

The University of Calgary

A DESIGN INVESTIGATION

FOR AN

INNER CITY TEEN DROP-IN CENTRE

BY

GUY LIONEL POCOCK

June, 1991



National Library
of Canada

Bibliothèque nationale
du Canada

Canadian Theses Service Service des thèses canadiennes

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0N4

The author has granted an irrevocable non-exclusive licence allowing the National Library of Canada to reproduce, loan, distribute or sell copies of his/her thesis by any means and in any form or format, making this thesis available to interested persons.

L'auteur a accordé une licence irrévocable et non exclusive permettant à la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada de reproduire, prêter, distribuer ou vendre des copies de sa thèse de quelque manière et sous quelque forme que ce soit pour mettre des exemplaires de cette thèse à la disposition des personnes intéressées.

The author retains ownership of the copyright in his/her thesis. Neither the thesis nor substantial extracts from it may be printed or otherwise reproduced without his/her permission.

L'auteur conserve la propriété du droit d'auteur qui protège sa thèse. Ni la thèse ni des extraits substantiels de celle-ci ne doivent être imprimés ou autrement reproduits sans son autorisation.

ISBN 0-315-71145-0

Canada

The University of Calgary

A DESIGN INVESTIGATION

FOR AN

INNER CITY TEEN DROP-IN CENTRE

BY

GUY LIONEL POCOCK

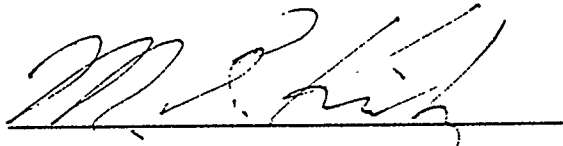
A Masters Degree Project
submitted to the Faculty of Environmental Design
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master's of Environmental Design
(Architecture)
Faculty of Environmental Design
Calgary, Alberta

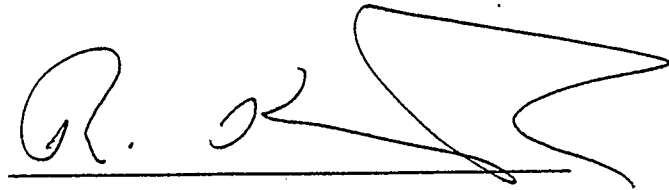
June, 1991

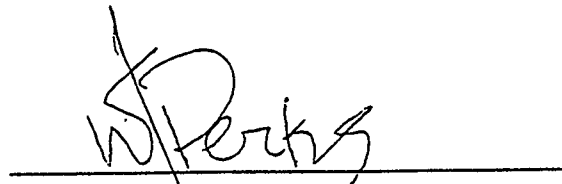
©

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Environmental Design for acceptance, a Master's Degree Project entitled *A Design Investigation for an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre* submitted by *Guy Lionel Pocock* in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Environmental Design.


Supervisor





Date June 27 1991

ABSTRACT

A DESIGN INVESTIGATION

FOR AN

INNER CITY TEEN DROP-IN CENTRE

GUY LIONEL POCOCK

JUNE, 1991

Prepared in partial fulfillment of the requirements
of the degree of Master's of Environmental Design
in the Faculty of Environmental Design,
The University of Calgary.

Supervisor: Professor R. M. Kirby

As in many North American cities it is not uncommon in Calgary during any visit to a neighborhood convenience store, local LRT station, or regional shopping centre, to witness groups of teenagers milling about, talking to one another or playing the obligatory pinball machine. While the adults using these facilities make their purchase and quickly move on, the teenagers often spend a great deal of time merely hanging out with one another. One conclusion which can be reached when confronted with this phenomenon is that in certain respects our culture has fallen short in its potential obligation of providing proper social recreational opportunities for the teenaged members of its population.

Such European countries as Sweden and England have in the past responded to similar phenomenon in their own urban centres by introducing large social recreational facilities - teen drop-in centres - in which young people could congregate, hold social events and come in contact with adult leaders. This design investigation begins by considering that the development of similar facilities might be beneficial to addressing and alleviating some of the perceived problems with this phenomenon if introduced in a North American city such as Calgary.

Following a discussion of the European precedents and the current situation of teen recreation in our North American cities, this investigation develops an architectural program for an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre in an attempt to determine the potential application of the European models to Calgary and to develop more exactly what such a facility should be, how it would function and who would use it. Once the basic Architectural Program is developed, a conceptual design is introduced to represent how these ideas might be given three dimensional form, how the features of the program might be arranged and how a facility of this nature might function and perform.

Key Words: Youth Centres, Community Centres, Design, Recreational Centres, Architectural Programming

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my appreciation to my committee members
Professor R. M. Kirby (Chairman)
and
Professor Ron Kostiniuk (External)
for their support and guidance
during the development of this
Master's Degree Project.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PART 1: INTRODUCTION	
Purpose and Scope	1
PART 2: PROGRAM	
Introduction	3
Definition of An Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre	4
Basic Spatial Components.....	5
Precedents	6
North America.....	6
Scandinavia	8
Britain.....	10
A Teen Drop-In Centre Philosophy	13
The Needs for a Teen Drop-In Centre.....	14
Users of a Teen Drop-In Centre.....	17
The Teens	17
Administrators.....	21
Volunteers.....	21
Government Services.....	22
Retailers	22
The General Public.....	23
Site Considerations.....	24
Planning.....	26
Flexibility	27
Variety	29
Free Circulation.....	30
Open Plan	31
Area Requirements	32
1.0 Assembly Space.....	33
2.0 Dedicated Activity Spaces	36
3.0 Casual Activity Spaces	43
4.0 Exterior Activity Spaces	44
5.0 Service Spaces.....	45
Organizing an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre.....	46
PART 3: THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN	
The Proposed Site	50
Design and Decisions	52
Plan.....	52
Concept.....	56
Features.....	58
Site Planning and Landscaping	64
Elevations	65
Summary	68
Drawings.....	70
Notes	84
Bibliography.....	86

PART 2: PROGRAM

Site Considerations

Criteria

Figure 1: Equal Accessibility.....	24
Figure 2: Pedestrian Shopping District.....	24
Figure 3: Access to Transportation	24
Figure 4: Proximity to Recreation	25

Planning

Figure 5: Basic Principles	26
----------------------------------	----

Flexibility

Figure 6: Numerous Uses	27
Figure 7: Subdividable Spaces.....	27
Figure 8: Adjacent Storages.....	27
Figure 9: Movable Walls	28

Variety

Figure 10: Variety	29
Figure 11: Different Space Types	29

Free Circulation

Figure 12: Free Circulation.....	30
----------------------------------	----

Open Plan

Figure 13: Overlooking Spaces	31
Figure 14: Partial Partitions	31

Area Requirements

Assembly Space

Figure 15: Audience Size	34
Figure 16: Backstage Circulation	34
Figure 17: Sight Lines	34
Figure 18: Projection Screen.....	34
Figure 19: Projecting Stage.....	35
Figure 20: Central Stage	35
Figure 21: Runway	35
Figure 22: Open Plan	35
Figure 23: Adjustable Perimeter	35
Figure 24: Controlled Entrances	35

Dedicated Activity Spaces

Figure 25: Retail Accessibility	37
Figure 26: Social Services Access.....	38
Figure 27: Proximity Requirement	39
Figure 28: Administration Access.....	39
Figure 29: Space Requirements Volunteer Room	39
Figure 30: Space Requirements Project Room.....	40
Figure 31: Space Requirements Screening Room....	40
Figure 32: Space Requirements Dance Studio.....	41
Figure 33: Space Requirements Shops & Studios....	41
Figure 34: Semi Open Shop Plan	41
Figure 35: Proximity Requirement Shops/Studios....	42
Figure 36: Proximity Requirement Shops/Labs.....	42

PART 2: PROGRAM

Area Requirements Cont'd

Casual Social Spaces

Figure 37: Spatial Relationships	43
Figure 38: Expanding Groups	43
Figure 39: Free Circulation	43
Figure 40: Free Entrance to Activity Area	43

Organization

Figure 41: Organizational Program	48
---	----

PART 3: THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

Plan

Figure 42: Commercial Block Organization	54
Figure 43: Industrial Block Organization	54
Figure 44: Location	55

Concept

Figure 45: Organization	56
Figure 46: Game Board Grid	57

Conceptual Design Drawings

Figure 47: Title: An Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre..	70
Figure 48: Programing Diagrams	71
Figure 49: Neighborhood Context	72
Figure 50: Site Plan	73
Figure 51: First Level	74
Figure 52: First to Second Level	75
Figure 53: Second to Third Level	76
Figure 54: Third Level	77
Figure 55: North Elevation	78
Figure 56: E-W Section Through Commercial Block	78
Figure 57: East Elevation	79
Figure 58: N-S Section Through Industrial Block	79
Figure 59: West Elevation	80
Figure 60: E-W Section Through Neon Boulevard....	80
Figure 61: South Elevation	81
Figure 62: NE-SW Section The Tempest Theatre ...	81
Figure 63: Perspectives	82
Figure 64: Heavy Metal Alley	83

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The original impetus to undertake a Design Investigation of an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre first occurred while casually observing several teenagers at a local convenience store. The teens were clearly in no hurry to go anywhere and were merely enjoying each others company while wasting away the evening hours. The situation brought to mind the question: why are teenagers so often seen hanging out around convenience stores, or shopping malls, or even street corners? was there not someplace else for these teens to congregate, enjoy one anothers company or get involved in activities of a more productive or beneficial nature? A concern for the social and emotional development of teenagers found in these and similar circumstances, therefore, underlies the genesis of this investigation.

Adolescence is that time of a person's life when the ties with one's parents and family become less strong and are replaced, to a certain degree, with peer relationships. It is also a time of life when new experiences and skills are being developed; activities which can often have a great deal of effect upon the teenager's self image and self esteem. It is with this picture of adolescence in mind, that the decision to pursue the present programming and design investigation was formulated.

A Teen Drop-In Centre was envisioned in which teenagers could meet other teenagers, make new friends, develop new skills and become exposed to new activities thus broadening their horizons emotionally and socially.

**PURPOSE AND SCOPE
CONT'D**

It is the primary purpose of this Design Investigation to introduce the reader to the potential of the development of a social recreational centre for teenagers, 13 to 17 years old. In pursuit of this purpose, a basic architectural program has been developed in which certain precedents are discussed, user needs considered, planning considerations made, and area requirements formulated.

It is not intended that our list of requirements will reflect user requirements to a level of detail that would be satisfied by user surveys and interviews which are beyond the scope of this investigation.

Based upon the architectural program we first develop a conceptual design for an Inner City Teen Drop-in Centre and then work out and present it through plans, drawings and discussion.

It is necessary to state at the outset that the research undertaken was not intended to be exhaustive in the areas of recreational complexes, adolescent development or urban youth culture and society. Rather, the initial research into these topic areas was merely a point of departure from which the architectural program could be established and the conceptual design commenced.

INTRODUCTION

It is intended that this portion of the investigation into an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre be capable of both standing alone as an initial architectural program for a teen drop-in centre and act in conjunction with the proposed conceptual design, guiding its inception and development, verbally formulating its logic of plan, section, elevation and interior.

This section includes the following subsections:

- A definition of the envisioned Teen Drop-In Centre

- A precedent search for examples of Teen Drop-in Centres

- A Teen Drop-In Centre Philosophy.

- A discussion of the need for a Teen Drop-In Centre.

- An outline of the facility users: the teens, the volunteers, the administrators of the facility, government agencies and volunteers:

- Considerations for establishing a particular site for a Teen Drop-In Centre.

- A consideration of the basic principles affecting the Planning of a Teen Drop-In Centre.

- The Area Requirements for a Teen Centre.

- A few thoughts concerning how to organize and initiate a successful Inner City Teen Centre .

**DEFINITION OF AN
INNER CITY TEEN
DROP-IN CENTRE**

It is proposed that an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre be a government sponsored facility run exclusively for and to some degree by teenagers. The teens would be assisted in the operations of the facility by adult volunteers, government agencies and existing teen club organizations. The facility would house a large range of activities under one roof to encourage a wide range of mixing across social and economic classes to provide new opportunities for meeting individuals with similar and dissimilar interests.

As a mixed social recreational facility, a collection of activities and pursuits will be available on a casual basis to the general teenage population, allowing a degree of freedom to the individual to choose and experiment with activities without having to make an on-going commitment to a specific club or organization.

Thus, just as commercially run bars, lounges, restaurants and clubs, and the formal institutions such as the Philharmonic Society and the Glenbow Museum fulfill the social and recreational demands of adults, the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre would attempt to fulfill the various social-recreational demands of teenagers.

**BASIC SPATIAL
COMPONENTS**

The basic spatial components of the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre are proposed to include,

- A large assembly space for dances, live entertainment, film and theatre presentations, conventions and special events;
- A series of flexible use spaces for activities of small groups including ping pong, pool, video games, coffee house, study circles and gallery display areas;
- Meeting rooms and designated spaces for established teen clubs and for spontaneously-evolving groups and associations;
- Dedicated activity spaces for auto repair, metal working, woodworking, painting, sculpture, ceramics, computing and electronics.
- Offices and other facilities for various government departments with specific mandates for teen interests and needs, and who offer services and programs for teens;
- Office facilities for the administrators and volunteers who manage the facility;
- Retail facilities with a special emphasis aimed at the teenage population but accessible to the population at large (used books, C.D.'s and tapes, teen wear, cosmetics, skate and surf shops.

PRECEDENTS

In looking for North American precedents of teen social recreational centres, no specific examples resembling the envisioned teen drop-in centre were found. However, by taking an overview of the North American teen recreation situation, it is possible to develop ideas of the existing opportunities which in turn assist in understanding the benefits of the more closely related youth centres of Europe.

NORTH AMERICA

Five common examples of teen recreational opportunities include,

Programs which are operated out of junior and senior high schools, include large scale, well operated sports programs, intramural sports and a few specialized clubs depending on the particular interests of the sponsoring teachers.

Neighborhood community centres which sponsor recreational programs such as hockey and little league (in Calgary) as well as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

Church groups and well organized teen clubs which in various neighborhoods occasionally hold dances or social nights. These tend to be highly local, less public events, open primarily to those adolescents with other ties to the specific sponsoring institutions.

A somewhat different facility, more common in North America, and aimed at our particular age group, involves the youth centres erected in ghettos and working class neighbourhoods. While these centres often operate in part as social clubs, they are oriented more towards assisting disadvantaged youth, providing career oriented training, and operating as youth crises centres than is the more broad based facility for socializing adolescents envisioned in this study.

**NORTH AMERICA
CONT'D**

Fifth - and as we will see, the most closely related in a physical sense to the complex envisioned in this investigation - are the student union buildings found on most North American University campuses. These examples, of course, suffer as precedents because they necessarily involve an older age of user than the 13 to 17 year olds focused upon in this study. As building types with certain programmatic combinations, however, the student union buildings and the envisioned teen centre can be shown to have a great deal in common.

Student Union Buildings, for example, are often multi-purpose facilities with large assembly halls for cabarets and live performances. They frequently contain a variety of kiosks, stores and food outlets. They typically include a variety of offices, meeting rooms and special activity areas. Their significant function as a social centre for meeting and gathering is also clear to anyone who has walked through such a facility during a weekday when classes are in session.

The main differences between student union buildings and the envisioned teen complex involve their emphasis on alcoholic beverages for most after hours entertainment and their reliance upon an essentially captive clientele: those students on campus who have time to spend before, after and between classes.

Disregarding student union buildings for the moment (because of the age difference), it is possible to argue that the day-to-day recreational potential for North American adolescents is strongly orientated towards sports and is most often associated with large, adult oriented institutions.

Within the approach to adolescent recreation of certain European countries can be found a more closely related set of precedents for the current project under investigation.

SCANDINAVIA

Foremost of the European precedents worth considering are the Youth Centres of Scandinavia.

Due to growing tensions between young people and the police in Stockholm during the mid sixties, the city's Child Welfare Board undertook a study of the young people who congregated in the subway stations, shopping centres and open places of the Old Town. They found that these were "...mostly loners who did not participate in leisure time activities in their own districts but came to wander around downtown: they got along well with their parents in most cases, came from all over the metropolitan area of Stockholm, did not have too much money to spend and responded enthusiastically to special events sponsored for them." (2)

Responsibly, the Welfare Board recognized that these adolescents would continue to visit the downtown area and that they should be offered facilities where they could congregate without clashing with adult society. The solution in Stockholm at this time involved a downtown youth centre which was open seven nights a week and included a cafe area, space for games, dancing and some special activities. In general "...the club was run as a meeting place, with an opportunity to talk to friendly adults..." (3) Indicative of its success, the club eventually moved to larger premises where it regularly attracts 200 - 500 young people each weeknight and as many as 1500 on weekends.

In drawing a contrast to the North American approach to recreation for young people, Eugene and Barbara Sternberg (1971) note that "the general assumption in cities in Scandinavia is that the community - in the form of municipal government and its appropriate departments - has the obligation to provide attractive, well equipped and well staffed centres for leisure time activities on the part of children and youth....

**SCANDINAVIA
CONT'D**

"Secondly, the municipality provides support - in the form of grants for premises, administrative activities and leader training - for existing youth organizations. Around 45% of teenagers in Stockholm are members of such organizations.

"Thirdly, especially aimed at the unorganized youth are the youth centres run directly by the municipality. The type of work done at the youth centres is designated open activity and includes not only youth cafeterias, organized dances, films and shows, theatre performances, etc., but also group activities (clubs, leisure-time groups, study circles). Generally speaking a normal sized city district centre is utilized by 40% to 60% of the youth of the district in the age range concerned." (4)

Fourth, and perhaps most importantly "...the municipality feels under a continuing obligation to keep in touch with all young people to find out what their needs are to prevent rather than deal with problems and maladjustments and it is necessary to invest in new approaches or new institutions that will more satisfactorily serve the needs of different groups of young people." (5)

BRITAIN

The second European example worth considering is the British Youth Centres which, even before the Second World War, "...were rapidly becoming part of the urban scene." (6)

In the early sixties the Ministry of Education issued two studies in its Building Bulletin, with comments particularly relevant to the investigation at hand. The first of these bulletins, issued in 1961, stressed that "...many different types of clubs are needed to meet different needs of youth in different areas, classes and age groups. However, it is believed that the general mixed club with a predominantly social emphasis will be the most generally successful and demanded facility in the foreseeable future." (7)

In a survey of existing clubs, the study concluded that "...young people like to engage in different activities while still feeling part of the mainstream of club life. Because the virility of a club stems from the close interaction between its leaders and its members, the leader must feel that he is in touch with all that is going on: this too contributes to the need for an open plan and compact planning." (8)

It is reported that the general concept of the club building advocated in this bulletin is "...an uninterrupted space or series of linked spaces subdivided by partial or discretionary screens within which social, practical, physical and cultural activities can be pursued in proximity and harmony. The building must ... lend itself to an ever changing pattern of use and not inhibit more than it must the development of any particular activity at any given time." (9)

This report further suggests that "...this type of building will, in itself, tend to solve some fundamental problems which were seen in some of the buildings visited;

...the building will provide the right physical setting for both sexes to do joint work, such as cooking or carpentry without embarrassment. In a mixed social club the members regard as irrelevant the arbitrary divisions sometimes made between certain boy's and girl's activities.

**BRITAIN
CONT'D**

... the problem of capturing the interest of the lazy or self-satisfied member is to a large extent solved by the building itself. He is automatically introduced to all sorts of activities without having to search them out. His diffidence is overcome by the close relationship between the activity he chooses and the social centre.

...the close and harmonious relationship between activities will tend to widen the interest of people who already practice certain skills well and who tend not to expose themselves to the influence of other totally dissociated activities.

...organization and supervision are made easier..."
(10)

According to the Sternbergs, this Bulletin also recommends that siting for buildings should preferably be in a prestigious position near a shopping and entertainment centre with good connections to public transportation. It further suggests that "...there is no doubt that young people, perhaps more than any other section of the population, are highly responsive to their environment and no pains should be spared in creating and furnishing a club room of the highest architectural quality. This is not to suggest the pompous or the cliché ridden answer, but only to say that the character of the space with the finishes and equipment should be firmly adult and in the best sense of the word sophisticated." (11)

The Withywood Youth Club in Bristol England was developed as an architectural solution generally embodying the guidelines of the Bulletin cited above. Commenting on Withywood, the Sternberg's report that "the main function of the youth club is a social one. The object was to provide a meeting place where interests and activities may arise spontaneously from the corporate life of the group ... The social functions cannot operate successfully, fully or continuously without support from other activities. A wide range of activities should therefore be provided for ... For a variety of reasons the plan should insure close physical and visual relationships between activities." (12)

**BRITAIN
CONT'D**

The ideal solution, therefore, according to the British investigation involves "...a single articulated space resulting in an open plan ... It was particularly important to connect individual spaces so that they formed something more important and significant than the mere sum of their parts, while at the same time allowing them to retain their own individuality and character. To achieve this a variety of architectural devices has been used, including changes of ceiling level, floor level, plan form, floor pattern and material, intensity of light, ceiling texture and wall texture and color. A single central space from ground floor to roof in the middle of a square two storey building answered the needs both for compactness and for relating different sorts of space to each other. The central space gives a special significance to the paramount social functions of the club." (13)

**A TEEN DROP-IN
CENTRE
PHILOSOPHY**

It is proposed that the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre, in its policies, program and design, should reinforce the following Primary Goals:

To provide social and intellectual nurturing for the adolescent users of the facility.

To foster a sense of self worth in each adolescent.

To recognize the importance of the individuality of each teenager.

To encourage autonomy and independence of the person.

To treat each teenager with respect and understanding.

To recognize and respect the developmental levels of each teenager.

To provide an environment that encourages and motivates all levels of development: cognitive, social, emotional and physical.

To give each teenager the optimum opportunity to experiment, explore and discover for himself as much as possible the various activities within the Teen Centre.

To provide understanding and appropriate guidance to the needing individual teenagers.

**THE NEED FOR A
TEEN DROP-IN
CENTRE**

Understanding the need for an Inner City Teen Social Centre is essential to formulating the objectives of the facility and its design.

A NEW PLACE

The initial idea to investigate the design of an inner city teen complex stemmed from a desire to develop a facility specifically for and representative of the adolescent portion of the population. In general, it seems, North American society presents few opportunities and little variety in the way of social recreational pursuits for this age segment of the population. Certainly a number of opportunities for social recreation exist - in organized sports, for example, through programs run in conjunction with the junior and senior high schools, community centres, and major leisure complexes - but opportunities for social recreation (church teen clubs, school dances, and special interest teen organizations) could be argued to be sporadic, lacking in variety and generally aimed at a particular type of teenage user. These events are notably lacking attractiveness for that negatively perceived portion of the teenage population who might be observed "hanging out" around shopping malls and convenience stores. It is necessary to ask at the outset how our society may be falling short in the provision of opportunities for those of its members.

Apart from programs specifically for teenagers, operated by conventional institutions - school boards, government agencies and church groups - the general recreational facilities of our society tend to focus upon either the drinking age adult (cabarets, night clubs, restaurants, bars and lounges) or upon families (the Calgary Zoo, Heritage Park, Calaway Park, and leisure centres). These two approaches can be argued to leave a void of opportunities specifically for the 13 to 17 year old age bracket; a unique portion of the population in that they are old enough to be relatively independent from their parents but not old enough to partake in alcohol related activities or social endeavours specifically for adults.

Once one disregards school and community sports programs, leisure centres, fast food restaurants and shopping malls and the occasional church sponsored teen social there is not much left for teenagers to pursue in terms of leisure time activities. While the teen complex in question is merely one new opportunity against a very large population of teenagers within the city, the variety of activities within the complex could add a great deal of variety to the social recreational horizons of any given user.

**NEED
CONT'D****CASUAL ADULT LEADERSHIP**

Next to providing teenagers with something new to do, somewhere new to go, an inner city teen complex can provide a new means of adult supervision, which various researchers have determined to be important to and desired by many teenagers. According to Santrock(1987), Joan Lipsitz (1983) studied the after school needs of adolescents and found that teenagers often spend their time in such facilities as community centres, libraries, schools, churches and synagogues and boys and girls clubs, and that they go to these places mainly because there is an adult present who knows and understands them. Furthermore, it is reported that while a particular activity may be the hook that gets the adolescent to the community setting, their loyalty to the program seems to be linked to the sensitivity and caring of an adult who has the time to listen and provide advice. (14) In this context, of course, it is necessary to raise the questions: what programs are those adolescents seen around shopping malls and convenience stores and the Stephen Avenue Mall involved in? and what opportunities have they to receive beneficial adult supervision?

The Sternberg's reported in their discussion of Scandinavian Youth Centres that the "Scandinavian countries tend to believe in strongly trained leadership. They feel that it is not true that young people of this "anti-social" type are not interested in adults, but that they must be of the right type: a broadly human leader making easy contact and now and then giving his opinions without dominating...." (15) A combined recreation and social services facility as is envisioned within this program, therefore, could arguably be seen as an ideal opportunity for those adolescents who typically avoid organized sports and institutionally based clubs, to be placed into a situation where they have the potential to approach a trained adult leader for advice or assistance in a casual setting.

**NEED
CONT'D****NEW HORIZONS**

A third need for a Teen Drop-In Centre can be found in the centre's opportunity to enlarge the adolescent's view of their city and surrounding environment. Not only will the teenagers be attracted to a "new" location in the city, different from their own suburban neighborhoods, but by exposing the individuals to other teenagers from other parts of the city, their horizons will be broadened and their minds opened. Furthermore, by giving the suburban adolescents an inner city focus or home base they may be more easily attracted to the rest of the richness and diversity which downtown life has to offer in its music, museums and street activities.

INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

Fourth, the idea of a central complex for teens implies the potential for a central information distribution system. Specialized activities and interests may receive wider, more appropriate exposure to teenagers across the city. Individuals with unique interests could utilize the complex's highly visible character to gain access to other individuals with similar interests. The centre and its resources can also present the possibility of a coordination system of information distribution to the junior and senior high schools of the city which circumvents the division of public and separate school boards as well as other more specialized institutions.

RELIEF FROM SOCIAL ISOLATION

A fifth, particularly pertinent need for a social recreational complex of this nature involves the situation of adolescents labeled social isolates. Social isolation, or the "...inability to 'plug in' to a social network" is linked with many different forms of problems and disturbances, ranging from delinquency and problem drinking to depression. Adolescent social isolates, those individuals who during their teenage years are neither accepted nor rejected by their peers, seem to be particularly vulnerable to problems and disturbances in late adolescence and adulthood. This seems to happen because they miss out on a considerable amount of socialization that only comes through association with their peers." (16) Indeed, in one investigation "...very poor peer relations in childhood was (sic) linked with abnormal development in late adolescence and youth, including a tendency to drop out of school and engage in anti-social behavior." (17) Within the context of an Inner City Teen Centre aimed at a broad range of adolescent types, therefore, those potential social isolates can be perceived as a particularly important target market to attract to the planned facility.

**USERS OF A TEEN
DROP-IN CENTRE
THE TEENS**

In attempting to develop a user profile of adolescents attracted to the idea of an Inner City Teen Centre, certain problems immediately become evident. Foremost of these involves the ability to distinguish the teen centre user from the non-user given that no similar such facility exists within easy access: will teens who hang out in shopping malls be attracted to such a facility? or will those teenagers already involved in a variety of clubs and activities gravitate to the complex because of their naturally gregarious nature? Ideally, a mix between the two would occur, of course, but there is no way to guarantee such a situation at the outset. For these reasons the tactic has been followed that knowledge of the general characteristics of teenagers - physical, cognitive, social, and emotional - be developed and the general categories of user types be established. It is hoped that by providing the broadest scope of information, the subsequent program and design will be more attractive to a variety of user types rather than merely focusing on one group or another.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

In examining the significant physical characteristics of teenagers it is first to be considered that within the age group of 13 - 17 years old, all ranges of physical development are likely to be encountered; a physically underdeveloped 13 year old may be effectively a child, whereas a mature 17 year old can be almost as developed as any adult. While it would probably be wrong to supply furnishings any different in size from normal adult furnishings, consideration should be given to the ability of youngsters with a range of physical strengths involved in the moving of furniture or adjusting of building features. The thought here is to spare the younger, less developed teenagers the embarrassment of having to ask for assistance in some functions his peers are already capable of.

Thus, care should be taken to supply furnishings and components which can be operated by the wide range of physical types and sizes inherent in the user group. Furnishings should be light at the same time as comfortable for a wide range of sizes. Doors should be easy to open, building components (movable stages for example) should breakdown into smaller components for ease of adjustment by less physically strong individuals.

**TEENS
CONT'D****COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Santroc, in describing one of the most commonly held views of cognitive development - that of Jean Piaget - suggests that cognitive development can be suggested to unfold in four main stages: sensori-motor thought, pre-operational thought, concrete operational thought and formal operational thought, with only the last two stages likely to characterize adolescent thought. (18) For Piaget, Santrock reports, concrete operational thought, most commonly apparent in middle and late childhood stages, is made up of mutual acting or representations that are reversible, such as recognizing that the same amount of clay may be contained within a lump no matter what its shape. Formal operational thought, in Piaget's view appears between the ages of eleven and fourteen - early adolescence - and is characterized by: abstractness (the child not being limited by concrete experience as the anchor of thought), idealism (being able to move beyond what is real and limited into extended speculation about ideal characteristics), hypothetical deductive and logical reasoning, advanced understanding of language (growth in sophistication in ability to understand words and their related concepts), and perspective taking (not only do they think about thought but they develop an awareness that others are often thinking in different ways from they themselves).

While this brief description is by no means an adequate introduction to the theories of adolescent cognitive development, it does establish the basis for the agreement that, by early adolescence, teenagers are very likely to think in as a sophisticated manner as the average adult. This would make unwarranted any argument that the complexity of the building or its meaning should be reduced because of the inability of teens to understand adult ideas.

Thus, activities to be provided by the Teen Centre should be chosen in order to provide a challenge for the teens. Despite whatever other changes the adolescents are going through, their intellectual learning ability should be accepted as being the equal of a fully mature adult. Similarly, the inherent aesthetic qualities of the building should not be made any less meaningful or complex than the qualities which would be entailed in a similar structure designed for adults.

**TEENS
CONT'D****SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

As suggested in the Introduction, the original impetus for undertaking a Design Investigation of an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre stemmed from an interest in the social and emotional development of adolescents. It is suggested, therefore, that care be taken in the building design and configuration of spaces to encourage meeting and mixing of new individuals. While activities may take place within a defined space, the space should allow the approach of newcomers to the group by clear circulation, by views of the activity and by a comfortable casual setting. As much openness and as few doors as possible are preferred in this respect.

TEEN TYPES

Besides considering the general category of teenagers as users of the Teen Drop-In Centre, it will be useful to identify sub-categories of different types who will be using the facility.

In terms of frequency of use, it is reasonable to assume that some teenagers - especially those from the immediate neighborhoods - will use the facility as a hangout that is visited nearly everyday.

Secondly, many teenagers will make only intermittent use of the teen centre, attending weekend dances or occasionally stopping by on a weeknight to play a particular pinball machine.

Thirdly, there will always be the new users because the teen population is changing due to aging. These new users are perhaps the most important group to consider in the design; it is the chance, first-timer who the teen centre operators should wish most to encourage back.

**TEENS
CONT'D**

Fourth, there will be a group of teenagers who belong to certain clubs and activities housed within the centre who will make use of the facility but as a social centre for before and after club activities.

Thus, the centre should adequately serve both the first time user in its simplicity of plan as well as the frequent user in its complexity and variety.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The hours of operation for the teen centre will have to vary throughout the week and throughout the year. Weekdays during the school year the facility would best operate from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. so as not to provide a distraction from normal school operations. Weekends during the school year, the facility could operate from 9:00 or 10:00 a.m. to midnight.

During the summer and holidays, the facility could maintain regular weekend hours from 9:00 or 10:00 a.m. to midnight throughout the summer.

It would be most beneficial to the teens if the government agencies kept the same hours as the general centre operation (but this factor would be up to the various agencies involved).

The retail stores could effectively operate during normal retail store hours - 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends.

ADMINISTRATORS

Administration of the Teen Drop-In Centre would best be handled by an autonomous group hired by the teen centre rather than bureaucrats chosen from one government agency or another. The administrators then could answer to a board of directors of the centre but always keep the best interests of the centre and the teens first and foremost in their daily operations.

The administration would be in charge of coordinating activities within the centre, in terms of space and time, as well as overseeing purchasing and maintenance and acting as landlord to the retail stores and special service groups and clubs who are given dedicated spaces within the facility.

The administration would likely consist of a Director, Assistant Director, clerk, receptionist and a small maintenance crew of two or three.

They should be supplied with offices separate from all other tenants with easy access from the main area of the teen centre as well as from the area of the government agencies.

VOLUNTEERS

It is anticipated that a large number of adult volunteers will be required by the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre. These volunteers would act as instructors in the various special activity areas of the centre: auto shop, metal shop, wood shop, paint room, arts and crafts areas, electronics and computer labs, drama and music events, as well acting as chaperones for special event evenings, concerts and dances.

The adult volunteers should be provided with a private room in which they can store personal goods, do paperwork and visit amongst themselves, perhaps for the purpose of organizing upcoming events or activities. Desks, meeting tables and lockers should be provided as well as an area for a coffee machine with sink and cup storage.

**GOVERNMENT
SERVICES**

The Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre offers a unique opportunity for branch offices of various government departments to offer information services and to make direct contact with large numbers of teenagers who will be congregating regularly at a 'central' location.

Such services as Teen Suicide hotlines, AADAC, or Family and Social Welfare could be provided with office facilities within the Teen Centre and thereby create a higher profile for those who may wish to benefit from their services.

The area of government services in the Teen Centre should be provided with a separate entrance, both to avoid any stigma on the teens wishing to use the centre as well as to provide a level of privacy for those teens wishing to approach any of the various departments for assistance or services.

Private offices and meeting rooms and a reception and waiting area should be provided within the Government Social Services Area as well as . A large meeting room for the Social Services Employees and Administration is also required.

RETAILERS

Retail units should be provided along the commercial edge of the Teen Drop-In Centre. It is thought that retail stores in this location will provide for a more active and better maintained street profile for the Teen Centre, as well as enhance the variety of activities available to teens visiting the Centre.

Naturally, it would be best to encourage retailers of specific teen interest: record and tape stores, jewelry stores, make-up shops, hair dressers, sports wear, used books and skateboarding stores, etc, etc.

It would be desirable and advantageous to sales to have the retail units open to the main exterior street as well as to the inside of the teen centre. This would enhance the activity within the centre, while at the same time make the stores approachable to the general public.

Retail owners would be encouraged to develop the exteriors of their shops in a personalized dynamic manner likely to appeal to the teen users of the Centre.

GENERAL PUBLIC

While it should probably be a policy of the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre to only allow teens and volunteers within the centre on a regular basis , there may be special events - drama or music presentations, science and craft fairs and conventions - to which the general public is invited. For events of this nature, it would be useful to be able to portion off the area of the general public event from those other users of special activities reserved just for the teenagers.

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

There are a number of criteria for choosing a site for the Teen Drop-In Centre which can be argued to be very significant to the eventual success of the facility.

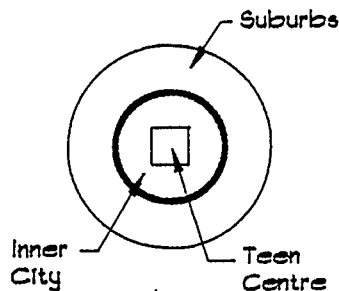


Fig. 1
Equal Accessibility

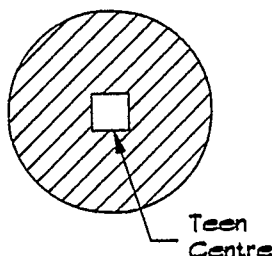


Fig. 2
Pedestrian Shopping District

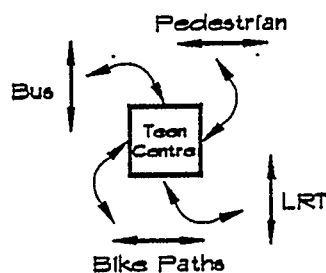


Fig. 3
Access to Transportation

First, and by means of justifying the idea of an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre as opposed to a teen centre in the suburbs, it is important to consider that a large scale complex as envisioned would best be equally accessible to all areas of the city. As well, as a first of its kind, and therefore necessarily experimental in North America, an Inner City Centre benefits from potentially drawing from the city's entire population of teens rather than merely one district.

Secondly, as suggested in the discussion of British precedents, the Teen Centre would benefit from being located in a shopping district, preferably in a pedestrian shopping area such as 17th Avenue or Kensington in Calgary, rather than near a mall or along a major automobile artery like Macleod Trail South. A shopping district such as this enhances the use of the facility by adolescents who are most likely to travel on foot as well as presenting a livelier street scene for the young people and their facility to partake in.

Thirdly, a location convenient to public transportation - buses and LRT, as well as to the city's system of bike paths, is of high importance, as most of the teen users will rely on these forms of transportation to get around within the city.

Fourthly, the location of the Drop-In Centre near other recreational centres, such as sports leisure complexes, the Stampede Grounds or other outdoor parks, will enhance the use of the facility as a social centre. This would allow adolescents to combine a variety of activities throughout a given day trip to the particular neighborhood of location as well as increase the variety of activities available to groups operating out of the teen complex. Outdoor recreational facilities near to the facility - soccer fields, tennis courts, or baseball diamonds - would also be of particular benefit.

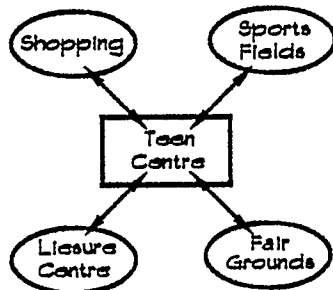
SITE
CONT'D

Fig. 4
Proximity to Recreation

A limited amount of space for on-site parking will likely be necessary for the administrators, volunteers, social services workers and retailers. Given the young age of the primary users, however, the minimum number of stalls should be provided; the budget applied to facilities should benefit the teens more directly.

Provision for outdoor casual spaces including tables and benches should be made but care should be taken to avoid inhibiting the flow of the traffic of easily annoyed adults making use of the district.

Provision should also be made for motorcycle parking and bike racks in locations easily surveyed from the interior of the facility.

PLANNING

Four basic principles can be argued as being essential to the overall programming and design of the Teen Drop-In Centre.

These principles include:

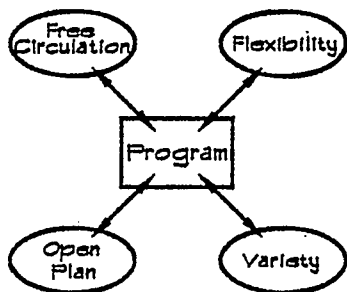


Fig. 5
Basic Principles

Flexibility

Variety

Free Circulation

Open Plan

Each of these principles will now be discussed in order to convey a better understanding of how they apply to the Teen Drop-In Centre.

FLEXIBILITY

In design programming terms, flexibility can be interpreted as meaning the quick or easy adaptability of the environment for the service of differing functions or purposes.

Several types of flexibility can be seen as being integral to the success of the Teen Drop-In Centre.

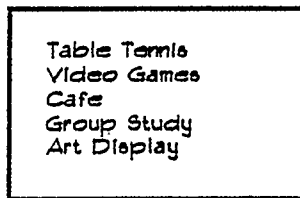


Fig. 6
Numerous Uses

Spaces should be able to be used for more than one function.

Spaces should be capable of being subdivided to serve several small activity groups, or be joined together to serve a few larger activity groups.

Spaces should be provided with adjacent storage rooms to allow introduction of new elements (tables, chairs, games).

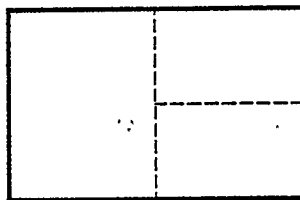


Fig. 7
Subdividable Spaces

Finishes should be easily changed in order to provide a change of color or atmosphere.

Elements providing flexibility within the facility should be of a type that are easily manipulated by the young users of the facility. For example, changes which are quick and easy to provide are more likely to be used in the course of a day or a weekend.

Flexibility is of primary importance throughout every feature of the Inner City Drop-In Centre, for three main reasons.

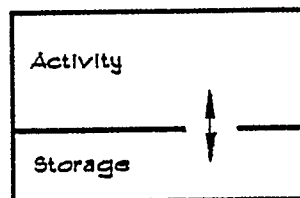


Fig. 8
Adjacent Storage

First, the more flexibility inherent to the building, its layout, elements and design, the greater changes the teenagers can exert upon their environment. Allowing the young person more control over their surroundings, naturally encourages greater independence of action, greater variety in activities and greater use of their imagination.

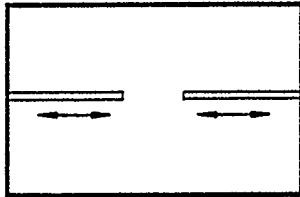
FLEXIBILITY
CONT'D

Fig. 9
Movable Walls

Second, as flexibility is incorporated throughout all features of the design, greater changes are possible in the programming of events and activities by the administration and volunteers of the Centre. Obviously, the interests of adolescents have changed dramatically over the years (consider the beatniks of the 50's, the hippies of the 60's, the rockers of the 70's and the punks of the 80's); and it is likely, therefore, that the interests of adolescents will continue to change in the future. Flexibility within the design of the Teen Centre will allow the facility to reflect, for example, these changes in fashion, interests and activities.

Third, Flexibility throughout the facility allows a greater potential for multiple uses of each of the areas. This, in turn, encourages a more effective expenditure of resources in terms of the building's overall area as well as a more intense concentration of activities during any given period.

The means for providing such flexibility within the Teen Centre may be many and varied. The following list, therefore, is not intended to be complete or exhaustive.

The most obvious means of providing spatial flexibility would involve including a variety of spaces of different sizes and types which would allow groups to move to a new area as they expand or change.

Moveable walls to subdivide a large space into smaller spaces may allow a variety of changes in a short period of time.

Doors in conjunction with multiple paths of circulation encourage changes of the facility and allow a variety of simultaneous functions.

Benches or bleachers stored in wall cavities can quickly convert from an open space into a theatre setting.

Chairs and tables stored nearby may quickly be pulled out to convert an open area into a cafe setting.

Drywall finishes can be repainted periodically to reflect new trends in fashion and design.

VARIETY

Variety and Flexibility can be seen as distinct, though complimentary, planning criteria. Obviously, the more variety in space types, the greater flexibility the facility will have. At the same time more flexibility inherent in the spaces, the greater will be the potential to provide a variety of environments and activities.

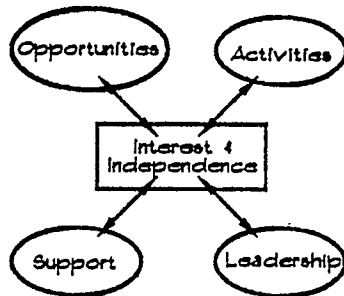


Fig. 10
Variety

The purpose of providing variety within the facility is threefold.

First, it is desirable to attract as many different types of teens to the centre as is reasonably possible.

Second, once the teens come to the centre, it is the purpose of the facility to expose and attract them to the widest variety of activities in order to expand their interests and broaden their horizons.

Third, the more variety inherent in the facility, the greater likelihood there will be of challenging the teens and allowing them to develop their cognitive, social and physical skills.

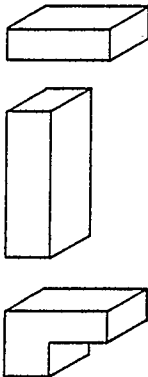


Fig. 11
Different Space Types

The types of variety to keep in mind primarily involve the different activities possible within the facility and the space types required for these purposes.

Providing the necessary amount of variety within the Teen Centre will involve a number of dedicated spaces (shops, studios, labs), adaptable open spaces and spaces not merely for the teens but for the general public (government service offices and shops or stores).

It is important for the administrators of the facility to keep in mind that the architectural design of the centre can provide the potential for variety but it will fall to the adult leaders to exercise their imagination to continually program new activities and events for the enjoyment and stimulation of the Teens.

FREE CIRCULATION

The purpose of Free Circulation within the Teen Centre is to allow the young people to casually move through the facility to observe the various ongoing activities. Free circulation, in essence, enhances the adolescent's feeling of security and independence until he comes across an activity he is interested in or is invited by the participants to join. The younger, less developed youths may, therefore, feel more at home and at ease.

The type of circulation which can be argued to fulfill this purpose involves providing more than one means of access to any particular space or activity. This allows the young people to be casually passing through the area without instilling the feeling that they are purposely approaching a group where they may not be initially welcome.

Types of circulation to consider for the Teen Centre may include:

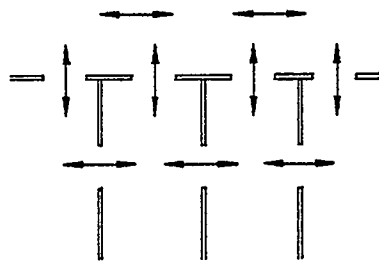


Fig. 12
Free Circulation

An open floor area with various activities placed within a single space.

A spine of open circulation to which various activities are attached.

Routes of circulation which pass unobtrusively through a particular activity area.

Types of circulation to be avoided include dead end hallways and activity spaces with only one entrance.

OPEN PLAN

Open planning in architectural design terms means the interconnection of floor areas or the continuity of the flow of space such as could be attained by eliminating floor to ceiling walls in the typical office environment.

Open Planning for the Teen Centre can involve a variety of means.

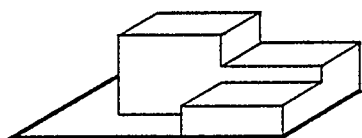


Fig. 13
Overlooking Spaces

Activity areas can be placed on different levels and allowed to overlook one another.

Windows and multiple doorways can interconnect activity areas which have to be separated for other reasons such as noise, dust or odors.

Partial partitions can be used to subdivide large areas into smaller semi connected spaces.

The reasons for Open Planning within the Teen Centre are varied and important.

Open Planning enhances the other criteria of Flexibility, Variety and Free Circulation.

Open Planning allows the various activities to be seen from many vantage points within the facility, thus encouraging greater exposure of the young people to events they may be interested in and encouraging them to explore and discover for themselves the pursuits of the Centre.

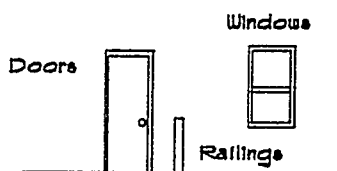


Fig. 14
Partial Partitions

Open Planning allows certain activities to overlap and ultimately create an environment of functions potentially greater than the sum of its parts. (19) For example, if a drama club were rehearsing adjacent to a sculpture class, new and unexpected approaches to theatre set design may be encouraged to evolve. In this regard, care must be taken to avoid placing functions adjacent to one another if there is a risk one activity will completely disrupt the other

Many types of Open Planning will be necessary within the facility to interconnect the various activities. Open Planning, therefore, may involve freedom of movement and access or creating visual connections between different space types. The basic idea is to interconnect as many non-conflicting activities as possible and to avoid including discrete spaces for singular activities.

AREA REQUIREMENTS

Within this section of the Program for an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre, an attempt will be made to initiate a list of the basic spatial requirements for the facility. Because of the lack of precedents for facilities of this nature, this initial list is more a product of imaginative programming than hard research. For the present, it is intended that this section will provide a general guide to the conceptual design portion of the study as well as assist in the formulation of an outline for any future in-depth architectural programming investigations for a Teen Drop-In Centre.

Specific attention will be paid to how the Planning Criteria of Flexibility, Variety, Free Circulation and Open Planning apply to the specific areas introduced. As well, the uses and features of the spaces will be considered and noted for their significance within the architectural program.

For organizational purposes, the areas of the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre will be subdivided into five major space types.

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 1.0 | Assembly Space |
| 2.0 | Dedicated Activity Spaces |
| 3.0 | Casual Social Spaces |
| 4.0 | Exterior Activity Spaces |
| 5.0 | Service Spaces |

Each of the major space types may be subdivided as necessary.

**1.0 ASSEMBLY
SPACE**

The uses of the Assembly Space are likely to be as wide and varied as the imagination and resources will allow. Some of the most obvious activities may include:

Small drama presentations;

Films;

Live music performances, folk concerts, rock bands;

Dinner theatre activities;

Dances with either prerecorded or live music;

Forums for teen government of the facility;

Conventions, exhibitions and display floor functions.

Flexibility in design of the Assembly space is of particular importance to allow the teens themselves to easily rearrange the space from the set up of one activity to that of another. For example, a fashion show may be held in the afternoon while a rock concert and dance are being staged in the evening of the same day.

1.0 ASSEMBLY SPACE CONT'D

Features of the Assembly space should include:

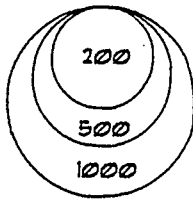


Fig. 15
Audience Size

The ability to adequately house a variety of audience sizes, from small audiences of 200 to 250 to larger groups up to 800;

Stage machinery for sound and light equipment, front and rear curtains about the stage area, project screens for films or video and other stage devices as are possible;

A backstage area with access to other areas of the facility;

A reasonable seating set-up for sightlines for the various seating and staging arrangements;

Moveable stage flooring to provide a variety of flexible audience/performer relationships including:

- flat, frontal for films and videos;
- projecting stages for theatre and dance presentations;
- central stage for speaker's forums or folk concerts;
- a runway stage for fashion show presentations;
- open assembly area for display floor purposes.



Fig. 16
Backstage Circulation

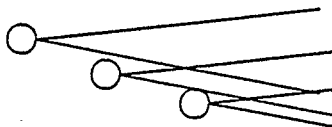


Fig. 17
Sight Lines

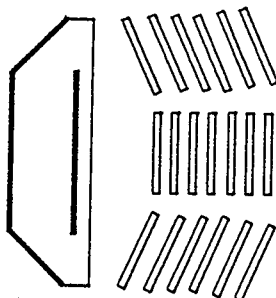


Fig. 18
Projection Screen

1.0 ASSEMBLY SPACE CONT'D

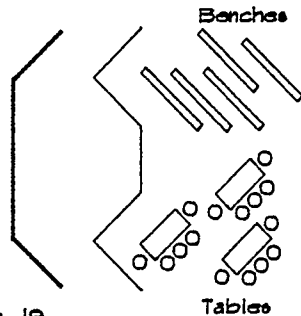


Fig. 19
Projecting Stage

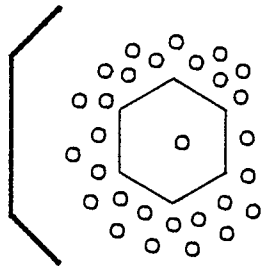


Fig. 20
Central Stage

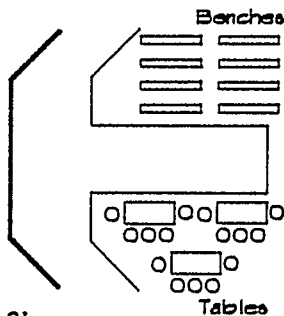


Fig. 21
Runway

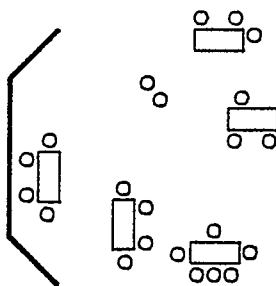


Fig. 22
Open Plan

To serve the various activities of the Assembly space a number of means can be suggested.

A variety of seating types: floor, benches, bleachers, chairs.

Control of exterior noise from other areas in the teen centre when necessary.

Control of natural lighting and all facets of artificial lighting.

The most important interconnections to be considered for the Assembly Space involve the ability to open up the area to the other areas of the Teen Centre and to close it off to create a more intimate controlled environment.

Convenient, controllable access to the front entrance and lobby areas will be required.

When the Assembly Space is separated from the other portions of the facility, separate washrooms accessible only to the assembly area would be required.

Convenient access to the exterior of the building may be required for equipment loading, as access to the shops and studios for stage and set transfer.

Access to storage rooms will be necessary, as will access to a snack bar or kitchen.

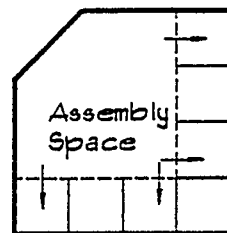


Fig. 23
Adjustable Perimeter

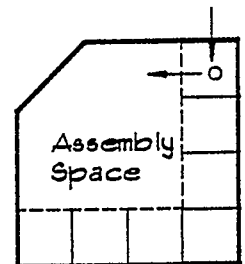


Fig. 24
Controlled Entrance

**2.0 DEDICATED
ACTIVITY SPACES**

The Dedicated Activity Spaces of the Teen Drop-In Centre are those facilities which have a predefined function (like the shops and studios), or are occupied by specific tenants (such as the social services offices).

The following list of Dedicated Activity Spaces includes all those areas - public, semi public and private - which for various reasons necessitate special separations from the rest of the teen centre. Each will be discussed under the following headings.

- 2.1 Retail Facilities
- 2.2 Social Services Offices
- 2.3 Teen Centre Administration Offices
- 2.4 Volunteer's Room
- 2.5 Open Project Rooms
- 2.6 Screening Room
- 2.7 Dance Studio
- 2.8 Industrial Arts Shops
- 2.9 Art Studios
- 2.10 Labs

The list of Dedicated Activity Spaces may be added to or altered as reasons become more firmly established. This will depend on the needs of the particular district chosen as the site for the Centre and upon changing teen interests. The essence of the current list, however, involves granting the specific Teen Centre the greatest variety of activities that existing resources will allow.

2.0 DEDICATED ACTIVITY SPACES CONT'D

2.1 RETAIL FACILITIES

The Retail Facilities envisioned are the types of stores and shops which are aimed primarily at a teenage patron. Such facilities may include compact disk and tape stores, action wear, cosmetics, ski and skateboards, and used books.

If the Teen Centre is located in a pedestrian shopping district, the retail facilities may enhance the centre's connection and function within the community. As well, such retail facilities will potentially attract a wider variety of young people to the Teen Centre for a first time exposure. These features would be further enhanced if space is provided about the retail area for sidewalk sales and displays.

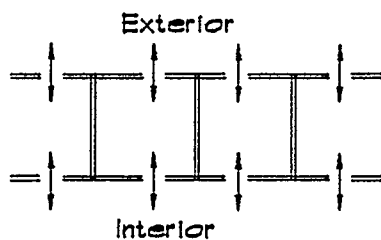


Fig. 25
Retail Accessibility

It will be necessary for the shops to be fully accessible to the non- teenage public along the street but it may also be desirable to have access to the shops from the interior of the Teen Centre. The intention of such an interconnection would be to further enhance the variety and activity of the facility's interior.

It is anticipated that providing the basic, unfinished space with the ability to be custom designed by the individual retailers would be the most desirable approach to these spaces in today's commercial market.

2.0 DEDICATED ACTIVITY SPACES CONT'D

2.2 SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICES

The Social Service Departments represented within the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre are envisioned as including branch offices from those departments with specific interests in teen welfare. These may include individuals involved with running the Teen Centre (as a government funded facility) or individuals in departments providing help to problem teens (Adolescent Suicide Prevention, Drug Abuse Counselling, Family Counselling).

The specific requirements for the Social Services Office may include,

- A public reception area;

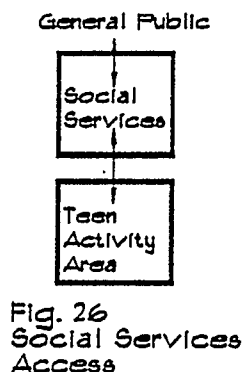
- Meeting rooms for private and family counselling;

- A small library, resource centre;

- Offices for various social services representatives;

- Offices for the administrators of the social services provided;

- A medium-sized conference room.



While the Social Service workers should have convenient access to the Teen Centre, it would also be desirable to allow access to the offices by the general public. This would allow adults and families of teenagers to approach the Social Services representatives without having to pass through the Teen Centre itself.

Close access between the Social Services offices and the Teen Centre Administration offices will be necessary for the convenience of the day-to-day operations involving both of these departments.

Where possible, flexible, open plan offices should be considered for the Social Services workers. Such would allow for future adaptations to changing roles and efficiency of resources when providing for the changing needs of the Centre patrons.

2.0 DEDICATED ACTIVITY SPACES CONT'D

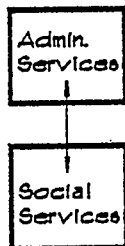


Fig. 27
Proximity Requirement

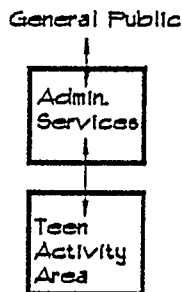


Fig. 28
Administration
Access

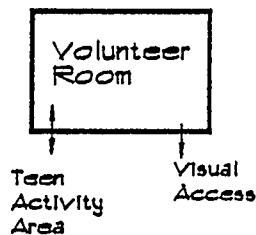


Fig. 29
Space Requirements

2.3 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Administrative Offices house a small number of individuals whose specific functions involve the day to day operations of the facility, its maintenance, finances, retail leasing and general programming functions. This would include the Teen Centre Director, an individual employed by the Centre, independent of the various Social Services departments also housed in the facility. The Director's main function would be to manage and represent the facility as a whole, and to act as a liaison between the various parties involved in the Centre's operation (the teens, their representatives, the retail operators, the Social Service functionaries, the adult volunteers and the Teen Centre Board of Governors).

The Administrative Office would require a public reception area, offices for the Director, an Assistant Director and an Administrative Assistant, and a small conference room.

The Administrative offices should have convenient access to the main interior circulation and Casual Social Spaces of the facility, but like the Social Service offices, should also have direct access to the street to allow adult members of the general public to approach the office without passing through the young people's domain.

2.4 VOLUNTEER'S ROOM

The Volunteer's Room is merely a small, breakout space and locker, room provided for the convenience of the adult volunteers who will serve the Teen Centre. Besides providing lockers for the personal goods of the volunteers, it would allow two or three of the adults to meet and plan activities and programs, or to hold discussions in private.

Lockers should be provided for fifteen to twenty volunteers. Two or three desks, a coffee station and cupboards should also be provided.

The Volunteer's Room should be part of the general teen area to increase access of the adults to the teens and to enhance casual supervision opportunities for the adults.

2.0 DEDICATED ACTIVITY SPACES CONT'D

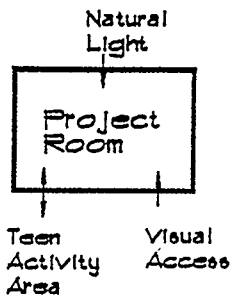


Fig. 30
Space Requirements

2.5 OPEN PROJECT ROOMS

The Open Project Rooms exist for the use of the teens and the volunteers of the Centre. These spaces would be assigned on a day-to-day or project-to-project basis and for functions requiring separation from the noise or action of the Casual Social Spaces or the Assembly Space. As well, the Project Rooms also can provide convenient space for ongoing projects that require a fixed setup (such as an administrative centre for the spring fund-raising drive).

The Project Rooms should be provided with tables and chairs, counterspace with sinks and lockable storage cupboards. Ease of furniture rearrangement is an important consideration.

The Project Rooms should be easily accessible from the Casual Social Spaces and may be connected by windows and doors in order to maintain a sense of openness to the rest of the facility. Exterior windows would be desirable, but control of natural as well as artificial lighting would then also be necessary.

2.6 SCREENING ROOM

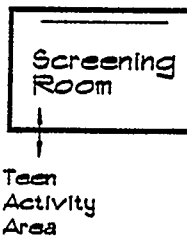


Fig. 31
Space Requirements

The Screening Room would be used for presentation of films, videos and slide shows to small groups of up to 25 young people. Tiered seating may be required to provide fully adequate sight lines to all viewers. Natural light would not be required.

The screening room should be directly accessible from the rest of the Teen Centre.

Built in video and film equipment could be considered.

2.0 DEDICATED ACTIVITY SPACES CONT'D

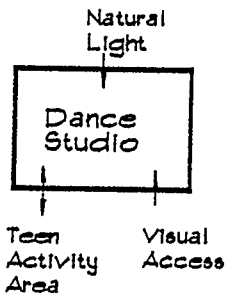


Fig. 32
Space Requirements

2.7 DANCE STUDIO

Like the Project Rooms and the Screening Room, the Dance Studio would be made available to small groups of teens or volunteers on a day to day basis.

This studio would provide space for activities requiring plenty of natural light and natural ventilation. Handrails along one or two walls would be desirable. The Studio should be accessible from the Casual Social Spaces with visual connections between the two. The use of different music for dance classes, however, requires that adequate sound separation between the studio and the rest of the facility be provided.

2.8 INDUSTRIAL ARTS SHOPS

The Industrial Arts Shops would provide supervised activity areas for young people interested in small projects involving auto repair, metal work, woodwork, and painting. While the shops would be accessible both physically and visually from the general activity area, they will have to be separated for noise, dust and exhaust control purposes.

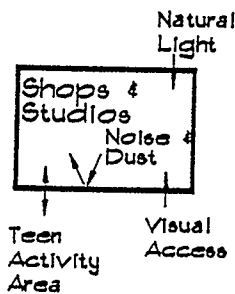


Fig. 33
Space Requirements

The Industrial Arts Shops exist primarily to give hands on experience to the teens interested in learning trades and crafts, and to provide shop facilities that supplement other activities (set construction for drama presentations, for example).

Requirements for special features in the Industrial Arts Shops include one or two service bays, work benches, securable tool rooms, space for machinery, and separate booths for spraying and welding.

A semi-open planned facility would be desirable to allow for a convenient intermixing of disciplines on a given project while maintaining a degree of separation between conflicting operations (sawdust being kept away from auto parts for example). Supervision will also be easier in an open-planned shop.

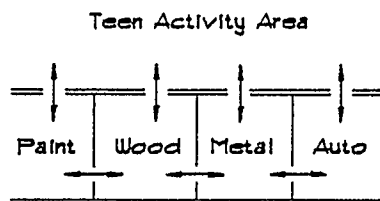


Fig 34
Semi-Open Shop Plan

Loading door access to the exterior will be necessary. A variety of connections to the rest of the Centre would allow greater circulation and exposure to the Shop Area. Spaces should allow for the easy flow of materials and projects from one work space to another.

2.0 DEDICATED ACTIVITY SPACES CONT'D

2.9 ART STUDIOS

The Art Studios of the Teen Centre are meant to provide open space for both supervised and unsupervised activities of sculpture, painting and ceramics.

Counters with sinks, work benches, tables and easels will be required.

Like the Industrial Arts Shops, the Art Studios require physical and visual access from the general activity area, but noise and dust separation will be required.

Easy access to the Industrial Arts Shops is important for the convenience of shared resources. Shelves and lockable cupboards will be necessary for project storage.

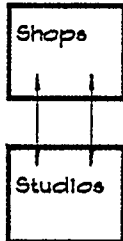


Fig. 35
Proximity Requirement

2.10 LABS

The Labs of the Teen Centre are to provide securable, superviseable areas for projects and training in electronics and computers, and for other high tech interests of teenagers.

These areas will require project benches and desks, and lockable cupboards and shelves for storage.

While the Labs should be visible from the general activity area, they should also be securable (except during supervised periods).

As there will likely be some interaction between the Labs and the Industrial Arts Shops, proximity requirements should be kept in mind.

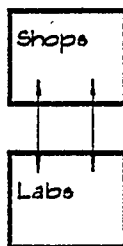


Fig. 36
Proximity Requirement

3.0 CASUAL SOCIAL SPACES



Fig. 37
Spatial Relationships

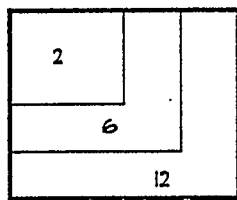


Fig. 38
Expanding Groups

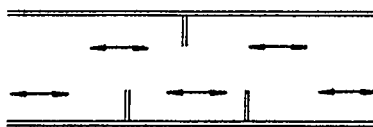


Fig. 39
Free Circulation

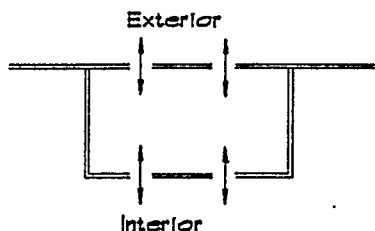


Fig. 40
Free Entrance to
Activity Area

The Casual Social Spaces include a variety of flexible, non-supervised activities. These areas provide space for the young people to meet, hang out or break out from the surrounding activities of the Dedicated Activity Spaces. Such open activities as a coffee house, folk music, video games, pinball, table games, pool, table tennis, gallery displays, small group lounges, group and individual study areas and notice or job boards may be included.

The Casual Social Spaces should be flexible enough to be adapted to a variety of changing group sizes and be organized in a manner to enhance the basic social milieu inherent to the Teen Centre. These spaces should also be able to act in concert with the other areas of the Centre - the Assembly Space and the Dedicated Activity Spaces - to allow expansion of the functions of these areas.

Free circulation throughout the Casual Social Spaces will enhance the social mixing and meeting functions of the Teen Centre, allowing new visitors to the facility to gain exposure to a variety of activities and individuals. Similarly these areas should serve to provide easy exposure to the functions of the various pertinent Dedicated Activity Spaces.

Besides housing a variety of activities, the Casual Social Spaces should be adaptable to being used as parts of a general facility theme night such as a Caribbean Beach Party or a Science Fair Display Floor.

An easy flow of traffic to the exterior of the building is important for the Casual Social Spaces in order to enhance the young people's feeling of independence and freedom and to encourage their feeling of confidence when entering the centre.

**4.0 EXTERIOR
ACTIVITY
SPACES**

The Exterior Activity Spaces are areas meant to enhance the surrounding outdoor environment of the Teen Centre. Besides providing casual seating areas with tables and benches in the sun, the Exterior Activity spaces include consideration of a variety of other teen activities. The parking lot for the Teen Centre, for example, may be realized as a social space serving those older teenagers who have cars and like to hang out in the proximity of their automobiles with their friends. Similarly, motorcycle parking and bicycle racks may also become the focus of casual social spaces for teenagers.

The exterior of the Teen Centre might include attached breakout areas from the Assembly Space or a Roof Garden in which small groups can gather. Depending on the site a small outdoor amphitheatre and skateboard park may further enhance the outdoor activities possible for the facility.

While many of these outdoor activities are non supervised, others may require casual supervision or controlled access; a skateboard ramp may, for example, involve a degree of liability for the Teen Centre thereby requiring signed release forms from the adolescents or their parents.

A special consideration of the Exterior Activity Spaces involves the desire to make them visible to adolescent passersby but to contain them to the extent that they do not hinder or annoy the adult pedestrian traffic of the neighborhood.

5.0 SERVICE SPACES

The following list of Service Spaces is merely a reminder of the various support areas necessary to the functioning of the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre. Included in this category are,

The kitchens for the coffee bars of the Casual Social Spaces and Assembly Space;

The storage rooms for the Casual Social Spaces and the Assembly Space;

Lockers or storage cupboards for temporary storage of the personal goods of the teenagers;

Washrooms for the general activity areas and for the Assembly Space;

Vertical circulation spaces, stairs, ramps, elevators;

Janitor rooms, mechanical rooms, mechanical service spaces.

It should be kept in mind that all of these areas - with the exception of the mechanical spaces - may be used as much by the teens as by the employed staff of the Centre and may therefore require more careful consideration by the designers when contrasted to conventional building projects.

**ORGANIZATION OF AN
INNER CITY TEEN
DROP-IN CENTRE**

In completion of the Architectural Program for an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre, it is desirable to make a few suggestions for the benefit of the administrators and volunteers organizing the facility. These considerations include ideas on initiating a Teen Drop-In Centre, activity programming as an ongoing exercise for the Centre, and the necessity for encouraging the feeling of teen ownership of the facility.

INITIATING A TEEN DROP IN CENTRE

Because the idea of an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre is somewhat new in the North American City, it will be important to plan how the facility is introduced to the general teenage public. A city such as Calgary is large enough that merely constructing the facility may not be enough to make it well known or attractive to teenagers across the entire city. For these reasons the means for introducing the concept of the Teen Centre to a broad cross section of the city's young people should be investigated. For example, user surveys could be distributed through the junior and senior high schools to investigate specific interests and potentials for the centre as reported by the teens themselves; what events, activities and programs would they be more likely to show interest in? how often might they make the trip to the inner city to use the facility? what other interests and clubs are they members of which may find support within a facility of this nature? Such an investigation would provide the administrators of the centre with valuable information about the teens and serve to introduce the young people to the centre in a direct, informative manner.

A second possibility for inspiring interest in the Teen Drop-In Centre involves organizing a mural painting contest through the art classes of the school system. Individual classes could be encouraged to make proposals for murals to be erected within the centre. At the same time, the teens could be asked to review the design of the facility. Such a contest would not only introduce the centre to a wide range of young people but would also enhance the idea of the adolescents themselves having an investment in the facility.

Other ideas for introducing the facility to the teen public are possible and desirable. The basic thrust, however, as suggested here is to inform and involve the teens in the concept of the Teen Centre, to attempt to go a step further than conventional advertising.

**ORGANIZATION
CONT'D****ACTIVITY PROGRAMMING**

The realization of the ongoing need for Activity Programming for the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre is of particular importance for the administrators and volunteers of the facility. The centre can only be conceived to be successful if it continually presents new challenges and experiences to the young people, new projects to become involved in and new means of exercising their independence and imaginations. The challenge, therefore, to the leaders of the facility is to be continually investigating the changing interests of each new generation of teens. Regular user surveys, both to those adolescents who regularly use the centre as well as to those who have not yet ventured to the facility, will serve to inform the administrators of how interests within the general population of teens are changing and what new activities are needed.

Inspiring direct involvement of the teenagers themselves in the administration and activity programming of the facility would be an important step to take in insuring the success of the Teen Centre.

The Organizational Chart of the following page illustrates one means for insuring a broad cross section of involvement from the various users of the facility.

A Board of Governors made up of representatives of provincial and municipal Social Services Departments, major youth clubs already in operation, minor youth clubs already using the facility, and representatives of the general population of teens frequenting the centre, would exercise overall control of the Teen Centre. A Director of Administration would be hired by the Board of Governors - under the appropriate contract - and would exercise control over the administrative staff and the day to day operation of the facility. Such an organization (or one similar to it) for operating the Centre allows the major interest groups to have a direct voice at the top level of decision making and encourages the feeling on the part of the teens that the Drop-In Centre is not merely another government run institution to control and direct them. Rather, the adolescents should be encouraged to feel that they have a significant share in the operation of the centre and may therefore initiate projects and programs and ideas inherent to the facility's success.

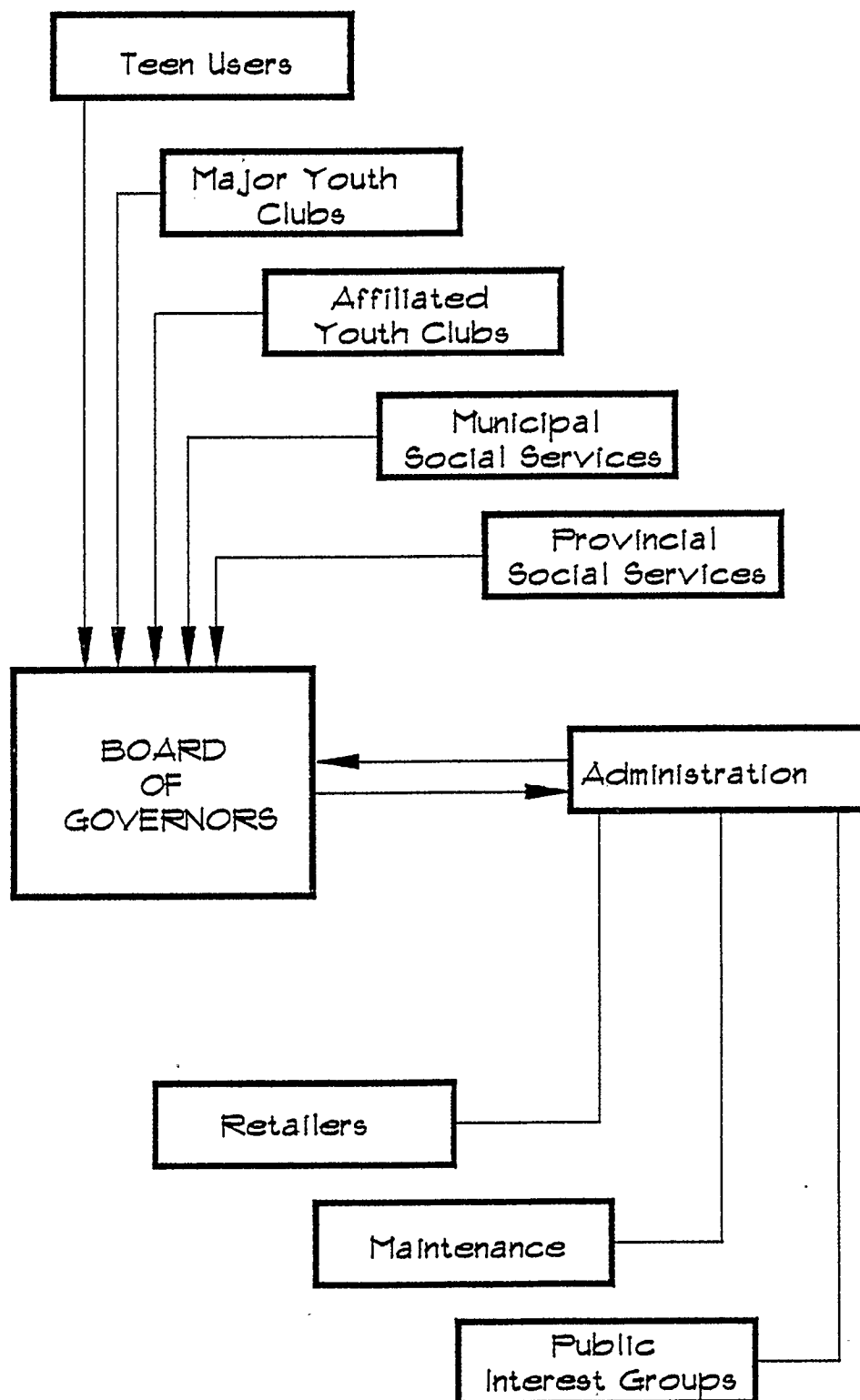


Figure 41: Organizational Program

**ORGANIZATION
CONT'D****TEEN OWNERSHIP OF THE INNER CITY TEEN DROP-IN
CENTRE**

In both the previous sections of Initiating a Teen Drop-In Centre and Activity Programming, the concept of involving the teens directly with the centre's operation has been suggested. The basic thrust of this argument is that the Centre must be implied to belong to the teens; it must reflect their interests, display their talents and organizational skills, allow them to contribute in as many and varied ways as possible to the operation and environment of the facility.

Encouraging the feeling of personal ownership and investment is significant for a number of reasons:

First, with a sense of personal investment in the Centre, the individual teens are likely to make a more positive contribution to the facility and thereby develop a more positive sense of self esteem.

Second, a sense of personal ownership is likely to encourage the young people to take better care of the facility and its furnishings.

Third, a sense of ownership and personal investment will be more likely to encourage a greater use and wider involvement in all the facility has to offer.

SITE SELECTION

The site proposed for the Inner City Teen Drop-In Complex is a vacant lot between 17th Avenue and 18th Avenue, east of 1st Street S.W.

The site can be argued to adequately fulfill the requirements specified in the program (Part 2).

The location is relatively central within the city of Calgary, being just on the border of the southern limits of the Downtown Core.

The site is on the pedestrian shopping street of 17th Avenue. While the main retailing area of this district is further west at the present time, there is every reason to believe that it will eventually expand east toward Macleod Trail with future developments.

The site is only three blocks west of the LRT station along Macleod Trail at the Stampede Grounds and public transit provides bus service along 17th Avenue, making travel to the site easy and convenient.

Lindsay Park Recreational Centre - a large public sports complex - is only 2 blocks walking distance south across a pedestrian bridge, thereby providing the opportunity for physical fitness activities to the teens.

The site is close to the Stampede Grounds, a recreational centre of the city with a year round variety of events and activities.

The site is almost directly across the street from St. Mary's High School with its support facilities of gymnasiums and outdoor playing fields.

The site is only one block north of the Elbow River with its outdoor parkland and bicycle paths connecting into Calgary's extensive system of bicycle paths, offering another means of transportation to the facility for teens.

**SITE SELECTION
CONT'D**

Besides fulfilling the program for the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre, the 17th Avenue site has a number of unique features worth mentioning for their potential significance to the design of the Centre itself.

First of all, the site is already zoned C2; this allows for developments like the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre.

Second, the site is located near St Mary's High School, St. Mary's Junior High School and Western Canada High School - three blocks west, providing an existing population of teenagers already coming to the district on a daily basis.

Third, the site slopes from a southwest corner high to the northeast corner low. Along 17th Avenue the site drops in elevation by approximately 6 feet (1.8m) allowing interior level changes to coincide with exterior changes in grade.

The site occupies a block which is transitional between the pedestrian shopping and commercial activities of 17th Avenue, and the quieter residential and collegiate atmosphere of 18th Avenue with its single family dwellings, the Pastoral Institute and associated institutional buildings. This yields the potential for creating at least two distinct faces to the building, one retail and commercial, the other quiet, pedestrian and landscaped.

Unique in the district and indeed in the City of Calgary is the manner in which St. Mary's Cathedral terminates the southern direction of 1st Street S.W. The design of the Teen Centre should reflect the potential for framing the view of St. Mary's and respond to the Cathedral on its southwest corner.

A final feature of the properties in this district is the off-grid direction of 17th Avenue which gradually pinches out the city blocks on either side as it moves east and west across the city. The off-grid condition offers the potential for reflecting this unique feature of the neighborhood in the building itself.

DESIGN AND DECISIONS

Having discussed the available research on Youth Centres in Part 1, developed a basic architectural program , and introduced a potential location for the project in Part 2, it is now time to introduce the proposed architectural design. Discussion of the design will be developed under a series of headings - Plan, Concept, Features and Exterior, beginning with the most general decisions and proceeding to the more specific considerations of the architectural design.

PLAN**SUBDIVISION OF THE PROGRAM SPACES**

The various spaces required within the Architectural Program for the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre have been categorized under four basic space types:

The Assembly Space with its seating area, stage and backstage resources

The Casual Social Space including the cafeterias, games areas, lounges, break-out areas and circulation and entrances.

The Commercial Block containing the retail facilities, office facilities, project rooms, screening room and dance studio.

The Industrial Block containing the Industrial Arts Shops, the art studios, the labs and the volunteers room.

**PLAN
CONT'D**

A number of considerations are inherent to the subdivision of the spaces in this manner

First, the Assembly Space has a somewhat unique function within the facility with different requirements concerning views to a stage, circulation through seating areas, mechanical systems and open floor areas and volumes.

Second, the Casual Social Spaces are grouped together, rather than dispersed throughout the other spaces of the facility, in order to enhance the functional flexibility between the various areas of this category.

Third, the Commercial Block, with the Retail and Office facilities and Project Rooms, is categorized as a distinct unit due to special functional requirements, noise control, privacy and circulation control. These spaces can also be argued to have similar requirements for mechanical systems and grouping them together can provide efficiencies in this respect.

Fourth, while the various shop facilities may initially be argued as having a close connection to the general activities of the centre, they must be separated for other reasons, namely noise and dust production. Grouping these spaces together has the advantage of allowing the shared resources, machinery, workbenches and floor space, to be convenient and close to each of the functional areas. As well, these spaces - like those of the Commercial Block - have similar, though unique, mechanical systems requirements, and efficiencies are again produced through their proximity. The Volunteer Room is perhaps the one different function to include within this category, but it has been included for the convenience of ongoing casual supervision of the more dangerous activities occurring in the shop spaces.

Thus the various areas required by the Teen Centre Architectural Program have been subdivided according to functional similarities, separation requirements, mechanical systems functions and supervisory requirements.

PLAN
CONT'D

LOCATION OF THE BASIC COMPONENTS

Locating the basic components of the Teen Centre on the proposed site involves a simple series of decisions:

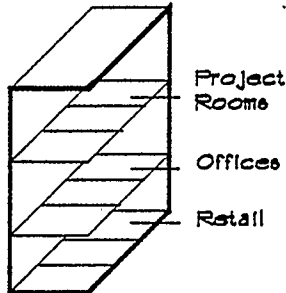


Fig. 42
Commercial Block
Organization

The Retail Spaces of the Commercial Block are located along the pedestrian shopping street of 17th Avenue, enhancing the atmosphere of the street and putting the stores in the most obvious and accessible location.

The offices of the Centre Administration and the Social Services are located on the second floor allowing easy public and adult access to these services from the main street.

The Project Rooms are located on the third floor of the Commercial Block, allowing them to be somewhat separated from the most active spaces of the general activity areas while still maintaining access from those spaces.

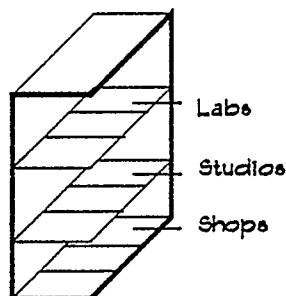
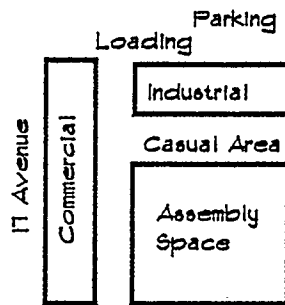


Fig. 43
Industrial Block
Organization

The Shops of the Industrial Block, with their special mechanical and venting requirements, have been located off the main streets, occupying the back of the facility, overlooking the parking lot. This location for the shops reduces the potential negative impacts they may have had on the surrounding residential, and pedestrian, aspects of the neighborhood while at the same time allowing access to the loading and garage functions of the shops.

The dirtiest activities and functions requiring the heaviest machinery have been located on the first level. These include the Auto Shop, Metal Shop, Wood Shop and Paint Shop.

PLAN
CONT'DFig. 44
Location

The Art Studios are located immediately above the Shops to allow convenient use of their equipment and facilities.

The Labs of the Industrial Block are located on the Third Level to allow access to the machinery of these areas but are separated to prevent dust infiltration and to provide greater security for the resources of the lab facilities.

With the Commercial Block and the Industrial Block located on the site, the remaining Casual Social Spaces and Assembly Space fall easily into place. For access and flexibility, the Casual Social Spaces are best located between the Assembly Space and the Commercial and Industrial Blocks. This location provides breakout space to the Dedicated Activity Spaces as well as expansion space for the assembly functions.

CONCEPT

Given the proper division of the required spaces into components and the location of these components on the site, ideas for the orderly architectural organization of the components, their spaces, and their functions, were generated in the design of the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre.

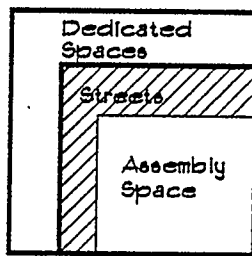


Fig. 45
Organization

First the decision was taken to organize the various spaces of the facility about two intersecting interior streets, with the dedicated activity spaces to the north and east and the assembly space to the southwest.

Second, as a concept providing a point of departure, the idea of a three dimensional game board was been introduced.

The concept of a three dimensional game board initially gained momentum for the organization of the Teen Centre for three reasons.

First, the idea of a "game board" implies an orderly subdivision of spaces which in turn provides an orderly approach to the layout and supporting structural elements of the facility.

Second, the "game board" concept implies recreation, fun, and exploration, all guidelines which can be suggested as being inherent to the desired atmosphere of a teen recreational complex.

Third, the idea of a "game board" embraces the principles of flexibility - each space can conceivably be occupied by any player or activity - and variety where the overall organization of events on the board is constantly changing. Flexibility and variety are, of course, two of the basic principles illuminated within the program of the Teen Centre.

CONCEPT
CONT'D

Applying the concept of a three dimensional game board to the organization of the Teen Centre first required a determination of the basic unit of the board. Through consideration of spatial and structural requirements it was determined that a square 6m by 6m would provide a single functional space adequate for a wide variety of activities, including pool and ping pong, while allowing a reasonably efficient structural span.

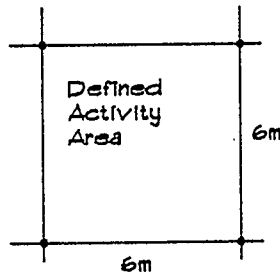


Fig. 46
Game Board Grid

A closer examination of the plans indicates that the introduction of the game board structural grid allows the Casual Social Spaces, aligned within and along the interior streets, to be subdivided into a series of interconnected activity areas. Notably the change in elevation of these interconnected spaces reflects the changes in elevation occurring naturally over the site. Between the streets and the Assembly Space, the game board grid is subdivided into a series of rising platforms which as a group can be called the Transitional Zone. The Transitional Zone then becomes a flexible use area which may act in concert with either the Street Spaces or the Assembly Space.

FEATURES

A continued examination of the conceptual design of the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre allows us to focus upon some of the individual features of the plan. In particular, the basic principles of flexibility, variety, free circulation and open plan can be considered.

Flexibility can be seen to be inherent to the layout of the plan in a number of ways.

First, the required expansion of the Assembly Space is provided by the location of the Transitional Zone, the floor areas of which rise in concert with those of the seating areas. The flexibility of this setup is further enhanced by the introduction of movable walls which can be pulled out of their storage compartments to separate the two spaces or pushed back to allow a facility wide gala.

The Transitional Zone not only acts as expansion area for the Assembly Space, but can also perform as a series of discreet activity spaces or function in conjunction with the various activity spaces of the two streets.

In a similar manner the Street Spaces can be seen to perform as discreet activity areas, act in concert with the areas of the Transitional Zone or act as breakout spaces for the Dedicated Activity Spaces of the Commercial and Industrial Blocks.

The ability of the squares of the game board to provide such flexibility arises due to the various changes in floor levels. These changes allow each space to be used on its own or with the immediately adjacent spaces

**FEATURES
CONT'D**

The principle of variety can also be illustrated as being inherent in the design of the Teen Centre.

Most obvious in the proposed design are the wide variety of space types: the Retail Shops are units of 81m² with a diversity of floor level changes; the office facilities contain some built-in rooms as well as open floor area for furniture systems implementation; the Project Rooms, Screening Room and Dance Studio provide sound separated environments for a range of specialized activities; the assembly space is a two and a half story volume with balconies around the perimeter and a variety of audience seating areas; the Transitional Zone and Streets provide a skylit area with a variety of floor areas overlooking one another and joined in a variety of ways; even the Industrial Block contains a variety of spatial volumes and relationships between the activity areas.

Variety is enabled by considerations in the design of the Assembly Space itself. Non-fixed seating elements allow the use of benches and chairs for concert arrangements or of tables for nightclub activities and dinner theatres. Adjustable stages allow for theatre and concert activities, fashion shows or open display floor activities. As well, the moveable walls allow for providing intimate theatre settings for crowds of 250 to large concerts and dances with crowds up to 1,000 young people.

The close inter-connection of spaces both in the Industrial Block and within the Casual Activity Spaces of the Street and the Transitional Zone provide an increased perception of the variety within the Teen Centre as various events overlap, spill over and occur simultaneously throughout the facility.

Thus a Variety of activities, space types, and area relationships are built in to the Teen Centre to create an atmosphere of variety, excitement, and social mixing.

**FEATURES
CONT'D**

A focused examination of the floor plans of the Teen Centre also indicates that the principle of free circulation required by the architectural program has been pursued in a variety of imaginative ways.

From the main entrances on 1st Street and on 18th Avenue the two major circulation streets step down through a series of levels. Ramps through both streets provide for convenient handicapped and pedestrian access. Activity areas are appended to the circulation paths providing immediate exposure to events while allowing easy passage in and out of each space.

Just as the spaces of the two Streets step down reflecting the natural topography of the site, the spaces of the Transitional Zone step up, rising from the south and west arms of the facility to the second and third levels of the general activity area. Notably the stepping pattern of the spaces in the Transitional Zone reflects the stepping pattern of the Assembly Seating Area, allowing free circulation throughout the Teen Centre when the two spaces are opened up to a facility wide event

The downward stepping of the Streets and the upward stepping of the Transitional Zone combines to result in a compelling spiral circulation route through the Casual Activity Areas of the facility and provide access to the adjacent Dedicated Activity Spaces and the Assembly Space.

The three stair wells included for fire exiting from the upper levels of the facility also enhance the circulation within the Teen Centre by providing direct access between floors in those quadrants.

Circulation through the Assembly Space can take a variety of forms depending on the nature of the activities in operation. When the stage is not in specific use, for example, circulation can occur around the entire perimeter of the Assembly Space. Circulation is also possible between levels of the Assembly Space via spiral stairwells located in the backstage area.

**FEATURES
CONT'D**

The open plan requirements of the Architectural program are also met in the conceptual design by a number of means.

Within the Industrial Block, the spaces flow freely between the Auto Shop, Metal Shop, Wood Shop and Paint Shop. Security rooms for tools and paint booths are opened up to the surrounding spaces with windows. These spaces on the main level are overlooked by the open volumes throughout the Paint, Sculpture and Ceramics Studios of the second level. Finally on the third level, though separated for security and dust protection, the labs overlook the activities below through windows.

The Industrial Block as a whole is separated from the general activity area for reasons of noise and dust but open planning is obtained through the inclusion of numerous entrances to the various spaces and windows between the Casual Social Spaces and the Shops, Studios and Labs.

The Casual Social Spaces of the Street and the Transitional Zone are completely open. Each of the squares of the game board overlooks a variety of the adjacent spaces and in turn is overlooked by a number of other spaces. Open planning of this nature allows visitors to the facility to observe numerous spaces and events no matter what their location is within the Teen Centre.

Notably an examination of the building sections of the Streets and Transitional Zones serves to illustrate the engaging open planning inherent within the conceptual design

While an overall view of the Conceptual Design of the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre has so far been taken, it is also possible to focus more closely upon the individual components of the various areas. As the plans for the Conceptual Design indicate, names have been given to a variety of the areas within the Teen Centre in an attempt to reflect both the spirit of the various activities and the approach to each component's design.

**FEATURES
CONT'D**

The street paralleling 17th Avenue and the Commercial Block has been named Neon Boulevard to reflect the idea of this space being where the shopping mall intersects with the night club. Shining metal surfaces, coloured neon lighting and video display screens characterize the interior of this area. On the main level, the retail shops open onto the skylit street of the Casual Social Spaces. Activities in the Neon Boulevard are varied and can change over time but generally include lounge areas, cafeteria spaces and video games areas. On the second level of the Neon Boulevard can be found the Gallercafe, a combination coffee lounge and art gallery where the young people can display their work. The wall space separating the activity area from the Social Service offices offers the opportunity for large scale murals produced by the teenagers. The third level of the Neon Boulevard offers smaller, somewhat quieter spaces and breakout areas for the Project Poems. Being more removed from the activities below, the third level provides the opportunity of group study areas and a library lounge.

The second skylit street of the Teen Drop-In Centre parallels the Industrial Block and has been called Heavy Metal Alley. Reflecting the back street atmosphere of this area are the natural hardwood floors, metal siding covered walls, paned windows, wire tension railings and bolt connection details. On the main level, similar to the Neon boulevard, are coffee bars, pool tables and pinball machines. As well, on the second and third levels, the Heavy Metal Alley includes breakout spaces for the studios and labs, display space, casual lounge areas and group study tables.

The open, naturally lit atmosphere of the two Streets contrasts sharply with the Cave Cafeteria which is found on the main level, southwest of the intersection between the Neon Boulevard and Heavy Metal Alley. The natural masonry, heavily textured walls and subdued lighting of the Cave Cafeteria offers the alternative within the Teen Centre of an underground folk club and coffee house.

**FEATURES
CONT'D**

The Assembly Space of the Teen Drop-In Centre has been named The Tempest Theatre by way of reference to the well known Shakespearean play about the coming of age of a teenage princess on an enchanted, secluded island. As well, the idea of a tempest reflects the spirit of an exciting, swirling, intermixing atmosphere common to the activities of rock concerts, dances and other gala events. An interesting anecdotal consideration notes that early twentieth century psychology defined adolescence as a time of "storm and stress". Within the Teen centre, however, the idea of a tempest has a much more positive connotation, implying the social, meeting, mixing and greeting inherent to the primary function of the facility.

The main entrances to the Teen Drop-In Centre off of 1st Street and of 18th Avenue provide a vestibule which passes through to each of the Streets. Immediately adjacent to the vestibules, interior lobby areas provide space for notice boards and video information displays. The entrances function to allow a smooth flow of traffic in and out of the facility while at the same time, with the introduction of railings, allowing controlled access to the Tempest Theatre for special functions.

Loading facilities to the Teen Centre are located off the parking lot at the northwest corner of the building. Combined with the loading room is a separate garbage room with its own door to the exterior as well as a conveniently located elevator to service the upper levels.

Washrooms are located on all levels of the facility within the general activity area as well as directly in service to the Assembly Space for those events requiring separate access

Storage rooms as indicated on the plans are distributed throughout the Teen Centre.

**SITE PLANNING AND
LANDSCAPING**

A consideration of several features of the site plan for the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre indicates the potential for providing an active, vibrant outdoor life for the teens using the facility.

Access to the parking area east of the building, occurs from 18th Avenue, both to avoid the busy traffic inherent to 17th Avenue and to allow an improved street atmosphere for the pedestrians of this area. Trees and benches in a small park act as a buffer between these pedestrians and the parking area.

Trees and benches are also proposed to enrich the environment along 17th Avenue, north of the building, enhancing this area for use by the pedestrians and by the retail shops holding sidewalk sales.

Trees have been placed along 1st Street to enrich the west elevation as well as to provide a visual frame about the facade of St. Mary's Cathedral as it is approached from the north.

The southern edge of the site is also landscaped with trees and benches to allow leisure activities in the sun by the young people as well as to reflect the quieter, residential nature of the neighborhood south of the facility. Bike racks and space for motorcycles is also provided on the south side near the entrance overlooked by the shops and studios.

Sidewalks on all sides of the facility reflect the game board concept of the interior through their colored grid pattern.

As was previously discussed, the city's planning grid undergoes a shift south of 17th Avenue, resulting in the placement of St. Mary's Cathedral on the axis of 1st Street S.W. This same shift in the city's grid also results in a minor street axis of 1A Street intersecting the site of the Teen Centre's southwest quadrant. Because this street - only one block in length - provides access to the Centre from both Lindsay Park Recreational Complex and from the bike paths along the Elbow River, it was decided that a small marker should acknowledge this condition for those approaching the Teen Centre from the southerly direction. To this end it is suggested that a public sculpture could be commissioned for placement on the south side of the Teen Centre on the axis of 1A Street S.W.

**SITE PLANNING AND
LANDSCAPING
CONT'D**

One of the most compelling features of the exterior design of the Teen Centre involves using the roof of the facility to create a combination outdoor amphitheatre and skateboard park with ramps, steps, curves and curls. A small stage has been located near the central area of the roof and is overlooked by a series of rising platforms containing roof garden seating areas. The unique opportunity of the Roller Roof involves a public skateboarding facility for teenagers without the nuisance associated with the sport when undertaken on public sidewalks and boulevards.

ELEVATIONS

The exterior elevations of the Teen Drop-In Centre have been comprised to reflect the features of the surrounding context, the architectural expression of the interior activities and the variety and excitement inherent to the overall functioning of the facility.

The 17th Avenue elevation reflects the change in topography along the street by stepping down and maintaining street level entrances to the five retail shops. The second and third floors also step down toward the east but at a less accelerated rate than the main level. The roof line is held constant to fill out and unify the composition as well as to provide higher ceilings to those spaces at the east end.

The skewed grid of 17th Avenue is also reflected in the north elevation; while the main level facades parallel the orthogonal grid of the rest of the city, the upper floors gradually cantilever out towards the east end of the building, running parallel to the skewed direction of 17th Avenue. Projecting the upper floors in this manner also creates a welcoming, protective quality for the pedestrian approaching the retail shops or office entrance.

The facade of the stair-well is differentiated by a curtain wall of glass, contrasting to the precast concrete forms of the majority of the facade, thereby marking the main entrance off the street to the offices above.

The overall effect of stepping and skewing the building facade along 17th Avenue, is to create a dynamic experience for the pedestrians at street level and to impart a clear expression of those features unique to the context of the site.

**ELEVATIONS
CONT'D**

The east elevation contrasts dramatically with the north facade of the Commercial Block. Metal siding, small panes of glass and overhead doors reflect the industrial nature of the shop, studio and lab activities within. The window placement and sizes indicate the variety of spatial volumes within the Industrial Block, while the north end of the east facade turns the corner of the Commercial Block. This portion of the elevation is separated from the Industrial Block by the stepped back, reduced height of the loading area and service zones.

The intention of this facade is to create a piston-like dynamic in an industrial inspired aesthetic which playfully interests and engages the viewer.

While the north and east elevations each tend to reflect a single architectural type - one commercial, the other industrial, it is the intention of the west, and south elevations to reflect a variety of expressions inspired by the numerous space types and activities within.

On the west elevation, for example, the Commercial Block turns the corner at the north end of the facade with its retail display windows on the main level, office space on the second and Dance Studio on the third.

The main entrance on the west facade is stepped back for the width of the interior street and the containing skylit space above. A small canopy projects out over the entrance, marking its location along the elevation

Beside the entrance is found the three story stairwell displayed through windows and connecting the levels within.

Further south of the stairwell are the blank exterior walls of the interior storage rooms. These surfaces offer a particularly good opportunity for the introduction of exterior murals to be designed and installed by the teens themselves. As previously suggested such an exercise is meant to involve the young people directly in the function and expression of the Teen Centre, increasing their sense of ownership and involvement.

**ELEVATIONS
CONT'D**

The southwest corner of the Tempest Theatre is typified by two story windows allowing both introduction of natural light to the interior as well as expression of evening events with the display of spot lights and activities to the exterior of the building.

A walled courtyard southwest of the stage allows some events to spill into the outside air and provide a breakout space for various groups using the assembly space. Similarly, on the second level, a balcony opens up to the activity area within and offers a unique view of St. Mary's Cathedral to the southwest

The strongly expressed roofline of the west and south facades contains and unifies the variety of spaces below as well as providing a platform, or plinth for the elements above. Such an arrangement provides the perception to the pedestrian below of the elements and articles bubbling out of the facility. The colorful expression of the skateboard ramps, stairs and railings, enhances the understanding of the roof of the Teen Centre as a playground for the use of the young people.

The west and south elevations, therefore, are intended to impart a sense of amalgamated variety in the spirit of recreation and carnival as well as, through the murals, the ownership of and involvement in the Teen Drop-In Centre by the young people themselves.

SUMMARY

The investigation of an Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre for Calgary has been pursued through a series of stages. First, the precedents for this type of facility were investigated. While no similar youth centres were determined to exist in North America, research on Scandinavian and British Youth Centres allowed the formation of a variety of ideas concerning how to approach a design investigation of this nature. Second, and largely based on the preceding research, an Architectural Program was formulated in an attempt to determine both the scope of significant influences on the design of the facility as well as to enumerate the spatial and functional requirements of an Inner City Teen Drop-In centre. At the same time, special considerations were included within the program concerning site selection and potential approaches to initiating and operating the facility.

Following the Architectural Program, the Conceptual Design of the Inner City Drop-In Centre was presented through plans, sections, elevations and diagrams and through a discussion of the design intended to illuminate the decision making process inherent to the approach.

The appropriateness of the design in fulfilling the requirements of the program is particularly evident in consideration of the planning principles of flexibility, variety, free circulation and open planning.

The open plan requirements of the program are fulfilled throughout the Industrial Block and Casual Social Spaces by the opening up of the upper floor levels which then overlook the surrounding spaces and by the introduction of windows between spaces which for other reasons must be separated.

Free circulation is evident in the conceptual design by the variety of potential paths throughout the facility, enabling and encouraging the young people to explore their surroundings and the activities provided.

The principle of variety is made inherent within the conceptual design by the sheer number of activities provided and the means for combining those events under a single roof.

And finally flexibility is evident in the design of the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre in the ability of the Assembly Space to adjust in appropriate manners to present various events and in the side by side orientation of many of the spaces allowing the facility to be used in a variety of ways over time.

Ultimately the success of the Inner City Teen Drop-In Centre can only be determined once the facility is in operation. However, it is possible to suggest that the conceptual design's unique approach, its flexibility, variety, free circulation and open plan, as well as its game board concept, inherent playfulness and ability to engage the viewer in formulating an understanding of its architectural expression, provides an environment capable of creating a synergistic effect of socializing, recreation and learning for the teenagers to whom the facility is dedicated



Figure 47:

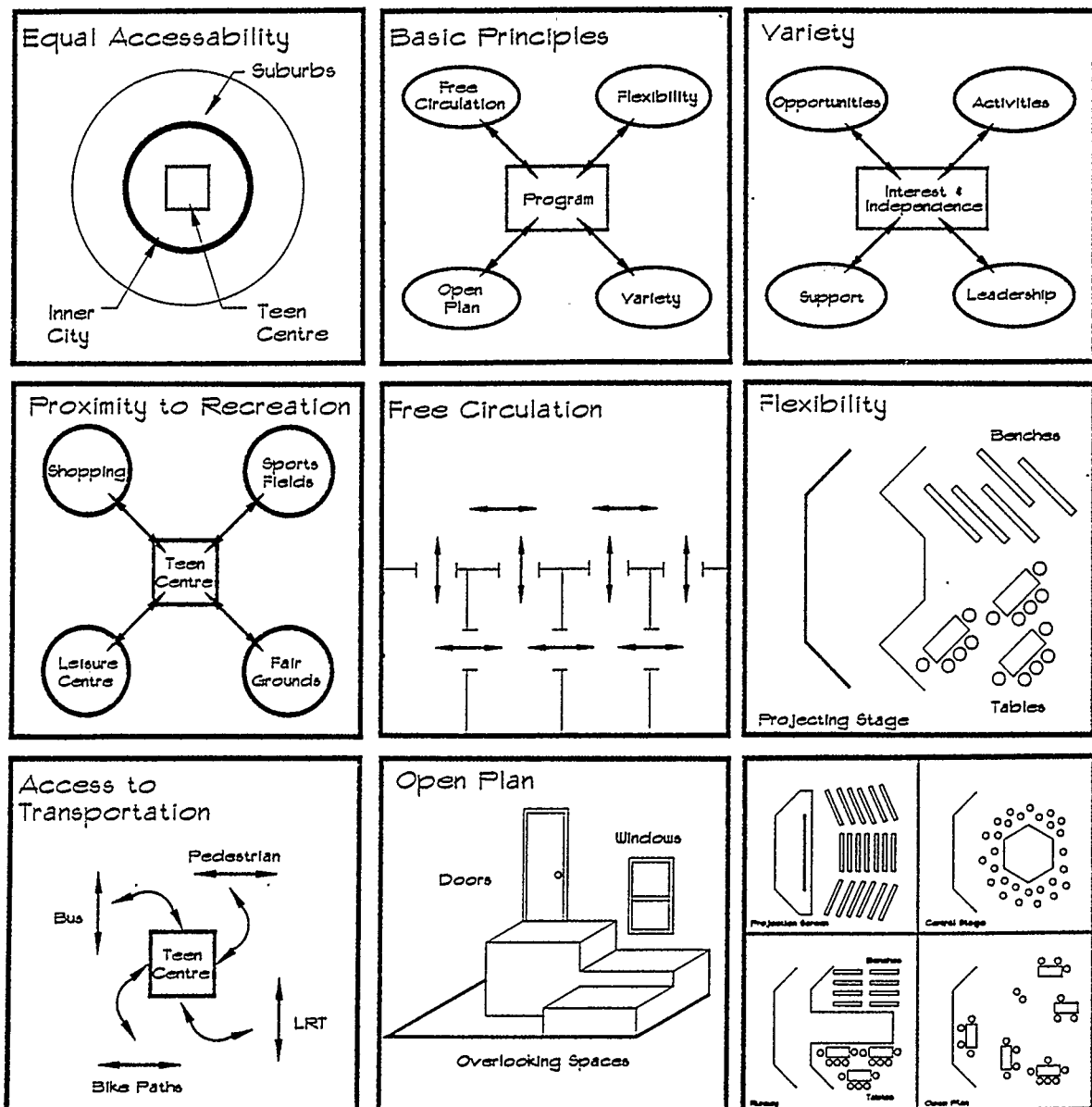


Figure 48: Programming Diagrams

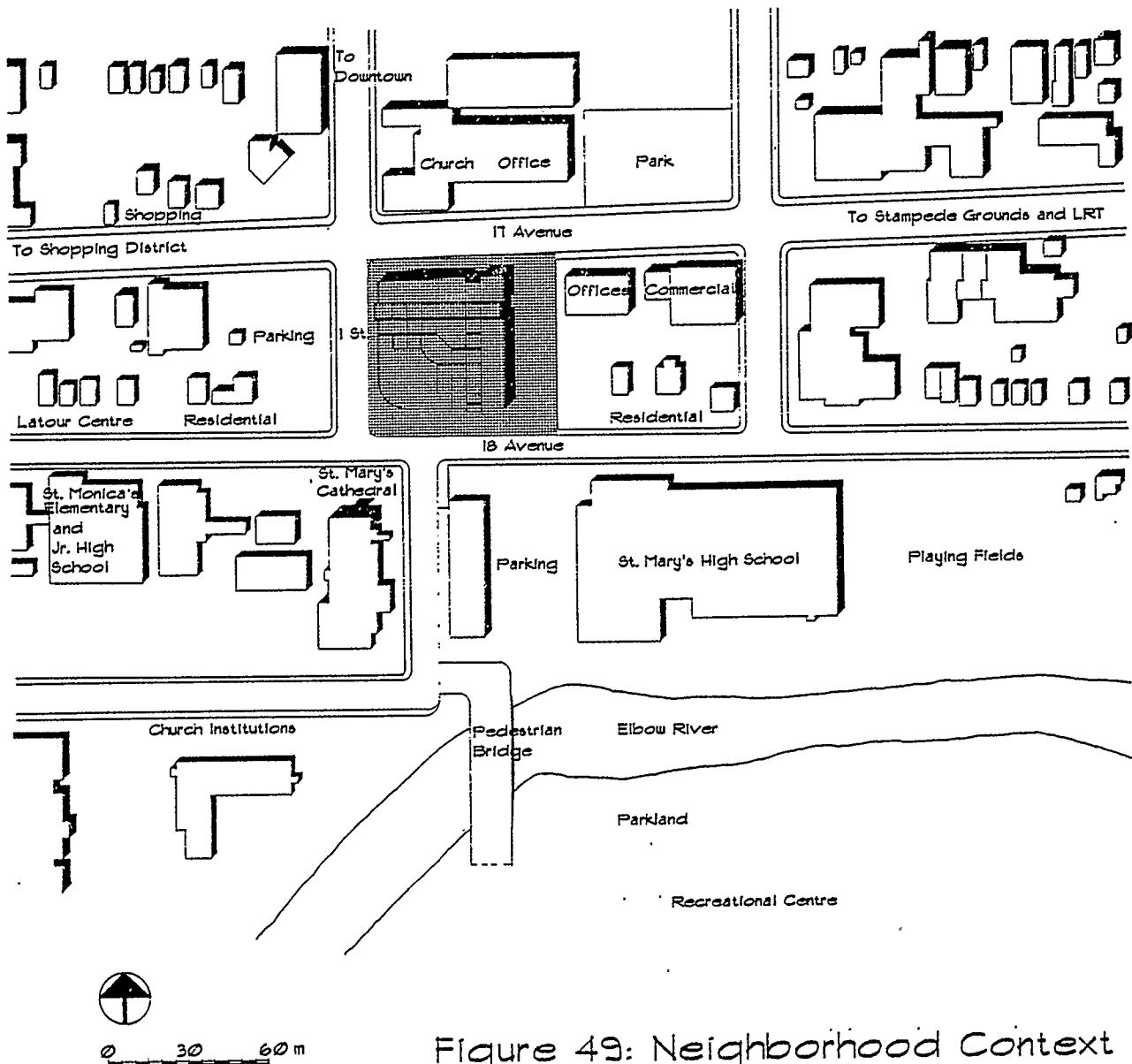
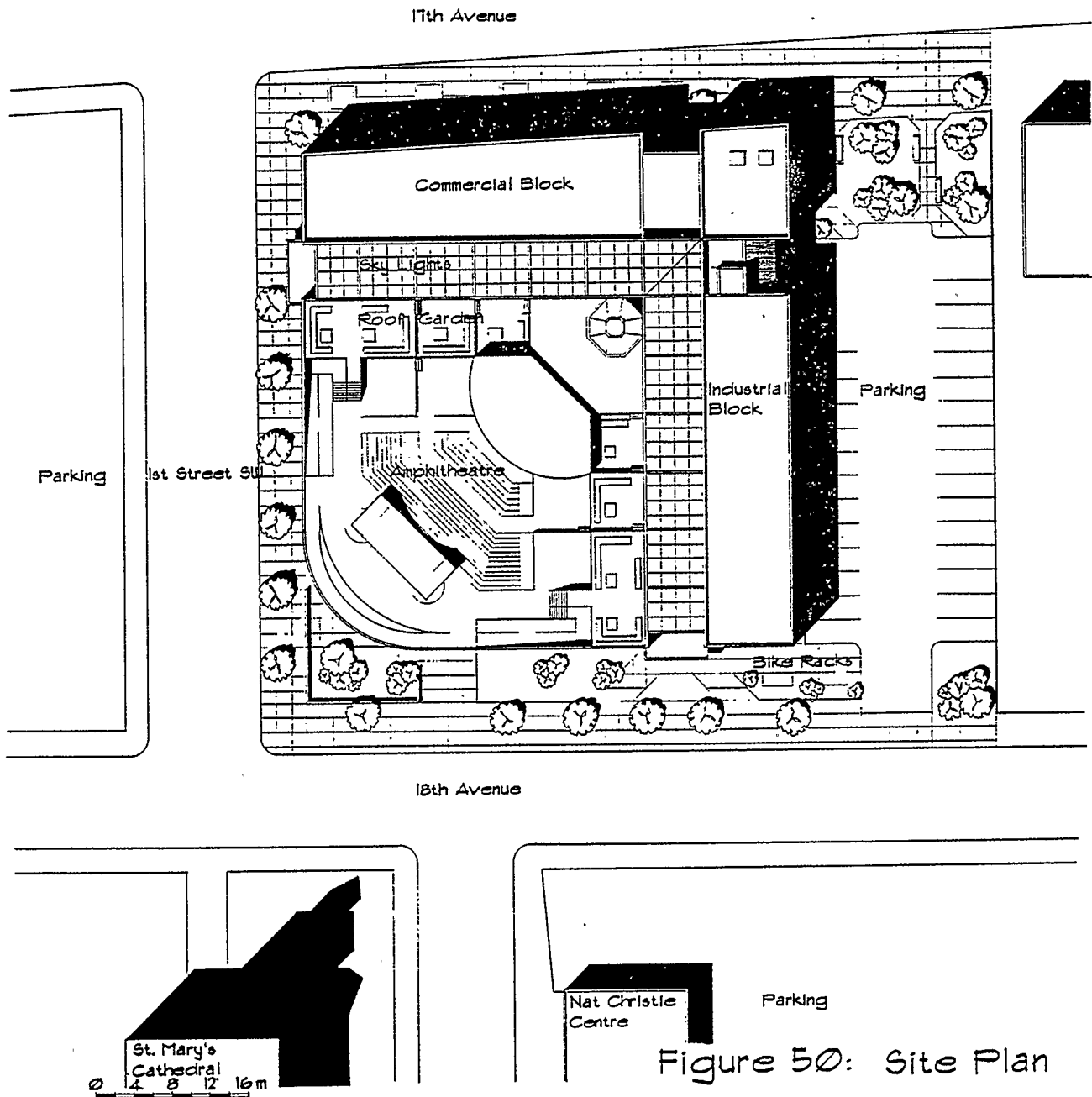


Figure 49: Neighborhood Context



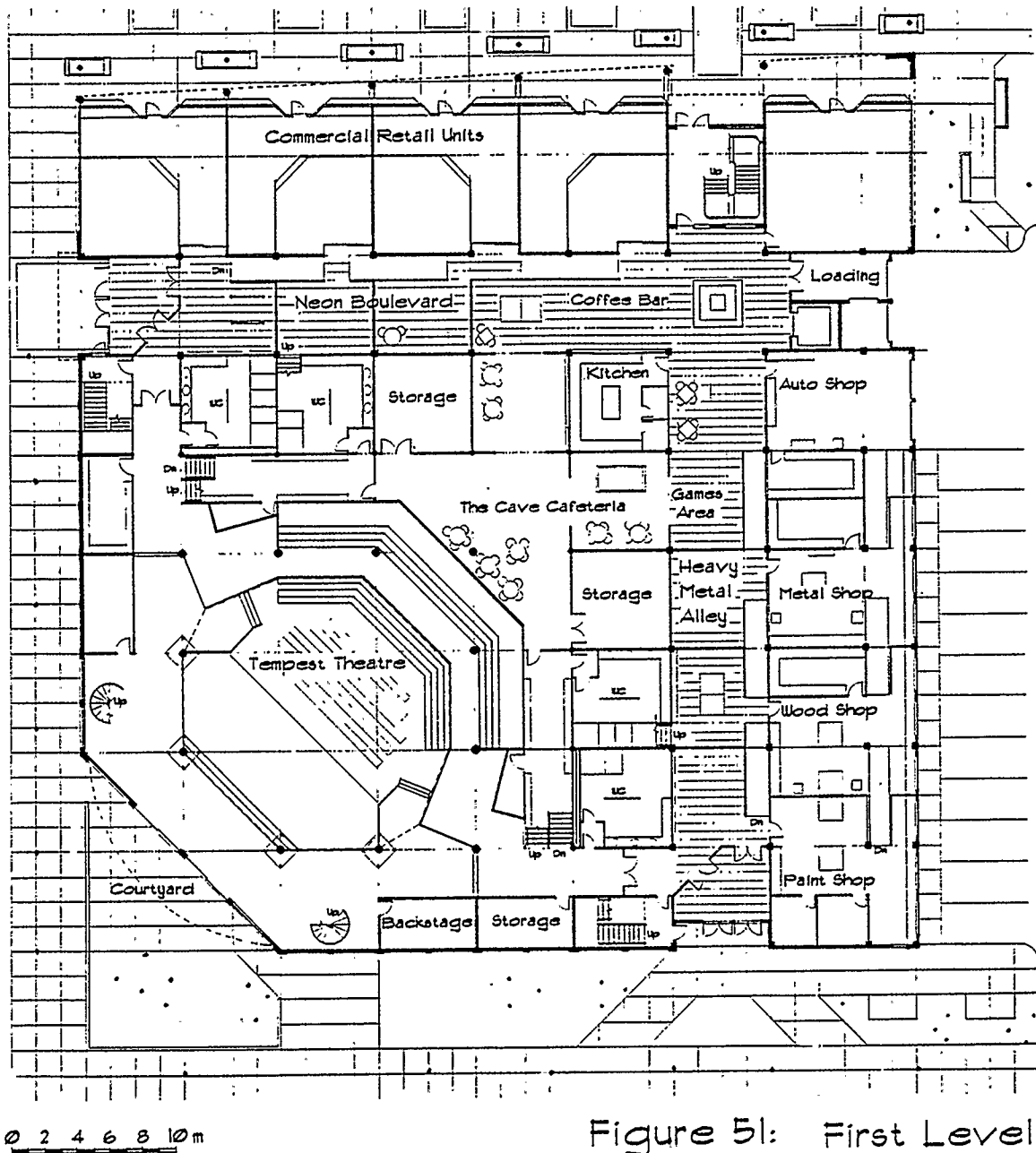


Figure 51: First Level

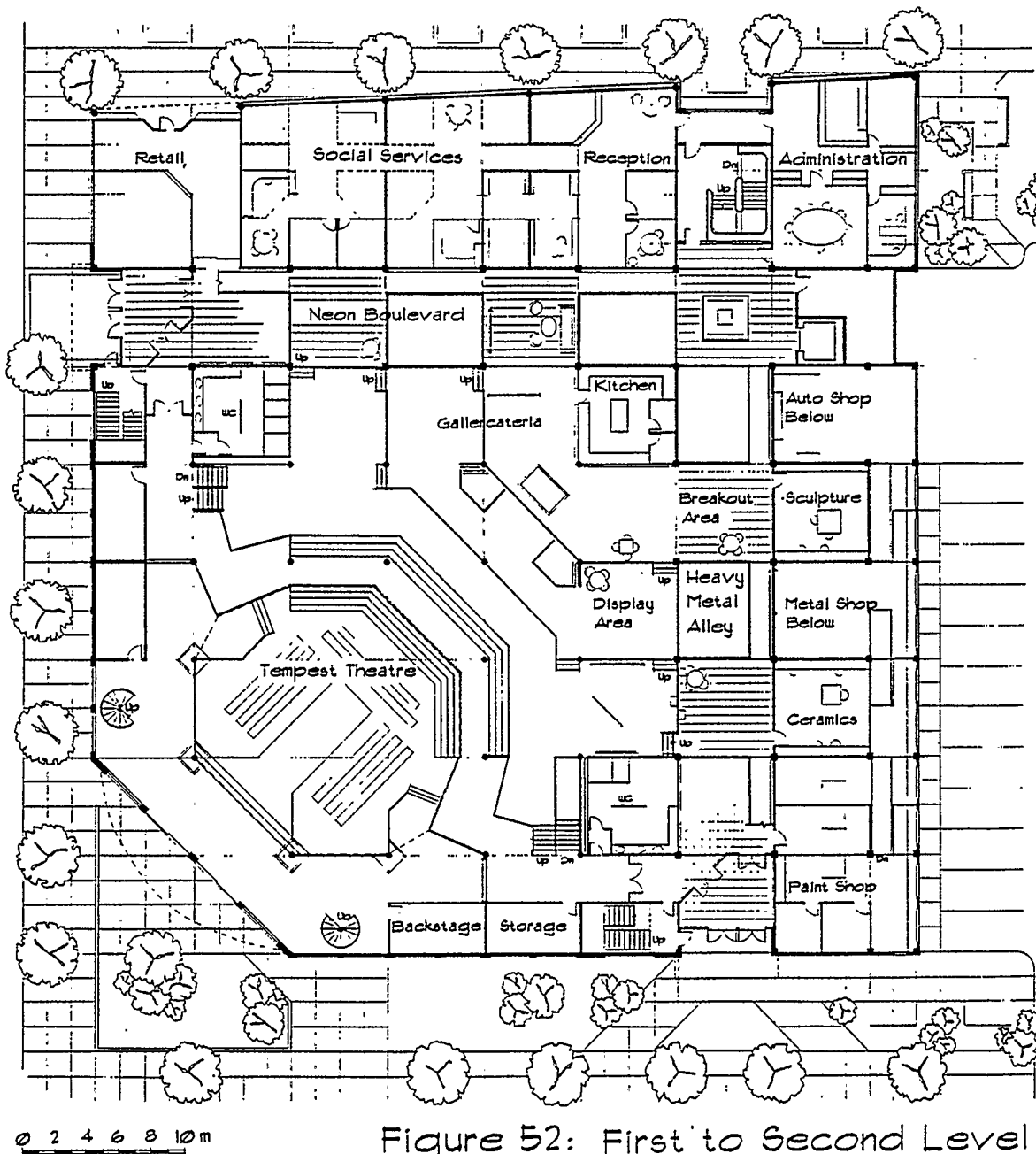


Figure 52: First to Second Level

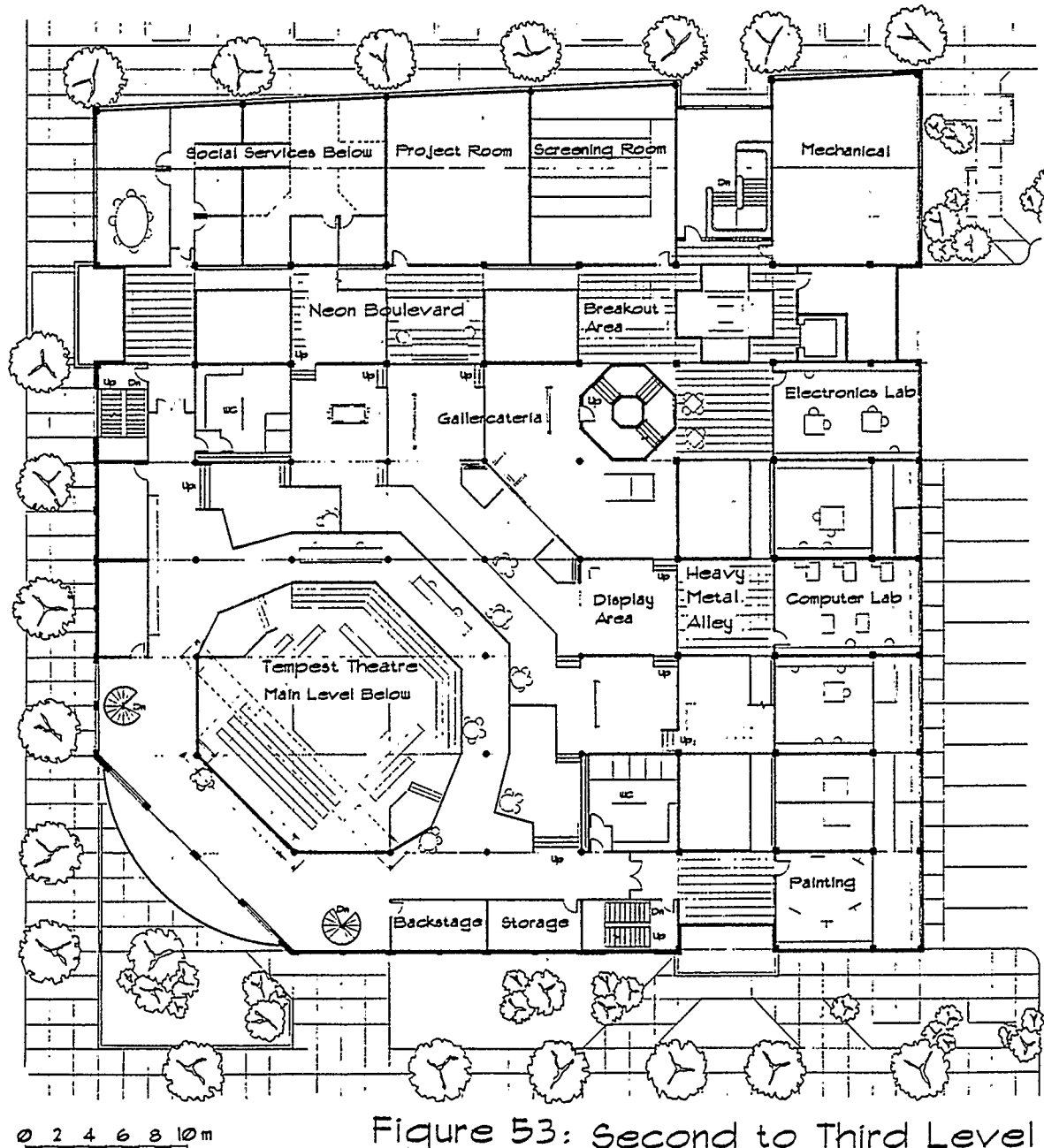


Figure 53: Second to Third Level

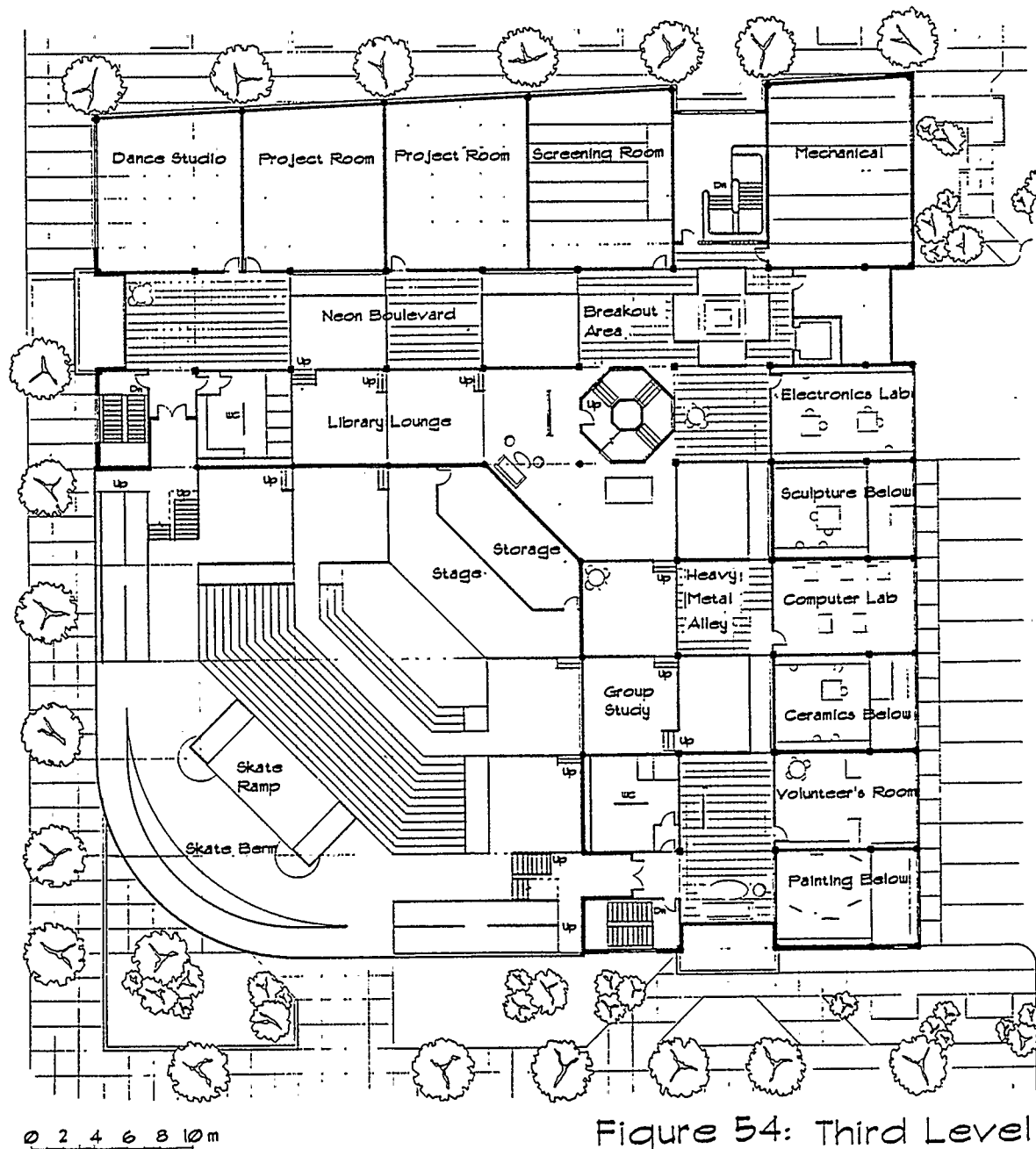


Figure 54: Third Level

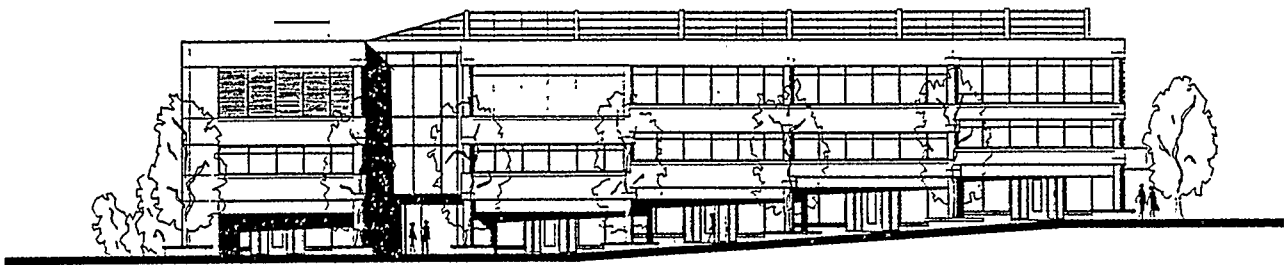


Figure 55: North Elevation

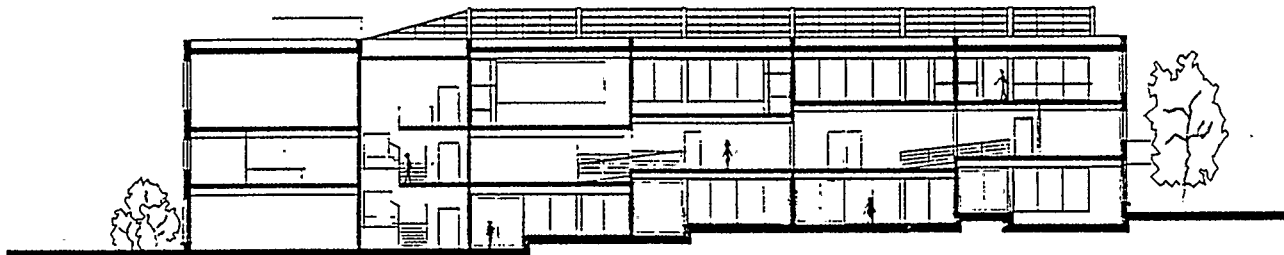


Figure 56:

0 2 4 6 8 10 m

E-W Section Through Commercial Block

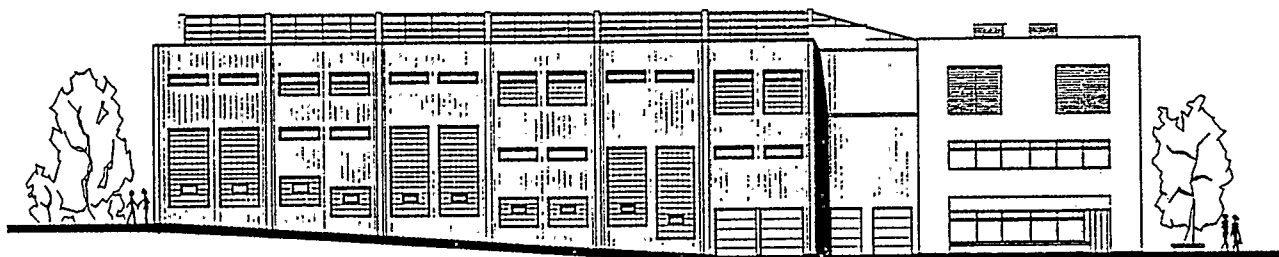


Figure 57: East Elevation

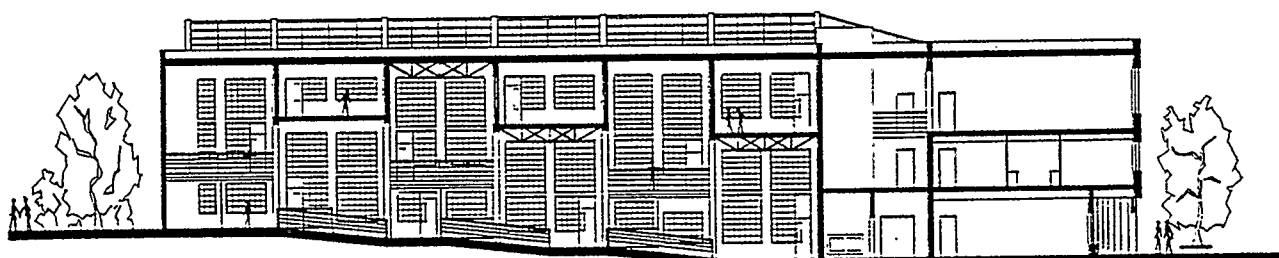


Figure 58:
S-N Section Through Industrial Block

0 2 4 6 8 10 m

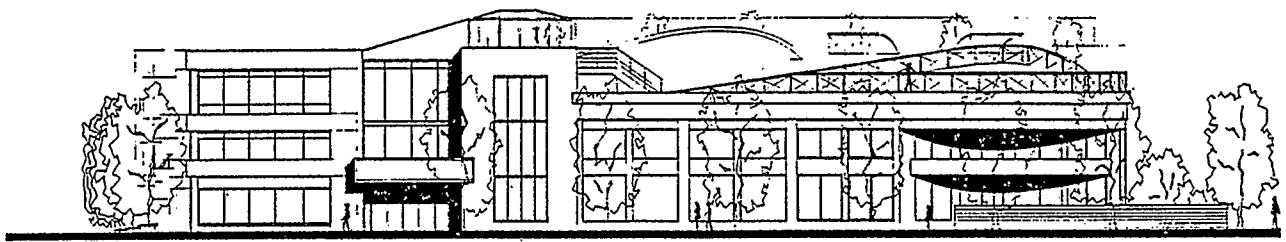


Figure 59: West Elevation

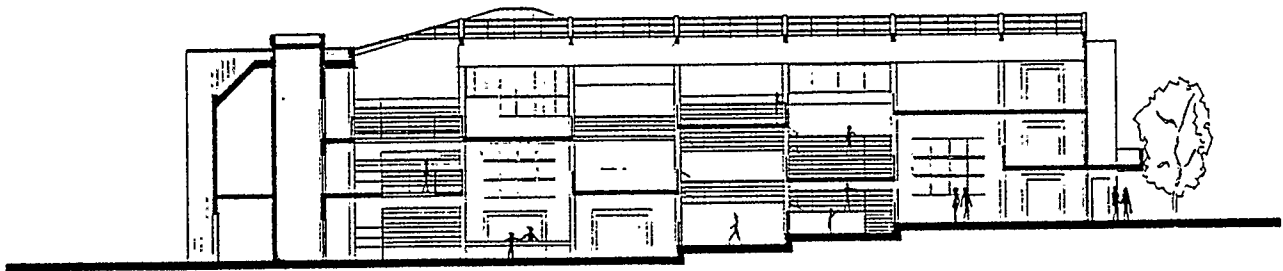


Figure 60:

E-W Section Through Neon Boulevard

0 2 4 6 8 10 m

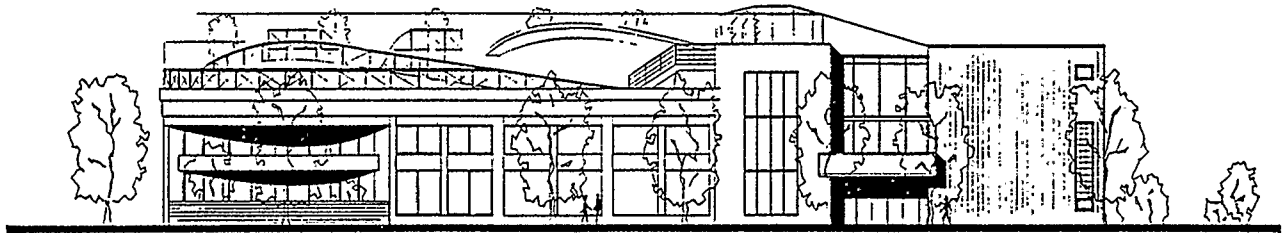


Figure 61: South Elevation

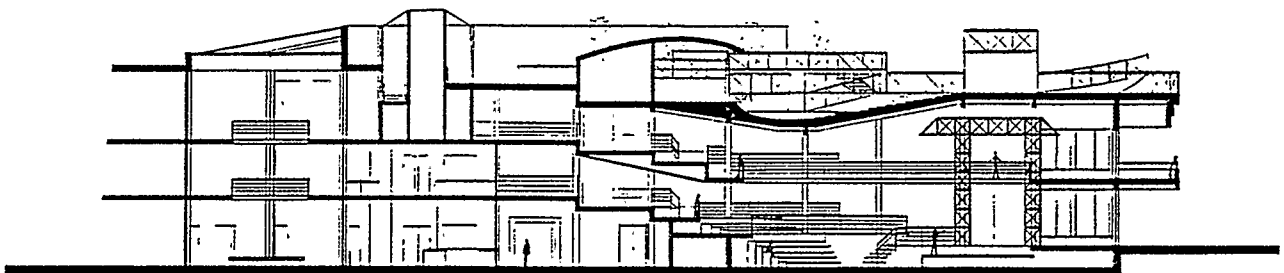
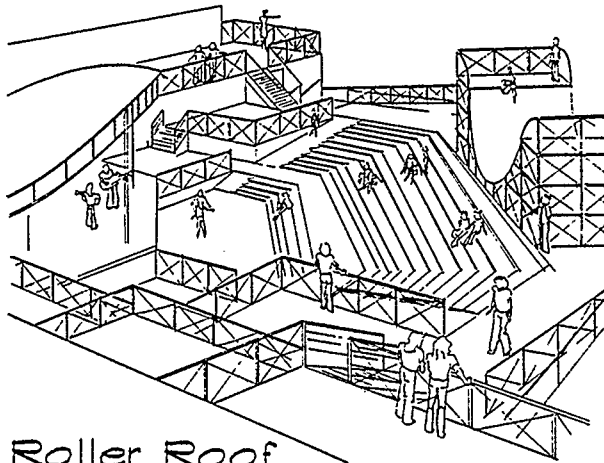


Figure 62:

0 2 4 6 8 10m

NE-SW Section Through Tempest Theatre



...so we pulled our bikes up to this totally rad scene with all kinds of kids just sort of hanging out cool like you know and there were a couple of nice choppers parked there as well but Jonesy drags me on inside cause he wants to show me this place he's been hanging out in lately...and then inside it's like totally otherworldly with every kind of dude wandering around sort of like school but sort of different like a huge party or something, I don't know what and all of a sudden I spy this outasight wood shop with 4 or 5 guys all sanding away on these skate boards of the most unconventional design while just then Jonesy says come on I'll show you the most excellent of partye -cause for Jonesy it's like every thing is the most excellent party man and on the way I only sort of glimpse someguys and gals rehearsing a play or some thing-when all of a sudden we step outside well sort of, because it's like on the roof and there's a dude playing on a guitar but all these others in shorts and pads curling the most radical forms I've ever seen on the ramp when just up behind me...

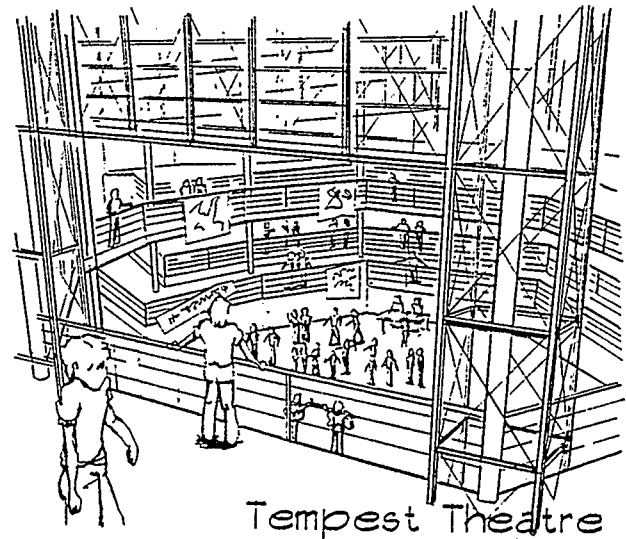


Figure 63:

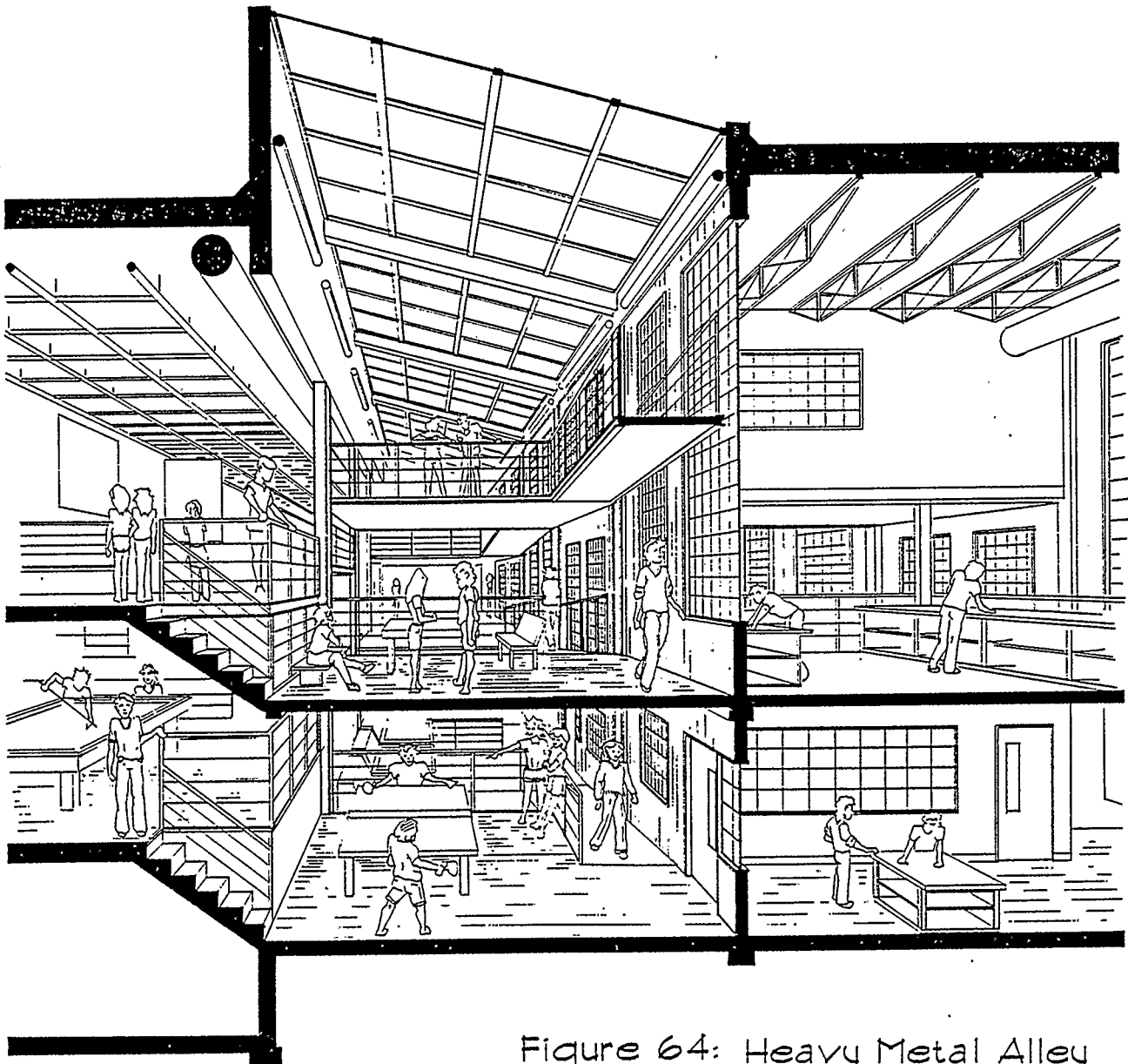


Figure 64: Heavy Metal Alley

NOTES

1. Eugene and Barbara Sternberg, Community Centres and Student Unions. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 1971.

2. Ibid p. 115.

3. Ibid p. 115.

4. Ibid p. 115.

5. Ibid p. 116.

Seeking to discover why certain youngsters do not visit youth centres of their own free will "...youth leaders found that segregation of youngsters into different groups based on the schools they go to, the housing area they come from, conflicting musical tastes and varying degrees of 'toughness' is growing more rather than less marked. Experience has shown that with good leadership and willingness to invest a great deal of time programs can be made in transposing group activities into more productive channels. But they emphasize that this is only done by gradually helping groups to develop goals which are meaningful to them. Admonitions, advice and warnings from adults are of no value".

6. Ibid p. 117.

7. Ibid p. 117.

8. Ibid p. 117.

9. Ibid p. 117.

10. Ibid pp. 117-119.

11. Ibid p. 119.

12. Ibid p. 121.

13. Ibid p. 121.

14. Joan Lipsitz, 1983. 'Making it the hard way: Adolescents in the 1980's' as reported by John W. Santrock, Adolescence. Wm. C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque Iowa, 1987 p. 353

15. Sternburg p. 116.

16. Santrock p. 264. Discussing Hill, 1980.

17. Ibid p. 264-265. Discussing Rolf, Sells and Golden, 1972.

18. Ibid p. 264.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mickelson, W., Levine, S.V., Spina, A. : The Child in the City Changes and Challenges. University of Toronto Press, Toronto. 1979.

The book is essentially a sociological summary of issues concerning children and adolescents within the urban context. General topics covered include: children and community services, child rearing practices, children and the Law, ethnic diversity and children. The pertinent chapter for the present purpose gives a general overview of basic concerns of adolescents in contemporary society, physical and emotional adjustments from school to work and the transitions to adult sexuality.

Saroff, H. : Methods of Architectural Programming. Dowder, Hutchenson, Ross, Inc. Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. 1977.

Methods of Architectural Programming deals with how one can gain the information needed to construct an architectural program and once obtained, how to turn this information into a useful report for someone in the design profession. Good background knowledge for someone interested in the discipline of architectural programming.

Santrock, J.W. : Adolescence. Wm. C Brown Publishers, Dubuque Iowa. 1987.

While essentially a university psychology textbook; Adolescence covers such a variety of material that it was indispensable in terms of considering teenagers as a user group for the purposes of creating an architectural program for a prototypical teen drop-in centre.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY
CONT'D**

Sternberg, Eugene and Barbara: Community Centres and Student Unions. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York. 1971.

By far and away the most useful book encountered within the present study. The Sternbergs not only present a variety of plans and images, but discuss a wide range of types of Community Centres (in its broadest definition) from shopping centres to centres for the elderly, as well as putting present developments in the context of useful historical perspectives.

Ward, Colin : The Child in the City. The Architectural Press Ltd., London, 1978.

A useful background book in so far as it reminds the reader that children have a very different perspective on life in the urban environment than do adults. Largely a historical and sociological approach, The Child in the City is involved mainly with experiential concerns of growing up in the modern urban context.

Wylson, A. : Design for Leisure Entertainment
Newnes Buttworhs London. 1980.

A useful general approach to the presentation of a variety of recreational and leisure pursuits, with examples and discussion of very broad issues as well as consideration of specific examples.

_____ : Facility Programing. Edited by Wolfgang F.E.Preiser, Hutchinsen and Ross Inc. Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. 1978.

A useful text on architectural programming in that it discusses a number of approaches to programming in relation to specific unique projects; drives home the idea that different types of projects have entirely different types of prerequisites concerning the approach of the architectural program as well as the architectural designer.