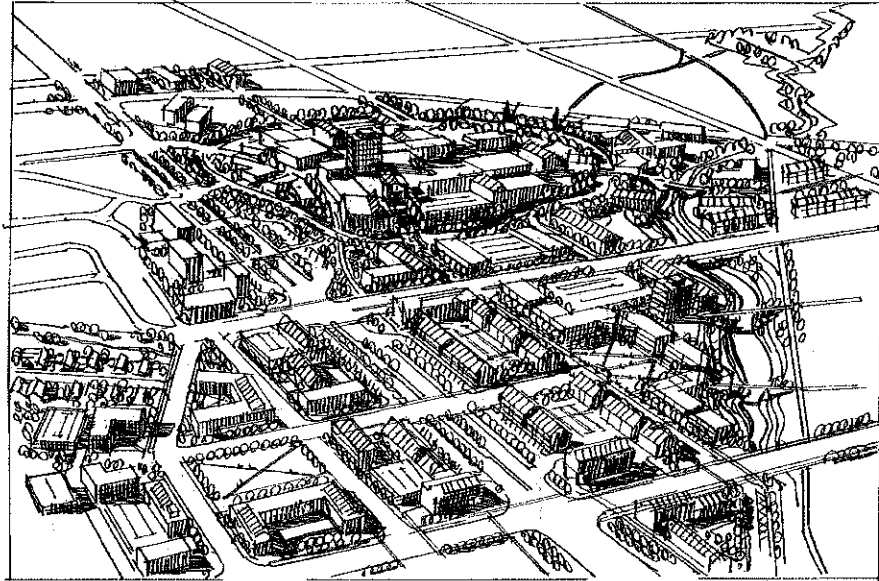


## *dead mall walking / street and parking diets that urbanize suburbia*

*A proposal for a vertical studio with Prof. Laging*



The two major cities of Nebraska; Omaha and Lincoln are both asserting comprehensive planning and urban design strategies that project more density for future development and more redevelopment of exiting suburban sites. Economically stressed shopping areas are often particularly problematic and offer opportunities to nudge development into a more densely energy efficient and amenity rich future.

The Westfield Gateway Mall in east Lincoln is a sure bet to eventually become a victim of the “dead mall” syndrome. To head this fate off this problem proposes an intervention modifying the place in stages into a fully mixed-use walking city within a city.

The major problem of this vertical studio proposes generating a prototypical model of a relatively self-contained city district with clearly identifiable boundary conditions that can function as an enclave within an existing city structure. At it's extreme the prototype model has some of the characteristics of a tight nit medieval town.

Towns with complex organic three-dimensional structure will be examined to gain understanding of both principles and possibilities. The nature of walking environments and dense residential fabrics will be explored and analyzed by the class.

The methods will involve both erasure and addition to existing conditions by subtracting building parts and masses to repurpose and transform the current retail typology. An array of strategies will be used to transform the exiting mall into a compact sustainable holistic community that include residential uses.

The process will employ a collage of building uses and types. It will integrate and diversify transportation modes with vertical and horizontal pedestrian circulation systems.

The sustainable aspect of this exploration revolves around recycling both buildings and building materials. The project will explore a variety of typologies that privilege amenity and repress vehicles use; combining grotto like subterranean service space with verdant roof and streetscape.

The project will move rapidly in stages from the general to the specific and from the specific to the general. Work will generally be done individually. This will be a semester long urban oriented exploration. It will focus on iterative process, working in section, and studying the sequencing of spatial cavities in a dense urban fabric. The objective is to explore a series of interrelated building concepts that actively engage internal and external landscapes. Lots of study models and continuous series of expressive study drawings will be required.