Connecting the Disconnected: Designing a Walkway in Arlington, Virginia

Deana Marie Brown

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Hans C Rott, Chair

William U Galloway

H Scott Gartner

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Connecting the Disconnected: Designing a Walkway in Arlington, Virginia

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Abstract

This thesis is a study of rhythm, generated by a pattern, and how it can be used to address the urban disconnect of 12th Street in Arlington, Virginia. Rhythm is a tool that can be used to connect a space. The repetition and consistency of the pattern throughout the site structures and connects the four blocks. Light and material quality are additional tools that, used consistently, create and emphasize the rhythm that connects the walkway with points, or destinations, to pause. This book is organized as a series of perspectives that walks through the four blocks, from west to east, of 12th Street.

Sited in Arlington, Virginia, 12th Street extends four blocks from the Pentagon City Metro Station to Crystal Drive. Currently the four blocks are comprised of commercial, residential, and green space. The three types of use have been constructed, developed and even left abandoned at various points throughout their histories. As such, this has created a lack of a natural flow for area residents and visitors. The underlying goal of the walkway is to create a connection between the four disconnected blocks of 12th Street, from the Pentagon City Metro Station and Crystal Drive.
In cities the points of connection between systems should be places of special emphasis and design enrichment. (35)

*Design of Cities*, by Edmund Bacon

Streetscapes should enhance our daily experience of the built environment. (55)

*New Public Spaces*, Sarah Gaventa

Urban design is about the design of a place for the whole of the people who inhabit, traverse, and use it. (176)

*Urban Design and People*, Michael Dobbins
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Graphics

Google site image
“A” Photo of site taken by Mark Vogelgesang
“B” Photo of site taken by Mark Vogelgesang
“C” Photo of site taken by Mark Vogelgesang
“D” Photo of site taken by Mark Vogelgesang
“E” Photo of site taken by Mark Vogelgesang
“F” Photo of site taken by Mark Vogelgesang
Charcoal of light concept
Collage
Pattern diagram
Exploded axonometric of the structure of the meeting spaces
Section of the meeting space structure pulled apart
Section fo the structure of the meeting space
Plan of the typical structure of the meeting spaces
Site plan in pencil
Perspective of corridor entrance
Perspective of metro station corridor
Rendered site plan
Perspective of walkway from the corner of 12th Street
Perspective of the interior of the station from the corner
Plan of corridor connecting underground metro platform to station on the walkway
Plan of station on the walkway
Longitudinal section through corridor and station
Section through station
Rendered site plan
Perspective of walkway when exiting the station
Detail section of the station roof drain
Detail series of the station stair structure and light location
Section of the station and corridor light location
Axon of station stair night lighting in charcoal
Plan of station stair night lighting in charcoal
Section of station stair night lighting in charcoal
Axon of station night lighting in charcoal
Section of station night lighting in charcoal
Plan of station night lighting in charcoal
Rendered site plan
Perspective of the meeting space facing west
Perspective facing east at the end of the meeting space
Rendered plan of meeting space

* All illustrations produced by author unless otherwise noted.
Thank you to my committee for their guidance.

Thank you to my family and friends for their encouragement and support.
The walkway, located in Arlington, Virginia, is comprised of four blocks on 12th Street, from the Pentagon City Metro Station to Crystal Drive.
Concept

Studies, in charcoal, explored the effects of light based on the angles and location of the light feature.

A collage simplified the complex site and focused the requirements that the walkway needed to fulfill to connect the site.
Design

The pattern, used in planar and volumetric form, is the generator of each feature of the walkway.
Perspective of corridor entrance

Perspective of metro station corridor
Perspective of the walkway from the corner of 12th Street

Perspective of the interior of the station from the corner
Plan of corridor connecting underground metro platform to station on the walkway
Plan of station on the walkway
Longitudinal section through corridor and station
Section through station

Section of the Station Roof Drain
Perspective through the station

Perspective of walkway when exiting the station
Detail Series of the Station Stair Structure and Light Location

Section of the Station and Corridor Light Location
Axon of station night lighting in charcoal

Section of station night lighting in charcoal

Plan of station night lighting in charcoal
Perspective of the meeting space facing west

Perspective facing east at the end of the meeting space
Rendered plan of meeting space
Rendered longitudinal section cut through walkway of meeting space

Rendered section through walkway and meeting space
Detail of plan walkway and meeting space connection

Detail of section walkway and meeting space connection
Section of the Structure of the Meeting Space

Detail Connection of Meeting Space to Existing Plaza

Detail Location of Light Within Meeting Space
Perspective of walkway crossing Fern Street

Perspective of walkway approaching the west end of the meeting space of the second block
Plan of walkway crossing a street
Longitudinal section through walkway of street intersection
Perspective of walkway at west end of meeting space on block two

Perspective of meeting space on block two facing west
31 Perspective of walkway crossing S Eads Street

Perspective of walkway approaching block three meeting space
Perspective of walkway in the meeting space of block three

Perspective of walkway at east end of meeting space of block three facing west
Perspective of walkway at the east end of block three facing west

Perspective of walkway crossing Army Navy Drive
Perspective of walkway at west end of block four

Perspective of walkway at west end of block four meeting space
Perspective of walkway in middle of meeting space of block four

Perspective of walkway at east end of meeting space of block four
Perspective of walkway at east end of block four facing west

Perspective of walkway at east end of block four facing Washington Monument
In cities the points of connection between systems should be places of special emphasis and design enrichment. (35)

*Design of Cities*, by Edmund Bacon

Axon of meeting space night lighting in charcoal
Works Cited


