

URBAN DESIGN STUDY: LEE, MA

Proposal teams comparison / Interscale Idea-Abstraction

- Proposals & ideas are from the 4 grad teams; represented & interpreted by author's cross-theoretical framework -

OVERVIEW OF THE FOUR PROPOSALS' "BIG-IDEAS" AND "SUB-IDEAS"

The proposals have essential similarities and dramatic differences in their overall "big idea" for the downtown as a whole, as well as in their many component "sub-ideas" for particular downtown areas (ie area sub-themes). ((It is important to appreciate that all the ideas and sub-ideas in each proposal are meant to be "great" ideas in terms of their infinite "rightness" for Lee. They are creative, highly synergistic, inspirational, and powerful— (born in heartfelt moments of "eureka! insight" by the designers)— so to unify the diverse material, space, and human activity from part to whole of many scales within the Lee landscape continuum. The intended spirit of every great idea is to inspire designers and townspeople through the design process, from initial abstractions to concrete existence. Each idea is named by a linguistic phrase that captures its intuitive essence— ideas that promise to contribute revitalization magic. (See full descriptions of each proposal))). * As follows are outlined summaries of the four proposals, for a meaningful comparison:

A COMPARISON OUTLINE OF PROPOSED "BIG IDEAS" FOR DOWNTOWN AS A WHOLE:

Each of the four proposals, as a total "wholistic" downtown design, fulfills the basic objectives and general goal of a revitalized Lee (as detailed separately in this study). However, the proposals are completely different in their organizing "BIG IDEA": they vary in the degree of change and type of town they propose for Lee, between a milltown and a tourist town, as listed below from conservative to radical; and they cross-vary by being either river focused (#1 & #3) or roadway focused (#2 & #4). Thus we have both conservative and progressive approaches, for both the roadway and river— a powerful range of alternatives:

PROPOSAL #	TOTALIZING BIG IDEA	DESCRIPTION OF BIG IDEA
<u>SCHEME ONE: "MANY SMALLER CHANGES"</u>		<u>Lee as a local working milltown:</u> (Minimal change, minimal tourism; Conservative approach/ incremental, least expensive cost). * Rectalinear forms & smaller scale hierarchy, relates to existing manmade order— in contrast to the Berkshire's natural bio-geomorphic forms and scale. Bypass suggested, but not required.
<u>SCHEME TWO: "DIVIDE AND UNITE"</u>		<u>Lee as mill/tourist-accommod town:</u> (Moderate change to partial tourism; progressive approach/ moderate cost). "RR street and Main Street operate one-way to divide (dilute) unwanted downtown traffic congestion, while integrating & enhancing cbd activity in all places (especially rr area) for balanced landuse— a united Lee". * A romantic ribbon of repeated oval forms of the Olmsted era is used for recreational green space, while all else in town is contrasting rectalinea. This depicts a dualism of idealism/ realism that encapsules Lee's manmade histo-world; it in turn complements the Berkshire bio-geomorphics— which is aesthetically more sublime/complex. Bypass suggested, but tolerant w/o.
<u>SCHEME THREE: "RETURN TO THE RIVER"</u>		<u>Lee as a milltown/tourist town:</u> (High-moderate change, strong tourism; Very progressive approach/ mod+ cost). "Create a regional scale Lee Waterfall Riverpark and tie the town to that theme. Only the river, as historic, cultural, and physical force— with endless recreational, natural, social, aesthetic, & economic value to be reaped, can revitalize Lees future". * Forms are larger scale recatlineal to relate to forms of the agricultural and industrial eras, all juxtaposed against natural Berkshire landscape. Bypass is very strongly suggested.
<u>SCHEME FOUR: "MAKE ONLY A GRAND PLAN"</u>		<u>Lee as a full tourist-town:</u> (Radical approach/ initially the most expensive cost; most risk/ + to gain). "Create an all-pedestrian Town Center ('Park Place') at lower Main St; with recip Grand Parking Arrival at Eaton Area. Bypass enters downtown by crossing river W to E, to Eaton St., while unwanted traffic bypasses town". * Arc/tangent big U-curved spaces (form a thrusting triad) for 3 new tourist-accommodating "celebrated" public places, vs the more private rectalinear town, & the bio-geomorphic Berkshire world it surveys, penetrates Bypass is required.

((Note: All proposals advocate some good degree of regular "regional-oriented" commercial and recreation activity to occur, as an important activity between the poles of a "private milltown activity" and a "general tourist activity" that is our basic issue cited above)).

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