

PUBLIC PARK SITE HISTORY & IMPRESSION

1888
U.S. President Grover Cleveland granted Tacoma to rights to use 640 acres of undeveloped federal military reservation of Point Defiance as a city park. There weren't many amenities besides campgrounds so the visitors were seasonal and were mostly gathered by the beaches.

1890
A streetcar line to Point Defiance Park was added to provide accessibility to the gardens and picnic areas.

1899
The construction of the first bear pit started the permanent zoo with herds of elk, deer and bison which developed into the present Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

1914
The Pagoda was built as a luxurious amenity that featured a heated waiting room, a first aid station, and marble restrooms staffed by attendants who handed out towels during the summer season.

1959
A Children's Farm Zoo, exhibiting cows, chickens, rabbits, ducks and goats, encouraging interactin with city children was introduced. Care of the farm animals was a cooperative venture between zoo staff and chapters of the Future Farmers of America.

1984
A major fire destroyed the Boathouse Pavilion complex that was built in 1920s. It was rebuilt and opened in 1988 with expanded facilities for boat storage and rentals.

1990s-present
Point Defiance Park continues to develop as Tacoma's crown jewel of public spaces, fostering partnerships with horticultural, zoological, maritime, conservation and cultural organizations to ensure the vitality of this magnificent peninsula.

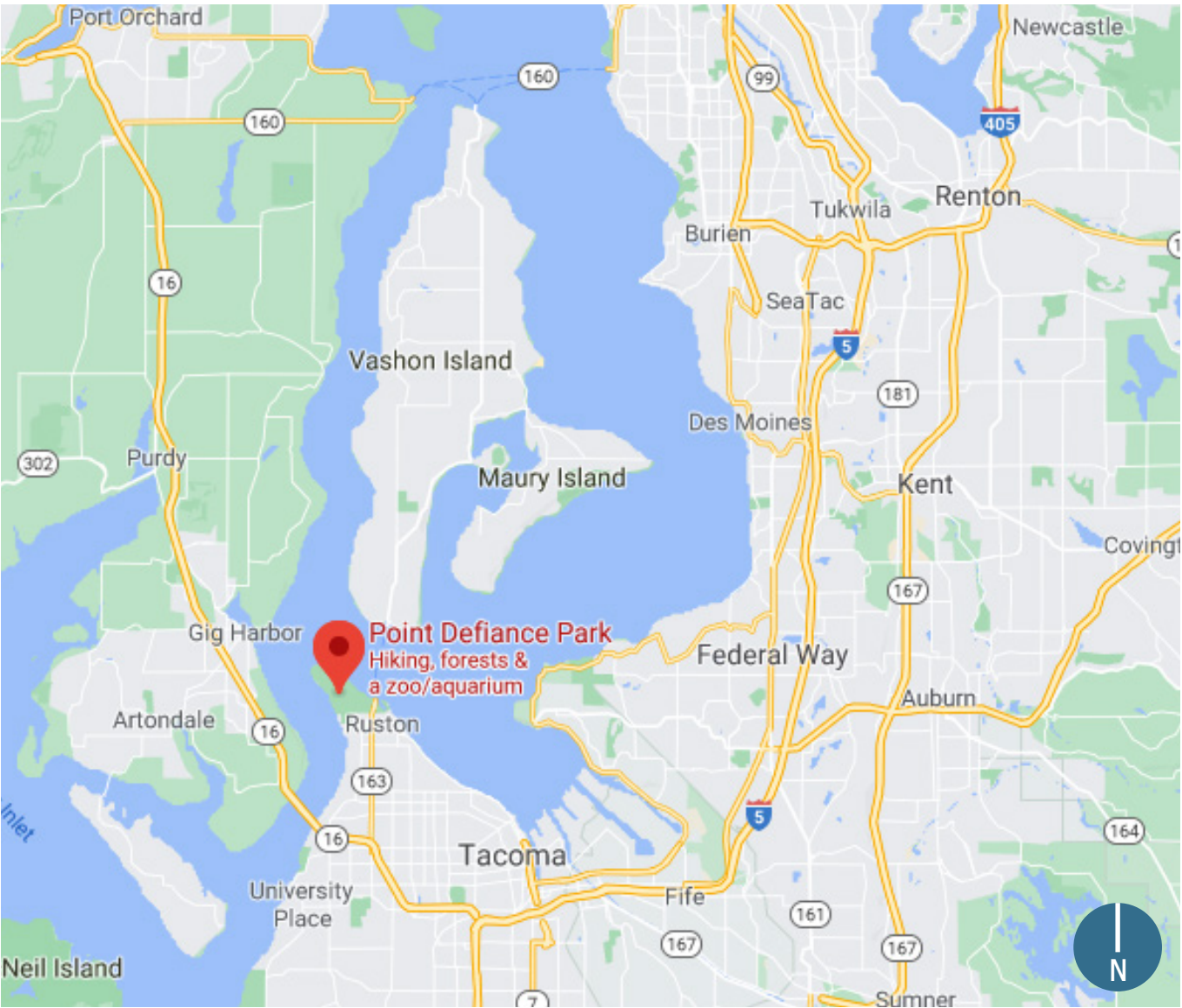


USERS GATHERING ON SHORELINE AT POINT DEFIANCE PARK IN THE LATE 1800S



VIEW OF THE MARINA AND MAURY ISLAND ACROSS

FIRST IMPRESSION
Since it was my first time in Seattle, I was shocked how much greenery there was compared to Los Angeles. I went around late morning and parking was easy to find, there were a few people when I arrived, but not entirely busy. The walk at Dune Peninsula was very memorable, it was very open and wide with layers of terrain. I remember how fresh the air felt, how quiet it was and how hot it felt in the afternoon. There weren't many shade trees, but the plant materials and the wide view of the Puget Sound was so beautiful and breathtaking that I didn't mind. The park had so much open space that it seemed like there weren't much people, but there were people jogging, walking, riding bikes and sitting around spread across the park. I spent about 4 hours there including renting and riding bikes, eating lunch and visiting the Pagoda and Japanese garden. The park is large, so experiencing the full park would require multiple visits. I'm looking forward to going back again.



TACOMA, WASHINGTON

INTRODUCTION

Because the Park is so large, I was only able to spend most of my time at the Dune Peninsula at Point Defiance Park so my field notes will be based on only that quadrant of the main park. In this study, I tried my best to recollect my observations and some patterns may or may not be accurate.

Map Legend

Five Mile Drive - Outer Loop
(Periodically closed to motor vehicles)

Five Mile Drive - Inner Loop
(One-Way Road)

Other Park Roads

ADA Accessible Trail

Park Boundary

Roundabout

Primary Trails

Outside Loop Trail (Distance 4.3 Miles)

Inside Loop Trail (Distance 3.6 Miles)

Spine Trail (Distance 2.6 Miles)

Secondary Trails

Wilson Way Pedestrian Bridge

Frank Herbert Trail

Restrooms (Accessible)

Restrooms (Seasonal)

Playground

Trail Access

Slides / Stairs

Ferry Dock

Information Kiosk

Boat Launch

Food

Bus Stops

Picnic Shelters - Drop-In

Picnic Shelters - Reservable

• Main Picnic Area

• Owens Beach

• Dune Peninsula (overlook)

• Fort Nisqually

• Dune Peninsula (overlook)

A detailed map of Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, WA. The map shows the park's layout, including the Five Mile Drive (Outer and Inner Loops), various trails (Primary and Secondary), and viewpoints (Gig Harbor, Narrows, Dalco Passage, Vashon, Owen Beach, Bridges). It also marks landmarks like the Tacoma Yacht Club, Cambia Legacy Lawn, and the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. A detailed inset map focuses on the Dune Peninsula at Point Defiance Park, showing the Point Defiance Trailhead, Slides and Stairs, and the marina area. The map includes a legend, a north arrow, and the MetroParks Tacoma logo.

MAP OF POINT DEFIANCE PARK

PROGRAMS & AMENITIES OF ENTIRE PARK

- OWENS BEACH
- FIVE MILE DRIVE & TRAILS
- GARDENS
- POINT DEFIANCE VISITORS CENTER

- POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM
- POINT DEFIANCE MARINA
- DUNE PENINSULA AT POINT DEFIANCE
- WILSON WAY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

- OFF-LEASH DOG PARK
- FERRY TERMINAL
- BOAT & BIKE RENTALS
- BOAT LAUNCH

- ART & ARTIFACTS
- BBQ GRILLS

ANALYSIS

ACCESS

- The Main Park has 3 Main access points: Wilson Way Bridge, N Waterfront Dr and Five Mile Dr.
- The Dune Peninsula has 3 main access points as well.

CONTEXT

- Retail/Restaurants at Ruston Park (southeast of Dune Peninsula)
- Apartment Complex at Ruston Park (southeast of Dune Peninsula)

DISTRIBUTION OF ZONES

- Mostly Lawn Area
- Different elevations of hills
- Picnic area
- Bathrooms / Rest Area

SEATING/FURNITURE

- Benches (wood)
- Raised planters (concrete)
- Picnic Tables (wood)

CIRCULATION

- Wide concrete pedestrian paths

TOPOGRAPHY

- Gentle slopes and medium grade changes
- Hills with integrated rock elements and stairs
- Grade starts at entry of park and gradually slopes down towards the marina

USERS

- Mixed groups of adults, elderly, and young children.
- Couples and family oriented park

ACTIVITIES

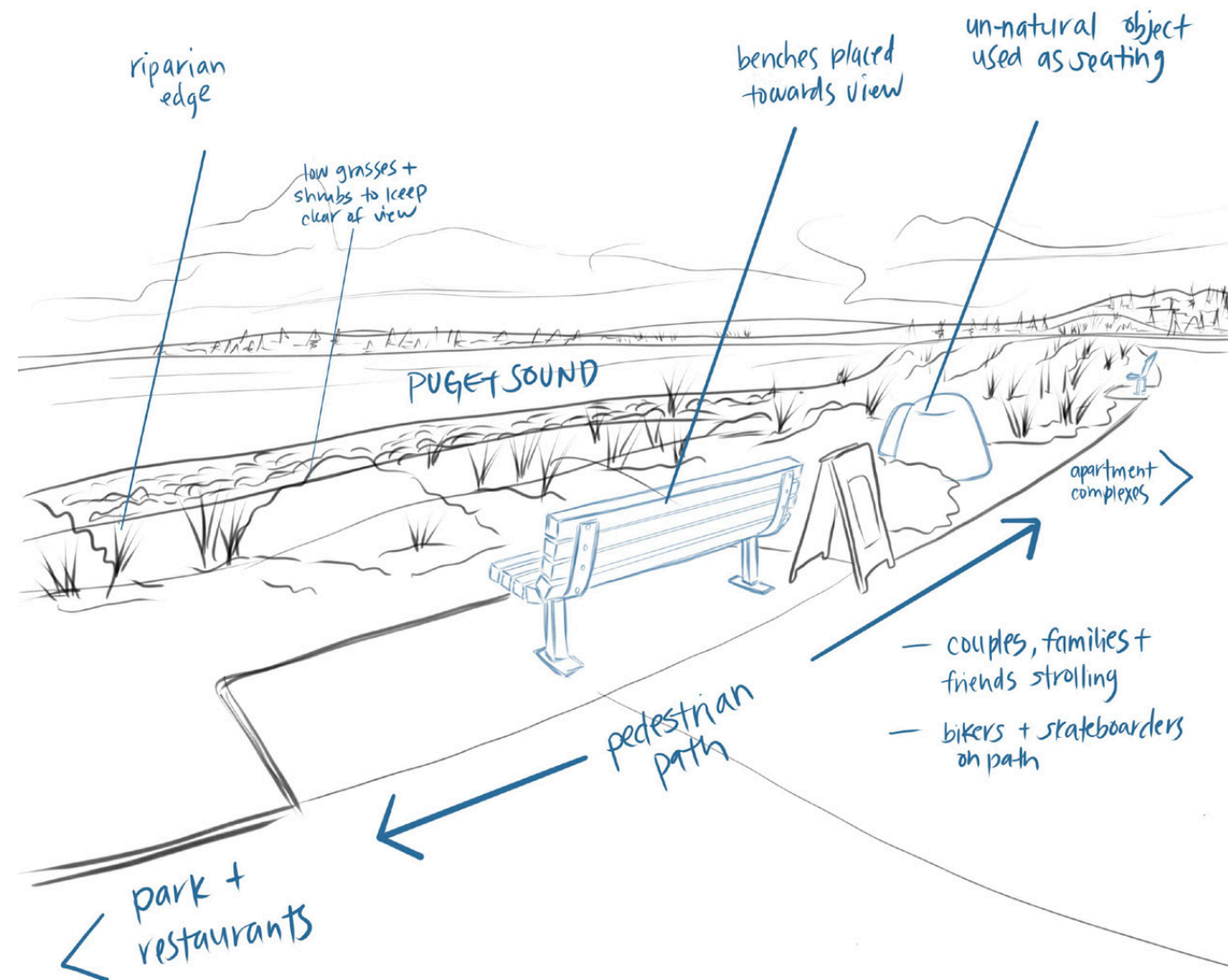
- Public art pieces
- Greenery: lack of trees, low grasses and shrubs that are well-maintained
- Mostly quiet, louder towards Ruston Park and along the shoreline as people are mostly biking together along that path.

HUMAN FACTORS IN LANDSCAPE ARCH.
MICHELLE TIET - 1/23/2021

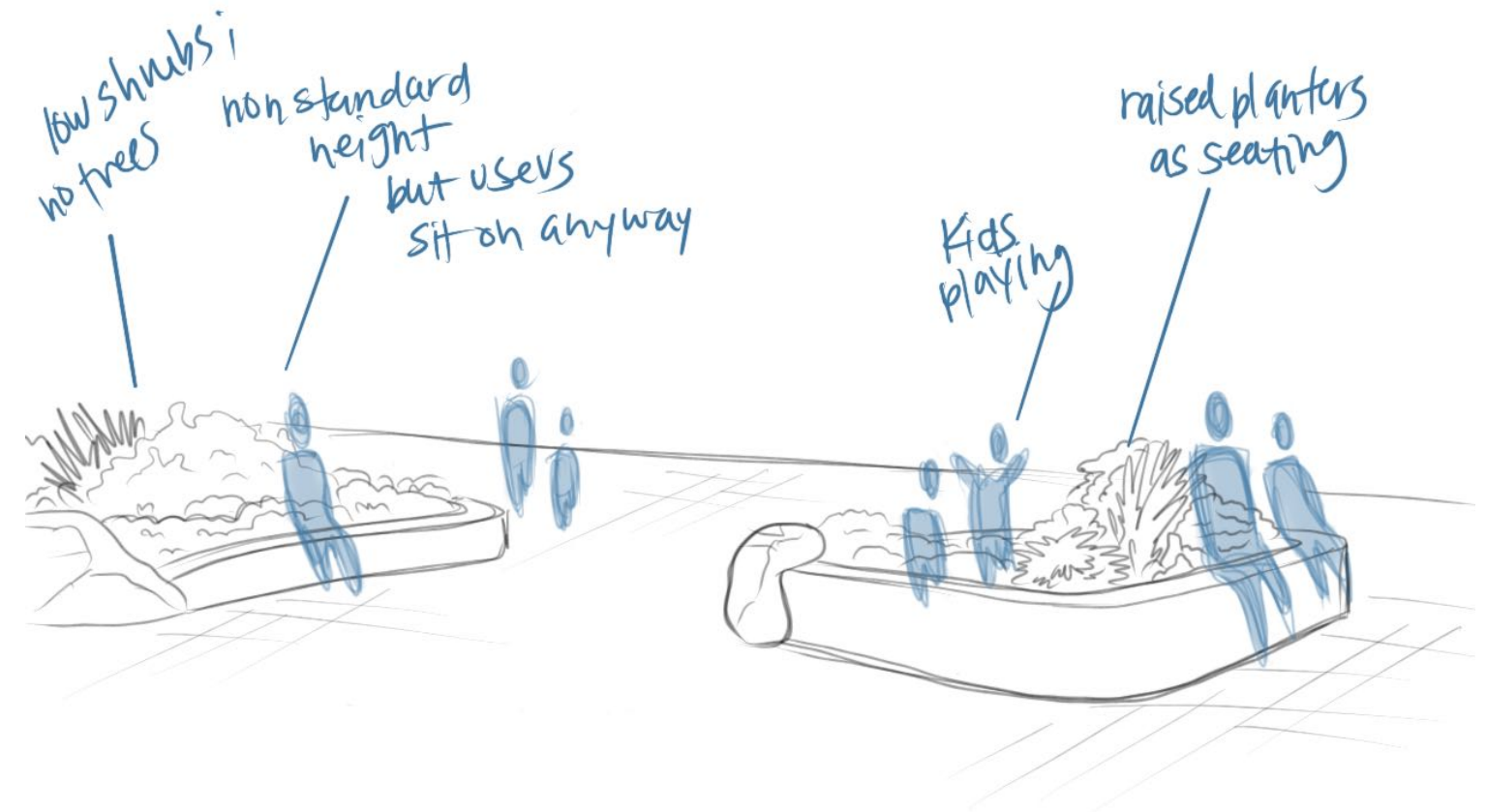
POINT DEFIANCE PARK TACOMA, WA

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SKETCHES & DRAWINGS

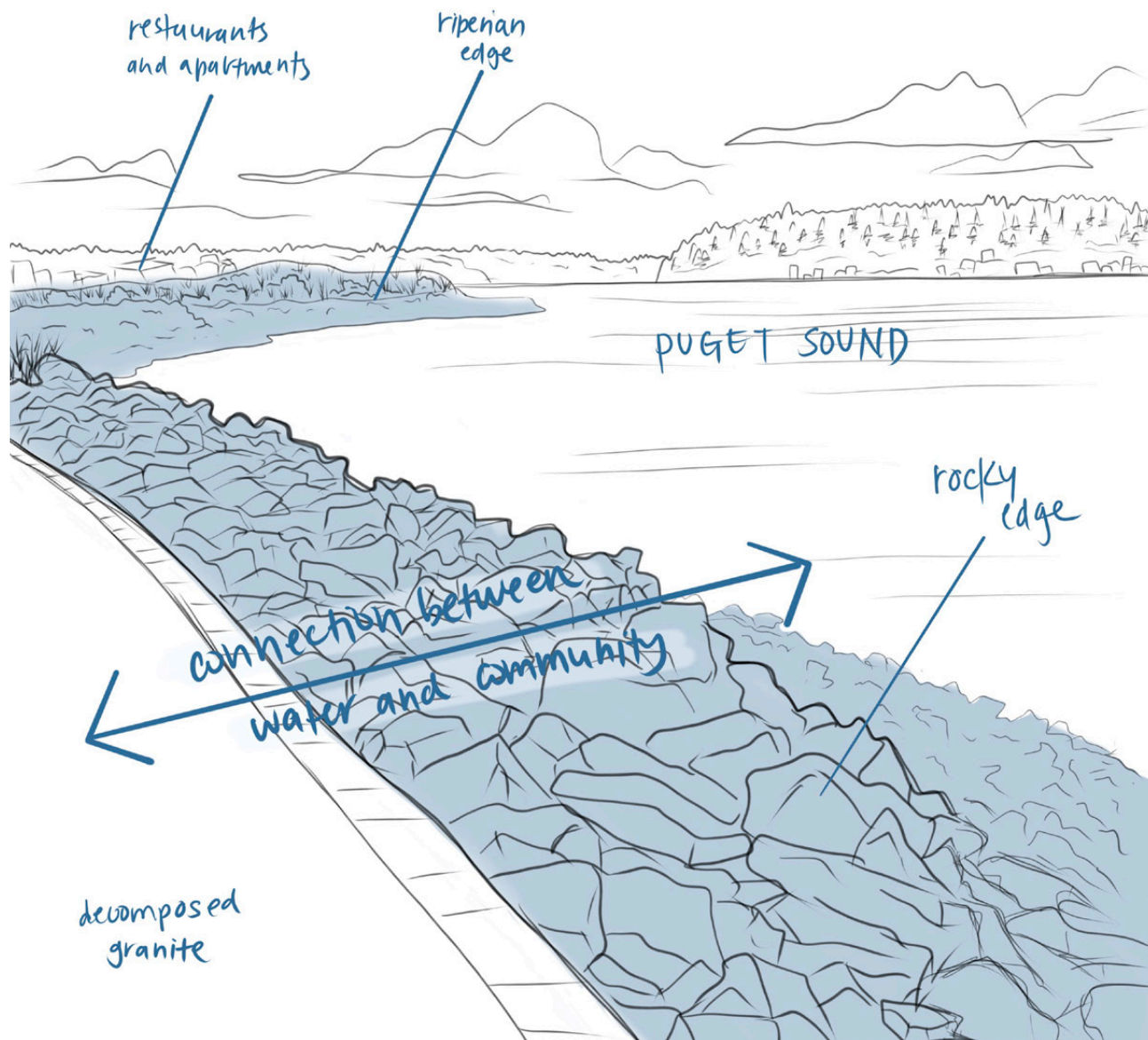


PEDESTRIAN PATH ALONG THE MARINA WITH BENCHES ALONG THE WAY AS A REST STOP. I USED THE BENCHES A FEW TIMES TO REST BECAUSE IT WAS SO HOT.

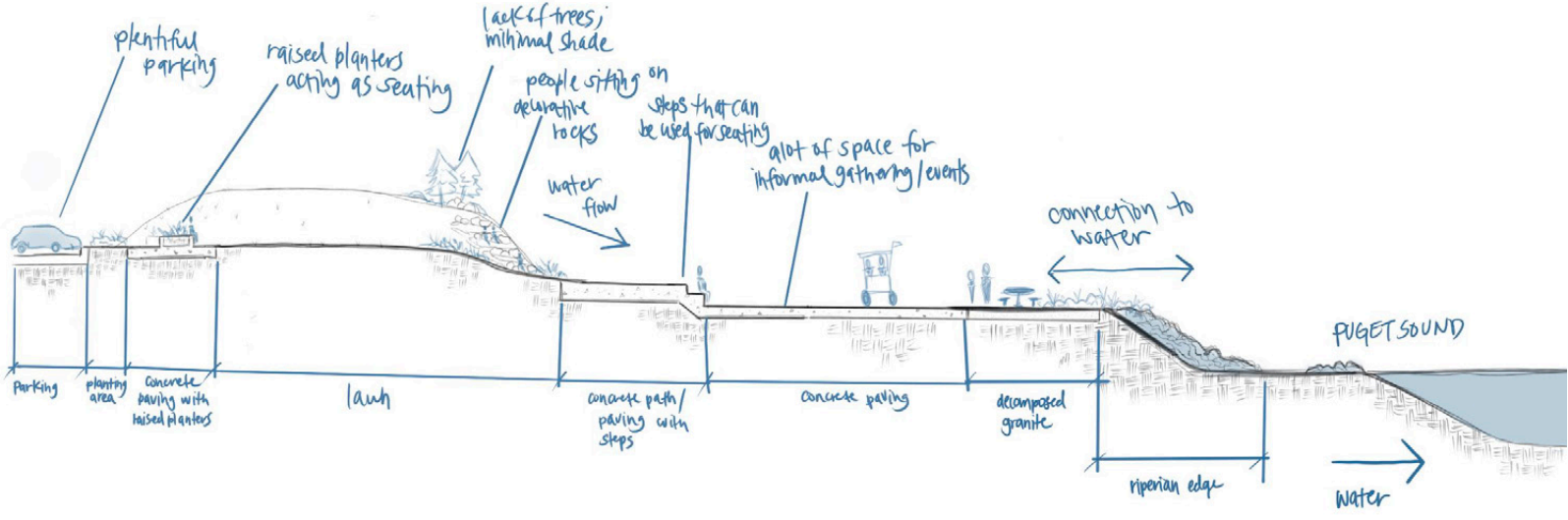


RAISED PLANTERS BEING USED AS A PLAY AREA FOR SOME KIDS. THEY WERE SEEN CLIMBING AND JUMPING OFF WHILE THE MOM WAS SITTING ON THE RAISED PLANTER AS WELL. BRINGS UP THE SAFE SELECTION OF PLANT MATERIAL, SO KIDS ARE NOT INJURED OR POISONED.

SKETCHES & DRAWINGS



VIEW FROM PEDESTRIAN PATH ALONG THE MARINA. THERE ARE MANY ROCKS ALONG THE SHORELINE. GIVES A SENSE OF ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTION TO THE WATER.



CROSS SECTION OF LEGACY LAWN SHOWING THE SUBTLE LAYERS OF TERRAIN AND OPENESS OF THE PARK. THERE AREN'T MANY TREES ONLY LOW GROWING GRASSES AND SOME SHRUBS.

OBSERVATIONS & REFLECTION



STEPS AND ROCK TERRACED

FIELD NOTES

In the image on the left....

- There were steep concrete steps leading up to the top of the hill.
- A few young adults were running up and down the steps.
- I saw 2 elderly resting at the bottom of the steps. They didn't seem interested in going up the hill.
- People sat along the rock terraced and enjoyed the view. A few were eating their lunch.
- This area didn't seem like a spot to sit for a long time due to the texture of the rocks and dirt and lack of shade.



VIEW FROM PARKING LOT LOCATION LOOKING TOWARDS PUGET SOUND AND THE OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS

FIELD NOTES

In the image on the left....

- There are pedestrian paths and biking paths in the park.
- Half the people I observed were walking and the rest were either jogging or biking.
- This image showcases the low landscape designed not to obstruct the views of the marina.
- It shows how well the park is maintained.
- There was a pattern of people sitting on the raised planter although it was lower than standard seating height.
- It was quite hot around the afternoon and there were no shade structures or trees.

FIELD NOTES

In the image on the right....

- I saw patterns of people taking pictures of the view and walking away feeling content. Normally I would see people try to adjust the position or re-take the photo because of the lighting or objects blocking the view.
- Most of the plant palette are low growing grasses or masses of shrubs that were kept at a good height.
- This showed that the park is being maintained.
- About 3 families took a group pictures and most of the females would initiate.



VIEW OF PUGET SOUND

FIELD NOTES

In the image on the right...

- I saw roughly 4 children sitting and playing around this hill.
- I also saw around 4 groups of tourists coming to take pictures sitting on this hill as well, including myself.
- I saw a couple sitting on this hill staring quietly at the view. One of the partners turned to look at the other and said, "This is a great moment, let me take a picture of you." That in itself, definitely shows that the design supported this behavior and had a purpose.

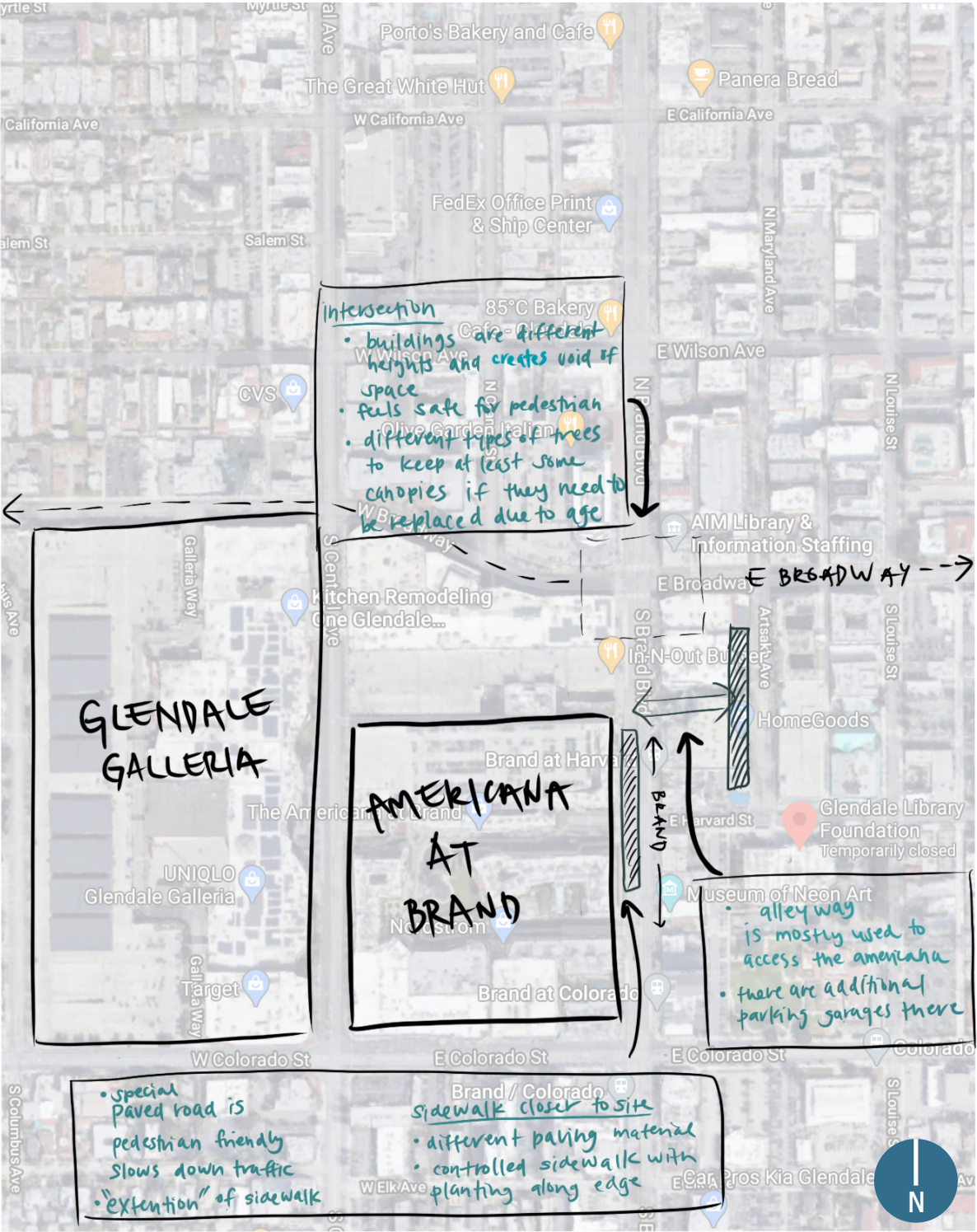


HILL WITH INTERESTING ROCK INTEGRATION

REFLECTION

After proper research, my initial impression is still the same about this park. My initial impression did not change, especially the fact that the park had a lack of shade for the users. I understand that the entire state is surrounded by millions of evergreen trees and the weather in Washington is mostly cold and rainy. It makes sense as to why they would designed the park how it is with only a few designated areas of trees or planting mainly deciduous trees, but it would have been nice to some structural shade that can be multi-used for shelter if it were to rain. After looking at the many forms of the park, I realized is why it's called dune peninsula because the design of the park has many subtle layers of terrain that looks like desert dunes. Although this park does not have as many programs as I have seen in other parks, the beauty in it's location and views, I think, is enough. I understand now why people would come here to hike, bike, jog and contemplate in this very large, scenic and somewhat quiet park.

MAP



PRE-SITE EVALUATIONS AND PERCEPTIONS

Before the first time I visited Americana at Brand, my friend had told me that it was a very nice outdoor shopping center and that she goes there all the time because it had the stores that she would always shop at, like Sephora and Nordstrom. Having been to 3rd Street Promenade, I expected it to be something similar, so I asked her what the vibe of the space was to get a general idea. She said, “You feel like you’re shopping in another city. It’s very immersed without feeling too out of place.” That made me think as to how this would feel like. I immediately thought, maybe it’s the architecture and scale of the buildings that would make it immersed. Just like in Gehl’s book, she explains that distance is an important factor and how the scale in the space correlates with the human senses. The anticipation was killing me.

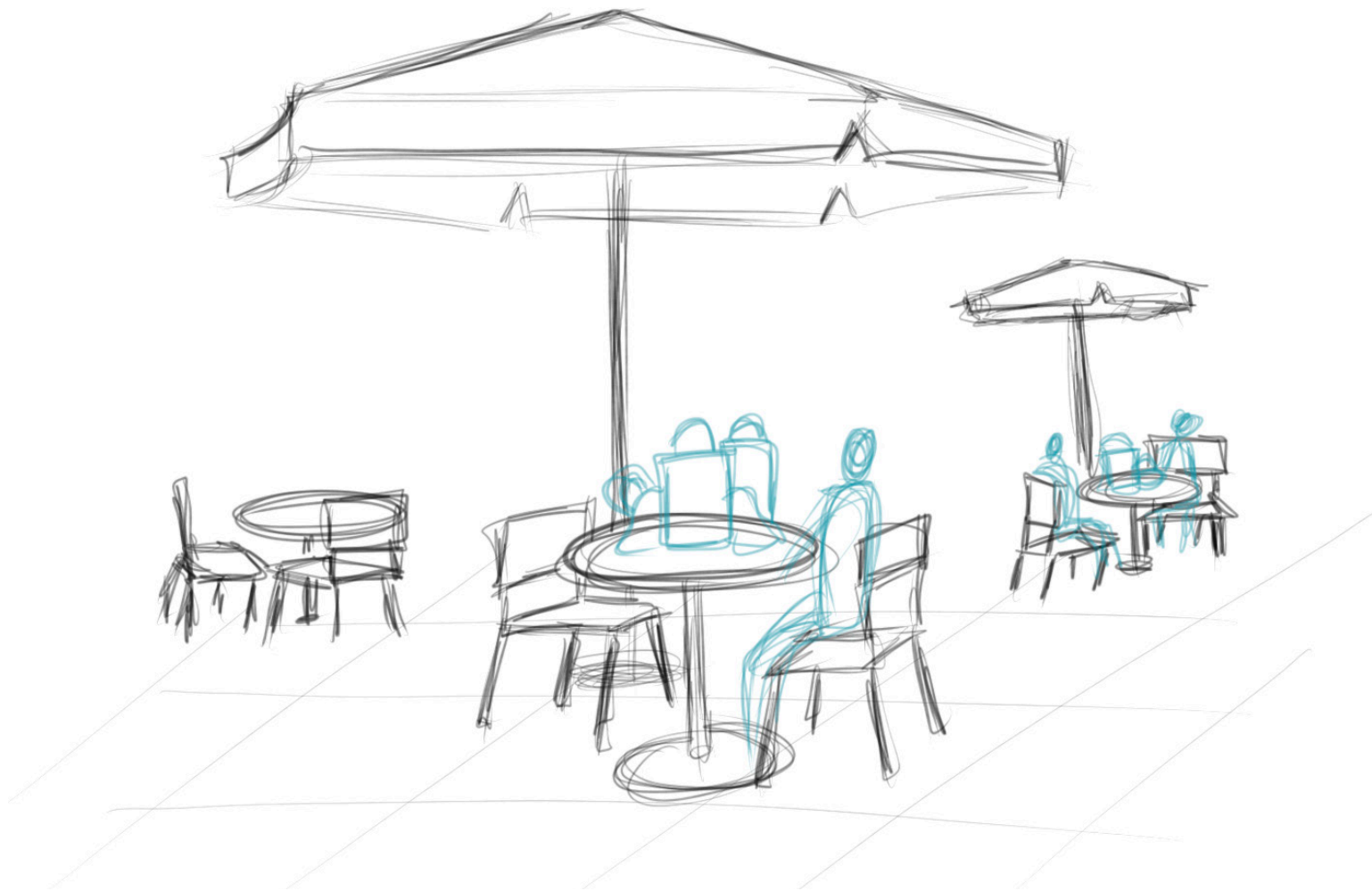
SENSORIAL EXPERIENCE

My friend lived at the apartments across from the Americana at Brand, so when we were setting out to leave, my first feeling after she had told me about the place was anxiousness and excitement. We entered through the alleyway in the small plaza with the Home Goods. As we crossed the street, I could feel the change in materials under my feet. I noticed the paving of the street was not cement but brick. It was not a smooth surface and I could hear the cars drive on the street slowly and cautiously with wheels bumping against the paving material. We finally got to the entrance and immediately I could hear Jazz music playing and dogs barking. I see all the different paving and planting materials with an abundance of texture and color. I see the buildings all in very intricate and detailed styles. It was pretty much overwhelming to take in everything that was present. Walking along the sidewalk of the stores, I touched one of the light fixtures to see if it was real, because I was in disbelief that this place was very precise and consistent with its materials. The light fixture was cold and hard and definitely made out of materials similar to a regular light fixture on the street, but painted. I walked past by some vendors carts without looking but smelled Wetzle’s Pretzles and immediately ordered something. I always order an almond crunch pretzle, it tasted good. Shopping around the entire outdoor plaza, I definitely notice that the fountain is the main feature, the faint water sounds, while strolling along the plaza is very relaxing to the ear. The Americana is a place I would spend all day at and go home feeling like I’d just gone to somewhere magical and can’t wait to go again.

REFLECTION ON DEE’S, FORM AND FABRIC IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

- One example of “material, form and fabric” at the Americana at Brand is the plethora of different textures, materials, and patterns used in the paving, furniture as well as the architecture. The form of the architecture creates different perspectives of the space. The tall structures versus the short structure with the tall enclosing the space and the short opening up the space. This pattern is used at Americana at Brand in the areas where groups of people are meant to gather and areas that are more private spaces.
- This purposeful design method contributes to the experience because you’re creating the rooms that the user enters by manipulating the area around the space. The openness will attract more groups while the more taller structures create spaces that allow people to tuck away from those bigger groups.
- A good public space should integrate design patterns such as change in material texture to guide users to a specific space as well as looking at the furniture and materials within the space to create voids and vignettes for the users to always see something pleasant and memorable. This is why Americana at Brand is so successful in that it is very detailed in every angle and it provides those design patterns to create something memorable for everyone.

SKETCHES & DRAWINGS



This sketch is of the seating area in front of the sprinkles vendor booth. From the last time I went, I remember people sitting at these areas to rest with their shopping bags on top of the tables. Most of them sat under umbrellas because it was a hot day and provided shade. I would have done the same thing! I think it's smart to have these seating areas in front of vendors because sometimes they give into purchasing something. I'm sure many people sat and looked at the delicious cupcake menu and decided to get one. You can even smell the bakery goodness from these seats!

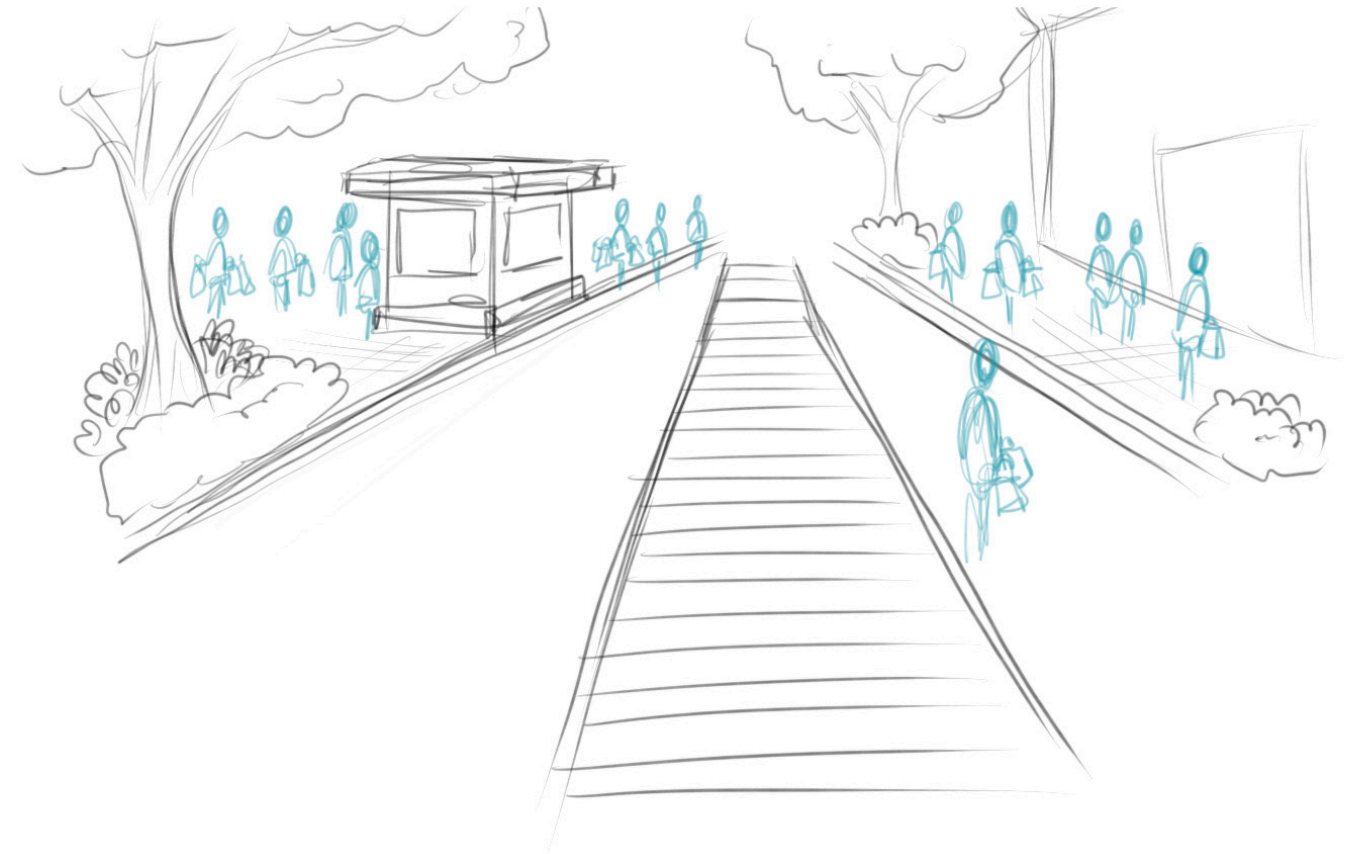


This sketch is at Shake Shack. I've taken a good look at most of the structures I think that it's very unique that each building has its own style and tries to fit modern with the all-american style. It almost seems like each building has its own character but fits together collectively and that's what makes this place work as well. The way the patterns of the paving align with the entrances of the restaurant and how they can use the design of the overhead to create a controlled environment (like in the image) is brilliant!

SKETCHES & DRAWINGS

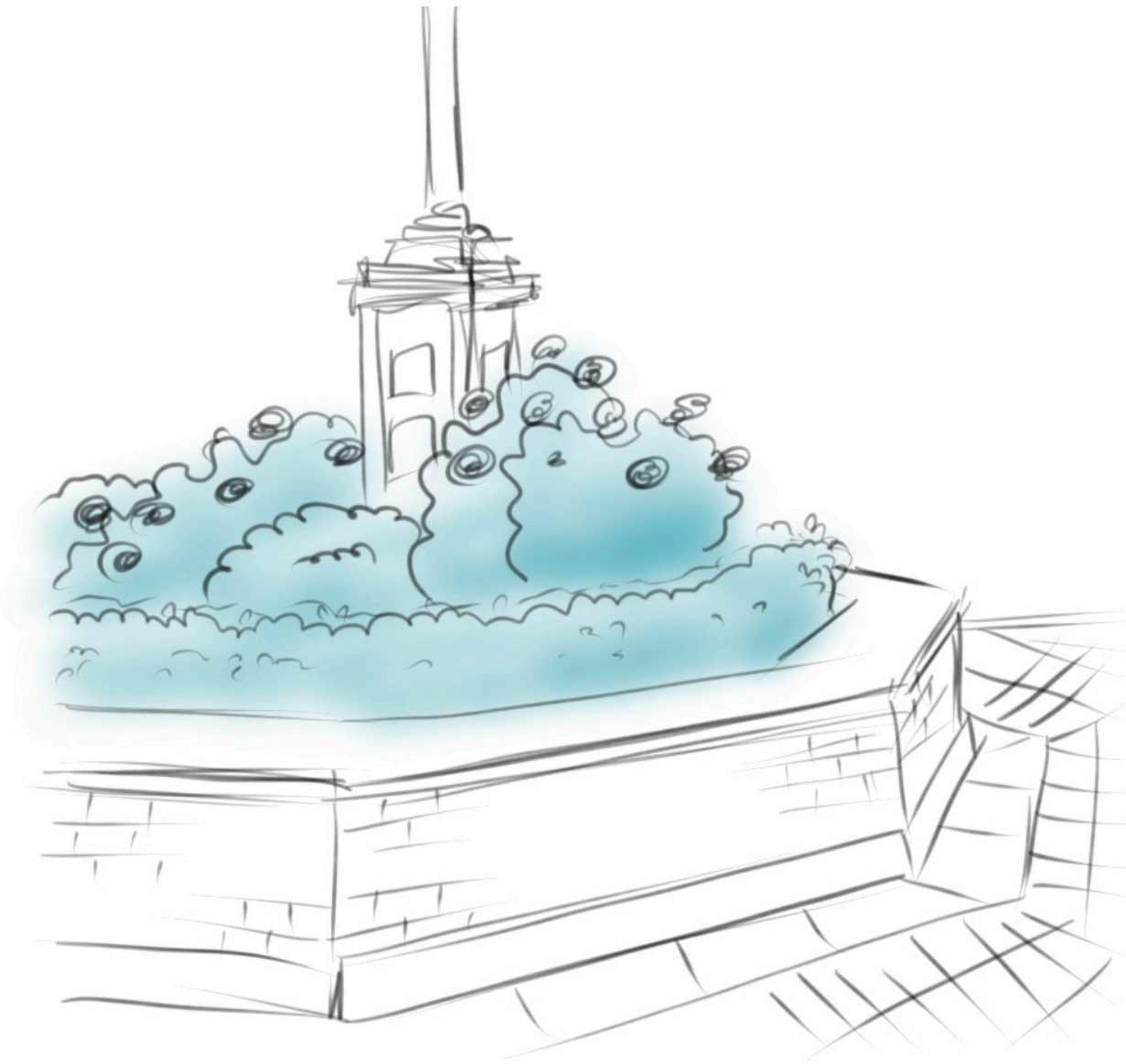


This is a sketch of the fountain area. The prime feature of the plaza and where most people are found. It is a wayfinder and a place to rest. I've scheduled meetings with friends at the Americana and we always tell each other to meet at the fountain because it's in the center of the Americana. I notice that there are no shaded areas around the fountain, only a section of the fountain has shaded trees, but people are attracted to water. I haven't quite figured out as to why people would sit there for long periods of time under the sun with no shade, but for me this spot would be more of a short-term area. A spot where people can meet up, take a few pictures or rest for a few minutes.



For this sketch, I've studied the area between one side of the "main street" where the train tracks are located and the store fronts. When I was there, on a slow day, people tend to walk on the sidewalks and did not really walk on the "main street" where the train track are. On a busy day, people walked everywhere and had to move off the tracks when the train would come. They knew where it was coming from because of the material difference in the paving. I think this is a great way to use design to communicate with the users. Instead of using signs, Americana at Brand uses paving and this applies to a lot of public spaces and this application is why this place is successful.

MATERIALS

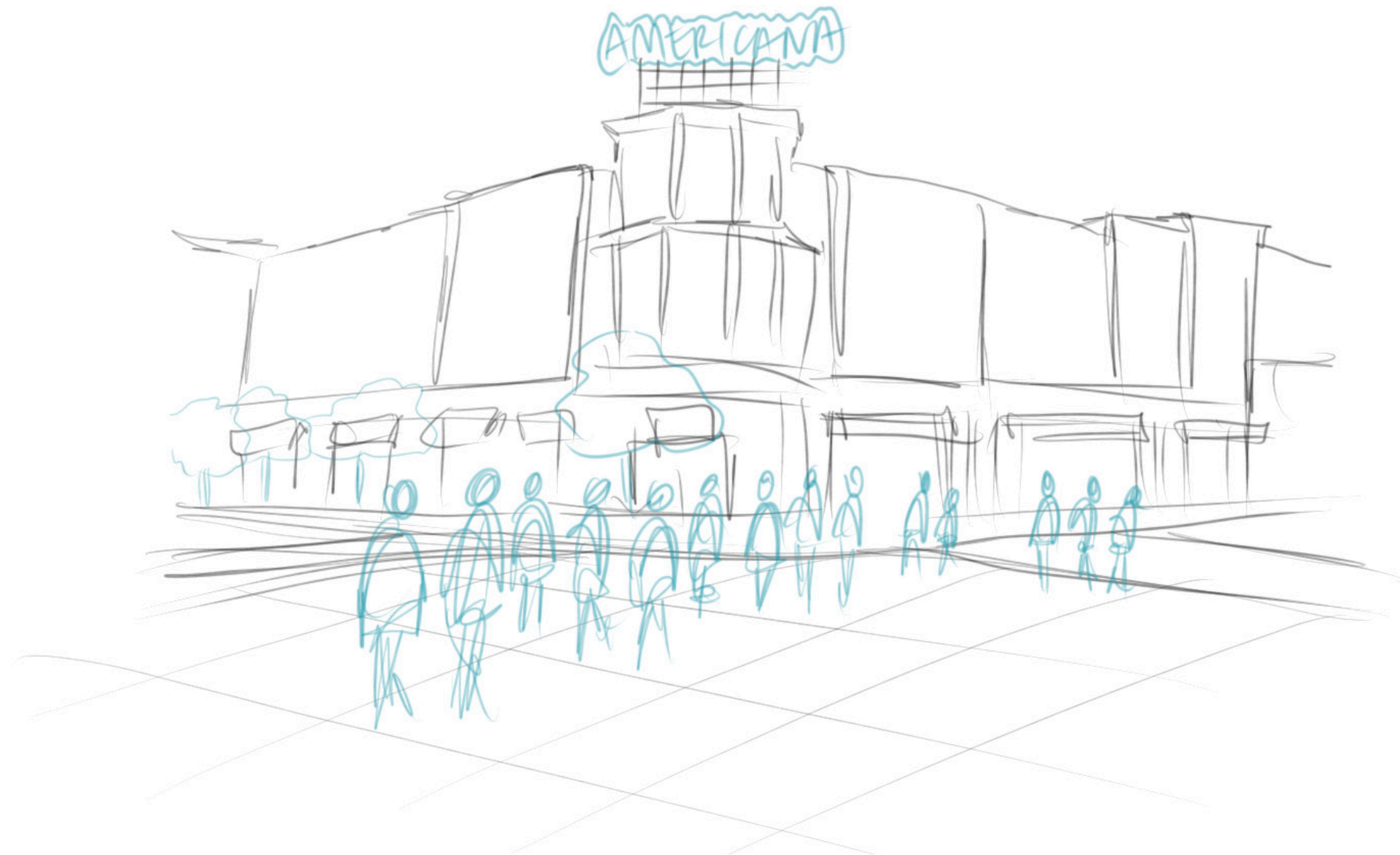


I chose the large planter areas with seat walls to study. This is a great example of how these materials work together whether it's paving or planting material. The brick pattern of the floor is arranged in a way to draw the users to that space. Instead of just a straight shoot running bond across the floor. It's placed parallel to the hexagonal shape of the raised planter and placed in a way for the eye to be drawn to that seating area. I think the textures of the side of the seating area with the floor works wonderfully together and the top cap of the wall is a smooth surface which allows the user to feel comfortable to sit on. The plant materials create a softness that also draws in the users as well.



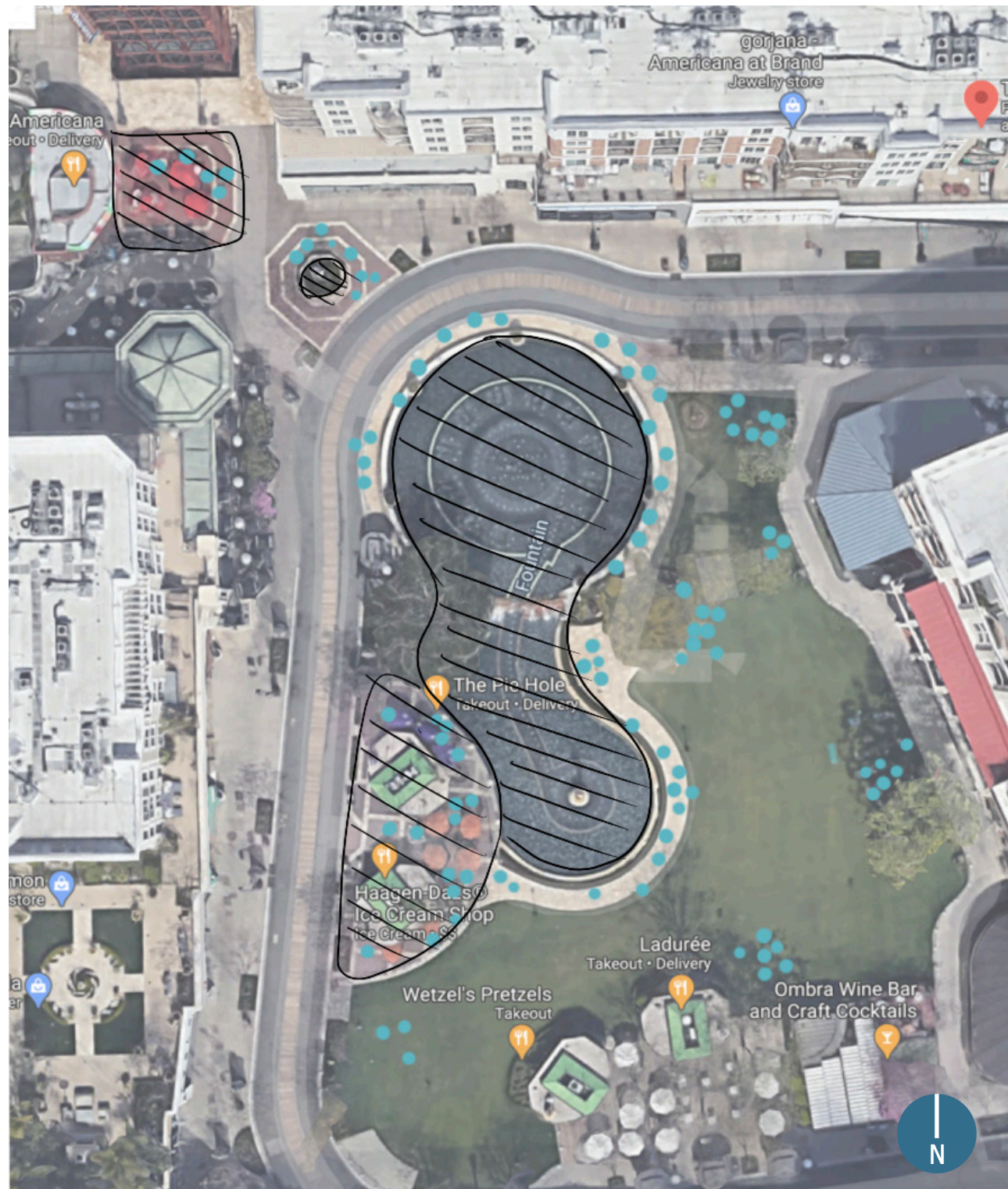
This material study is of the potted plants that are placed around Americana at Brand. Planters are great because they can be moved around and create a softness to a corner that can't allow a planting bed. It's also great to use it as an object to guide users throughout the space. I sketched an area of where they had these large planters that I think they used to slow down foot traffic. When you're walking on a road and you see an object from afar, you tend to slow down and I think it's smart of them to use these planters to do that.

PERSPECTIVE SKETCH



This is a perspective sketch of the all ways cross walk at the intersection of Brand and Broadway.

REFLECTION ON CHING'S ARCHITECTURE FORM, SPACE AND ORDER



AERIAL VIEW OF MAIN FOUNTAIN PLAZA

I chose to reflect on the reading of Ching's Architecture Form, Space and Order. In one of the chapters they discuss hierarchy. I see a hierarchy with the fountain as a main feature and destination or resting point of the entire plaza. It's also acting as a wayfinder for users to locate themselves in the plaza. The blue dots, show a study of people gathering in these specific areas which also creates that hierarchy of space that is desirably used. If you take a look at the map, you can see that most people will stand or sit under shade. They are clumped in areas with large shade trees or umbrellas. I've noticed that people sit along the fountain and just take photos/videos or stare at the water. They surprisingly sit there for a good amount of time even though there isn't shade. People are just drawn to water which is why I believe their choice in hierarchy is a good one.

REFLECTION ON INITIAL PERCEPTIONS

Looking back at my initial thoughts on the site, everything I've experienced at Americana at Brand exceeded my expectations. I believe after that first visit, I've gone and visited at least 5 more times. Americana at Brand is very memorable. The whole point of why this space works is because it has created a place for each individual using it's different design patterns of materials and form. It has many little moments within the space to imprint those who visit. It's very much like a fantasy place where you can escape the average person's everyday life. Whether is going there for just a few hours, the vibe is always consistence and you just *know* that you are at Americana at Brand.

PRE-SITE EVALUATION PERCEPTIONS

- From my memory at Old Town Pasadena, my immediate thoughts were that it had a sense of history in its buildings. It gave me whimsical vibes walking down the streets and it felt like there was a lot of character in the buildings. When were Americana at Brand, the styles of the structures were intentional, yet it was still able to create the same environment similar to Old Town Pasadena.
- Another memory I had at Old Town Pasadena was that it felt safe to walk around the neighborhood and there were many people outside going about their day. Some of the streets had pedestrian friendly sidewalks.

SENSORIAL EXPERIENCES

SOUNDS

- People talking
- Vehicles on the street / Traffic
- Birds chirping in trees
- Train

SMELLS

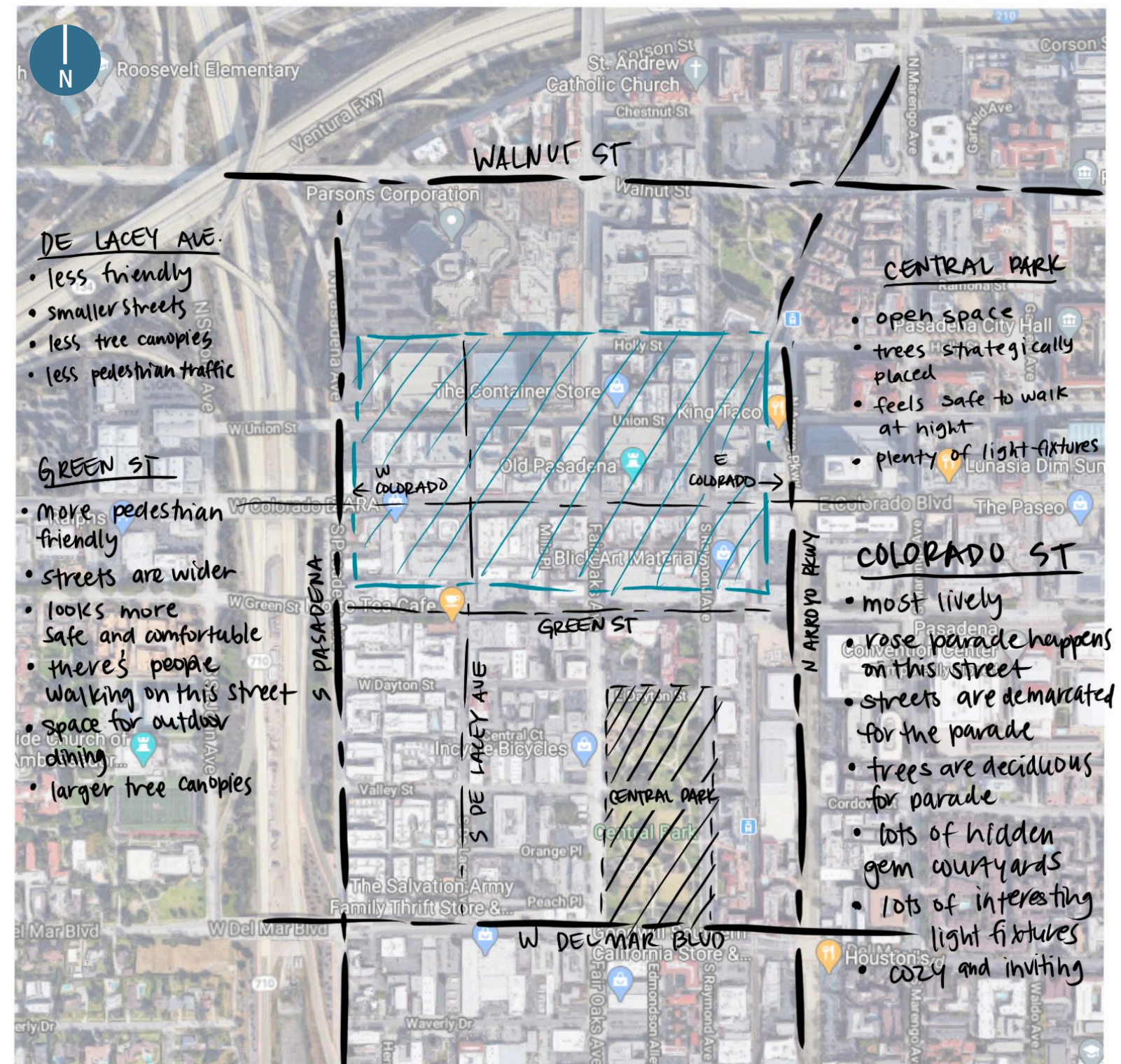
- The smell of food walking past a restaurant

TOUCH

- Textures on walls
- Cross walk buttons
- Parking Meters
- Grass at park
- Art Installations
- Lamp Posts

TASTE

- Delicious food at restaurants

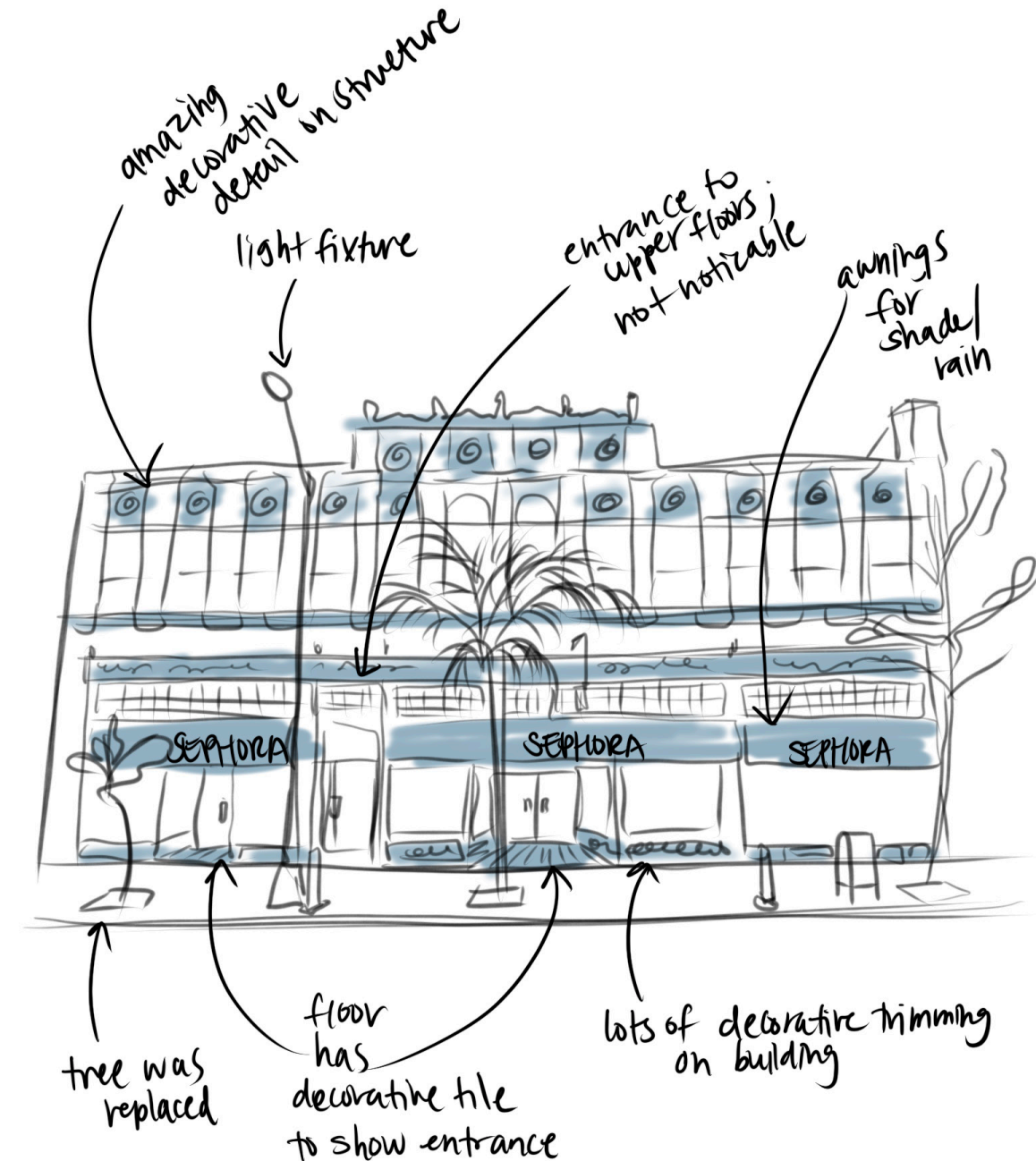


ACCESS & LINKAGES

- Important connections that create access to the surroundings are the edges and materials that are presented in Old Town Pasadena.
- Parking is widely available on the street as well as multiple parking structures.
- Areas meant for pedestrian traffic are open and wide for people to walk without bumping into each other. It's easy to navigate.
- There are abundant of light fixtures around the area. This is a way to create a safe environment for users to visit.
- The materials are used as a language to guide users across the space.
- Each structure is unique and has a historic background. All the structures combined create a lot of character that draws people in. People want to go to a place that doesn't look like home.

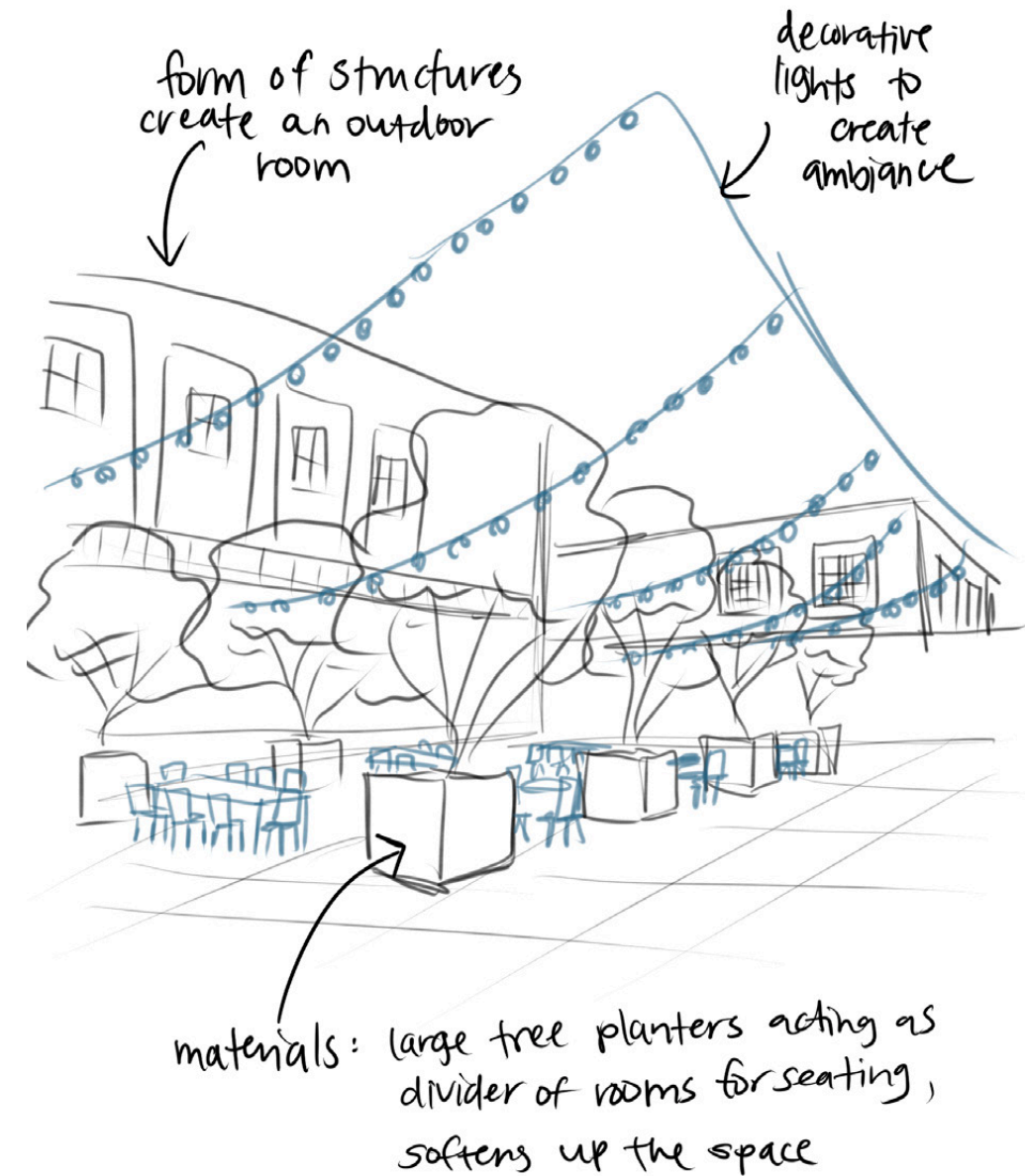
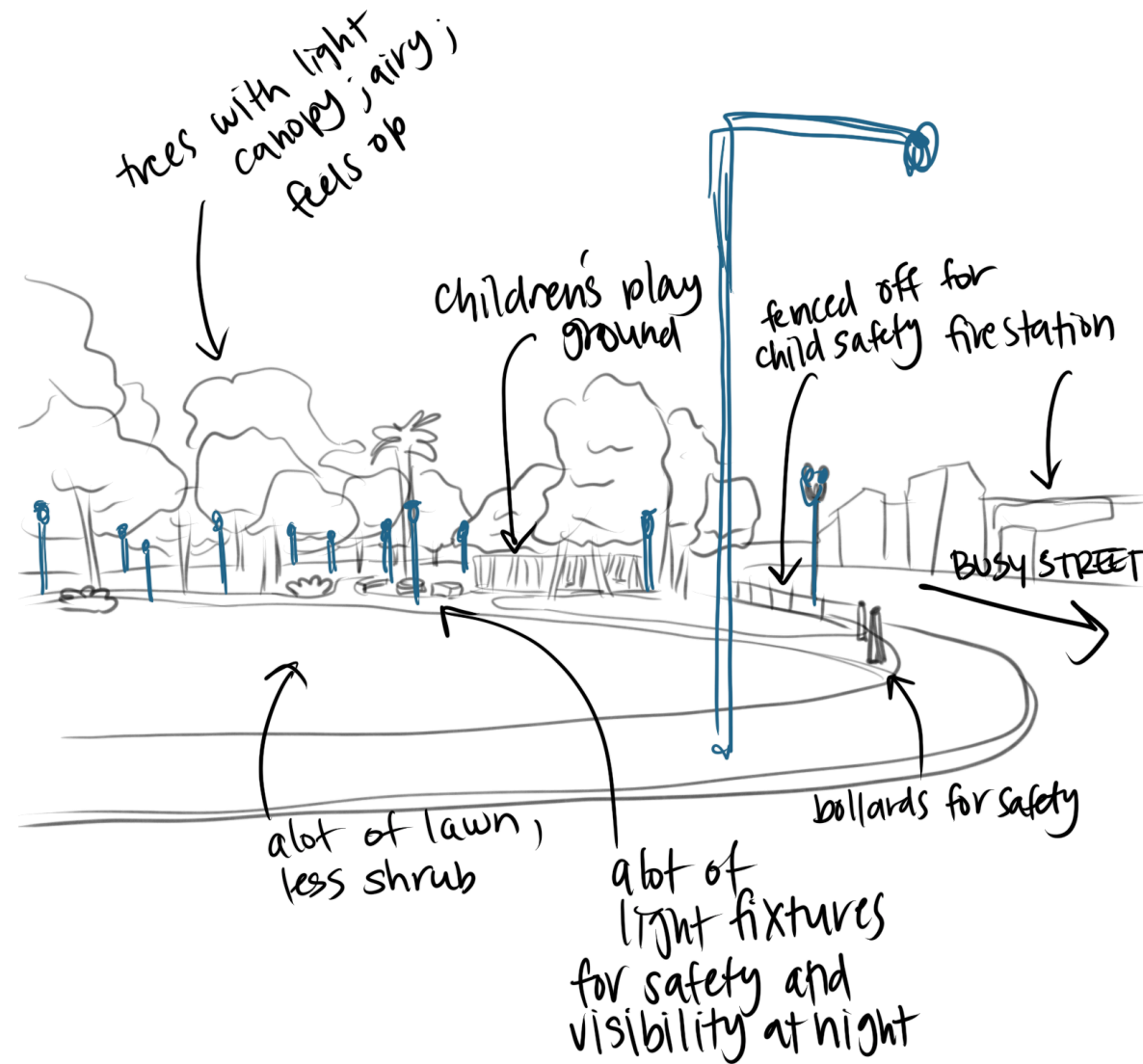
COMFORT & IMAGE

- Safety is being able to feel comfortable in a space without having anxiety, doubt or worry about something or someone surprising you or causing harm.
- Old Town Pasadena is filled with open air space, with street trees that are placed and selected strategically.
- Structures vary in height and width.
- Alleyways are well lit and welcoming.
- Trash bins are located in many places which encourage users to toss their trash in the bin. This is why Old Town Pasadena seems every clean because there's access to trash bins
- Because of the historic feel of the structures, theres no need for constant maintenance. It brings character to the buildings.
- There are some benches that allow sitting.
- Much like in Dee's topic about covered walks, the awnings along the store fronts and side of buildings creates protection from sun or rain. This is what makes the space comfortable. Trees are also applied to this.
- Only flaw is lack of benches along side walk, but some areas have seating within their storefront



USES AND ACTIVITIES

- I think the reason people visit Old Town Pasadena because it's kind of like a larger scaled version of Americana at Brand with a lot of stores that people go to on the regular.
- Buildings have beautiful and intricate decorative details which makes me feel like I am in another place
- Growing up, Sephora would be inside malls in a small boxed space, but at Old Town Pasadena, it's in this large historic structure with a lot of character. Who wouldn't want to go into a Sephora like that?



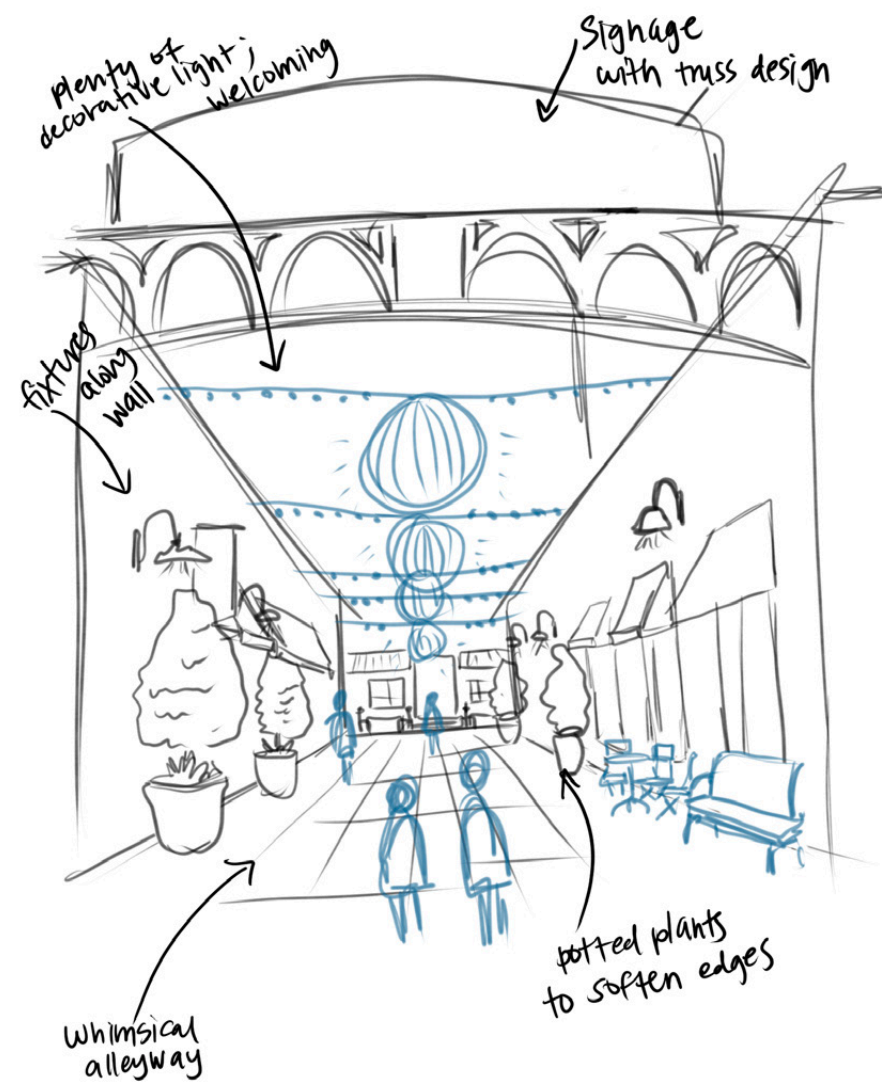
SOCIABILITY

- I think being able to feel comfortable interacting with strangers is having the space to do so without feeling restricted or hazardous.
- A park is typically a place where you can meet friends because it's a public place where many people go to.
- I think the park has a strong sense of attachment because it's the only place where there are many trees and a large area of lawn which enables people to come and sit on that open lawn because there is so much space. It's where people can connect to nature the most within the city.

MATERIAL, FORM & FABRIC

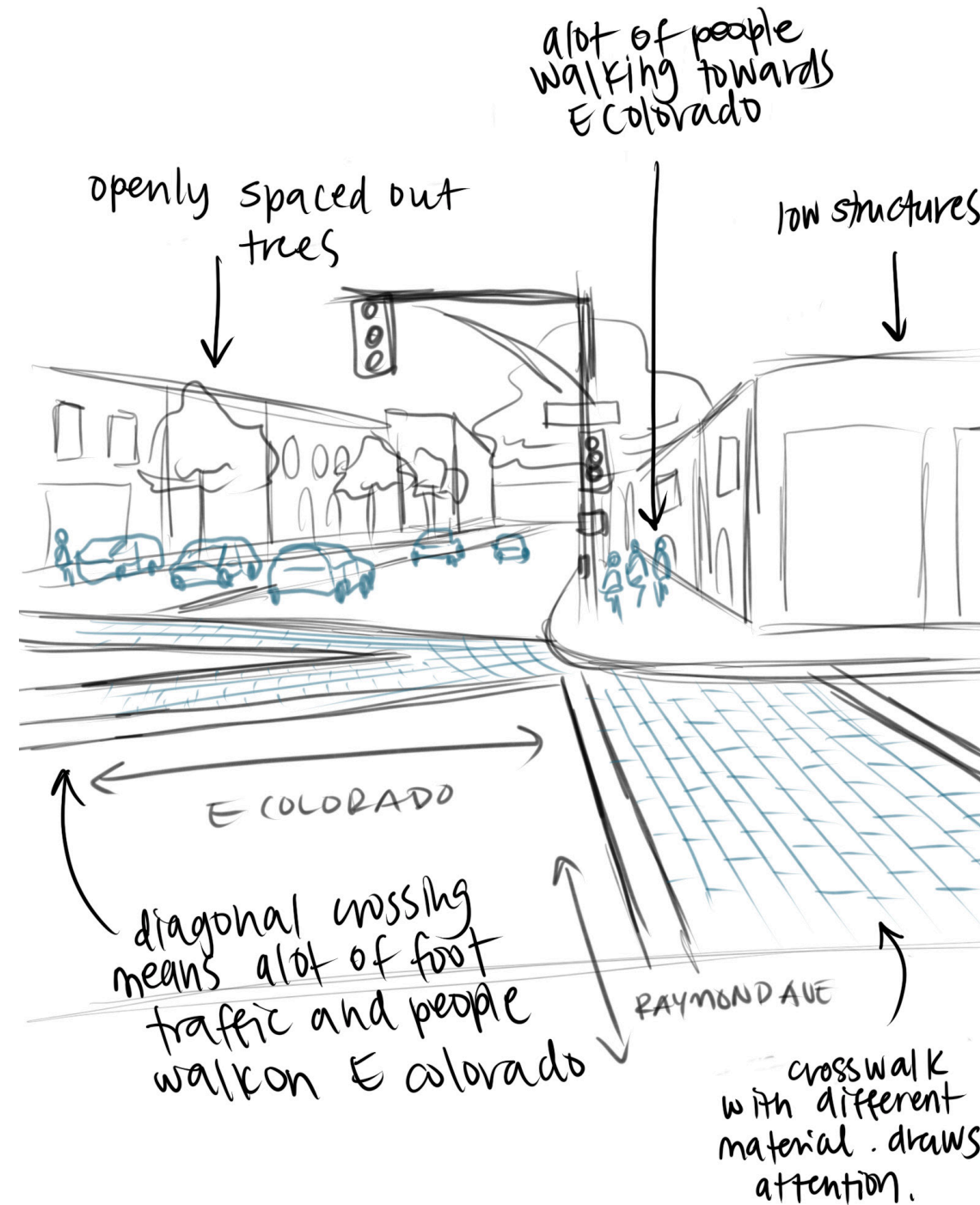
- The form of the structures create space; in this case, an outdoor space that people are always attracted to when the right materials are added within the space.
- Lights are added to create a safe and comfortably environment.
- Trees on large planters to provide soften within the space and dividers of more outdoor rooms within the outdoor space.
- Seating is added to set the stage.

PUBLIC PARK SITE EVALUATION



INTEGRATED DESIGN

- One of the qualities of a public place that is shown in both Old Town Pasadena and Americana at Brand is that it has a Foci. A Foci, as Dee explains, is a main focus or feature that is often revisited. It's the center of the space that draws people to gather in that space. At Old Town Pasadena, I think it's One Colorado, and at Americana at Brand, it's the main fountain. Even within One Colorado, you can see that it create a perspective that draws people into the alleyways with decorative light fixtures and rows of potted plants.



MATERIAL DETAILS

- I studied the paving of the crosswalk at E Colorado and Raymond Ave.
- The use of material is smart to show people that this street is important and is where most traffic occurs.
- The change in material guides people to be here.
- This street is also used every year for the Rose Parade.
- They demarcate the lines to show where you are supposed to sit during the parade.
- I think using materials with different textures is another form of communicate.
- The material design techniques used at Old Town Pasadena is very similar to Americana at Brand.



MATERIAL DETAILS

- I studied the light fixtures that are presented in certain areas of Old Town Pasadena.
- The ornate lamppost brings a historic style that matches the rest of Old Town Pasadena.
- It has a lot of detail and textures and it provides not only light but gives character to the space; it completes the environment

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

WHAT WORKS

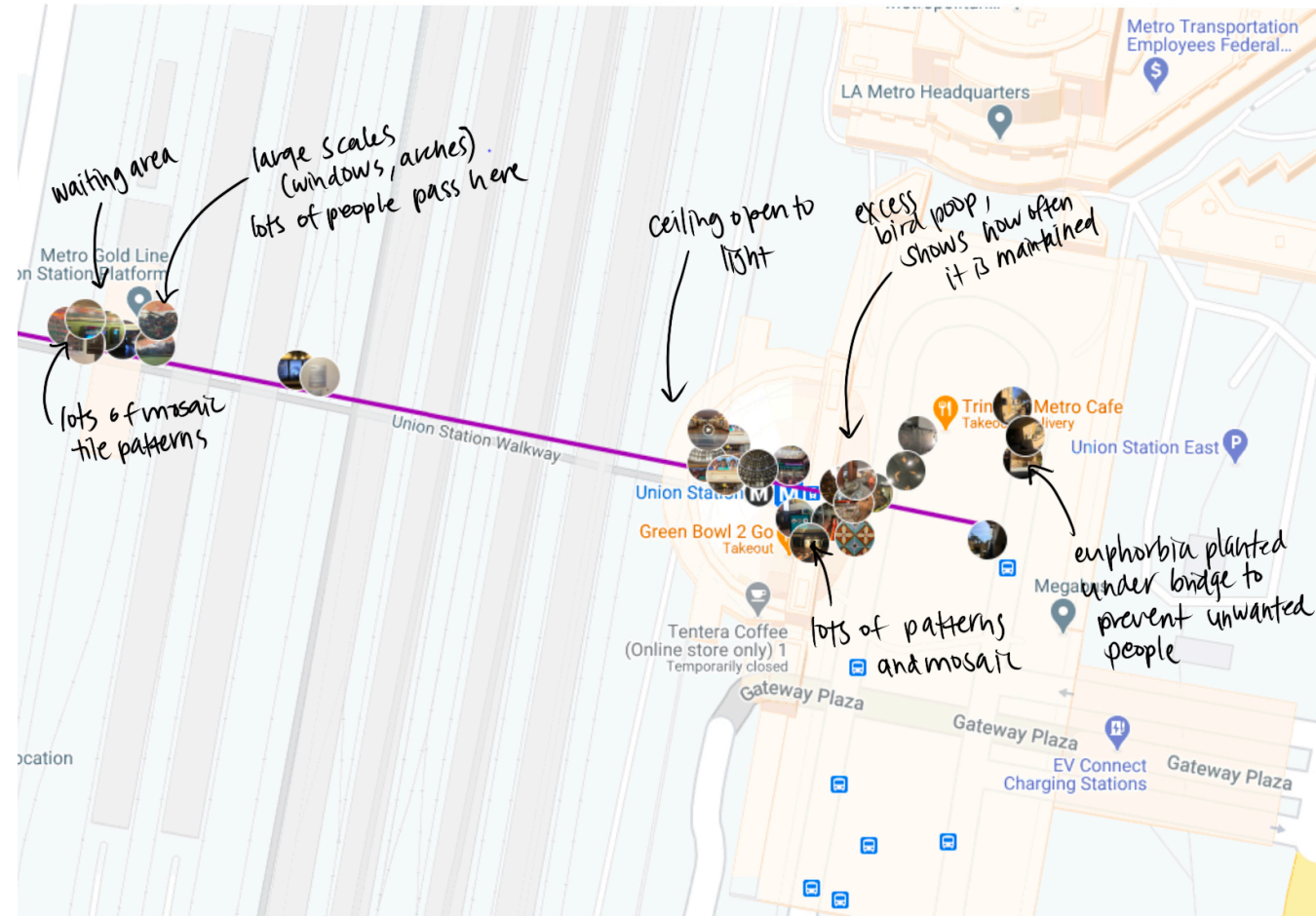
- Lighting
- Sidewalk integration with storefront
- Different textures and materials used throughout space
- Using materials to talk to users
- Structure form and hierarchy
- Has a Central Park for meetups
- Alleyways as hidden gems

WHAT DOESN'T WORK

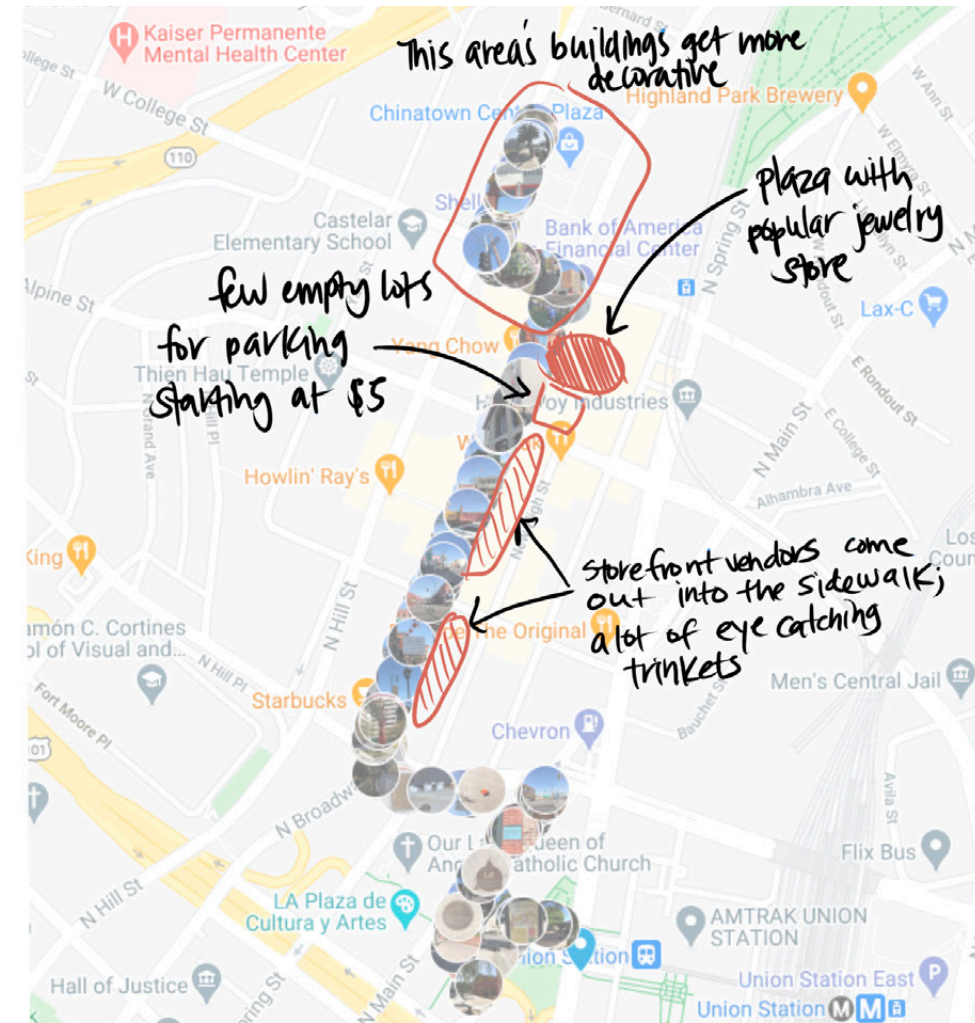
- Drains not properly developed into storm drains
- Areas with low vision (tree canopies too large for small space)
- Sidewalk for some areas are too narrow

REFLECTION

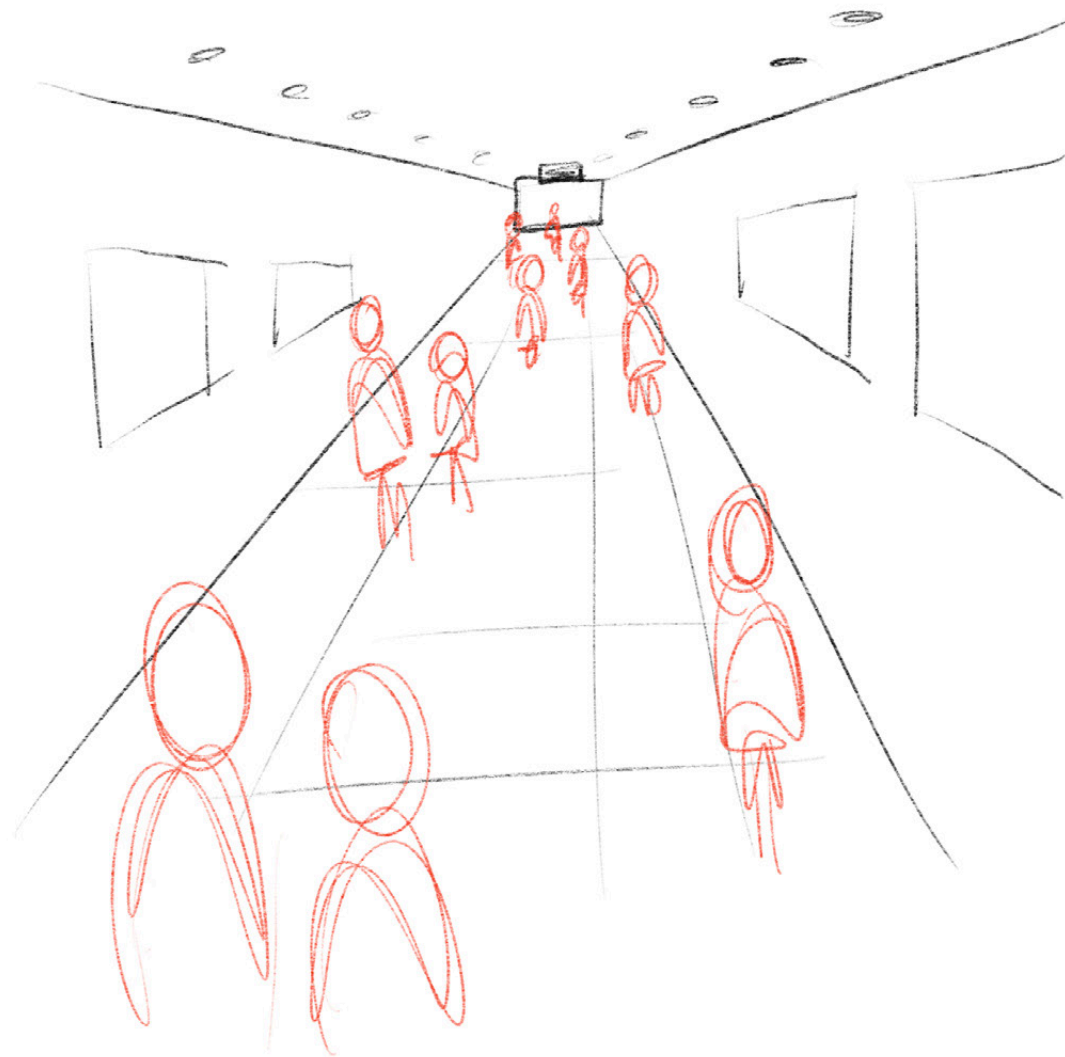
My initial perception of Old Town Pasadena has changed significantly in a more positive light. I always loved visiting Old Town Pasadena but after reading and observing the form and space it has created with its materials in its environment, it has proven to me that it's a space that deserves much respect. I think it's a very well considered and thought out place for people to come and visit in a larger scale compared to the Americana at Brand. I don't think I have any major critiques regarding the space besides updating a few areas like width of some sidewalks and the drain issues along the structures. Overall, I really enjoyed studying this space and seeing how successful it is.



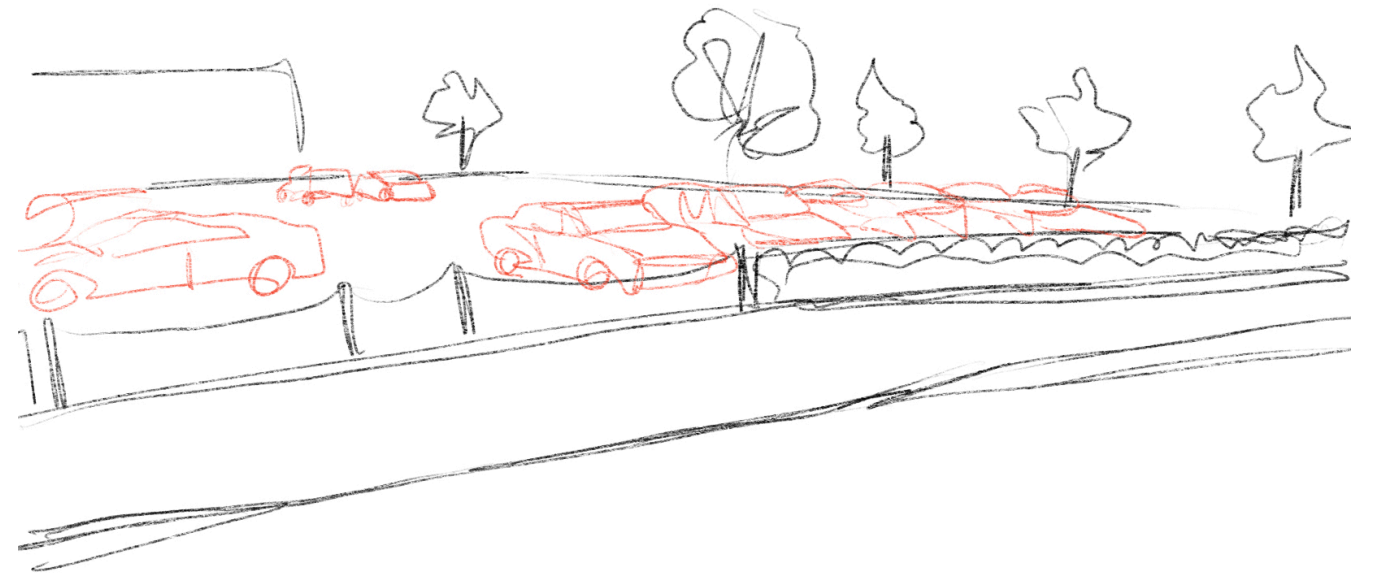
I have never been to Union Station but my own perception of the space is that it is a bustling area that people go to every single day because it is their main transportation. I believe it should have great access and connection to the city and neighborhood as well. I imagine it difficult to maintain because of how busy it gets.



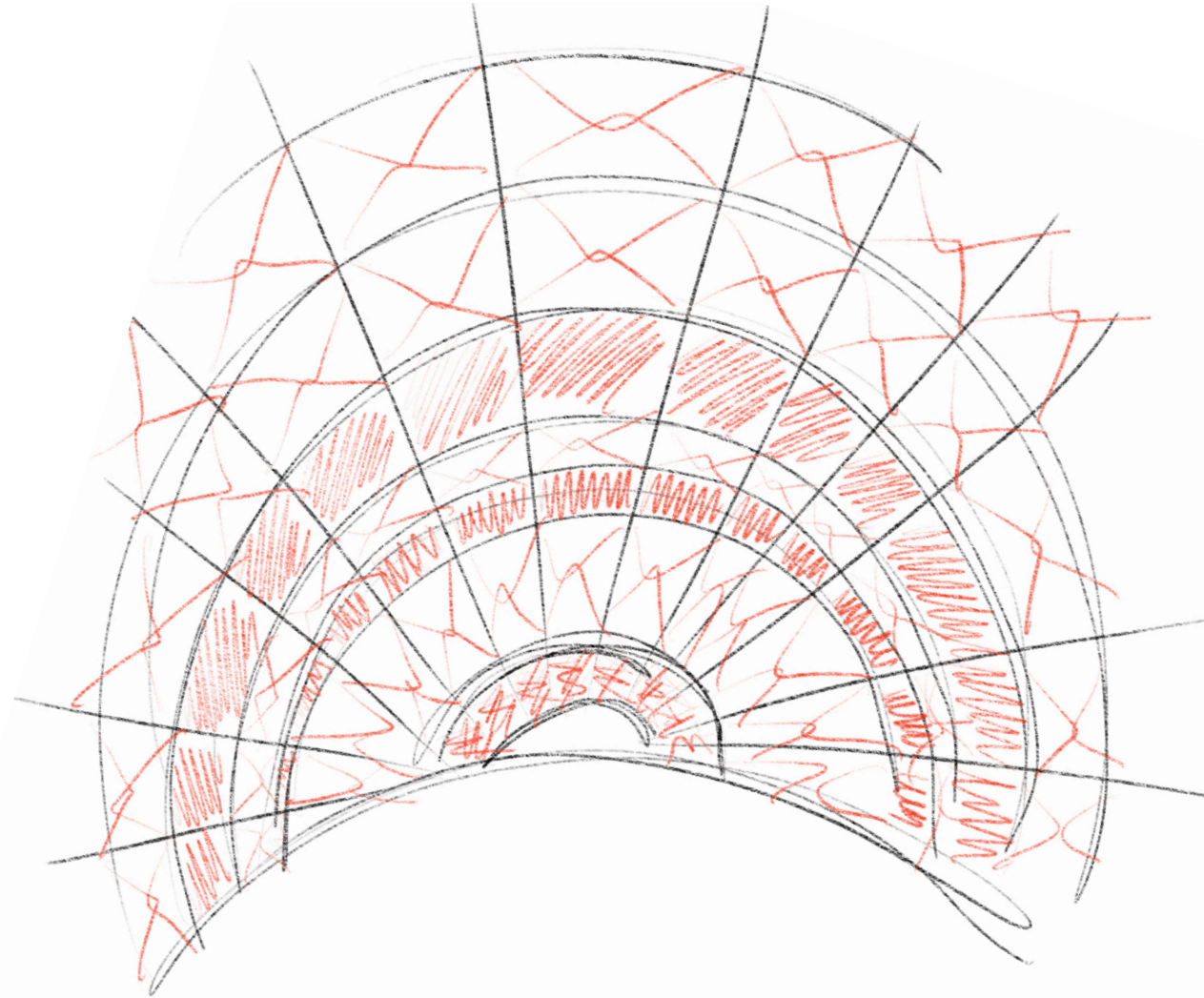
My distinct memory in Chinatown was always going with my grandma to this dimsum restaurant to buy these delicious steamed dumplings and pork buns (for an amazing price) to bring to the family for lunch. The Broadway Jewelry Mart was my grandma's favorite place to go as well. It was always busy with a lot of people. I remember I would always admire the trinkets and feel the clothing displayed on the mannequins. My grandma would buy me fresh fruit from a vendor whenever we passed by one. I would hear people haggling prices in Cantonese, including my grandmother. The environment in Chinatown reminded me of Asia, except a little more spacious, less humid and more diversity of people. It was always nice to see people appreciate the cultural aspects of this space.



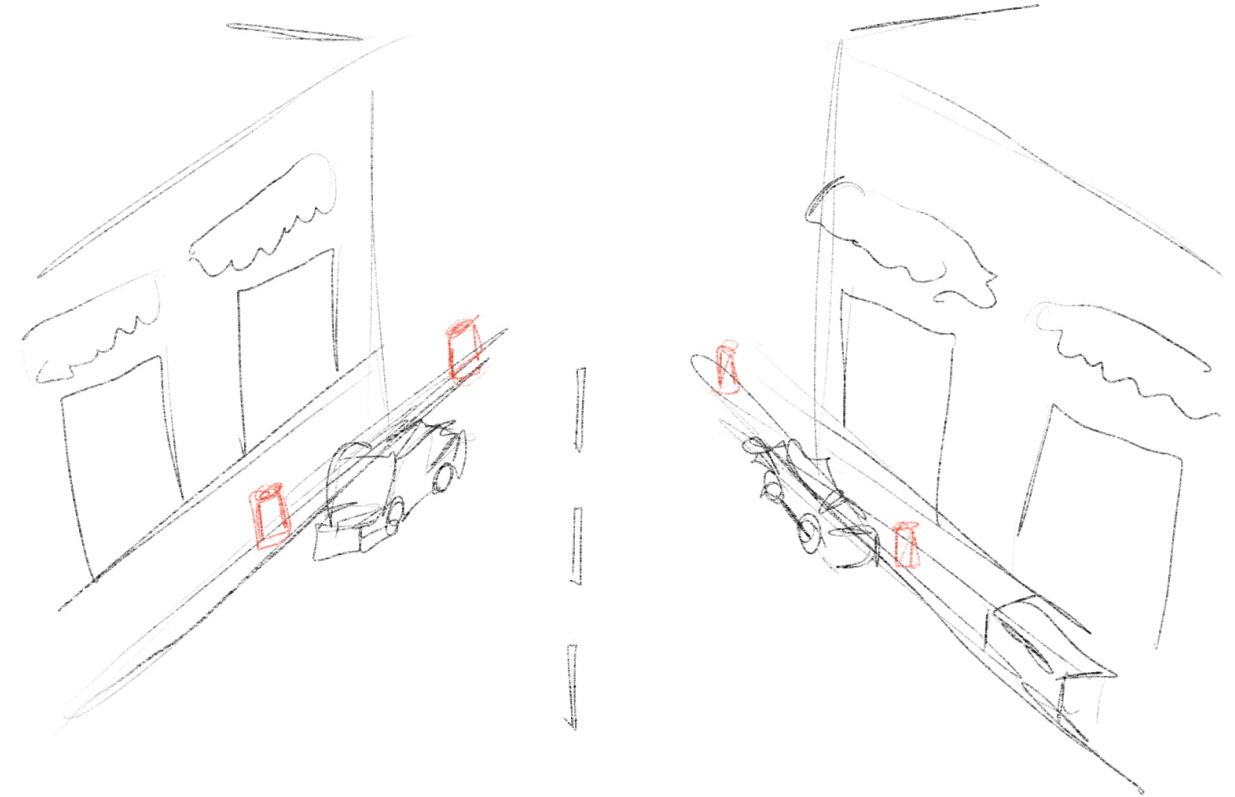
From my study, Union Station is easy to maneuver and has wide open tunnels and paths for many people to pass through. The scale of these openings provide light to come into these covered areas from the other spaces. I think this is successful because the open space gives a sense of comfort. Because there are so many decorative pieces around Union Station, it's always interesting to walk in a tunnel to see what is on the other side.



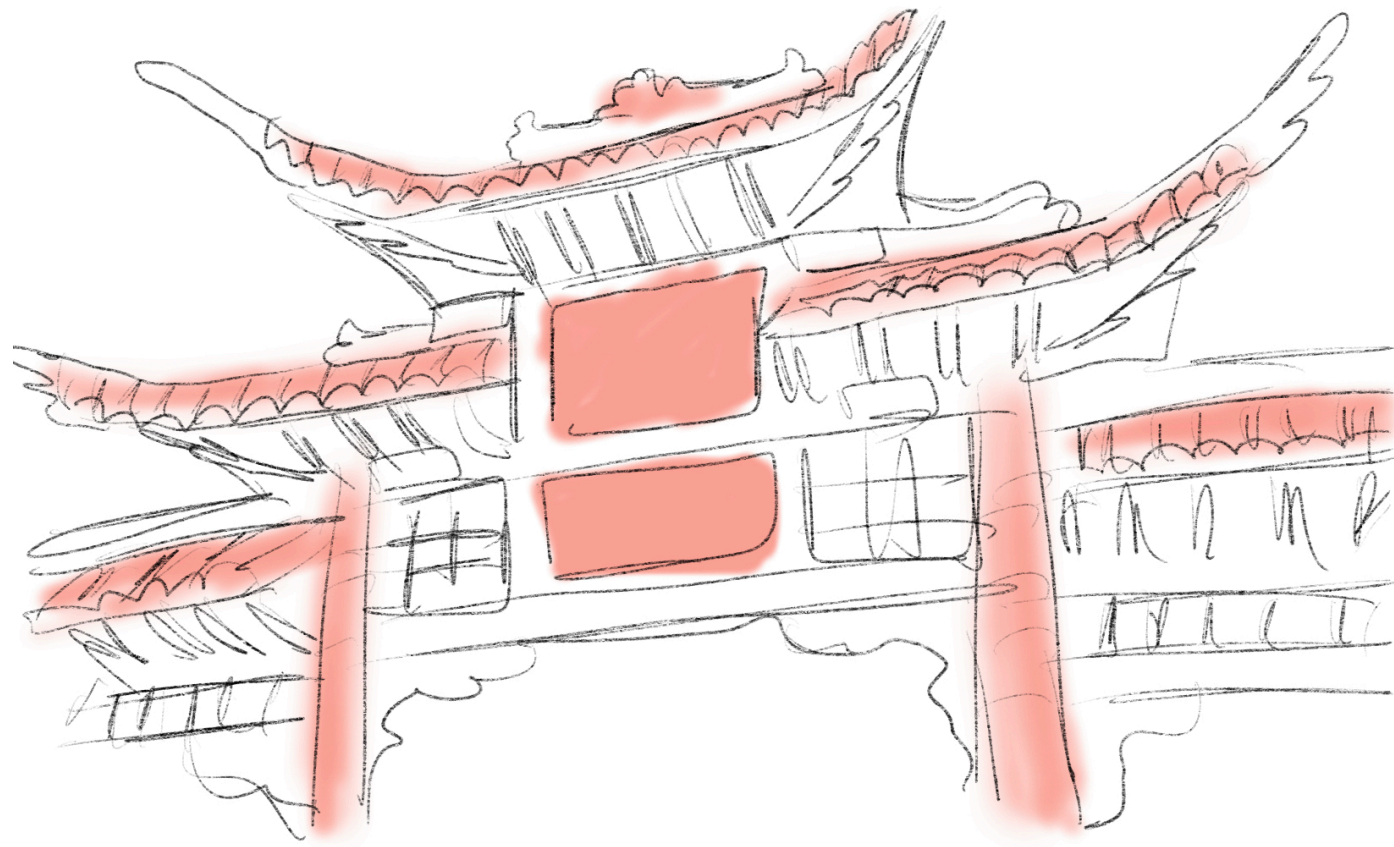
What makes Chinatown accessible is that anyone can come and visit. One would have to pay a fee at any of the small lots dispersed around the area as well as metered parking. Public transportation is also prevalent in this area which makes another reason why I always see people in Chinatown. At a glance, Chinatown during the day felt safe in my eyes, because there were many people visiting and like Jane Jacob says, "eyes on the street," so that is why I felt that way. However, compared to Old Town Pasadena, I felt like it could feel safer if the sidewalks were slightly wider to accommodate the storefronts that take up the sidewalk space.



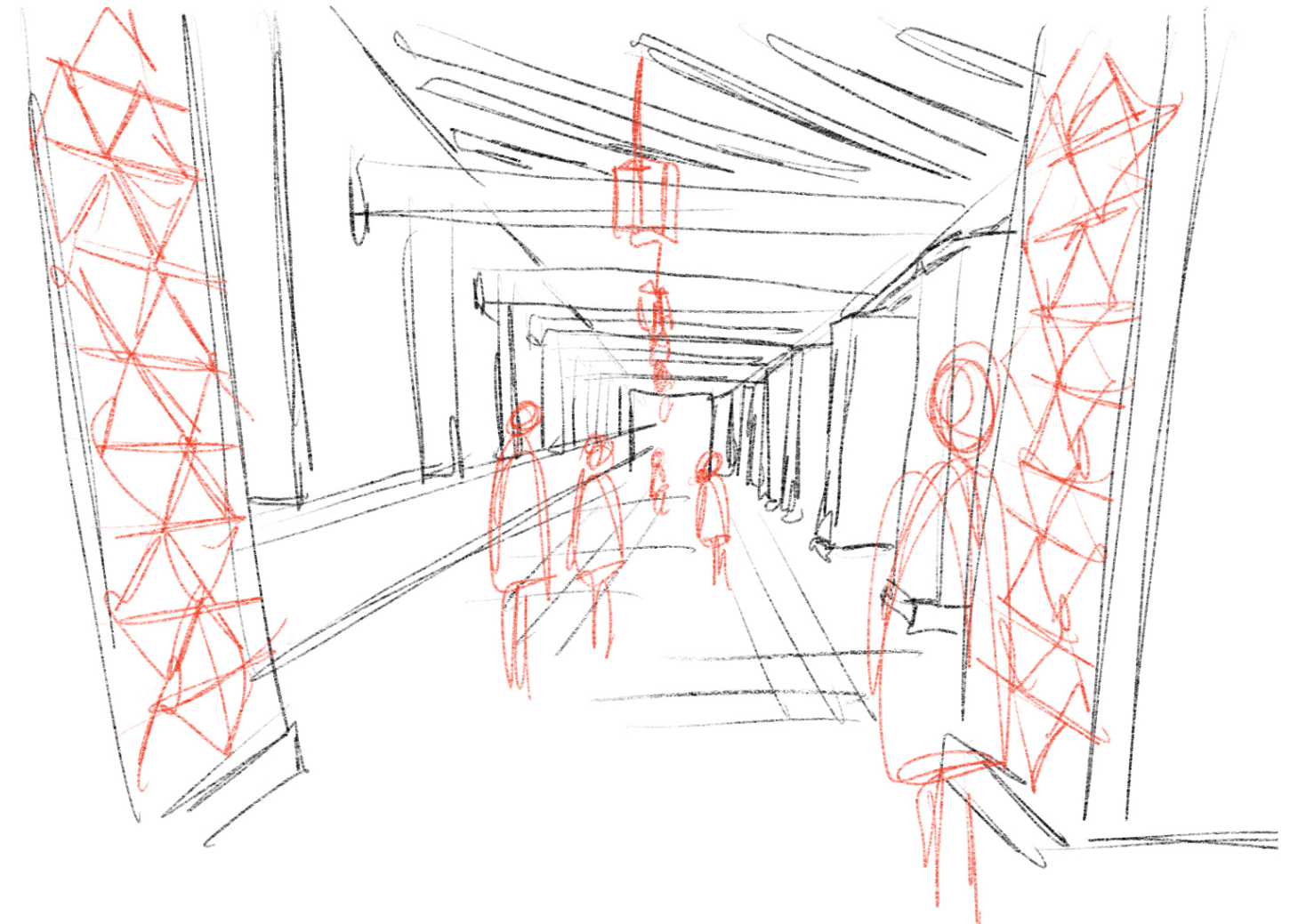
Union Station gives a great sense of place when you enter. It's a very unique place with a lot of decorative detail. Just like Americana at Brand, I feel like I am in another place in another time. In Ching's reading, he talks about organization of spaces and scale of structures and objects. The massive scale of the glass ceilings provides light to the station and it also create a sense of openness and comfort to the space.



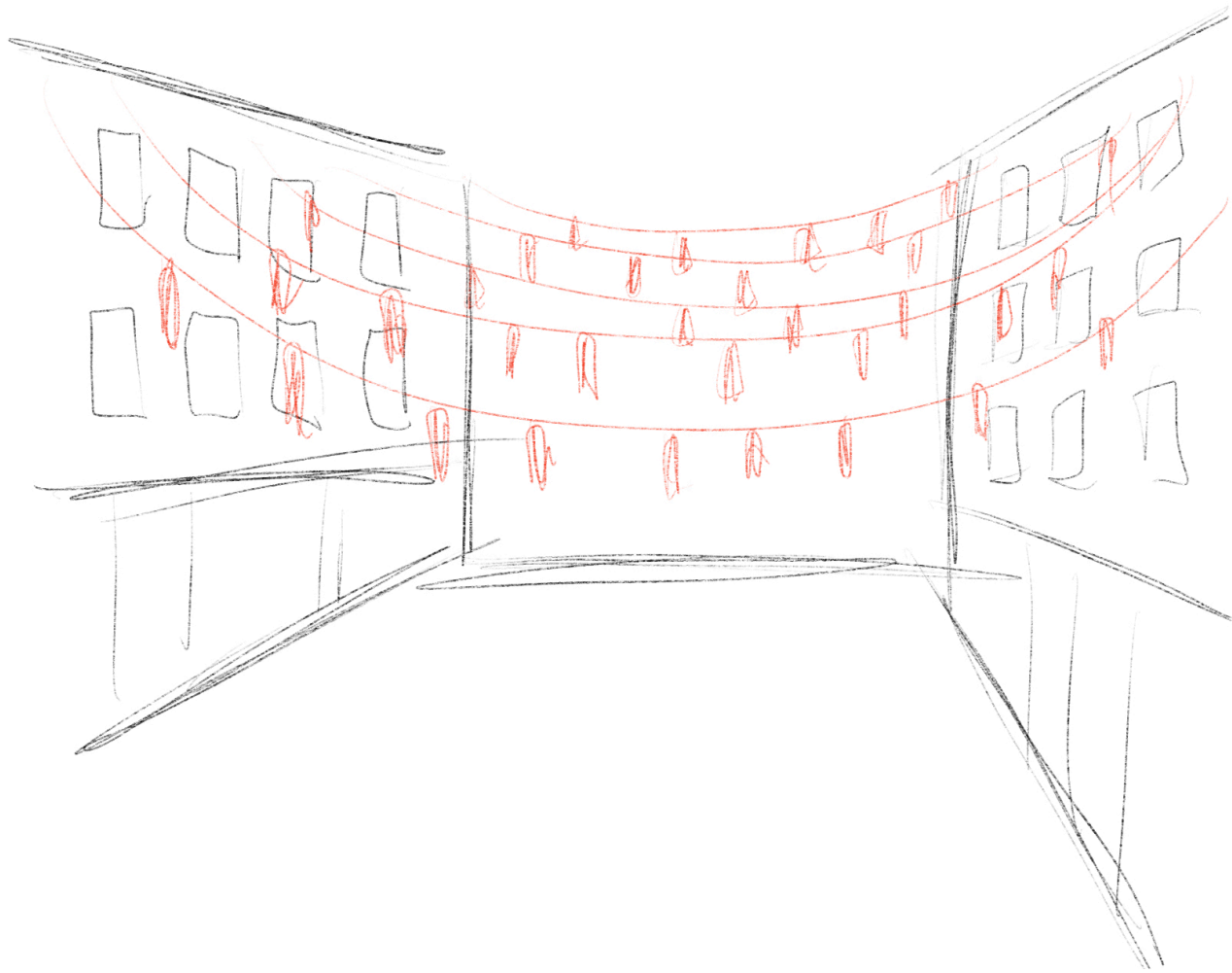
Chinatown does not give an impression of cleanliness in terms of maintenance of structures on the main street of N Broadway. In terms of litter, there were only a few litter pieces here and there and I do see a good amount of trash bins spread throughout the area. In comparison to Old Town Pasadena, Old Town Pasadena takes the cake for high level maintenance and cleanliness. I understand that there are high traffic in these areas and maintenance may be hard to maintain, but think because of the COVID and the lack of people traveling to these areas, it would be a great time to hire people to clean up the city when there are the least amount of people.



I think people visit Chinatown because of its decorative structures that replicate the ones in China. As someone who has never been to China, seeing this to scale is very jaw dropping. It's also great that they hold all kinds of event in these plaza which draw a lot of people to come back. I think the edges of these spaces / storefronts is what makes it special.



People visit Union Station if they need to travel but another reason I would visit is for the architecture and the details that are all around the vicinity. I have not been there yet in person so I can't really say if I would come back to visit more than twice (not using the station), but I've seen the scale of this place and it does draw me in. It looks like a place where people come to take pictures or film movies. There maybe something magical about this place which is similar to my feelings about Americana at Brand. You know what to expect, but you always happen to go back to visit because you need to, whether its transportation or shopping (at Americana at Brand).

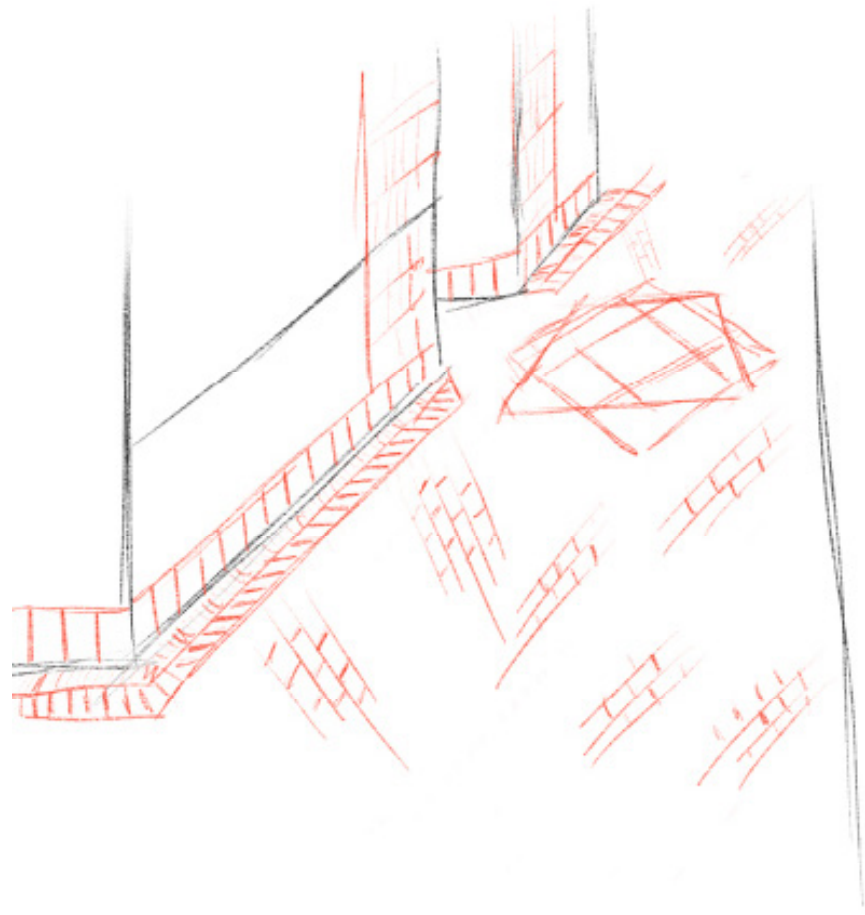


Chinatown has very cultural aspects to the buildings when you get closer to Chinatown Central Plaza. I feel that this would be a place to come and meet your friends and other people because of how noticable the buildings are. Like in Dee's readings, she talks about the Foci and that is the meeting place or center of the space that people are drawn to. In the image, I show an alleyway with chinese lanterns hanging as decoration and to light up the space. I think these parts of Chinatown are the most memorable beacause of the details of material and culture. Much like Americana at Brand, the details gives a memorable impression.

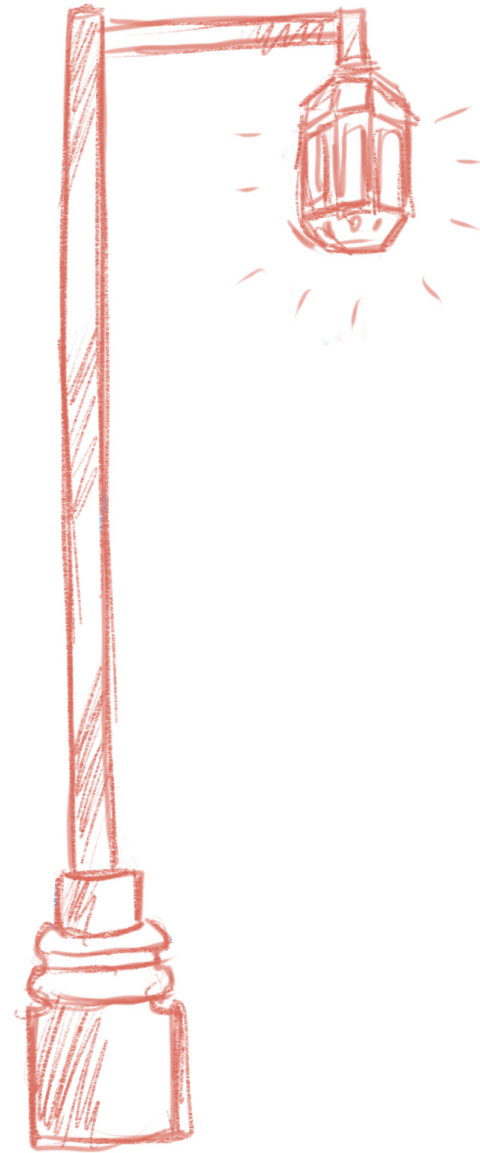


I think the storefronts and vendors that are present in Chinatown are interactive. Although the sidewalks are narrow at times because of the storefronts that bleed into the public space, it provides that interactive street life that Old Town Pasadena showcases. It would be great if vegetation was considered in some plazas, for example fruit trees that people can pick off of and can provide some sort of community connections within this area.

MATERIALS



Union Station gives a great sense of place when you enter the space. It's a very unique place with a lot of decorative detail. Just like Americana at Brand, the use of materials and paving as a way to guide the pedestrian is prevalent at Americana at Brand, Old Town Pasadena and Union Station. I did not notice Chinatown doing this, but I would be curious to see how that would affect the users visiting the space.



I think Chinatown does a good job at providing some details in certain areas to feel cultural and festive. Compared to Old Town Pasadena, I do feel like the other areas could use better ways to connect with the main features of Chinatown. It would be great to see the decorative details shown in most of the buildings or some sort of detail for the lampposts consistently around the streets leading to the main features/courtyards.

REFLECTION

Overall, I think Chinatown and Union Station are both very different spaces, yet they both have some sort of historical / cultural element that is shown in their structures.

Chinatown shows accessibility, activities and sociability for a space but it lacks in comfort and good image in some areas.

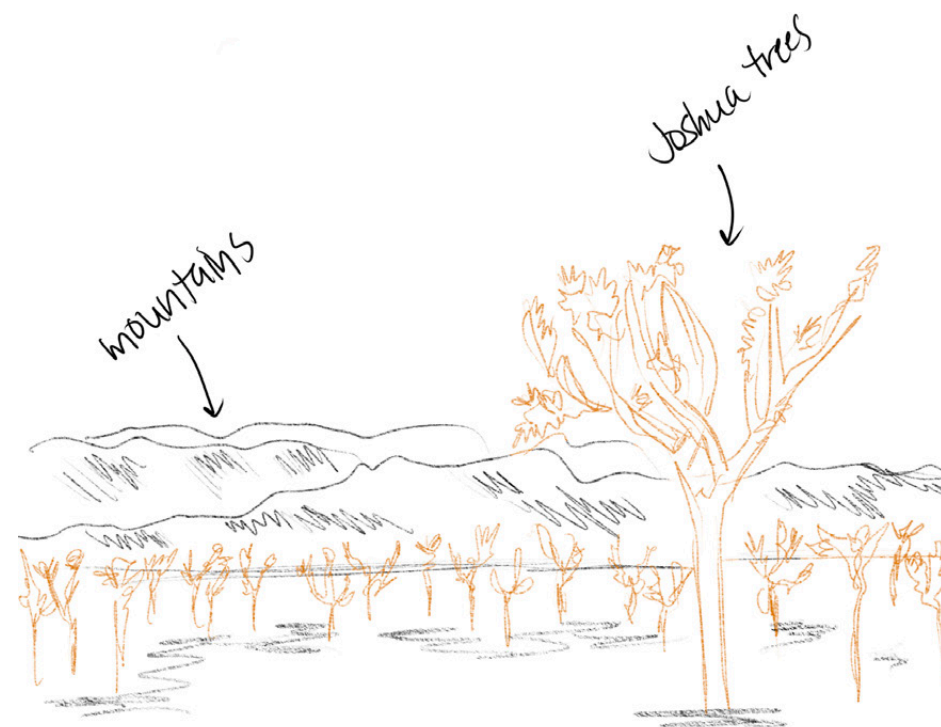
Union Station shows accessibility, sociability, good image and comfort, but it lacks in activities. Having the piano is interesting but enjoyable for people that are there. It is a space where people come and go constantly. I think it would be nice to have more interactive elements that would allow people to come and stay to enjoy the details of the space.

Joshua Tree National Park is my favorite place because it never ceases to allow you to take a moment of silence and absorb the vastness that surrounds you. I've found that it's a place you will want to travel to get away from the city to decompress. It's a place with characteristics that heightens all senses and touches your emotions in a way that you won't ever forget. It's scenic with beautiful rock forms and almost spiritual. It represents realities of the desert with little vegetation and struggle for moisture which makes this space mysterious and unique to anyone that visits.



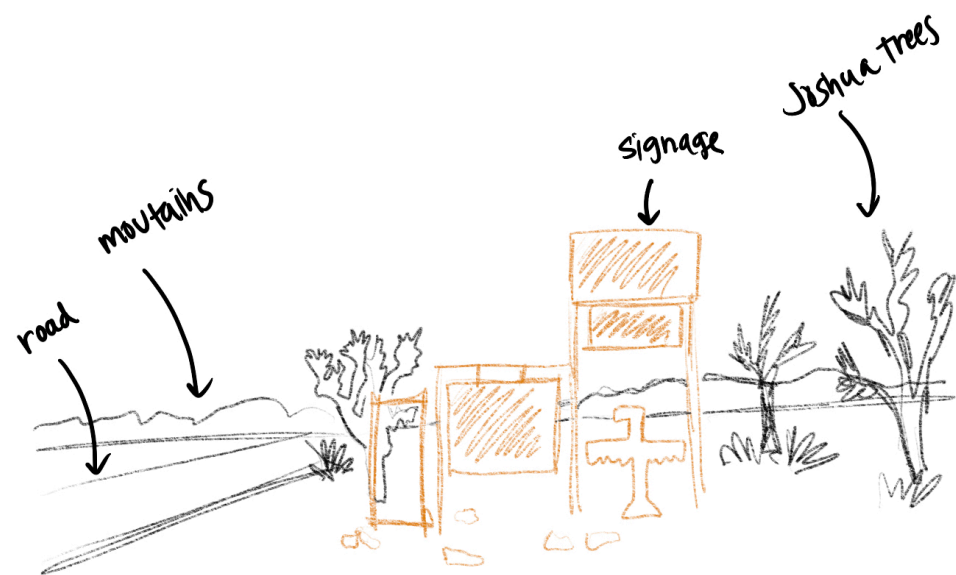
Joshua Tree National Park has site accessibility throughout the park that is suitable for wheelchairs except for some of the difficult nature trails. They've considered some nature trails and are paved and suitable for all wheelchairs.

COMFORT & IMAGES



Your senses are heightened and you're on high alert, so it's very intimidating and scary coming to the desert because the fear of getting lost since everything looks about the same. There's absolutely no service when you enter the park so you only have a paper map provided by the visitor center, so if anything happens, no one will know. The "greenery" are dry looking desert shrubs and there is little to no shade.

USES & ACTIVITIES



SOCIALBILITY



Joshua Tree is special because there are quite a few airbnb's in large private lots that are available for rent just west of the park's entrance. Camping with designated camp sites are available in the park, but having that unique desert airbnb with quirky characteristics has been extremely popular. It's a great way to escape the city any time of the year and not have to worry about the weather during the hottest/coldest times of the desert.

Volunteer work is important to the park as the desert is a living space. With 3.5 million annual visitors, there are many people who assist in visitor management or collect scientific data. They are also actively searching for volunteers with opportunities such as expertise as a native plant specialist.

COMPARE/CONTRAST

- Joshua Tree National Park is most comparable to MacArthur Park because of its aspects of natural elements coinciding with human activity in a large space. Although human-made, MacArthur park has its lake that brings in a lot of habitat.
- Joshua Tree National Park is very different to Americana at Brand where everything is easily and constantly maintained and controlled by workers. Because the park is so large, there's no way workers/volunteers can keep track of every single detail of the National Park.

WHAT WOULD JANE JACOBS SAY?

Jane Jacobs would take a look at Palm Desert and comment at the lack of liveliness of the city and the short points of destinations. There is little to no diversity within the neighborhoods, only in the diversity in visitors and tourists that come to visit.

CHANGES TO ENHANCE USER EXPERIENCE

Joshua Tree National Park has many stunning views, trails, and campsites, but not everyone can access the park. Having a public bus transit to Joshua Tree would allow many people to be able to visit the park. I also feel that adding another program that can incorporate the arts could be something to bring people together. For example, Desert X is a non-profit organization that locates various sites in Palm Springs to display selected artist's installations. The users are given coordinates to actively search each site's like a scavenger hunt. It's a great way to bring people together to experience the arts in the surrounding space of the vast desert.