

500 BOYLSTON



500 Boylston was opened in 1989 as part of the Boston Back Bay High Rise Movement. It was designed by Philip Johnson and John Burgee Architects. 500 Boylston is a postmodern style building. It consists of 25 floors; the first 6 being retail and small office space, the next 19 floors are Class A office spaces, and there is also a 1,000-car parking garage underground. Initially there was controversy with the first stages of the design between neighborhood associations and the architects of the project. A few floors had to be eliminated from the design because the neighborhood associations believed the buildings proportions made it look too “squatty.” The architectural highlights include: carved rose granite surfaces and columns, two story windows, a vaulted copper roofline, Palladian style windows (originally seen in 16th century architecture by Andrea Palladio), and the most iconic highlight being the courtyard framing the main entrance. The courtyard is an identifiable gateway for pedestrian scale. Made from columns and arches, the courtyard is seen as a miniature abstracted replica of St. Peters Square in the Vatican City of Rome. All these architectural features symbolize “power, strength, wealth, and stability.” Today controversy still exists at 500 Boylston, because of recent Boston developments, the courtyard is in jeopardy to be eliminated and be occupied as closed off vertical programming space.

888 BOYLSTON



888 Boylston was designed in 2014 by CBT Architects. It opened in 2016 and today is occupied as retail and office space. The 17-story building is built to LEED Platinum Sustainability Specifications and includes multiple sustainable features. The building uses 45% less energy and 37% less water than a typical office building. This is achieved because of solar panels and 14 wind turbines on the roof that produce up to 134 KW of power. In addition, a water-fueled chilled beam system circulates 100% fresh air throughout the building for cooling purposes. Other sustainable features include: a green roof, outdoor terraces for tenants, energy-efficient lighting, rainwater harvesting system and a green wall in the buildings lobby. Natixis Global Asset Management is the priority tenant, with 128,000 square footage of office space. Other tenants include: Abry Partners, Accenture, Bracebridge Capital, Tesla and Under Armour. At the ground level the building offers flexible sitting areas for pedestrians and the entry is a gateway into multiple retail stores.



CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PLAZA

The Christian Science Plaza was designed to be an outdoor space expansion for The Original Mother Church that welcomes all families, neighbors, & visitors. The plaza was designed by The Boston Landmarks Commission, who are better known as The Historic Preservation Agency for the city of Boston. The project has been going on for the past 12 years & was scheduled to be finished winter of 2018. The 3 key goals of the project are: 1. Enhancing the open space; by creating clear distinguishable gateways into the plaza 2. Improving environmental sustainability; by additional green space and reducing stormwater runoff & 3. Planning for future open spaces for the community; by repurposing underutilized buildings. At the center of the plaza there exists a 690'x100' reflection pool. The pool is under reconstruction, as the attempt is to provide pedestrian accessibility into the plaza from the north end by shortening the length. The plaza will be the communal courtyard for six buildings. Three of those building hold historical meaning: The original Mother Church (1894), The Church Extension (1906), and The Christian Science Publishing House (1934), now known as The Mary Baker Eddy Library which offers Sunday school and workshops to kids from the community. The other three buildings were designed by Araldo Cossutta of I.M. PEI & Associates in the 1970s when the site was extended: Reflection Hall (1971) used as a gallery and flexible space, The Colonnade Building (1972) used as administration and other office spaces & 177 Huntington Building (1972), formerly the administration building it is now used to lease out office spaces to the community.



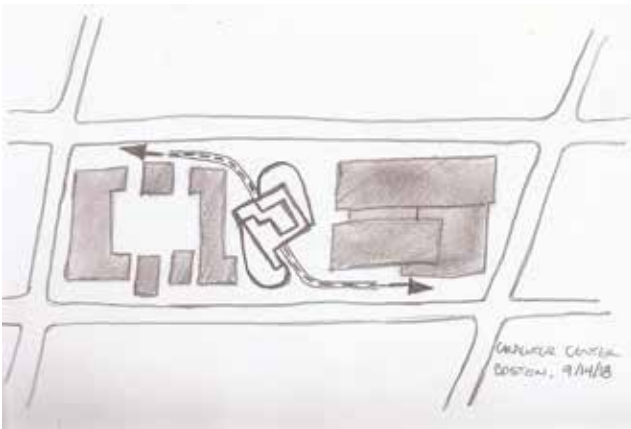
SYMBOLISM

At the JFK Presidential Library, symbolism is the theme in which one transitions throughout each space. The geometric forms on the exterior of the building is a hint on the perceptual transition that awaits the visitors inside. One experiences the life of JFK as they circulate the library. The moment which impacted me was as I entered the dark corridor with monitors on the wall showing the then live report of the day JFK was assassinated. At the end of the corridor one exists to a large bright room with a quote from JFK that reads, “a man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on.” I believe the juxtaposition of these two spaces symbolizes that although America was going thorough a dark time in history, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel.



EXPERIENCE & CONNECTIVITY

At The Carpenter Center, the experience is the theme behind the design. Le Corbusier manages visitors to experience the outdoors and his architecture while gently walking through the ramp. In addition, the ramp also provides linkage by connecting two streets corners on opposite sides.



FOCAL PERCEPTION

There were several projects in Boston where focal perception was the theme used in the design. At the ICA, the hanging room above the exterior amphitheater becomes the focal point of the architecture. It leaves one wondering what is in that room. Once inside the room, it is a space that frames the visitors view to the ocean line and nothing else. At MIT, Frank Gehry took advantage of the bridge connecting the Landau Building and the Koch Biology Building because from across Ames St, Gehry's Building 32 is perfectly framed to the visitor's eye. Baker Hall is shaped as a zigzagging building to offer the students frame views to the nature context. Finally, The Boston City Hall, keeps the bottom floor open to keep the visual connection from the plaza back to Quincy Market and the Boston Shore line.



ENTERTAINMENT

Boston had various outdoor spaces which created an entertainment experience for pedestrians. There were many restaurants that incorporated outdoor games, like chess, connect four, swings, bean bag and cornhole. At Fenway, there exists an outdoor entertainment complex, much like the one at LA Live, featuring restaurants, bars, arcade and bowling alleys, dance clubs and retail stores.



GATHERING

There is an intimate feeling in many of the gathering spaces in Boston because of the pedestrian scale. The Boston Greenway offers several small portion areas for people to gather and converse. At Harvard's Tanner Fountain, people gather over the boulders and observe the low scale water sprinkling in awe. Although an outdoor courtyard may not seem as intimate because of its large scale, the courtyards at Boston's Library and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum are architecturally amazing because of all the details, it leaves visitors speechless so it creates the intimacy at these spaces.



HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

Boston is a city rich with historical buildings on a historical context. As new development rises, the challenge of preserving adjacent historical buildings is the driving force for new architecture. Renzo Piano achieves this at the Busch-Reisinger Museums by combining a historical brick building and a modern steel structure with a buffer space of pure glass. This move gently transitions the old and the new.

