2013 FIRST PLACE

Alex Gormley

LYCEUM
A traveling fellowship in Architecture
RISE / RUN

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Historical Perspective

Program for Action

Despite the degraded state of the stairways, and in the case of the inclines, their disappearance altogether, the locations of these once important urban connectors represent an important infrastructural opportunity for Cincinnati to reestablish its downtown core as a safe and vital pedestrian environment.

In recent years the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC) has made dramatic strides towards rejuvenating the Over the Rhine downtown neighborhood of Cincinnati. Construction of a number of blocks along Vine Street as well as a major facelift to Washington Park, has sparked a new interest in living downtown.

Rise/Rum proposes to build upon these developments, by extending a safe pedestrian environment southward along the former route of the Mount Auburn stairs and incline, to ultimately connect with the University of Cincinnati Campus.
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.

Phase 2:
Match up public artists with local community associations to develop and build art installations on existing stairways.

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.

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.
Octoberfest

celebrating the coming of autumn

Bockfest

celebrating the coming of spring

Hügelfest

celebrating the rebirth of the hills
Travel Study

The primary goal of my travel plan 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 Cincinnatius, a Roman hero 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 Trinità 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 inlines and city steps of Cincinnati, the city was known as the “Paris of the West” 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 landscapes, 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.