

Abstract

Name: Brett Barbakoff

Thesis Title: Rethinking the Sustainable Urban Community Paradigm



Can a building be socially responsible, be sustainable, and aesthetic? This is the guiding principle behind my thesis topic: *Rethinking the Sustainable Urban Community Paradigm*. This question I have asked myself for a large part of my architectural career. This project, I hope, is one of many answers to this question. My answer to sustainable housing designed to result in efficient living and to affect the way people live at any stage of life is the main way I see getting to this answer. Therefore, I have chosen a row housing building type for a river site in the City of Chicago, IL.

This community and sustainable ideology is to not only be efficient but also have goals in a broader scope for the future of the city. The goal is designing to aid the

betterment of cities and the quality of life in them, to allow people of lower incomes to continue to live in the city, to aid in cleaning up the city environment, and to think of the life cycle of a building by creating a project of sustainable ideals. To have a design ideal of “Leave No Trace Architecture” this is to be sensitive to the natural and urban environments and blend both together for the betterment of people and the earth. These goals may be lofty, but all of them can be addressed in this thesis project.

As we know from the past, particular building projects of divergent thinking have drastically influenced the direction of architecture, and environmental actions for the better. I believe American cities need more consideration given to this building type because the quality of life has gone down over the years for people in high density urban areas. Cities could be more enjoyable to live in with more intelligent design, and methods to combat urban sprawl. This does not necessarily mean using costly high technology systems either but more thoughtful thinking. I want to focus on the quality of life in big cities in America, and if in these chosen locations it would truly benefit the American city. To quote a famous planner “Make no small plans.”