BRINGING BRIDGEPORT BACK
ONE BUILDING AT A TIME
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ABSTRACT

Bridgeport was the epicenter of the industrial era in Connecticut during the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. Over time Bridgeport has fallen tragically on hard times- creating blight and crime- as industries moved out of the area and the age of technology was born. Due to the University of Bridgeport’s close proximity to downtown Bridgeport, it is our wish to work with the city to help restore these beautiful and historic buildings. Using our talent knowledge and skills learned in the interior design program in the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design, we propose to restore Bridgeport to its former glory one building at a time.

PROPOSAL

The Honors Studio VI project for the Spring semester of 2108 will be based off of the City Trust Building located on 955 Main Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The building, constructed from 1927 to 1929, was used as the location for the offices of the Bridgeport City Trust Company. The bank merged with City National Bank of Connecticut in 1971. The branch eventually failed in 1991, effectively leaving the building abandoned. While a development company did buy and renovate it into apartments that are still in use today, part of the structure has remained untouched (Aside from a failed attempt from another company to restore it into offices). Using this space, the objective is to transform it into a modern hotel while giving homage to the style of the time which is heavily evident in both the interior and exterior architecture. What will be designed includes the entrance and lobby, the main hall, basement, elevator lobby and an restaurant, as well as a “king” room, “double” room and suite.

HISTORY

There are approximately ten historic buildings in downtown Bridgeport. Several large developers have purchased a few and transformed them into current and usable buildings- always taking into consideration the beauty and integrity of the time period. Examples of this is the Arcade Mall which was repurposed into office space and the Securities Building which was transformed into luxury apartments; both located on Main Street. Today, Downtown Bridgeport is slowly coming back as a great place for young professionals to live and play. The location is central to I-95, Routes 1, 8 and 15, Metro North, the Long Island Ferry, the Bridgeport bus station and Amtrak. All of the public transportation available is within walking distance of the City Trust building as well as all the perks of downtown such as its great restaurants, shops and activities.

HISTORICAL INSPIRATION FOR THE CITY TRUST BUILDING

Art Movements: Art Nouveau (1890-1910), Cubism (1907-1914), Futurism (1909-1916), Constructivism (1913-1932), De Stijl (1917-1931), Bauhaus (1919-1933), Surrealism (1920-1966), Art Deco (1920-1940), Streamline Moderne (1920-1945)

Influential Artists: Tamara de Lempicka, Sonia Delaunya, George Barbier, Jean Dupas and other art deco studio artists

IDEATION SKETCHES

CONCLUSION

Everyone here at the University of Bridgeport knows how great of a city Bridgeport truly is and the potential it has to become the thriving city it once was. Our intention is to take that dream and turn it into reality one building at a time through the power of interior design: starting with the City Trust Building in downtown.

REFERENCES