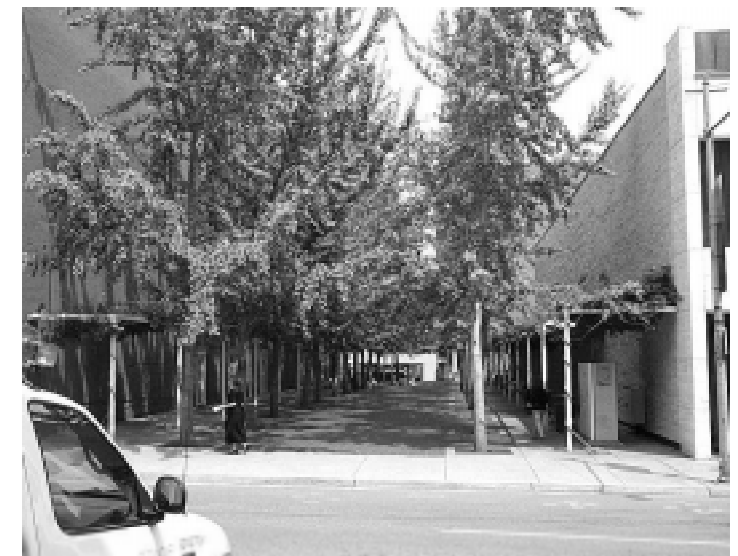
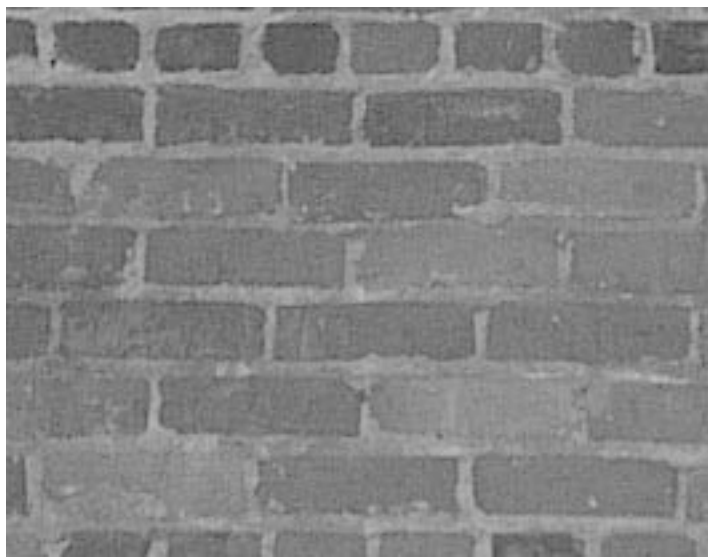


*“The essence of architecture lies not in its usefulness—the purely practical solutions it offers to the human need of shelter—but in the way it meets the much profounder spiritual need to shape our habitat.” –  
Mario Botta*



# *l i f e   i n   d o w n t o w n*

a thesis by Evelyn Luck Weddle

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Donna Dunay



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**“A good building must be capable of absorbing the traces of human life and thus of taking on a specific richness.”**  
- Peter Zumthor



*Customer's viewpoint of market (1)*





Architecture is a product of its surroundings. The response to site, program, and history of place differs everytime. How we interpret a place is influenced by our own experiences in life. We each possess a unique set of tools which we use to construct the spaces that surround us. A place is given life and vitality through the people that use them. It is the architect's job to create a place that encourages life to exist.

Everyday activities take many forms - eating, sleeping, working, playing, sitting - all forms of interaction. When these activities are set in an urban location, life begins to dictate the spaces necessary for them to take place. An urban setting needs people to thrive; and people choose to live in these settings for human interaction, dependence on others, and a sense of belonging.

This thesis investigates the integration of urban housing and retail space in downtown Roanoke, Virginia. It is architecture that is desperately needed in order to sustain urban life in this part of town.

*Farmer's viewpoint of market (2)*

a b s t r a c t





*To my committee* - Thank you for your guidance. Your many years of experience and wisdom have helped to make me a better student of architecture.

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## acknowledgements

When a place only has a heartbeat during the hours of nine to five, the other sixteen hours can make it seem like a ghost town. This occurrence happens everyday on Market Street. The majority of people in the market district during the day are there for the sole purpose of work. The rest of them are shopping at the farmer's market, boutiques, or just enjoying the day. But at six o'clock, the market and shops have closed and the people slowly disappear. The few restaurants and coffee shops in the area manage to bring some people back in the evening, but not enough to give this place the vitality it deserves.

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Martin Heidegger once said that "the relationship of man to places and through places to spaces is based on his dwelling in them." To give Market Street a sense of place, the act of dwelling must occur. By combining residential units with retail spaces, the opportunity increases for interaction between both the townhouse residents and the customers who visit the shops. The dynamic of the Market District is therefore forever changed.

*Aerial view of site / Market District (3)*





“Every new work of architecture intervenes in a specific historical situation. It is essential to the quality of the intervention that the new building should embrace qualities which can enter into a meaningful dialogue with the existing situation. For if the intervention is to take place, it must make us see what already exists in a new light. We throw a stone into the water. Sand swirls up and settles again. The stir was necessary. The stone has found its place. But the pond is no longer the same.”

--Peter Zumthor