The University’s Role in the Dissemination of Research & Scholarship: A Call to Action

Associate Professor Joseph Krupczynski
Architecture + Design Program
Department of Art, Architecture & Art History
University of Massachusetts Amherst
“...the academy must become a more vigorous partner in the search for answers to our most pressing social, civic, economic, and moral problems, and must reaffirm its historic commitment to what I call the scholarship of engagement.”

Ernest Boyer, 1996
Engaged Scholarship in Architecture + Design

Scholarship

- Practices that work across the categories of academic scholarship: Scholarship of *Discovery, Teaching, Integration & Application* (Boyer)

Engagement

- Incorporates reciprocal practices of civic engagement into the production of knowledge.
- Created through collaborative relationships with partners external to the university.
Diverse Scholarly and Creative Artifacts:

- Knowledge changes and grows as it is translated into different contexts and idioms—from a community workshop to site plan, from exhibition to public report or journal article.
- The products of publicly engaged scholarly and creative work includes the mixing, sequencing, and integration of a number of artifacts.
- The goal is to provide links to different communities of reception.

From these projects and artifacts come the pressure to craft more flexible systems of dissemination.
Design Workshops
RE-THINKING DOWNTOWN WESTFIELD

Associate Professor Joseph Krupczynski / Architecture + Design Program
Department of Art, Architecture & Art History / UMass Amherst
RECLAIM THE RIVERFRONT

Visualizations

RE-THINKING DOWNTOWN WESTFIELD

Existing view at River

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A Revitalized Downtown

As the project team worked together to chart Downtown Westfield's future, an examination of existing conditions, under-utilized assets and creative potentials revealed the unique characteristics of three downtown districts:

Core Downtown District
Primary Characteristics: Arts, Culture and Entertainment

This core downtown area bounded by the Columbia Greenway bridge over Elm Street and the Town Green is characterized by its potential for Arts and Entertainment. Existing venues such as the Rinnova Gallery, Piccolo's and other downtown restaurants in this area provide an excellent context for this downtown center to thrive with cultural activity. Westfield State College's plan to invigorate the downtown with a focus on the arts is another initiative that will shape this district's emerging identity.

Riverfront District
Primary Characteristics: Recreation and Neighborhood/Youth Culture

The Great River Bridge Project will provide renewed access to one of Downtown Westfield's underutilized assets, the Westfield River. With the Columbia Greenway's future development, the opportunities for passive and active recreation in a context of commercial and residential riverfront activity will be enhanced. The southern section of this district (east of Elm Street) provides a perfect counterpart to river recreation with existing youth and neighborhood oriented restaurants and bars. Additionally, commercial and residential development opportunities within underutilized existing buildings offer potential for future growth and strengthening connections to adjacent neighborhoods.

Depot Square District
Primary Characteristics: Residential and Destination Commerce

With the completion of the Great River Bridge project, this district will have renewed visibility. Local landmarks such as Pilgrim Candle can provide a context for additional destination commerce within this historic and walkable area. The infrastructure improvements and available land also provide an excellent environment for townhomes and multi-family residential development.

A Sustainable Model

As developers show renewed interest in the city, attracted by the walkable neighborhoods, access to active transportation (bicycling and walking), updated infrastructure and the “great bones” shining through the current under-utilized historic buildings, this plan will allow them to define their projects within these new distinct places: Arts, Culture and Entertainment; Recreation and Neighborhood/Youth Culture; and New Residential and Destination Commerce.

The objective of this planning process has been to rethink and re-imagine what a revitalized Downtown Westfield can be, and we offer this plan as a pathway towards that goal. All the pieces are in place for a downtown that is a model for sustainable development for Western Massachusetts and beyond.
 Una lechonera es un restaurante en donde se asan cerdos y su ves actúa como un ambiente cultural que son ubicuos e importantes a través de toda la isla en Puerto Rico. Este diseño innovador explora espacios y condiciones formales que pueden spatial and formal conditions that can best address the Latino community's identity within a New England context. 

The project recognizes that a lechonera in Holyoke involves the creation of a space that has strong visual un espacio que tiene una visión sólida y que da una referencia and cultural references, and that acts as both a place to cultural. A su vez actúa como lugar para comer y como un lugar eat and as a place of cultural affirmation. The project will de afirmación cultural. El proyecto será construido y se abrirá en be built and will be open in the Summer of 2009.

A "lechonera" is a pig roasting restaurant and cultural site that has a ubiquitous and important presence across the island of Puerto Rico. This design explores innovative spatial and formal conditions that can best address the Latino community's identity within a New England context. The project recognizes that a lechonera in Holyoke involves the creation of a space that has strong visual and cultural references, and that acts as both a place to eat and as a place of cultural affirmation. The project will be built and will be open in the Summer of 2009.

Exhibition in Holyoke

*de studios

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