

Spur On/Spur Off

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Project: This design project reconsiders the latent potential of the downtown highway spur as a redevelopment opportunity. As in many cities across the US, the freeway disrupts the traditional street grid, restricts local movement patterns, and sullies development opportunities. In Tampa, an extended spur, on-ramps and off-ramps for highway I275 just north of downtown impedes physical continuities in the city. Our (re)stitching proposal entails transforming functional infrastructure through demolition, stitching, and developing a destination to 'spur' redevelopment, growth and identity.

Demolition: Our proposal demolishes the southern spur of I275 at Exit 44 and liberates 23 acres of land for redevelopment and reinvestment with the most prominent element being the new Tampa Bay Rays baseball stadium. This demolition also provides opportunities for northern links, or 'stitches', between Tampa and Tampa Heights, via an eco-lawn; a connection to the river through a bio-reclamation area and southern 'stitches' linked by a new pedestrian boulevard. By replacing the southern spur with a slow traffic boulevard, the city expands northward.

Stitch: Our focus area is identified as 'between neighborhoods'; abandoned even by the city's district map. It is NOT part of the Theater District nor is it part of the Cultural or Central Business District. Identity, in this area, will be created by weaving a series of connective tissues north from the central business district to

Tampa Heights: 1) a broad, pedestrian-scaled shade boulevard at Ashley Street that transitions into a new 'ecological lawn', 2) a link between Franklin Street and the new marina, 3) an extension of the river walk, 4) lengthen the light rail and adding new stops, making it accessible to 80% of downtown, and 5) the use of the proposed intermodal station to connect Tampa to the greater region.

Spur: After establishing a new ground condition that re-stitches adjacent neighborhoods, our proposal relocates the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team from St. Petersburg to the northern end of the Cultural District. The stadium will be nestled on 14 acres of ecological restored wetlands and culminate 1.65 miles of a riparian edge. A pedestrian-oriented shaded boulevard and river walk, that provide glimpses toward the stadium, will also re-stitch these once isolated neighborhoods. The I275 southern spur will be repurposed for parking underneath the stadium while additional parking is tucked under the baseball field. The Tampa Bay Rays baseball stadium will bring in over 2,340,000 people (based on roughly 30,000 people a game x 78 games) a year. This influx of people into Tampa's downtown along with the new amenities provided with our proposal will spur job growth and repopulation by making Tampa's downtown once more a destination.

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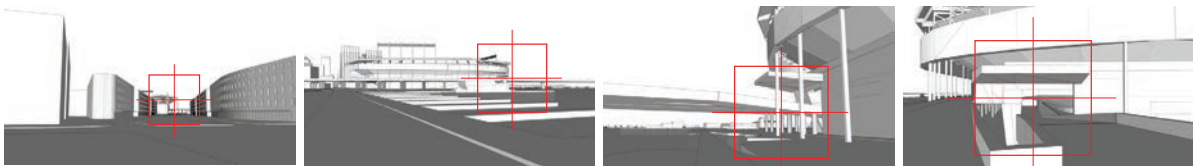
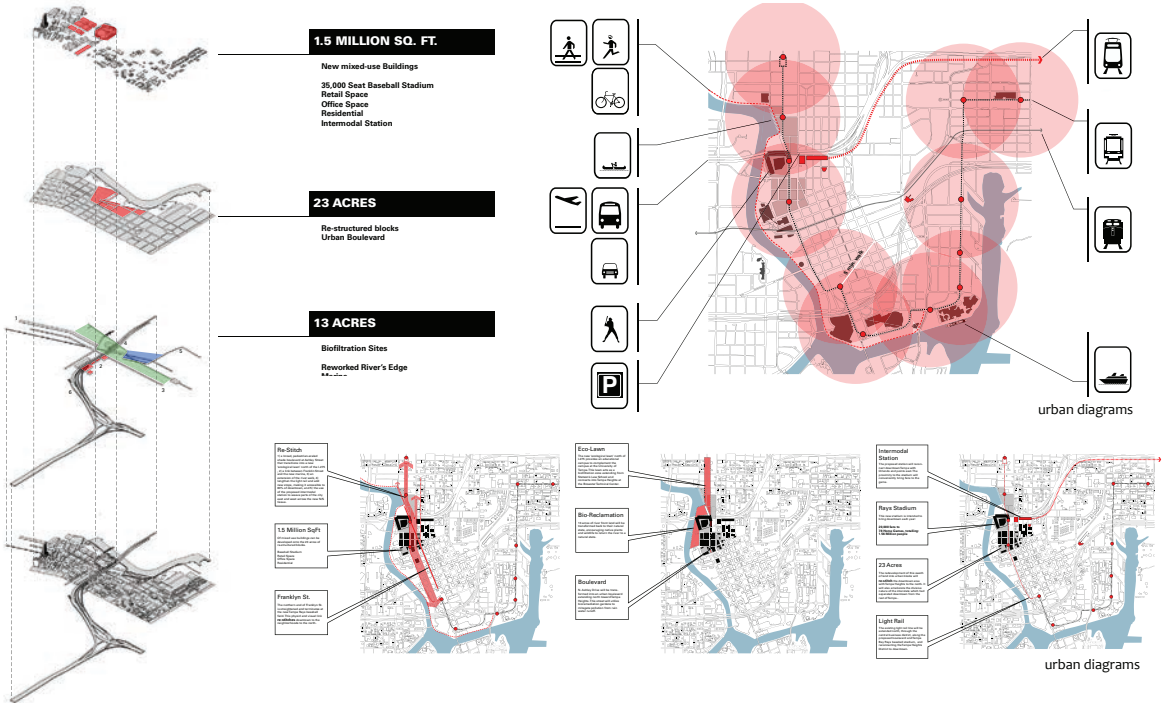
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urban views

stadium and highway connection

