

Promenade down the Slope

OPPORTUNITIES ON THE SLOPE
AND THE DEVELOPMENTS THAT ARISE

by Joyce A VanGilder

This thesis is submitted to the faculty and staff of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Architecture.

William Brown,
Chairman

Mario C. Cortes

Michael O'Brien

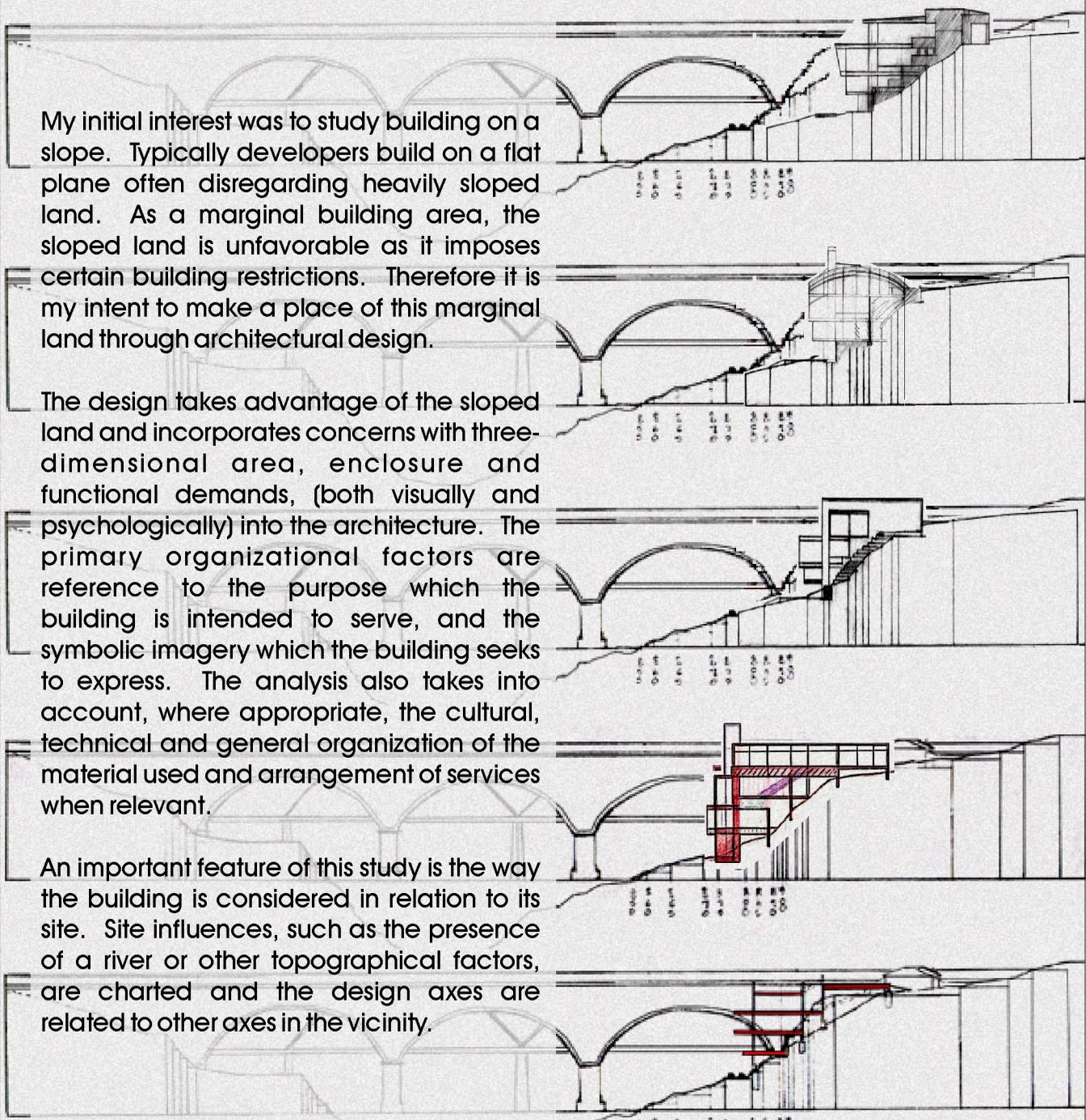
Defended: May 10, 2001
Blacksburg, Virginia

This project is an investigation into issues surrounding the placing of a building into the context of a sloped site. The study manifests itself through the design of a farmer's market, restaurant and retail space on a site defined by a change on volumetric disposition, movement pattern and structural system.

My initial interest was to study building on a slope. Typically developers build on a flat plane often disregarding heavily sloped land. As a marginal building area, the sloped land is unfavorable as it imposes certain building restrictions. Therefore it is my intent to make a place of this marginal land through architectural design.

The design takes advantage of the sloped land and incorporates concerns with three-dimensional area, enclosure and functional demands, (both visually and psychologically) into the architecture. The primary organizational factors are reference to the purpose which the building is intended to serve, and the symbolic imagery which the building seeks to express. The analysis also takes into account, where appropriate, the cultural, technical and general organization of the material used and arrangement of services when relevant.

An important feature of this study is the way the building is considered in relation to its site. Site influences, such as the presence of a river or other topographical factors, are charted and the design axes are related to other axes in the vicinity.



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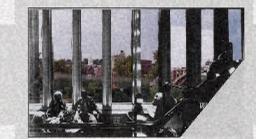
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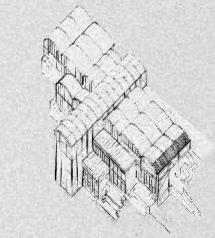
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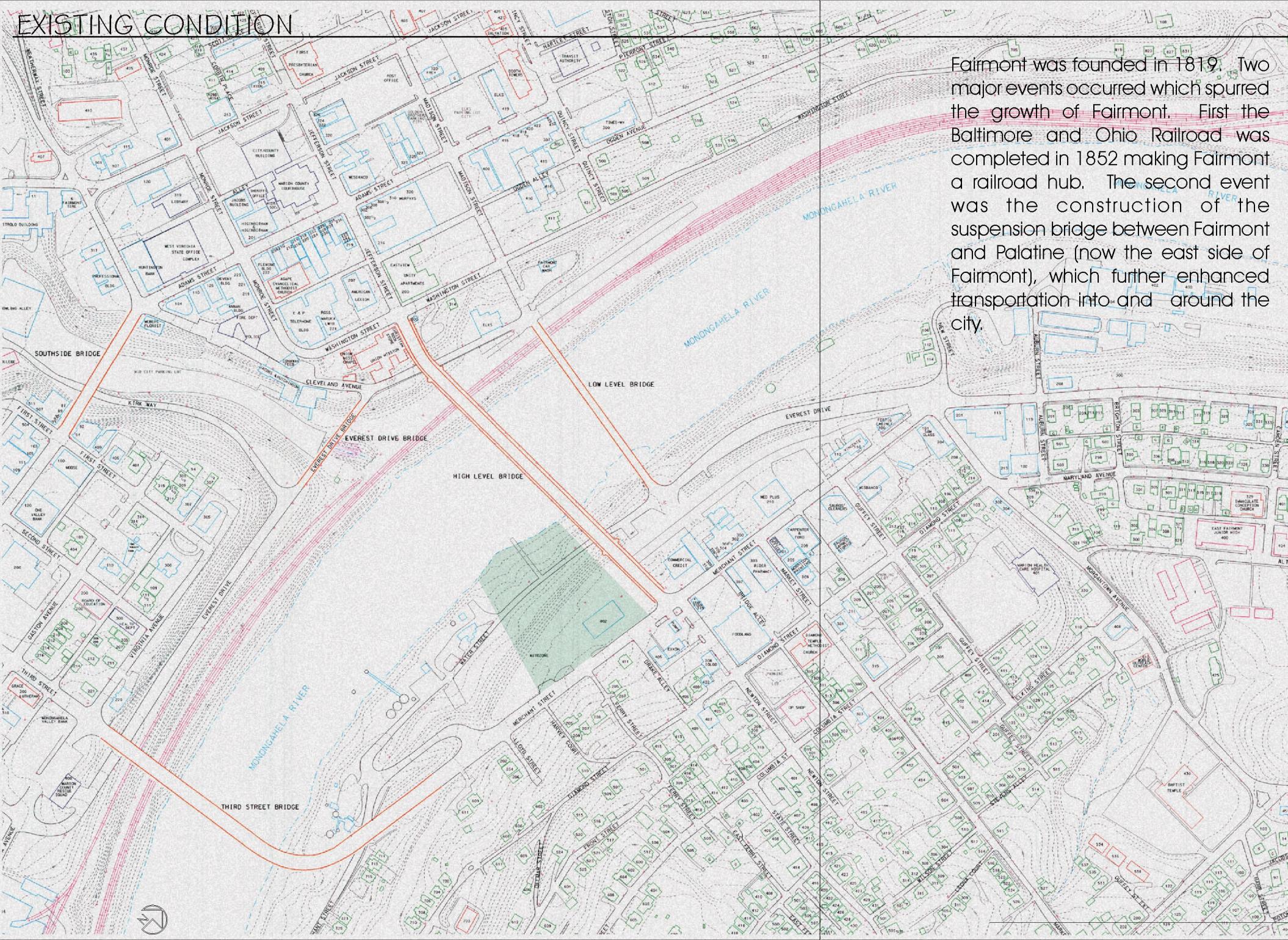


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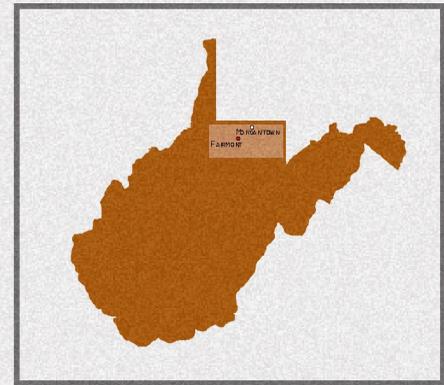


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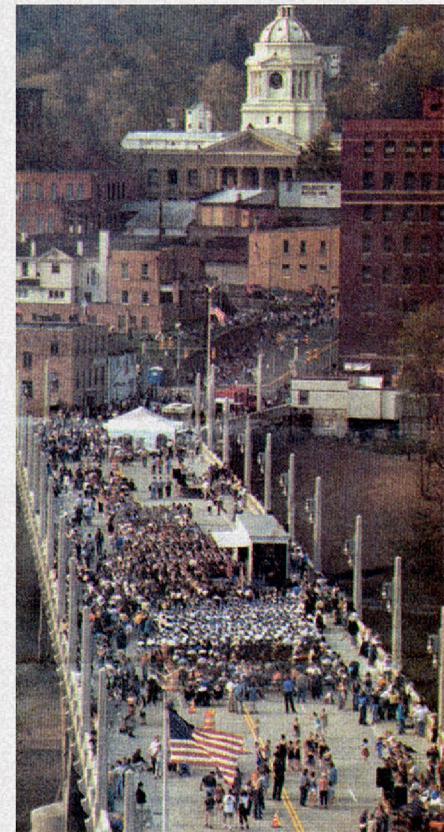
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Fairmont was founded in 1819. Two major events occurred which spurred the growth of Fairmont. First the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was completed in 1852 making Fairmont a railroad hub. The second event was the construction of the suspension bridge between Fairmont and Palatine (now the east side of Fairmont), which further enhanced transportation into and around the city.



Fairmont location in West Virginia



Reopening of High Street Bridge in 2002