

TROY CITY CENTER LLC: Landscape Design Description

Whether viewed from River Street, from RPI on the hill, or from the Hudson River waterfront below, it is clear that the Monument Square site is the true focal point of downtown Troy. Not only physically and visually central to the city, the site is the historic heart of the community. The Troy City Center project's overall design, therefore, responds to multiple contexts and weaves together the various threads of history, architecture, commerce, nature, and community that make up the rich tapestry of Troy.

Our project proposes an integrated development of two inter-related buildings, framing a central piazza. The design takes its shape as an extension of Broadway, creating a diagonal slice, the piazza, through the site that will maintain a key visual connection from the city to the river on which it was founded. Furthermore, the piazza will establish a physical connection from Monument Square to Riverfront Park and the Hudson River.

The piazza itself will be a special place in downtown Troy. The piazza begins as a pedestrian extension of Broadway, an urban place terminating in a view of the Hudson River. On the riverside of the piazza is a continuous overlook to the Hudson River. Elevated above the park below, this overlook will be a wonderful place to sit for a meal, meet friends, or hold small gatherings. The overlook is informal in character and leads to a graceful ramp down to the park. The ramp is a place unto itself, with seating and landscaping accompanying one's descent. For those in a hurry, a stair also connects to a mini-plaza at its base between two lawns below; a small bike rental, café, or other retail establishment engages the mini-plaza and activates the Riverfront Park side of the parking base of the project. This sequence of open spaces flows seamlessly into the park and connects to the diagonal of the Riverfront Park Master Plan, which extends from the bulkhead to the Korean War Memorial and will someday continue to 3rd Street.

From the park, the ramp looks like an easy walkway up a landscaped hill, a new and convenient entry to downtown. The piazza will be a glowing destination at night, visible both from Riverfront Park and downtown; carefully designed seating and a unique lighting installation will support programmed areas for events and gatherings.