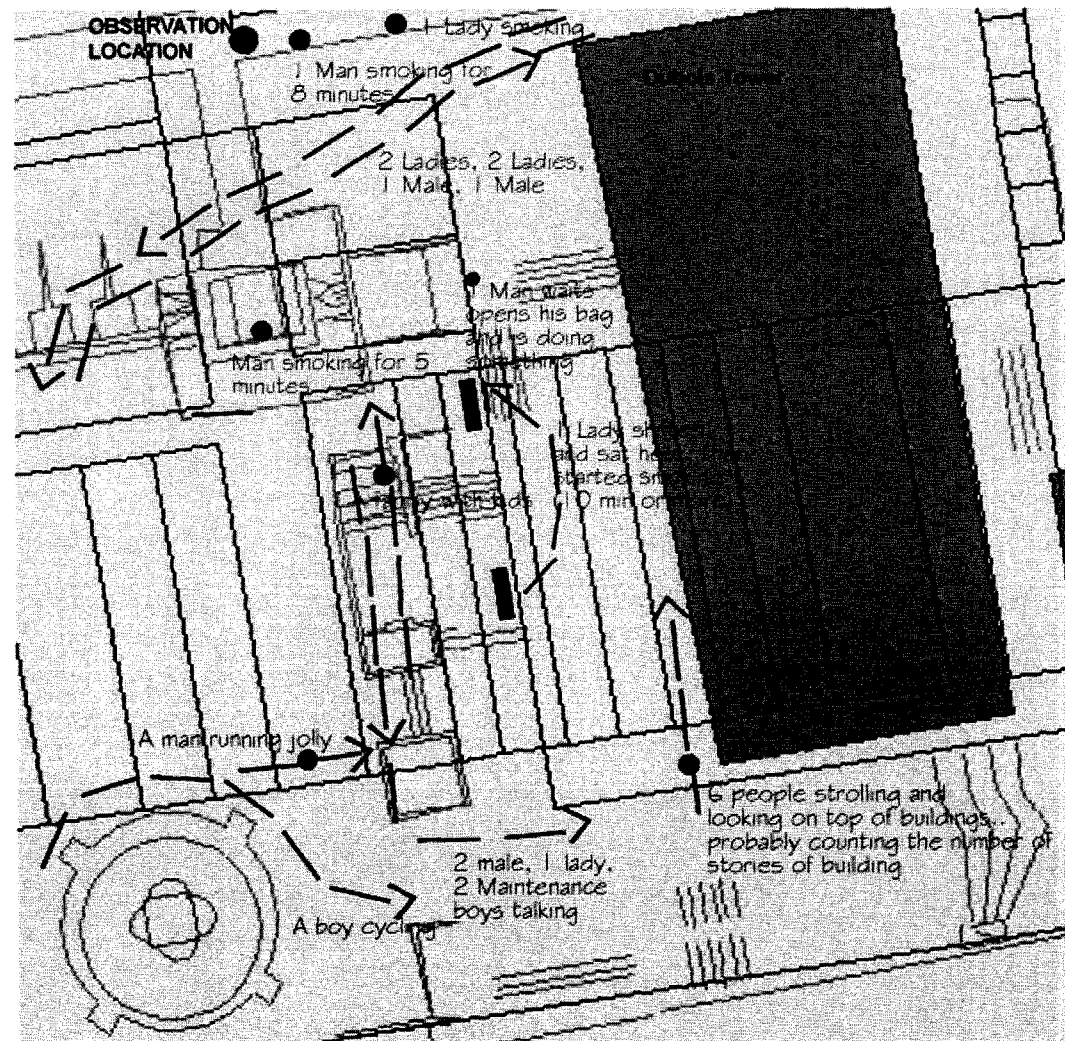
NOTES:

The observations were done on 15th Feb '02, Friday from 12:25 pm to 12.40 pm.

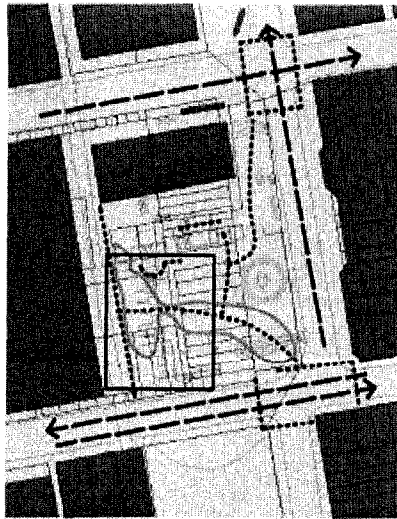
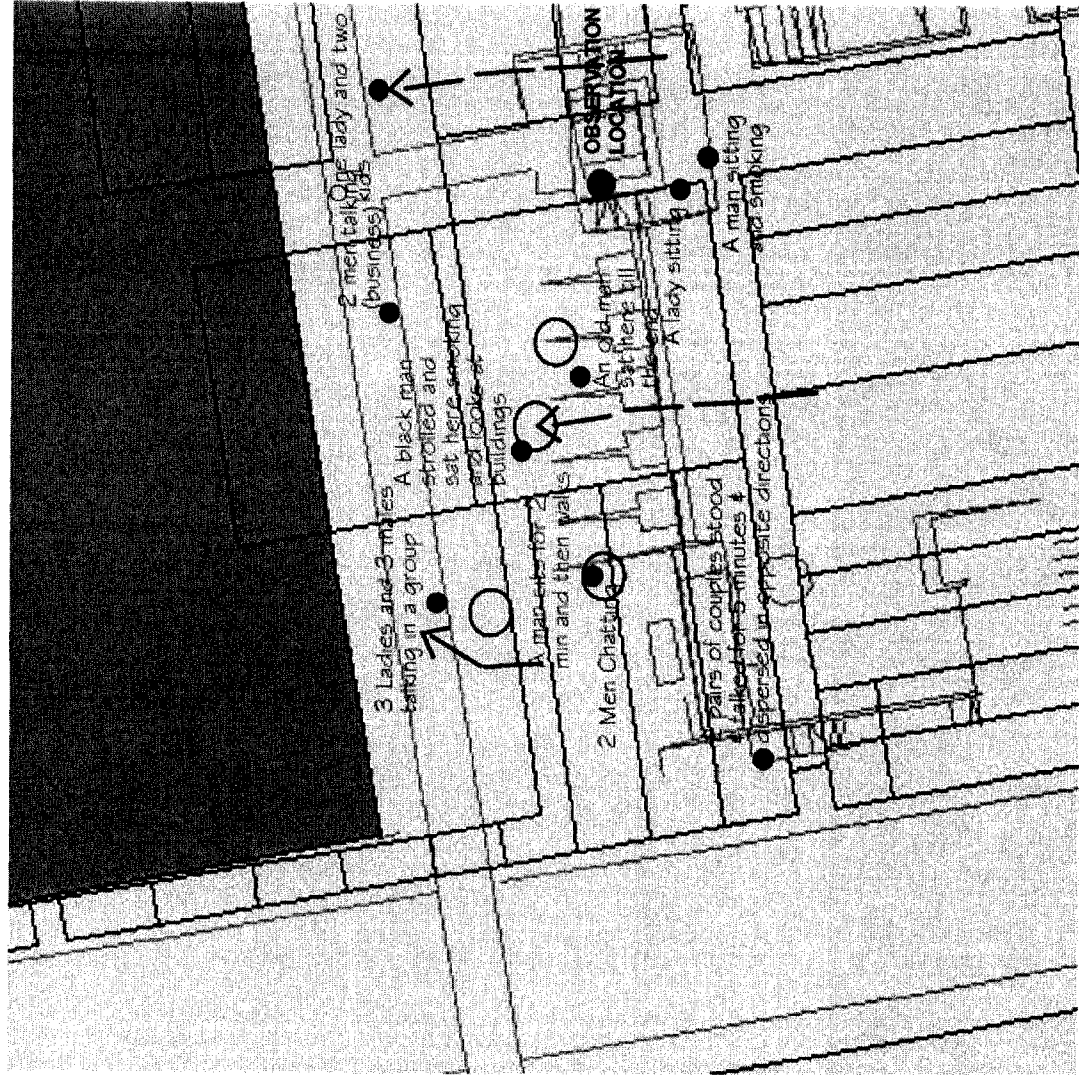
The weather was very sunny, but a little cold.

Source: Author

Map 25: Observations at C.B.D. Fountain Square, Trip1, Sector2



Map 26: Observations at C.B.D. Fountain Square, Trip1, Sector 3



KEY PLAN

- LEGEND**
- High activity zone
 - Landmark
 - Vehicular movement
 - Pedestrian movement

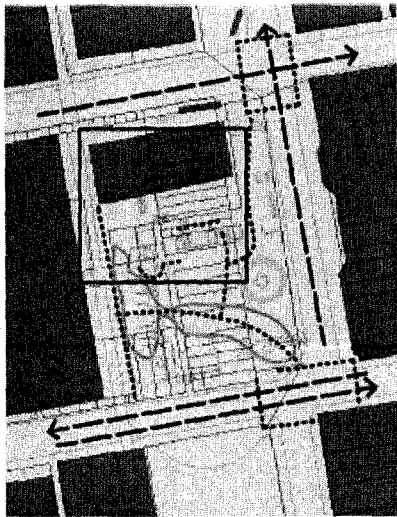
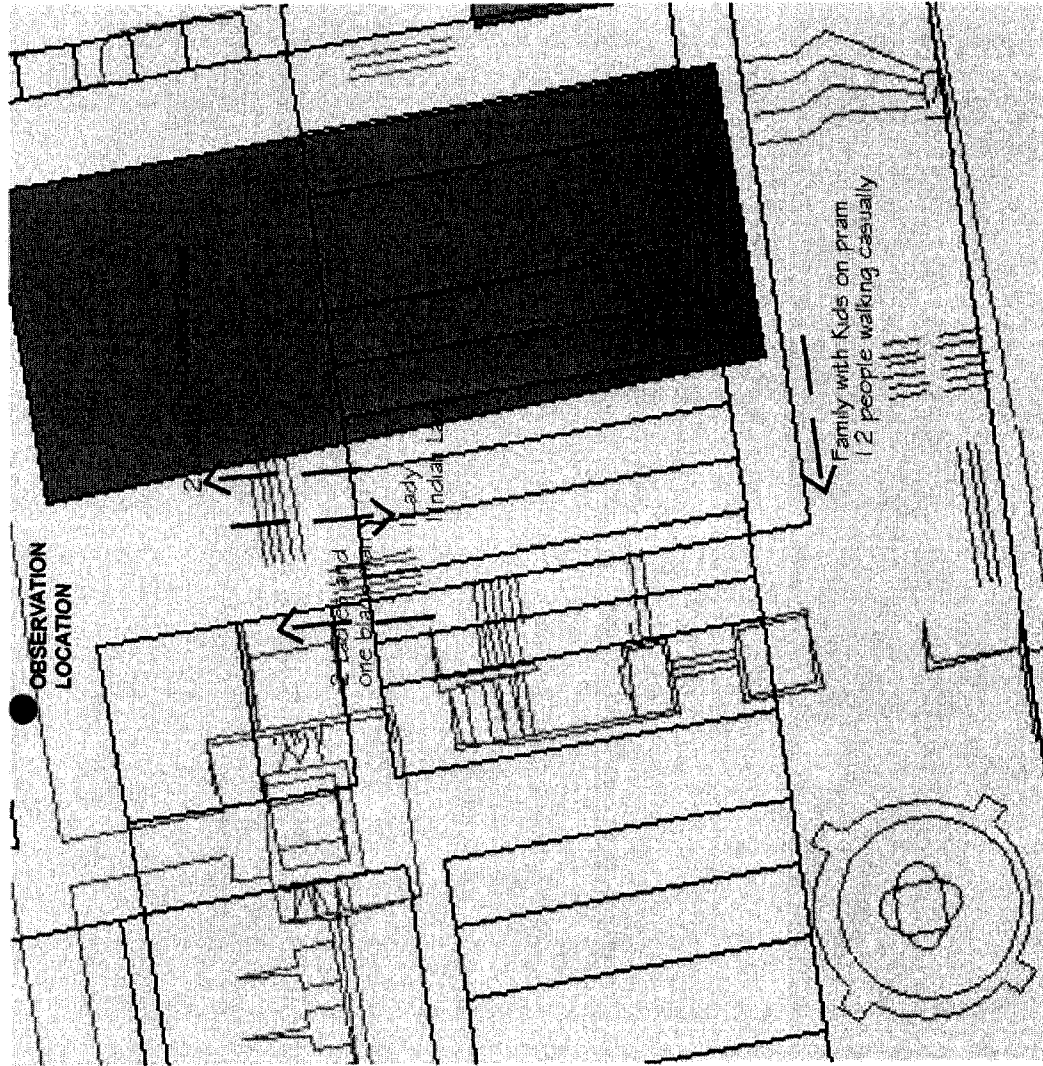
C.B.D FOUNTAIN SQUARE

NOTES:

The observations were done on 15th Feb '02, Friday from 12:40 pm to 12:55 pm. The weather was very sunny, but a little cold.

Source: Author

Map 28: Observations at C.B.D. Fountain Square, Trip 2, Sector 2



KEY PLAN

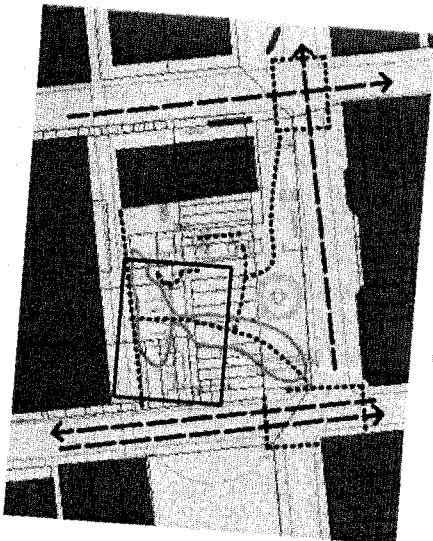
- LEGEND**
- High activity zone
 - Landmark
 - Vehicular movement
 - Pedestrian movement

C.B.D FOUNTAIN SQUARE

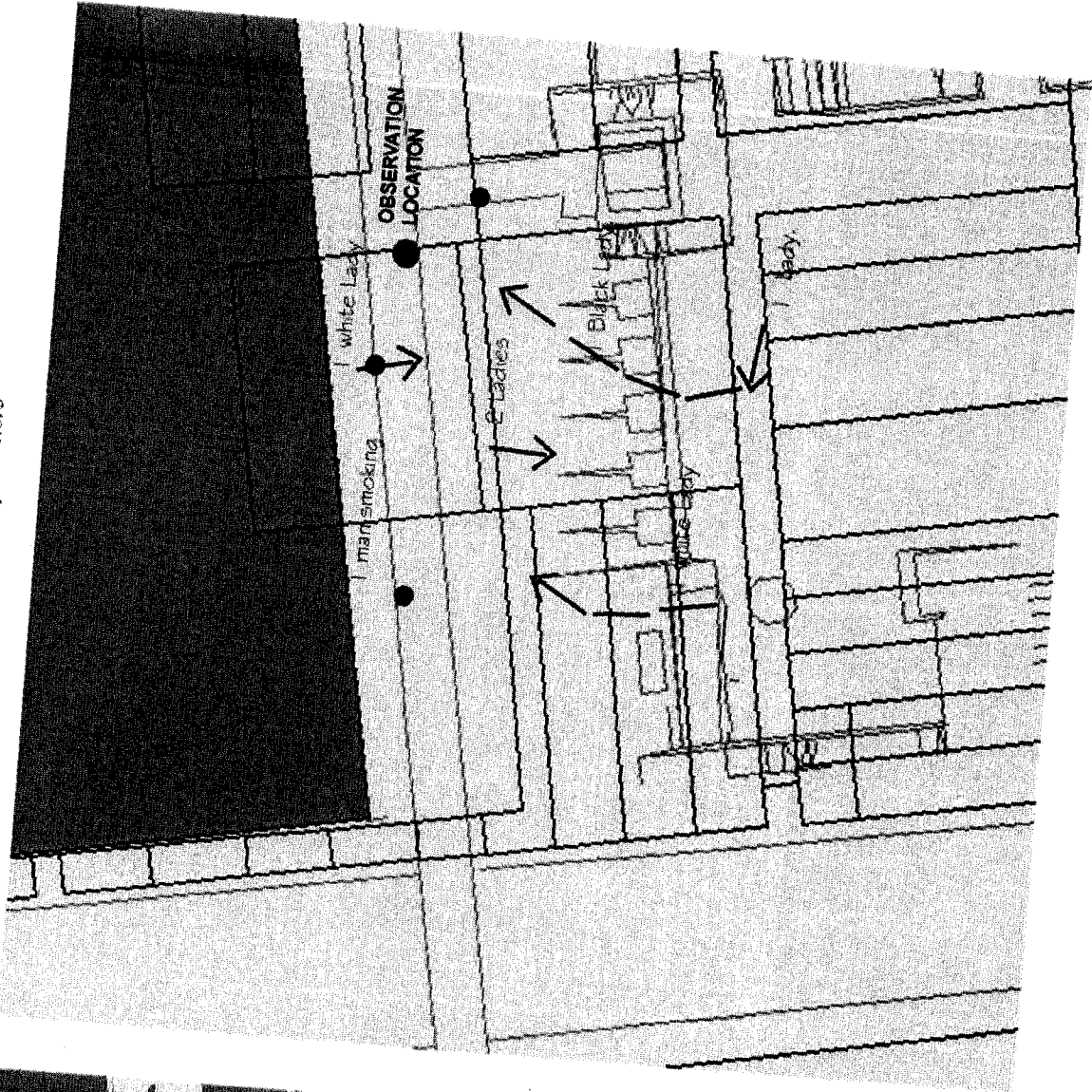
NOTES:

The observations were done on 21st Mar'02
 thursday from 12:50 pm to 1:05 pm.
 The weather was very cold started snowing
 after sometime.

Source: Author



Map 29: Observations at C.B.D. Fountain Square, Trip2, Sectors3



KEY PLAN

- LEGEND**
- High activity zone
 - Landmark
 - Vehicular movement
 - - - Pedestrian movement

C.B.D FOUNTAIN SQUARE

NOTES:

The observations were done on 21st Mar'02 thursday from 1:05 pm to 1:20 pm. The weather was very cold, started snowing after sometime.

Source: Author

C.B.D. FOUNTAIN SQUARE

Table 12: Synthesized data from observation of activities in C.B.D. Fountain Square






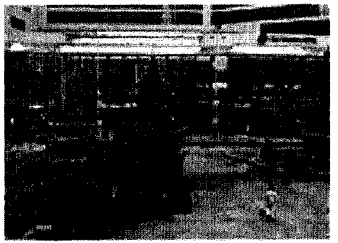
*L – ladies, *M - men

Activity	Frequency of the activity			Frequency of the activity		
	Trip 1 on Friday of Feb 15, 2002 from 12:10 to 1:00pm. (sunny but cold breeze)			Trip 2 on Thursday of March 21, 2002 from 12:30 to 1:30pm. (very cold... started snowing after a while)		
	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
Sitting and eating	1M	1 couple	3 girls + 1M	-	-	-
Just sitting	1L	1 boy + 1M	3M & 1L + 2L + 2M	-	-	-
Smoking (either sitting or standing)	1M	1L	1L + 5M	-	-	4 M + 1L
Chatting or Talking	2 boys	-	3L & 3M+2M	2M	-	-
Cycling	1 boy	-	-	-	-	-
Strolling	-	6 couples	-	-	-	-
Looking around (fountain, flag, carew towers....)	-	-	1M	-	-	-
Running	-	1M	-	1L	-	-
Walking into the space	2L + 1L + 1L + 2L + 1M + 2M + 2L	1 family + 2M	-	1 family with baby on pram + 1M + 7L + 11 in group + 3M & 1L	1family + 5 couples + 1 M + 2 L	-
Walking out of the space	3M + 7L	1L	-	2M + 5L + 4M & 1L	7 couples + 2L	-
Waiting	1 L	-	-	-	-	-
Chasing pigeons	1M & 2 kids	-	-	-	-	-
Video shooting	-	-	-	1M	-	-
Reading	1 couple	-	-	1L	-	-
On Phone	-	-	-	1M	-	-

Source: Author

4.4.5 Pattern Table

Table 13: Establishment of Patterns of events and spaces in C.B.D. Fountain Square

PATTERN OF EVENTS		PATTERN OF SPACES	
Category	Description	Category & Description	Understanding
Socializing 	Group chatting/ waiting/ strolling	Zone 1 	Generally people come to the fountain square for a break. It is the largeness of the open space, the attractive fountain, people moving around and the location (in the center of big buildings), which brings people into the public space. The zone 1 is prime since the offices, shops and food courts can be reached only after passing through this zone. The zone 2 is used by people from the offices on the walnut side of the street as a passing through space to reach the food courts or other offices in the other side
Move through to reach a destination 	Going to and from offices, shops or food courts.	This area near the fountain is very pedestrian friendly. It has ready access to the road and it is a large open area amidst a concrete jungle	
Fun 	Smoking/ eating/ watching	Zone 3  The food court on the first level and the second floor lobby are very interesting. Zone 2  This area is on the walnut street side of the fountain Zone 2	The first floor of zone 3 is used by all, but people from those office buildings only use the second level. The food court there has a good view of the whole square. It is situated in the open yet is has a roof on top. The second level office going people enjoy smoking on the corridor overlooking the square. Though zone 2 is a publicly accessible area, it has a kind of private space ambience, may be because of its level being much lower than the fountain area level.

Source: Author




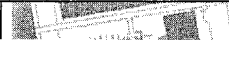


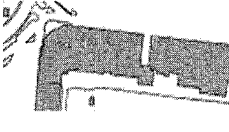

4.4.6 Issues and Reflections

Table 14: C.B.D. Fountain Square Reflections

ISSUES	REFLECTION
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with different races are seen here but they are mostly office going people. Not many kids or older citizens are seen. People move in groups and alone, there are not many couples or families. • Physically it is again accessible to all, it is a large open space with roads on three sides, which has an open sidewalk system.
Pull/ Push effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ornate and magnificent fountain makes the place more lively and interesting. The US flag also gives it more of a political significance. These places act as pull points on the street. • There are a lot of offices around, hence there is a lot of office-going crowd coming here for lunch or a break for casual talks. This would be the meeting spot of many friends working somewhere around. • The variety of destinations for eating (different types of cuisine) acts as holding factor and major pull factor to the people. There are quite a lot of people who get their lunch boxes into the open food court in the square and sit there to eat.
Pattern of movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Passing through</u> – Zone 1 often serves as “moving through” space because of its connections with the road and the offices or eating-places. The large open space holds a passer by for a long time. • <u>Pause points</u> – The fountain is a major pause point because of its artistic elaborate work. It also creates a lively ambience with its falling waters. The other pause points are the benches and the kiosks in the food court. • <u>Destinations</u> – Eating places and offices around the square become destination points for the passers-by but there are a number of people coming to the square as a destination itself.
Dominant pattern of flow	In all directions.

Source: Author

Table 15: Findings in Typology of the four public spaces used for case study

					
					
		Ludlow Street	Hyde Park Square	Hyde Park Plaza	C.B.D. Fountain Square
Physical Characteristics	Street length/ Area/ width of street and sidewalk	Street Length: 13,50' Area: 260 * 1350 = 351,000sq.ft. Street Width: 60' Sidewalk: 10'	Street Length: 468' Area: 68'*155'= 72,540 sq.ft. Street Width = 42' each perpendicular st. =56' Sidewalk: X= 12-13.5 ; Y=8-15'	Street Length: 975' Area = 900,000 sq.ft. Street Width: 72' Sidewalk: 3.5'	St in X = 466', Y = 290' Area = 287'*287'= Street Width: X= 68', Y=72' Sidewalk: X= 10', Y=6.5-19'
	adjacent streets, its speed limit	It is an extension of Jefferson Ave and is perpendicular to Clifton (university area). It connects to I-71 on the other end.	Parking lot on Ormond Avenue helps many visitors to park their cars, since the on-street parking on Ludlow is mostly filled.	It enters through Paxton Road and is perpendicular to Wasson Road.	It is in between Vine and Walnut Street and on the 5th street. Speed limit is 25 miles/hour
	Intersections, pedestrian crossings	1 major four-way intersection. 2 lights on the street, they are 2-road intersection.	2 major four-way intersections. 8pedestrian crossings.	1 four-way intersection. 2neighborhood outlets. 2 pedestrian crossings	2 major four-way intersections. 3 pedestrian crossings on each intersection
	Ambience type	Busy street life.	Not very formal, street and park. Relaxing and fun.	Not at all formal. People come there with a purpose.	Formal, busy street life yet when inside the square, away from the noise at street and still see the bustling life.
	Number and density of trees	Small trees at 10' distance on sidewalks.	Shady trees, shrubs on all sides of the park	Few trees on traffic islands	No trees inside the square
	Number and kind of seating	6 no. of 2-seater benches, each bus-stop has one.	18 number of 2-3 seat garden benches	Few tables & chairs at expanded corners where eating places are located	3 no. of 2-seater benches, and 6 no. of 4-seated round tables
	Special landmarks	None	Park as median and the fountain in the park	Hyde Park Plaza gateway, not very special.	Ornate fountain and American flag
Contextual factors	Immediate surroundings	Residential buildings.	Retail shopping and offices	Residential rental apartments and single family houses. Contains in itself, bank, Kroger, McDonalds...	Retail, Commercial and Offices like - Fifth Thrid Bank Center, Westin Hotel, Kinkos, Dubois Tower, Carew Towers, Contemporary Arts Center
	Within ¼ mile	Residences, Burnet woods and University of Cincinnati (out of the radius)	Residential, retail, shopping mall, offices, commercial	Residential rental apartments and single family houses.	Retail, Commercial and offices.
Level of Use	no. and type of users	All different age groups and races	All different age groups, mainly whites	All different age groups (not many kids) and races	Working class age groups and all different races
	Light/consistent/ heavily used at certain times	Consistent use on weekdays, heavily used on lunch hours, evenings and weekends	Heavily used on weekends and all evenings. Consistently used on weekdays during lunch hours.	Used more often during holidays. Consistent use on weekdays.	Heavily used during lunch hours on weekdays. Not at all used in weekends, except for some events.

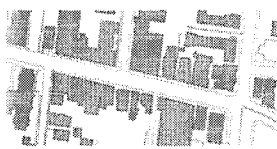
Source: Author

5. CONCLUSIONS

This thesis had no intention to test a (preconceived) hypothesis. It takes a phenomenological approach by drawing conclusions from day-to-day activities. The conclusions are purely derived after analyzing the case studies. This study has focused on four different connotations of public space and it is important to understand how pattern of activities in each of them helps in building the character of the place, in its own right.

The uniqueness of each place helps in proving the connection of public spaces and place making. The following points characterize the observed case studies:

Ludlow Avenue:



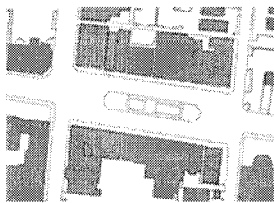
Ludlow Avenue is situated in inner Neighborhood Business District (NBD) with close proximity of buildings, creating a wall of architecture close to pedestrian.

The observed pattern of activities shows that Ludlow Avenue acts like a social venue. Streets, in general, were not always designed to serve as public spaces. They were primarily designed as channels of communication. Based on the tenets of Modernism, the socializing aspect of street came into limelight. Shortcomings of street as channels of communication called for designing them as social settings.

Ludlow Avenue offers a unique experience to any person. It has a good combination of destinations, which are unique in and of themselves and are collectively found on this street. The things needed for basic living are mostly found here; hence the neighborhood people use it to the full extent. Eating places, theater, art shops, a bookshop, a grocery store, coffee shops and the public library are placed close together

making the street more pedestrian friendly. This street is quite busy and thriving, almost at all times of the week. During lunch hours, the restaurants carrying different cuisine attract a lot of the office and the University of Cincinnati crowds. After office hours, it is more of the neighborhood people, singles, couples or families or kids are out on the street either jogging, bicycling or just loitering or shopping - enjoying the street life. There is a careful mix of restaurants and other retail shops, including IGA, which anyone would go to for everyday groceries. People from different racial groups were also seen on Ludlow mainly to eat at Indian, Thai, Mexican or American restaurants. Many of the students from University of Cincinnati go there as that is the nearest area where they can eat, roam around, or go to the theater (Esquire), do window-shopping, spend a good time on the whole, especially on a sunny day. These activities are also supported by design elements such as good sidewalk system, with traffic lights and pedestrian crossings at after a short distance. The sidewalks become interesting with the glass shop fronts. The presence of a lot of people itself attracts other people to be there. The benches near bus stops and the theater serve as rest areas while waiting. The expanded sidewalk at the corner near Graeter's, ice cream shop, with a bulletin board act as pause points. Yet there are no such places that can hold you outside the shops for a long time. This street often serves as a "moving through" space because of its linearity and open end on both sides.

Hyde Park Square:

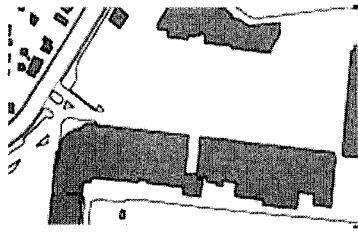


Hyde Park Square is broader than Ludlow Avenue, with an additional park space in the median. It has broad pedestrian spaces integrated with natural elements like trees along with seating. It has angular parking.

Hyde Park Square also offers a unique experience to any person. The patterns of spaces that it forms with the pattern of activities are really interesting and different from Ludlow, mainly due to the park in the median. Not all the basic things of living are found here like grocery stores, but more specialty stores and eating-places. This area serves the Hyde Park Neighborhood Business District NBD. People come here mainly for eating, recreation and relaxation. People of a higher socio-economic status from outside that neighborhood also come here as it is considered to be an expensive and safe neighborhood.

Like Ludlow Avenue, Hyde Park Square is also quite busy and thriving at almost all times of the week. During lunch hours, the restaurants attract a lot of the office crowd. After office hours, it is more of the neighborhood people, singles, couples or families or kids are out on the street jogging, bicycling or just loitering or shopping - enjoying the street and park life. During evening, it is crowded with people come for supper and enjoyment. The observed pattern of activities are also supported by design elements such as good sidewalk system and the green island in between the streets, which breaks the monotony of street network grid and makes the space distinct or unique from the other streets. The structure of surrounding buildings gives a feeling of enclosure to the park. The park is at a higher level than the street trying to create privacy. The activity of relaxation is seen only in Hyde Park Square. The park in the median holds people for a long time though the linear street serves mainly as a "moving through". Graeter's and a few other shops as well as the park act as destination points. The angular street parking makes it easy for people coming from outside the neighborhood to stop there and take a break.

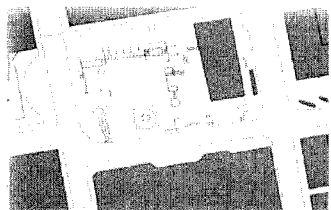
Hyde Park Plaza:



It has a large edging of parking in the interior. Due to its largeness, one cannot see the whole plaza in one look.

Hyde Park Plaza is very different from Ludlow and Hyde Park Square in that it holds fewer activities. The activities are mainly shopping and eating. Blacks as well as whites, of all age groups but mainly middle-aged people are seen coming to this place. In Hyde Park Plaza, it is observed that the design lends itself to people walking as little as possible, as it has a large parking lot right in the middle of it. It must have been assumed that the parking lot in the middle would attract a large car-driving crowd and add to the business of that commercial area. Specialty stores such as Panera Bread, Pastry Shop and Michaels are among the ones that people generally come here for. The wide covered arcade intends to have a lot of pedestrian activity, but the observed intensity of use is quite a lot less. The location of such a large plaza in the middle of a residential area with no other commercial or office space beside it isolates it. People coming here are seen to walk towards a decided destination and there is nothing much to hold them too. Of course, the shop fronts and few benches in the arcade act as pause points. The dominant pattern of movement is observed to be “moving to” i.e. from car parking lot to the arcade and vice versa and the form of flow is much along the lines of the arcade.

C.B.D. Fountain Square:



It is a squarish, large open space identified as the public space of the City of Cincinnati. It is located in the heart of the business district, surrounded by offices and commercial areas.

C.B.D. Fountain Square has remained the vibrant open public space in C.B.D. of Cincinnati for years. Its uniqueness lies in the scale of open space and its surrounding buildings, and also the magnificent fountain. It also has a tall flagpole with American Flag. The tallest building in Cincinnati, Carew Tower sits just on the other street.

It is used by people of all races, though mainly office workers. Kids and children use it only during weekends or for some kind of excursion from school. It is used most lunch hours on weekdays but it is almost dead during the weekend. But there are some weekends in the summer when the City puts up some events. C.B.D. Fountain Square also serves as a gathering place. It also holds major events and, festivals. Its large space can accommodate such functions. It is a good meeting place for people working in Downtown, especially during the lunch break. The skywalks connecting buildings all have a good view of the Fountain Square. The important offices such as Fifth Third Bank, hotels such as Westin, which hold conferences, also are located facing the square. There is even a food court in the square, which is often used by people just for relaxing and chatting with friends. Even though it is very public, privacy is still maintained because you feel small in comparison to the scale of the square.

The square also forms a “moving through” passage for people moving from one office to another on the other side of the street. The fountain and magnificence of the square become pause points, but the main holding points would be the outside sitting areas in the square where you could luncheon. The pattern of flow is in all directions.

The commonalties between the case-studies helps in proving how typology and scale of public spaces also have a role in place-making. In all the cases, the public spaces were accessible to all and hence social interaction was not restricted. The study areas

were very much pedestrian friendly. They offered pedestrian a variety of pathways. The diversity of forms among these places contributed to their uniqueness. An arcade in Hyde Park Plaza, sidewalks in Ludlow and Hyde Park Square and a large paved area in CBD Square, all exemplify this diversity. The presence of a parking lot diminishes the pedestrian friendliness of a public space, as in the case of Hyde Park Plaza. There the cars could reach very close to the shop and the linear length of the arcade is so large and widespread that if one wants to go a shop in the plaza which is on the other side, he would as well get in the car and drive till there.

Providing the public with food facilities and eating areas could help attract more people to the public space. Public Spaces also need pause points like the fountains in the C.B.D. and Hyde Park Plaza, postings put on bulletin board, the fancy shop fronts in Ludlow and the variety of shops found in Hyde Park Plaza.

Three different patterns of movement, “moving to”, “moving through”, and “being in” were observed in these spaces, but only one was more dominant than the others. Ludlow Avenue as well as Hyde Park Square was mainly a “moving through” space but Hyde Park Square had some “being in” spaces too. The dominant pattern of movement in Hyde Park Plaza was “moving to”, whereas C.B.D. Square had more of “being in” spaces and was partly a “moving through” space too.

All the studied public spaces had a strategic location with respect to the main streets in the area and the building use in the surrounding areas, except for Hyde Park Plaza.

6. IMPLICATIONS

This study points out very clearly that public space can be used as an important element in restoring community identity. It examines public spaces in different locations in Cincinnati, which are distinguished by the scale of the public space and the range of pattern of activities in each case.

Broadly the study showcases the relationship between spatial and social patterns of events. However in some cases, the social patterns are not necessarily associated with the spatial patterns. A sidewalk in a street and in a neighborhood square serves rather similar purposes but the sidewalk in a square may be somewhat wide to accommodate outdoor eating areas. Other activities like jogging, window shopping, walking the dog... are the same, yet they might function differently due to other factors, e.g. land use. And sometimes an additional element like a small park in the median between streets can bring in different activities.

Communities need to be made aware of the reinvention of a range of public spaces and activities within it. This study challenges those commercial areas that are loosely linked to their context, to become destinations. This characterizes typical public spaces in suburban areas, which offer the residents little variety and density.

This study presents the type of elements that would offer passers-by pause points, without intending to outline the design elements of a public space. Indeed, the need for such guidelines calls for future research. In a much smaller way, it also suggests what would be the magnets or reflectors of a Neighborhood Business District. Restaurants serving different types of cuisines offer ways to attract people to a place and if that public space is well designed, it can hold more activities and gather larger crowds. This study

would also help city planners to make neighborhood land use plans with emphasis on public spaces as a way to restore the neighborhood character.

Discussions

Although the word ‘public’ has a wide range of definitions, this thesis has primarily focused on a narrower sense of the word, which excludes political ramifications, but deals with people’s interaction with the public space.

The success of a public space as discussed in this study was measured in terms of how the intensity of use and social interaction contributed to place-making process. This would depend on the physical as well as socio-economic factors associated with that public space. This research was limited in scope to the physical aspects of the use of public spaces.

One case study is conducted for each type of public space located in the City of Cincinnati. The case studies were conducted during winter 2001 and spring 2002, during which time people’s use of the public space must have been significantly reduced due to seasonal and climatic conditions. Furthermore, few (two) visits to the study areas and limited time for each observation (one hour per field trip) imposed additional constraints on the interpretation of the findings. The study scope and limitations do not lend themselves to generalizability of its findings.

Future research could incorporate other less tangible aspects of sense of place. For example, it could capture the role ‘personal experiences and memories’ play in reflecting the character of the public space. This could be achieved by a study involving the users to share their personal experiences through ethnography, oral history or participant observation.

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