

2013 FIRST PLACE

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LYCEUM

A traveling fellowship in Architecture



RISE / RUN

Cincinnati's 399 stairways, once a symbol of a thriving pedestrian city, are in a grave state of disrepair. Each closing of a stair due to safety issues (both physical and personal) represents a loss of history and a resignation to an urban lifestyle that is based solely on the car. Rejuvenating the stairways and reinventing the once active inclines are an opportunity to bring life back to the city.



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1880



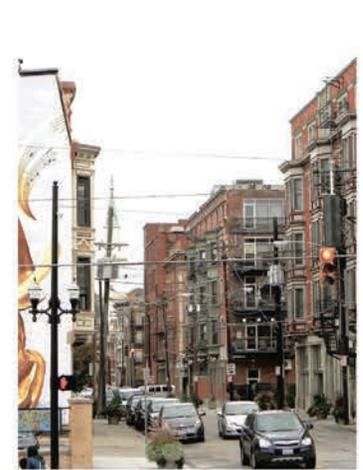
1920



1970



1982



2012

Flight to the Suburbs



Phase 1:

Begin to strategically place signage promoting the necessity of the stairs. By bringing attention to the closed stairs, public backing for a project can be achieved.



Start a print campaign to generate support for the revitalization of the steps and the surrounding communities.



Phase 4:

Expand community infrastructure development to include other former incline locations, ultimately leading to a rebranding of Cincinnati: Cincinnati: Sister City to Rome. A City that Celebrates its Seven Hills.



Phase 2:

Match up public artists with local community associations to develop and build art installations on existing stairways.

stair #1

Emphasizing the surrounding landscape to the extreme by creating a micro-park.



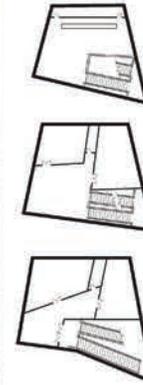
stair #2

Reinventing the stairs to light up as a person will move up and down the flight.



Phase 3:

Build a community structure at the top of the former incline locations to create hillside community destinations and activate interest and engagement with the stairway network.



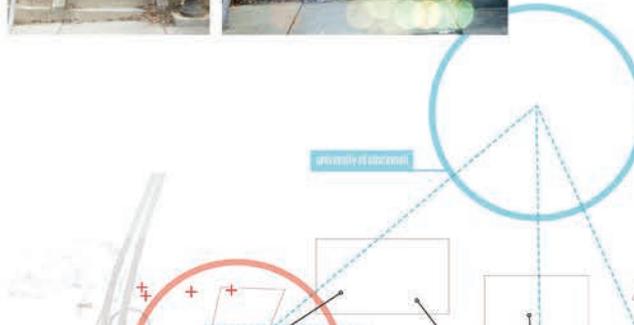
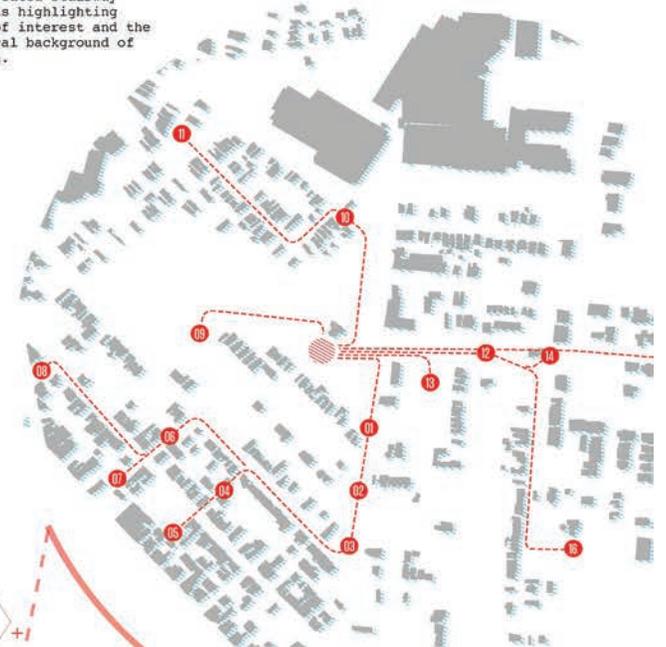
third floor:
drinking hall
social gathering space

second floor:
community history room
group learning spaces

first floor:
community meeting rooms
entry hall



Create tour guides to the newly created stairway districts highlighting points of interest and the historical background of the area.





Oktoberfest
celebrating
the coming of
autumn



Bockfest
celebrating
the coming of
spring



Hügelfest
celebrating
the rebirth
of the hills



fairview park



bellevue park



mt. auburn



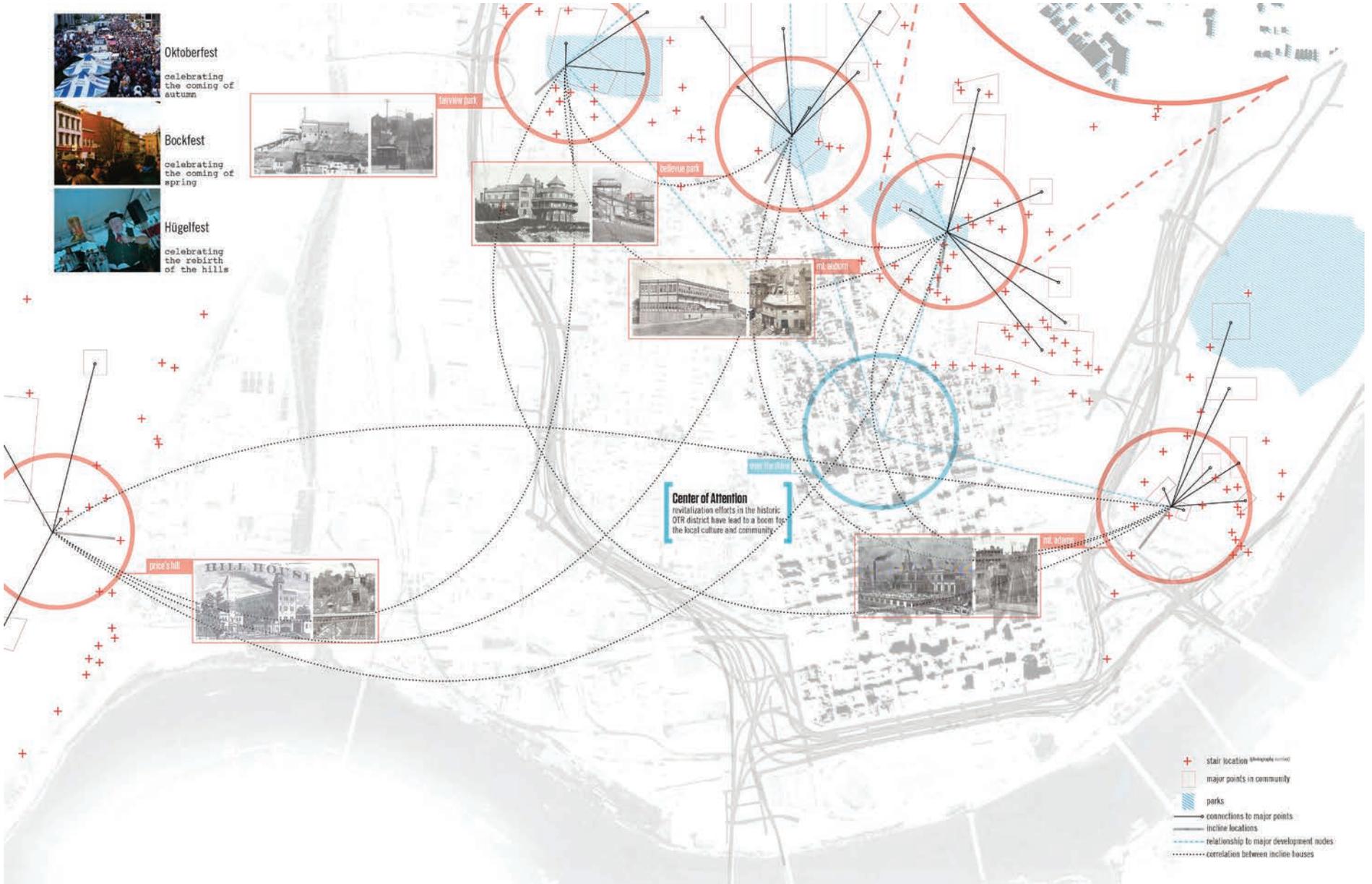
price's hill



mt. auburn

Center of Attention
revitalization efforts in the historic
OTR district have led to a boom for
the local culture and community.

- + stair location
- major points in community
- parks
- connections to major points
- incline locations
- relationship to major development nodes
- correlation between incline houses

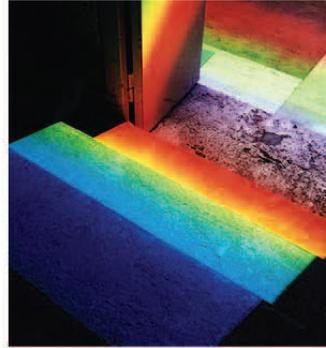


Travel Study

The primary goal of my travel plans would be to study how other cities have used their stairways to activate public life in the community.



San Francisco is known for its urban stairway infrastructure and has supported a number of community-based initiatives that celebrate this existing asset. Of particular interest is the 16th Avenue Tiled Step Project.



Rome, like Cincinnati, is a city of Seven Hills that are connected by means of a significant stairway infrastructure. (Cincinnati is named for Cincinnatus, a Roman farmer called up to become commander of the Roman forces.) Most famous of these stairways are the Spanish Steps that connect the Piazza di Spagna with the Piazza della Trinita dei Monti. These steps are not simply a means of passage, but have become a significant public space and tourist draw for the city. The importance of the Roman steps has also been underlined by a number of art installations.



During the heyday of the inclines and city steps of Cincinnati, the city was known as the 'Paris of the States' as it had the highest quality public amenities of any city. In Paris, there is much to be learned about the details of the urban infrastructure: benches, railings, lighting, trees, paving, etc.



Finally, I would like to study steps in the landscape, since many of the Cincinnati steps are on forested hillsides. Ireland has some beautiful examples of such stairways, and since it is a place that I have always wanted to visit, I would like to include it in my itinerary.