IS MIXED USE TRULY MIXED?

Suburban strip commercial centers have the potential to act as systemic tools for the densification and diversification of the city. The aim of this project is to create a healthy living and work environment that offers an added value to the creative class and the greater community of Raleigh. By reviving the inactive strip center at the gateway of the city a new community and vibrant threshold to the city can be created. Designing an environment that is susceptible to change and intertwines lifestyle and program an identity of a community may be defined. A community for the creative class that is defined by it’s social and collaborative work environment, with resources, studio spaces, and workshops where people can learn and apply practical skills. Organization of program challenges and redefines the conventional understanding of “mixed-use” infrastructure, where program is broken out of architecture and space is activated and defined by the community that occupies it.

THE CREATIVE CLASS CHANGES THE WAY WE LIVE AND WORK, EXTENDING EVEN INTO THE RHYTHMS, PATTERNS, DESIRES, AND EXPECTATIONS THAT STRUCTURE OF DAILY LIVES.

- RICHARD FLORIDA

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION CAN MODIFY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP BEHAVIOR, CHANGING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF A REACTIONARY SOCIETY.

- BERNARD TSCHUMI

HOW COULD ARCHITECTS AVOID SEEING ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING AS THE FAITHFUL PRODUCT OF DOMINANT SOCIETY, VIEWING THEIR CRAFTS, ON THE CONTRARY AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE? - BERNARD TSCHUMI