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An Exercise in Micro-Urbanism
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Professor Carroll Westfall

For my upcoming thesis project to be completed in the Spring of 2014, I traveled to Ft. Lauderdale, FL to document and analyze my chosen site. The location is in the suburbs of Ft. Lauderdale, specifically Plantation, and is the site of what is considered a “dead mall,” a mall that is no longer active. The Fashion Mall closed its doors in 2006 after receiving irreparable damage from Hurricane Wilma that landed in 2005. Since then, several financial companies have acquired ownership, and have overseen its deterioration. My thesis project as the culmination of my architectural education here at Notre Dame is to propose a development, rather, a new Town Centre that is mixed use and vibrant.

I first went to the Plantation Building Department’s Microfilm office to attain the site plan documents I needed where I discovered that the current owners of the property were starting to redevelop their acquisition. After finding the proposal of US Capital Holdings Group lacking contextual consideration, I decided that upon completion of my thesis project next semester, I would like to submit a counter-proposal to the city that would fit in with the character of Ft. Lauderdale.

I studied the surrounding context to understand the details within the architecture of South Florida. Some styles include: Mediterranean, Spanish revival, and Key West . I toured Worth Avenue in Palm Beach with the School of Architecture’s Professor Luis Trelles. We explored a mixed use environment intertwined with courtyards, avenues and public spaces. This particular area in Palm Beach and Ft. Lauderdale’s Las Olas Boulevard are my inspirations and precedents for my thesis project.