

## **Image & Comfort: Icon destination / Unique look & feel / Clean, safe & friendly**

### **May 4, 2004 -**

- “Will George Schaefer let us punch a hole in Fifth Third Bank to improve the sight lines?”
- There are great squares in Europe that are no more open than Fountain Square, but feel more open. An oval shape could work. It doesn't have to be a square.
- Our office buildings need to feel more like towers [around an European square].
- The surrounding buildings are ugly architecture; no character or warmth.
- Knock out those buildings.
- Remove the stage.
- Trees would help.
- Add color, texture, shapes to create visual interest and improve facades of office buildings.
- Add flower boxes to skywalks.
- Get UC DAAP departments to exhibit there, have fashion shows, showcase their work, etc.
- Piatt Park on Garfield seems more friendly.
- Likes greenery especially with shrubs trimmed.
- My friends don't feel that downtown is safe.
- People came to a wedding at The Phoenix and brought a gun with them to feel safe.
- When I worked downtown I used to get approached by 3 people a day [panhandling]; that seems better now.
- Have surveillance cameras during construction.
- More emergency phones.
- Maybe have police substation.

### **May 5, 2004 –**

- “Soft” physical stuff like surfaces, landscaping, trees, greenspace need to be included. Single most important thing is comfort, specifically year-round landscaping.
- Getting in and out of parking garage; access from Square is terrible; confusing to get in and out of garage for visitors and residents & uncomfortable.
- Washrooms are on lower level or hidden.
- There are too many dark corners where people could be hiding.
- “If it is really a space for everybody, it should make sense how to get from point A to point B.”
- Pay attention to German heritage and origin of fountain. Include elements on square that are German; beer is one of them. Bring back Christian Moerlein beer and have it on the square.
- Good thing to have movable tables and chairs but they need to be of higher quality. “When furniture is plastic, you treat it like plastic.” Quality materials are respected. European cafes are responsible for their own chairs & tables.
- A lot of businesses on square close at 5 pm.
- Weird mix of retail in prominent store fronts.

- Doesn't seem like a great place to have a business or to stay after hours.

**May 6, 2004 –**

- If garage elevator has to exit on square, make it a glass enclosure.
- Related to comfort is feeling of safety and security; not a lot of visibility—hollow points. Have things more on one level.
- Bring down some of the barriers on street level and across street.
- Major problem in general is parking; take broad look at garage.
- If it's too attractive, the daily workers will clog it.
- Keep it available for recreational users.
- Have escalators instead of slow elevators.
- Rock Bottom Brewery uses area under skywalk for seating; it's always crowded. Concern about Cincinnati's history of always tearing down things that work.

**May 11, 2004 -**

- If people don't feel that downtown is a clean place and a safe place, they won't come.
- Mr. Batsakes used to be on Walnut Street with a hose cleaning the sidewalk.
- This is a river town. An extension is a full-scale 'hosing off' of the deck every morning.
- Be careful not to repeat our past.
- Avoid design that will become dated.
- Embrace history.
- Link Fountain Square to Riverfront with a river of water along the curbs of the streets; follow the waterfall (Ron Fleming's ideas).
- Don't mistake popularity for quality.
- Don't diminish quality of space and institution.
- The most popular place in the region is probably the flea market in Monroe, but we don't want to replicate that here.
- Period lighting that goes with fountain.
- Grass, shrubbery, flowers.