Carbondale Community Center

Abstract For An Architectural Intervention

For the past 50 years, many cities throughout America have witnessed the effects of urban decay. One of the catalysts for this loss was the introduction and expansion of the interstate and highway systems. This automobile-specific infrastructure helped to relocate urban dwellers in suburban areas and has drawn people from the city. In recent years, many cities have taken measures to revitalize their urban development and spark the interest of the private sector. However, places without strong urban anchors are still suffering from the decay and decline in their urban fabric.

Carbondale, Illinois is one of the many cities that is dealing with the repercussions of urban sprawl. Due to the loss of the University Mall on the east side of town, the city has focused more on the development of that corridor. This growth has led to the neglect of Carbondale’s “heart of the city.” After the introduction of the University Mall on the east side of town, the city has seen a decline in its downtown population.

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The city’s disconnect to the Interstate and the growth of Marion has made traveling to downtown Carbondale seem unnecessary. Although Carbondale does have certain anchoring amenities, they are all lacking the real draw factor that will bring people in. The city as a whole has several unique anchors that could deter potential consumers from entering the city. Because of this, it means that they are willing to tolerate the inconveniences of parking, traffic, the lack of a real draw factor, and no people. The reason Greenville is an important case study, when looking at Carbondale’s decline, is because they share similar events that led to the vacancy of their downtowns. Greenville, however, reversed course and decided to focus on key development anchors, having unique natural assets, a strong sense of community, and a strong focus on downtown revitalization. These anchors have the potential to reconnect downtown to the high-quality pedestrian corridors, and help to characterize the city’s unique culture and give downtown a sense of place. The revitalized facility will support the sustainability of the city’s unique characteristics into one urban anchor to help in the revitalization of Carbondale’s downtown.

In recent years, many cities have taken measures to revitalize their urban development and spark the interest of the private sector. However, places without strong urban anchors are still suffering from the decay and decline in their urban fabric. This poster will outline the strategies developed for a new community center that provides both recreation and community interaction to enhance the life of the city and a catalyst for development. The program includes studies for art, music, woodworking, and more. The project is designed to attract people to the downtown area, making it a more inviting place. The project has been designed to help attract people to the downtown area, making it a more inviting place. The project has been designed to help attract people to the downtown area, making it a more inviting place.

The addition of the east corridor has grown to be larger than downtown Carbondale, “Downtown is everyone’s neighborhood.” From here Greenville used centrally located anchor projects as a catalyst to grow the city’s downtown. These anchors acted as a rallying point for the community and created a sense of place. By focusing on creating a place that people could identify and find interesting, the city was able to attract people to the downtown area.

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