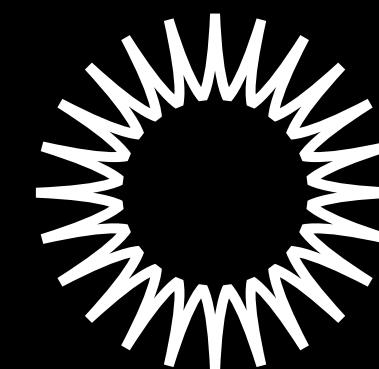


Drawing the Future of Public Space in San Jose

Tuesday, September 25, 2018



**KNIGHT
FOUNDATION**



SPUR

SPEAK UP

SAN JOSÉ

Shaping Our Future City



**KNIGHT
FOUNDATION**

knightfoundation.org/articles/speak-up-san-jose

**How do we
design
successful
public spaces?**



ABN AMRO Headquarters Plaza, London



PPG Place, Pittsburgh



Empire State Plaza, Albany



Pershing Square, Los Angeles



City Hall Plaza, Boston



Piazza del Campo, Siena

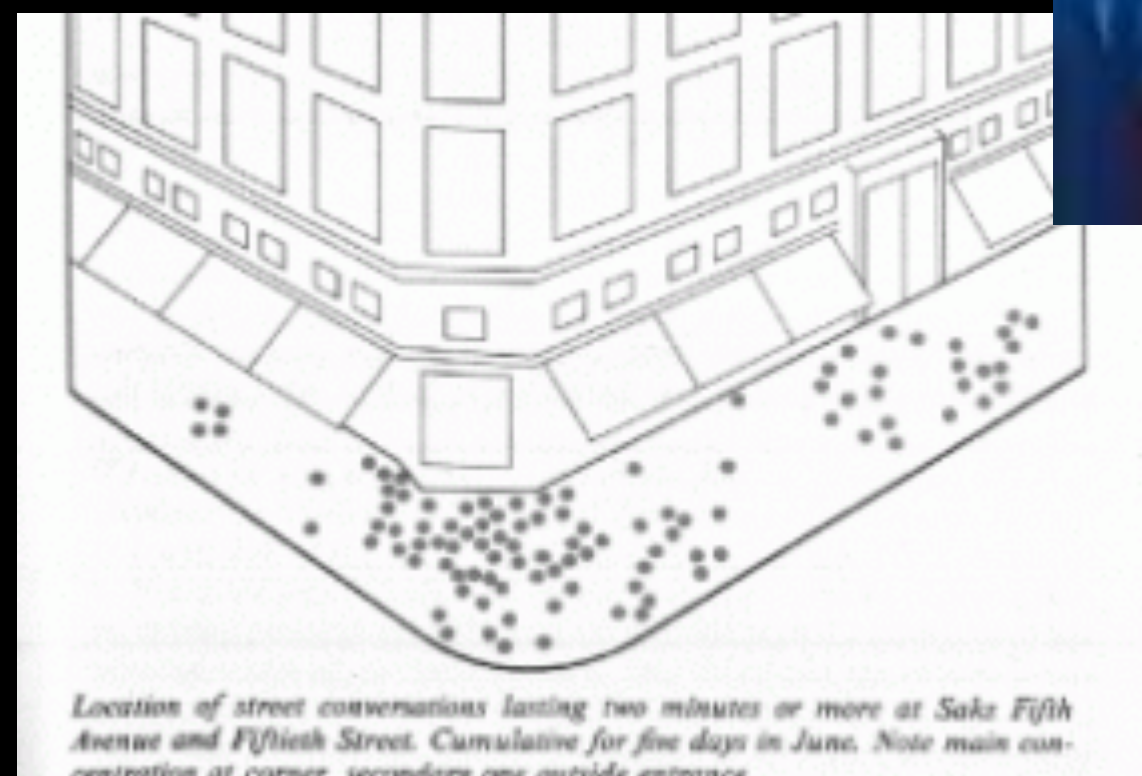
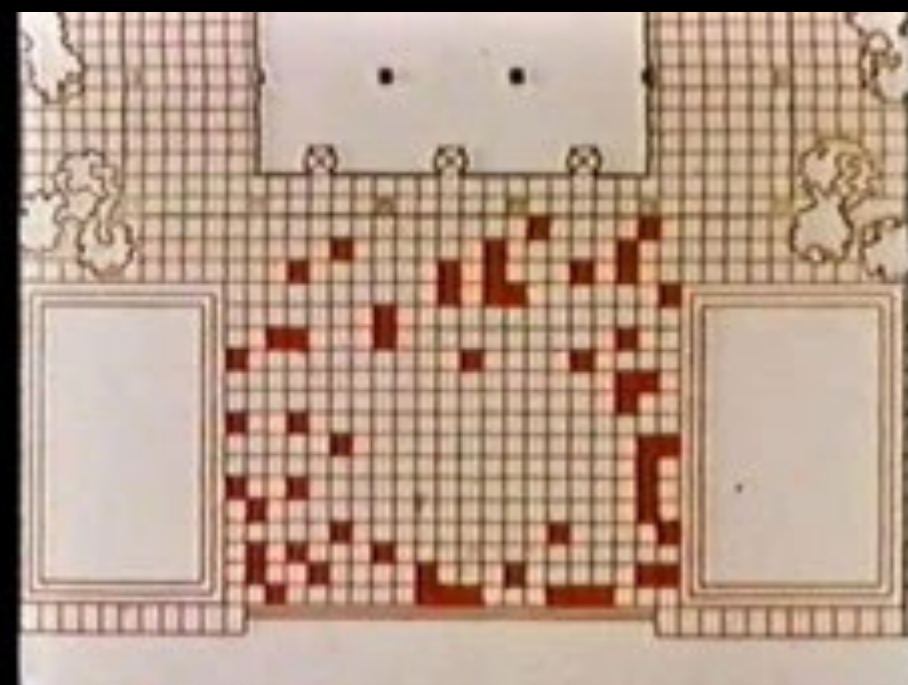
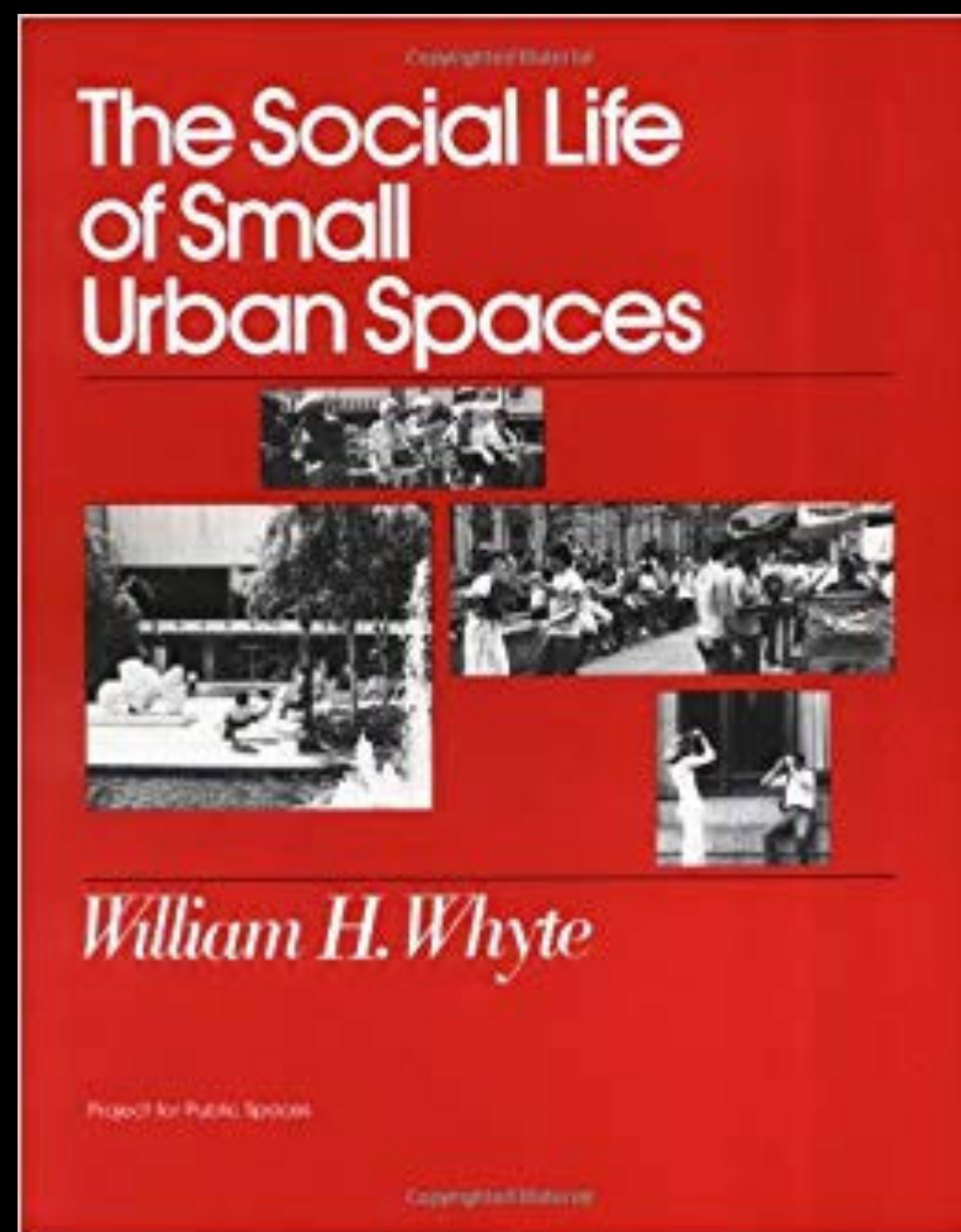
Tonight's Agenda:

- Short presentations
- Moderated discussion + Q & A
- Workshop
- Report out

Tonight's Presenters:

- Tim Rood / City of San Jose
- Thang Do / Aedis Architects
- Christine Laing / Gensler
- Benjamin Grant / SPUR

Tim Rood / City of San Jose





It is difficult to design a space that
will not attract people. What is
remarkable is how often this has
been accomplished.

— *William H. Whyte* —

AZ QUOTES

**PEOPLE TEND TO SIT
WHERE THERE ARE
PLACES TO SIT.**

SITTABLE SPACE

STREET

SUN

FOOD

WATER

TREES

TRIANGULATION













Ping Pong

W 42ND ST

Pétanque

6TH AVE

Fountain Terrace

Putting + Kubb

The Lawn

Upper Terrace

Le Carrousel

W 42ND ST

Art Cart

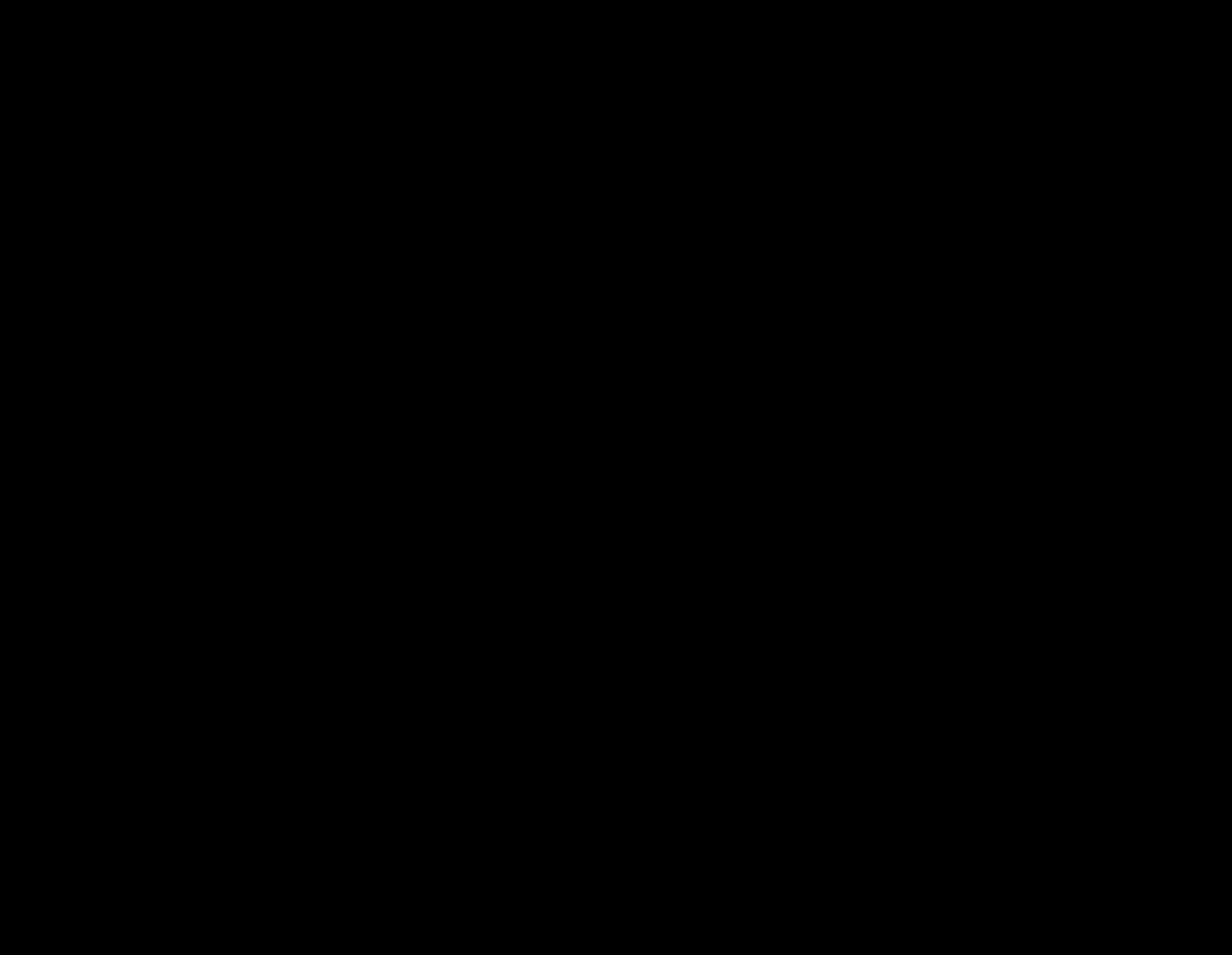
Fifth Avenue Terrace

5TH AVE

6TH AVE

?

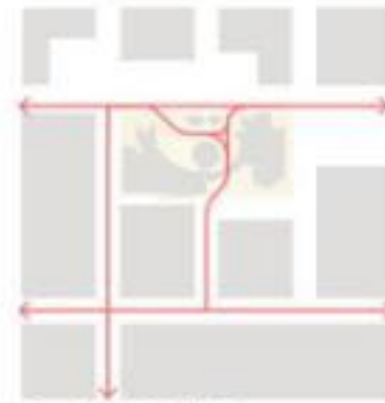




The place is not a node



Gammeltorv in Copenhagen.
A very successful node of urban paths



San José's City Hall.
A place to walk by rather than walk through

While the passage east of the Rotunda provides a convenient connection between Santa Clara Street and the San José State University Campus and M.I.K. Library through the plaza, the plaza as a whole fails to function as a node of urban paths. There is no real need to cross its space to reach the destinations around it, so it fails to harness the power of through-pedestrian traffic. Pedestrians cross City Hall Plaza mainly in only one direction, from north to south and from south to north, using the above mentioned passage. The tower and the bleachers block any other direction of movement across the space, considerably reducing the activity and the consequent possibility for more human interaction. More often than not, City Hall Plaza remains a place to walk by (along Santa Clara Street) rather than to walk through.



Re-Imagining the Heart of San José Making City Hall Plaza a Place for People

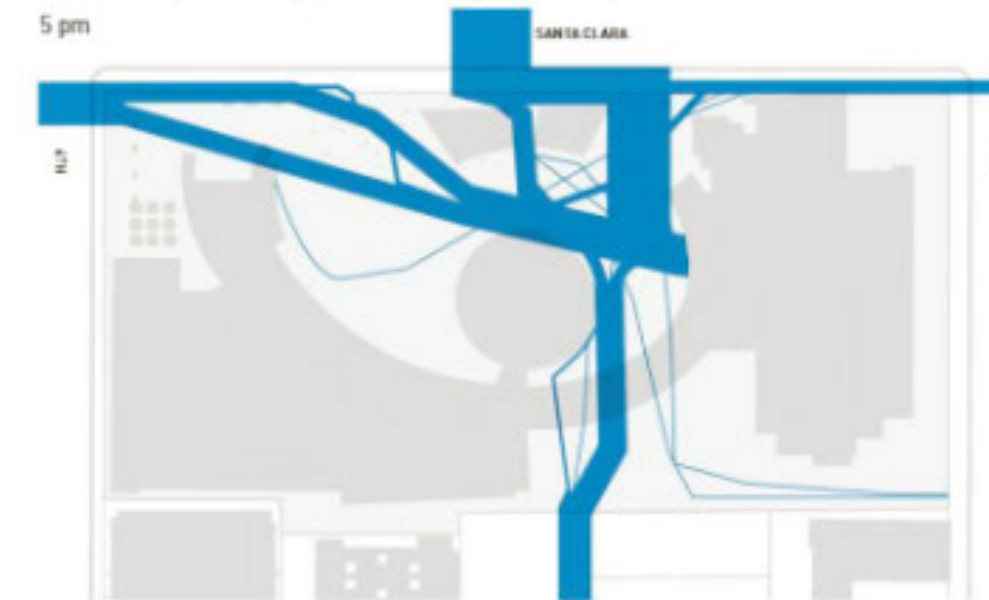


Gehl
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

The Tech
Museum of Innovation

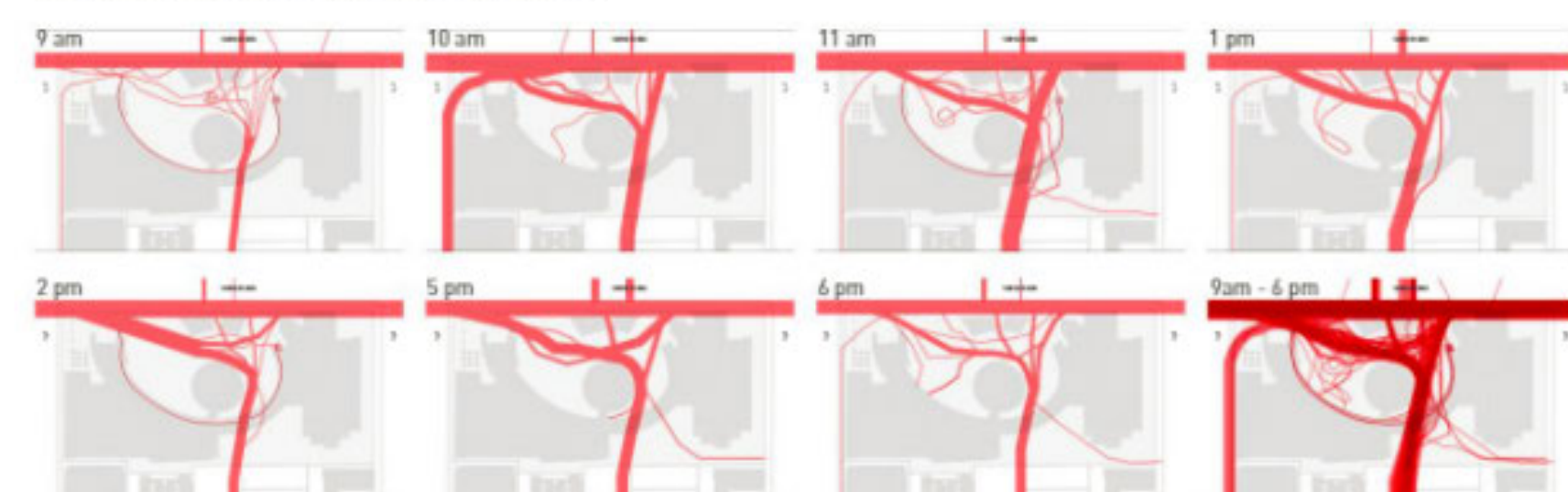
The plaza does not serve as an intersection of urban paths

Wednesday / Tracing pedestrians paths every Hour



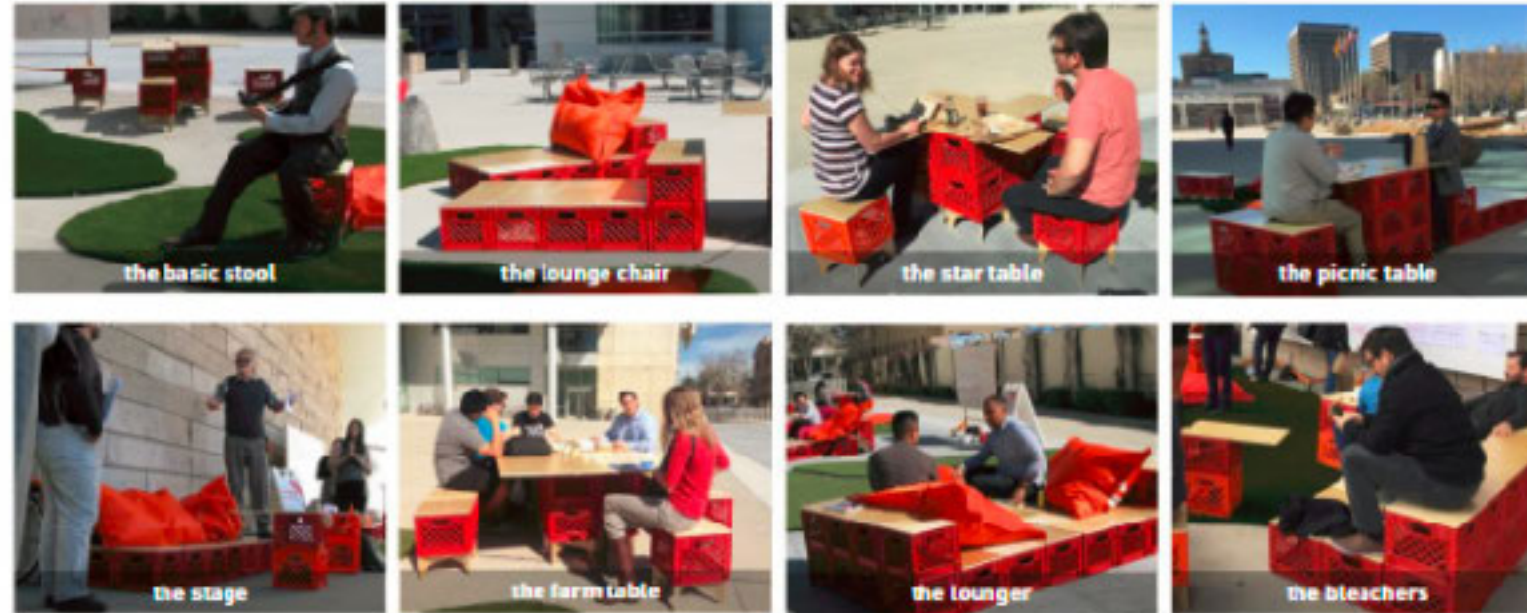
Pedestrians cross City Hall Plaza in only one direction, from north to south and from south to north, using the above mentioned passage. The tower and the bleachers block any other direction of movement across the space, considerably reducing the activity and the consequent possibility for more human interaction. As such, more often, City Hall Plaza remains a place to walk by (along Santa Clara Boulevard) rather than to walk through, especially during weekdays.

Saturday / Tracing pedestrians paths every hour



SJ/UP kit / San José urban prototyping kit

The SJ/UP kit, composed of our custom, milk crate-based modular furniture kit [Crate+] and organically-shaped synthetic turf with brightly colored bean bag pillows [Park Spots], allowed us to test a variety of seating, surfaces, and “room” layouts in the plaza.

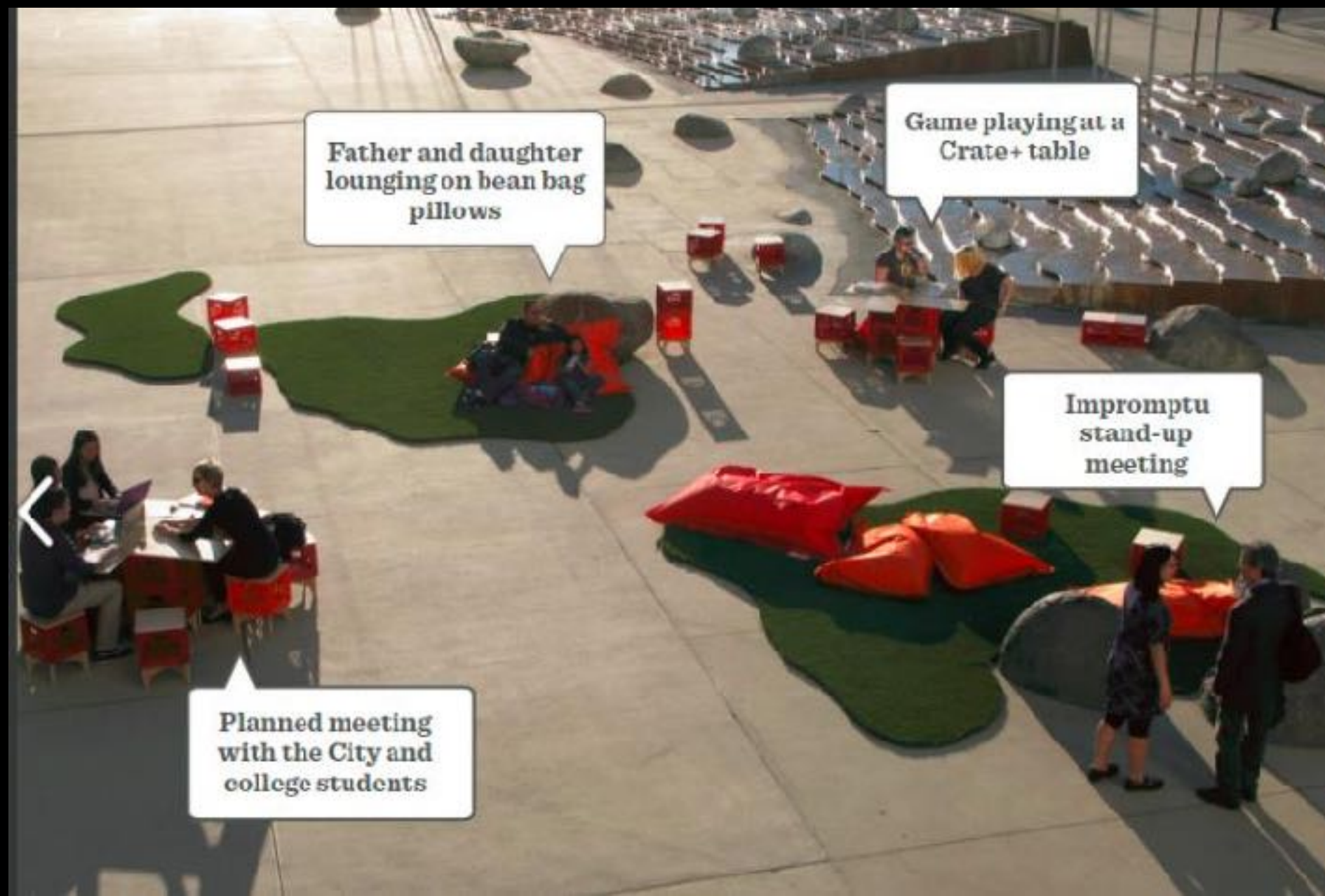


74

To Imagine the Heart of San José: Making City Hall Plaza a Place for People



The SJ/UP kit was positioned across the East, West, and South Plaza in different configurations to test how we might transform the plaza into a workspace, lunch room, lounge, performance space and a fountain-side “beach” scene.



Thang Do / Aedis Architects



Naples, Italy



Rome, Italy



The High Line, New York



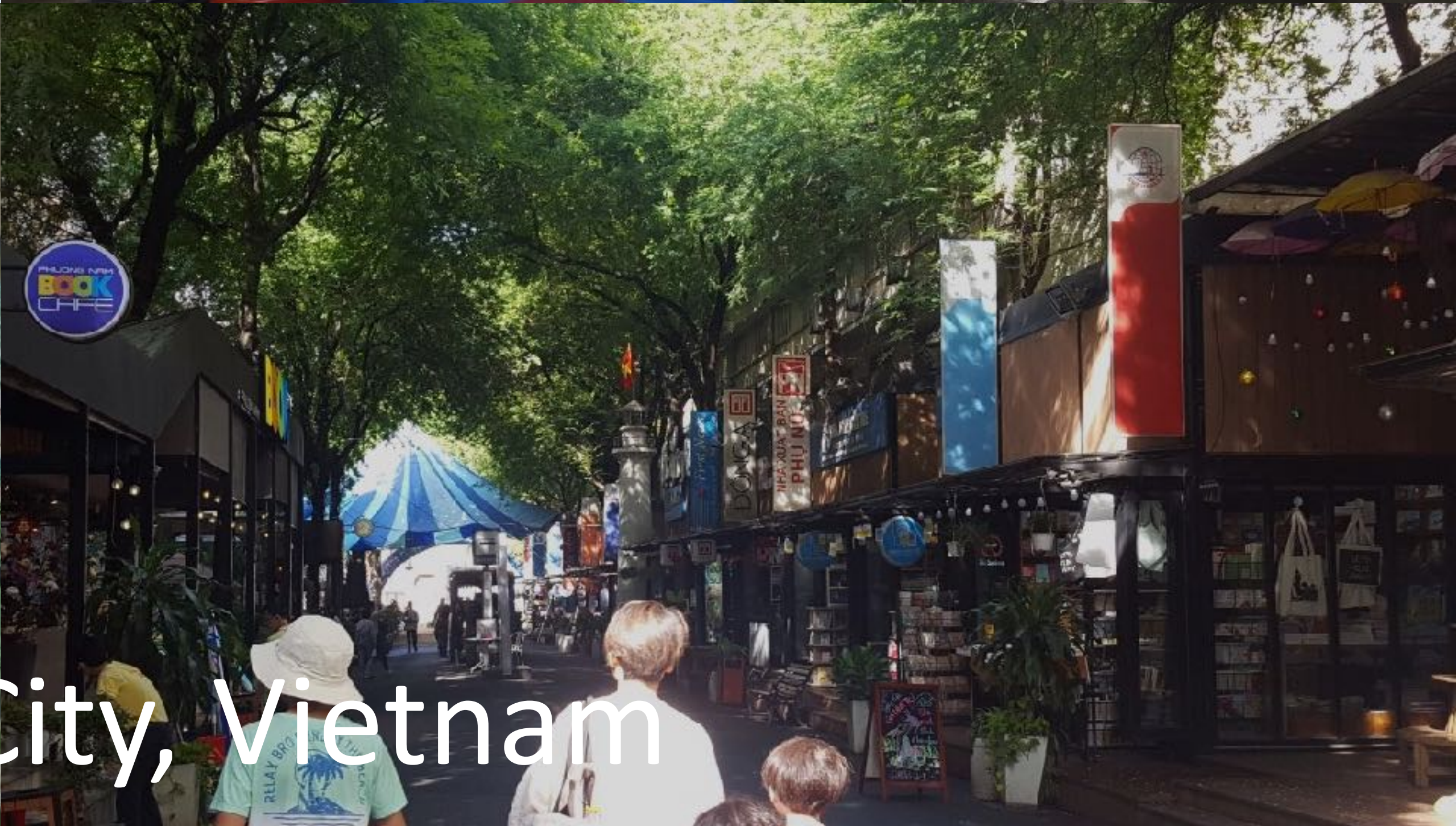
Transbay Transit Center, New York



Times Square, New York



Bryant Park, New York



Hochiminh City, Vietnam



Hochiminh City, Vietnam



Mercato Centrale, Florence, Italy

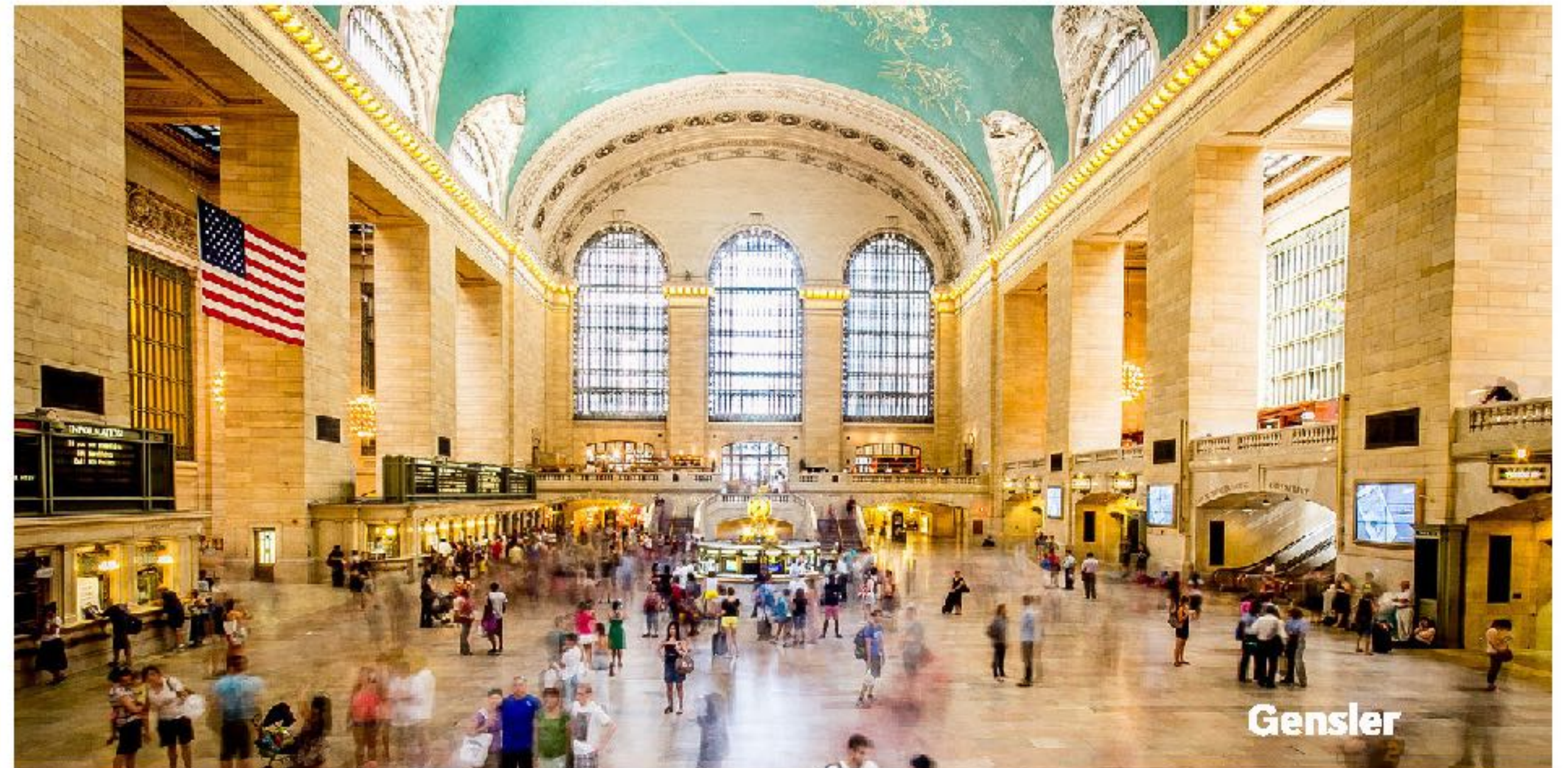


Transit Hub, New York

Christine Laing / Gensler

Drawing the Future of Public Space in San Jose





What draws me to these spaces?



Piazza di Santa Maria Novella

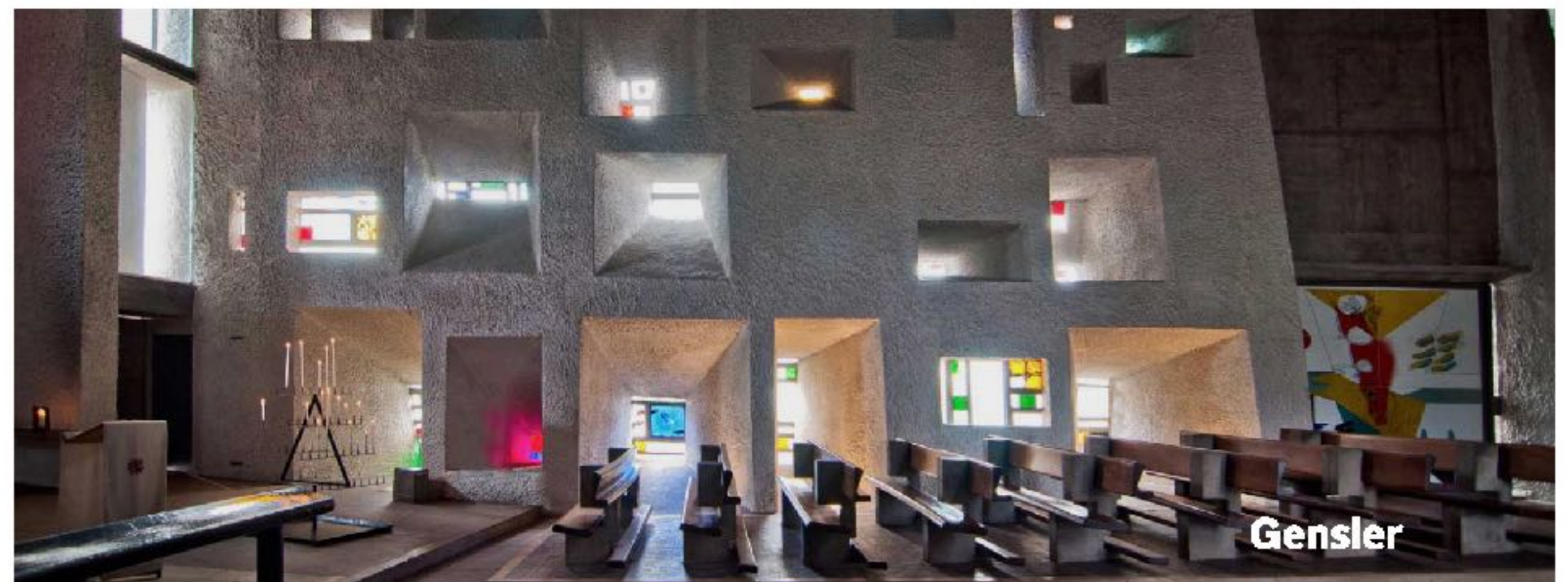
Florence, Italy





Notre Dame du Haut

Rochamp, France



Gensler

Santa Cruz Mountains & Guadalupe River

California



Benjamin Grant / SPUR

La Grande Place, Bruxelles
Write a description for your map.

Legend



Campo, Siena

Write a description for your map.



Piazza Navona, Rome

Legend



Central Park







South Park, San Francisco
Write a description for your map.

















“It is difficult to design a space that will not attract people. What is remarkable is how often this has been accomplished.”

-William H. Whyte (1988)

SPEAK UP

SAN JOSÉ

Shaping Our Future City



**KNIGHT
FOUNDATION**