

Albert Winn Park - AIA Emerging Professionals Design Competition

Remembering the Carpenter

Rediscovering Albert Winn Park, and Its Connection with Central Sacramento

Critical Success Factors:

- Contextually appropriate;
- Integrated with existing and future city infrastructure;
- Showcases the historical significance of the existing building;
- Utilizes and enhances the existing park assets;
- Provides amenities for a wide range of users.

Context & Integration

Albert Winn Park is in the heart of midtown Sacramento, and is predominantly surrounded by residential buildings. Future city plans, such as the GRID 3.0, indicate that the surrounding streets, P and Q streets, are slated to become major bicycle and pedestrian arteries within the city, connecting these residents to the downtown area. The goal of this park revitalization is to create an integral cog in the pedestrian friendly future of downtown and midtown Sacramento. This park may serve as a model for other residential parks throughout Sacramento.

The Multi-Purpose Room

Every residential community needs a gathering place. However, in the area surrounding Albert Winn Park, there is no such place. By converting the upper floor into a multi-purpose room with dedicated and leasable storage areas, the park will provide economic benefits with the ability to host a wide range of activities including fitness classes, community meetings, movie and bingo nights, and much more. This use will also bring a wide range of users to the park, providing opportunities for activities throughout the day and year. In order to create this highly flexible community space, the alarm panels would need to be relocated. In a way to showcase the historical significance of the building, these panels could be integrated into the plaza, where, instead of activating from nearby fires, they could activate by movement, creating a dynamic experience while playing in the park.

The Neighborhood Lockers

As more people begin to move into central Sacramento, the demand for space is becoming increasingly priceless. Furthermore, with the city's increased investment in bike infrastructure, more bikes will be on the roads, leaving living rooms across the city filled with bikes and their riders' gear. The lower level of the existing building, already intended as a storage area, is the perfect place to provide a bike storage area for the neighborhood residents. By providing 24 hour secure access to one's locker, increased safety will occur in the park due to continuous foot traffic throughout the day. The more traffic the park receives, the more the park and building will be utilized (so long as a wide range of activities are facilitated for the various users).

Neighborhood Activation

To create a node of activity within a predominantly residential area, there must be diversity. A park must be able to facilitate the needs of varying age groups throughout the day and seasons to become a desired asset for the neighborhood.

The Plaza

To create a successful park means to create a place where people want to spend time. With its large trees, this park is already a naturally shaded area, where residents and visitors alike may escape the summer heat. Yet, with the exception with a few benches, the park lacks a *place* to spend this time. By expanding the existing subgrade entrances of the building, a grand plaza could be created, thereby providing opportunities for the community to enjoy the shade with integrated plaza seating. There, people may enjoy a host of activities, including but not limited to, eating lunch, playing or listening to music, meeting with friends, or people watching.

The Urban Patio

Adjacent to the park, there are a series of restaurants. These restaurants, mostly small buildings with minimal seating, would benefit from not only the increase park traffic, but additional seating in the park. Patrons could sit in the park and bring their food over from the restaurants, or potentially have their food brought to them by the restaurants. Adjacent to the existing building's entrance on the east, which faces most of the local restaurants, is a perfect place for a series of tables designed as an urban patio space. This approach would bring in added business to the area, without the need to construct an entire restaurant/bar inside the existing building itself, which would require extensive utilities be added to the structure, and would have limited seating capacity.

Historical Significance

Nestled in a thick tree canopy, the existing building in the park is a simple structure with historical significance to the Art Deco movement that was prominent in Sacramento throughout the 20's-40's. As such, this park revitalization should showcase this significance by leaving the building's exterior as-is. Rather than adding spaces to the building, a large shade structure is proposed as a way to enhance the park's already shady nature, while creating a frame around the building to celebrate its significance.

The Cloud

The proposed shade structure is meant to memorialize Albert Winn through inspiration from his background as a carpenter. Just as a contractor starts with raw materials and works to create a finished product, the shade structure is designed as a public art installation, where it is indicative of a sculpted piece of construction material. This provides an opportunity for community pride through the integration of local art. Additionally, the structure enhances the naturally shaded nature of the park and provides an opportunity for a water feature that could rain on, and mist its users. The intent of this feature is not to create an all-day water feature, but one that could be turned on at significant times of the day/year, providing a known time and place where people can go to cool down.