Bridging the Broadway 'disconnect'

UTSA architecture prof and students design possible linear park for high-volume thoroughfare

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Cocktail Conference increases visibility for restaurants, bars

Libations and food shine a national spotlight on downtown, other areas

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on the scene of the latest parties

VOL. 4, ISSUE 6  ALAMO HEIGHTS • KING WILLIAM • MONTE VISTA • OLMOS PARK • TERRELL HILLS  FEB. 1 • MARCH 7, 2016

Turning point for Brackenridge Park in days ahead?
Conservancy group is working to preserve green space, create parking and promote civic involvement

BUY LOCAL
PG. 28 UNIK WAREHOUSE
Globe-hopping couple bring wares to West Hildebrand Avenue

EAT LOCAL
PG. 27 CHELA'S TACOS MEXICAN RESTAURANT
Mother and daughter behind taco truck open brick-and-mortar eatery

PG. 18 BUSINESS owners and residents are working together as North St. Mary's Street returns to its status as center of San Antonio's nightlife

Reviving the Strip
ALAMO HEIGHTS — A group of architecture students and their professor have created a model for a linear park that could someday be the "connective tissue" linking San Antonio and Alamo Heights along Broadway.

The concept for a 2.5-mile stretch of Broadway, which is undergoing a renaissance on the San Antonio side, is in keeping with Alamo Heights' ongoing project to beautify and make the smaller city more pedestrian friendly, officials said.

Antonio Petros, an assistant professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio's School of Architecture, and 13 architecture students recently presented "The Third Condition" — represented by a 56-foot model detailing a possible future for Broadway. "There's Broadway and then there's Alamo Heights and everyone knows that there is a disconnect between the two," said Petros of the shared north-south thoroughfare that joins the two cities. "We didn't present a finalized master plan, we didn't present anything final. All we did was present some ideas broad enough for everyone to see themselves in it, so there could be feedback and response from people. We wanted the exhibition of this project to be a community engagement process."

Petros's "Think Do Think" made two presentations in December; one at the Alamo Heights Fire Department and the second at the Blue Star Arts Complex in Southtown.

Petros and his students worked on the idea and model starting in August. "We call it "The Third Condition" because it is neither exclusively for Alamo Heights or San Antonio. It is a connective tissue between the two," said senior Aaron Stone, who worked on the project. "Essentially it is a path that runs parallel to Broadway. A new strip of infrastructure, suitable for pedestrians and bikes, that not only connects the urban Broadway corridor to the suburban neighborhoods, but also our new architectural interventions."

Though Alamo Heights officials lately have made some zoning changes to create more pedestrian access on Broadway, the students' project remains an academic exercise for now. "Everybody in the studio contributed to the big idea, but also put forth their own intervention, like a farmer's market, an exercise for me etc."
butterfly garden, start-up house or a transformable parking garage," Stone said. "The interventions were born out of issues found in Alamo Heights. For instance, there is a disconnect between Alamo Heights and San Antonio’s cultural corridor. So, a butterfly garden containing gallery space and an artist residency program, in conjunction with the Third Condition, acts as an extension of the cultural corridor into Alamo Heights."

"The idea of and executing the idea was always a highly collaborative and therefore rewarding task," Stone said. "So often people want to have a vision of the place, a master plan, and this project was not about that. Through embracing the unknown, letting the citizens of Alamo Heights and the territory speak to us, we were able to create something innovative and unique to the place."

The Third Condition, according to Stone, is a connective link combined with individual aspects that create possibilities for new, "unimagined interactions" between people and space and between the people of Alamo Heights and San Antonio — a young entrepreneur and a local artist, a high school student and a farmer, or even an elementary school student and a garden, he said.

"It becomes a place for spontaneous interactions and allows for new ideas and relationships to be born through them," he added.

Petrow is convinced that what is currently needed is something unique that would merge Alamo Heights to the identity of Broadway.

"There was something missing in all of this," he said. "We did lots and lots of research on Alamo Heights." Petrow and his team took a look at Alamo Heights’ infrastructure, analyzing the length of continuous sidewalks, counting trees and evaluating private versus public parking areas.

"Based on all the research we’ve done and all the questions we’ve asked people in the community, we came up with the idea to not completely change what’s there, but rather to use what is existing and transform it into something positive," he said. "What’s missing is public space, so we want this to be a public garden that could start to interact with the existing fabric that’s there, such as residences and businesses, as an incentive to invest along this corridor."

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**Faith Family Night**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME • JOIN US EACH WEEK**

Wednesday evenings we have a wonderful time at Trinity Baptist Church through our Faith Family Night (FFN). Everyone is welcome. We eat a delicious meal together which is served beginning at 5pm, before breaking out into programs offered for children, students, and adults. We encourage you to take advantage of these great opportunities.

Small Groups are offered on Wednesday nights at 6pm as part of our FFN activities for adults. These groups meet 8-12 weeks and cover a variety of topics that will allow you to dive deeper into scripture while developing new relationships and deepening existing ones.

Some of the Small Groups offered this semester include:

- The Cure, for men
- Circle of Sisters, for women
- Strengthening Your Marriage, for couples
- Conversational ASL (American Sign Language)
- Animate Practices, for young adults

Go to www.trinitybaptist.org/small-groups for a full list of groups available and to join a Small Group today!

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**Seeing With Eyes Of Your Heart**

Andy Anderson was going blind. So he began to prepare for the inevitable. And when blindness replaced his sight, Andy used his imagination. In his mind he returned to near and far places that he had visited in person. From every special place he had selected a rock as a keepsake, and placed each rock in a treasure box. From other locations where he had hoped to go but never made it, he ordered representative rocks for his collection and studied photos of those places.

So when blindness controlled his sight, Andy used these mental memories to travel wherever he wanted to go without ever leaving his condo. He would select a rock from his box, turning it over and over in his hands, and travel by imagination to the rock’s original home. He was free to roam the world, seeing with eyes of his heart.

Have you trained the "eyes of your heart" to see what your physical eyes cannot comprehend? The Apostle Paul wrote about this in Ephesians 1:18, and then had a prayer experience which forever changed him. He gasped, "For this reason I fall to my knees and see that God is Father of all... And I pray that you, being established and rooted in love, may live by this power." Let heaven and earth open up to you by seeing with the eyes of your heart. Faith is the way.

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