An Architecture of Democracy

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CHAPTER 1

DESIGN INAUGURATION
Recently it seems as if democracy was stolen from the people. The Democratic primary was manipulated to insure the candidate who had gained a lot of support from the general public and ran a grass roots campaign did not win. Instead it was given to the candidate with more upper class and corporate support. Then the position of president was given to the candidate with fewer votes. Campaign promises go unkept and congressional approval ratings are regularly below 20% and yet they retain their jobs and there seems to be no consequence.

Gallup (an analytics company) takes a poll once a month to assess the American public’s view of how congress is doing at their job. Since 2009 the highest approval rating was 28% with that number dropping as low as 9% at times and yet in our most recent election 97% of the members of the House of Representatives were reelected. I believe the discrepancy here is the result of low voter turnout. Even in our most heated presidential elections only 50-55% of eligible voters participate in the election and that number is much lower for midterm elections. People are obviously frustrated by the current system but are unsure how to change it.

“In a democracy the people choose a leader in whom they trust. Then the chosen leader says, ‘Now shut up and obey me.’ People and party are then no longer free to interfere in his business.”
- Max Weber
When America began to develop into what it is today, the neoclassical style was considered to represent the “architecture of democracy”. Perhaps the single greatest example of this architectural style in the United States is the Capitol Building. During its conception, Thomas Jefferson wanted Congress housed in a replica of an Ancient Greek temple because he believed that it represented a nation’s strength on the world stage. This is why our current government buildings are nothing more than modern representations of Greek temples.

Jeffersonian architecture, like Greek temples, is imposing and exclusive and divisive, not to mention religious. None of these are characteristics one would or should associate with democracy. Today’s society is different than when these buildings were made, and our country is measured in every way which means we no longer need to show our strength through imposing architecture.

If architecture can play a role in making offices more creative and productive or making schools more engaging for learning, why not also question architecture’s role in democracy?
OBJECTIVES

The goal of this thesis is to explore how architecture can play a role in democracy. The traditional “Architecture of Democracy” is a branch of neoclassical architecture called Jeffersonian. This type of architecture is modeled after Greek temples which is not the inclusive space you would expect an architecture of democracy to be modeled after. I believe the imposing exclusive architecture has played a part in the current state of affairs between representatives and citizens.

The second part of the problem lies in the lack of diversity within our civic spaces. Politicians are typically lawyers and they are paid a relatively high salary compared with the average American. So highly educated, wealthy individuals are very well represented in congress but because average Americans are not allowed in the capitol building for safety purposes, other socio-economic groups are not represented.

Thanks to social media today many people are aware of what our politicians say and do in front of a camera but when it comes to the policies that affect them they wouldn’t know where a politician stands or which way they voted on an issue. Getting this information out to the people would promote accountability with the politicians and make representation more inclusive.
**Goal:**
To use democracy as a catalyst to create a socially inclusive space in which civic engagement is increased.

The first step towards a solution is to address the antiquated buildings that exist now. Rather than look to the Ancient Greek Temple to represent an architecture of democracy, I will instead, first examine the agora, which translates as “gathering place”. During the height of Greek society, the agora was the gathering place for not only democratic representatives and leaders, but also everyday citizens, such as farmers and craftsman. The agora was an ‘activity hub’ that was used for civic and social meetings.

Understanding the lines along which society is divided is key to creating a space inclusive of all these groups. Max Weber is a sociologist whose work was published in the 1920’s. His theory was based on what he called ‘social stratification’. Social stratification is broken down by Weber into three parts.

- **Class** – a person’s economic standing in society
- **Status** – a person’s prestige, social honor or popularity within society
- **Power** – a person’s ability to get their way despite the resistance of others.

Arguing that society can be divided into groups based on things other than wealth sets Weber’s argument apart from Carl Marx, and others, who believed society was divided by wealth alone.

With all of the different socio-economic groups together in one place, the challenge will be to encourage interaction between these groups. Richard Sennett called these interactions between different socio-economic groups “Social Friction” and explains that this kind of friction is a good thing and can lead to better understanding others.
CIVIC VS COLLABORATIVE SPACE

Typically, civic space is a collaborative space where social and economic exchanges take place. For the purpose of this project I am separating the civic space from the collaborative. The civic will be defined as spaces which relate to the function of our government and collaborative spaces are those which have the potential for social exchange.

The agora started as a collection of civic spaces. Citizens would come to the agora to hear how the courts ruled on a law, which would be posted on the walls in the Heliaia, (Supreme Court) or hear how their representatives voted on a bill. Citizens were even allowed to vote on certain things. As merchants realized the opportunity of everyone gathering in one place the agora developed into the public space we know it as.

There were places in the agora which were exclusive allowing only congressmen or religious leaders inside however most of it was collaborative allowing everyone to blend into one society. It was these spaces that brought us famous philosophies and ideas we still use today.
The word agora translates as “gathering place”. During the height of Greek society the agora was the gathering place for everyone. Bringing people from all walks of life together around common needs and functions the Greeks were able to talk through many issues and resolve them with solutions some of which we still use today. Ideas like the Hippocratic Oath doctors take, Aristotle’s contribution to physics and yes, democracy. The agora brought people together through things we all do. There were food stalls and market stalls, craftsmen and politicians, philosophers and everyday citizens voting on laws. It was genuinely one space for everything to come together instead of having separate spaces for everything. Today we have public spaces for gathering and malls for shopping and government buildings where our democratic representatives meet in private.
After examining the buildings in the agora, I began to look at the space between the buildings as it was this space where the most interaction between social classes happened. All the different functions were connected through the central courtyard which was squared off by the stoas. Through this courtyard were many paths to differing functions and where these paths intersected became important to the Greeks. This would be where they placed monuments and statues as well as small alters. These alters were for gods which all of the Greeks worshiped, and the statues were of heroes of the time. In other words, things all Greeks would have in common. These became landmarks for people to meet at and places to sit and watch the goings on within the agora. Some of them even served as a bulletin of sorts with new laws or rulings being posted on them for the citizens to read.
Through my analysis of the agora I discovered two things that made the agora special. The first is that through the agora being a multiuse space where many functions come together, all different classes in society are present in one place. Having all Greek citizens represented in one place validates the idea that the agora was a truly democratic space. The second is that these different socio-economic classes interacted with one another. The functions may have been separated in the different buildings but all of them were contained in one place. In the courtyard of the agora we find things inclusive of all Greek citizens that bring together all the classes. When these different classes interact with one another it can cause their perception of ideas to change and that is what Richard Sennett called “Social Friction”.
The capitol building was designed to represent America on the world stage. Over the years it has come to be a symbol of democracy, however the architecture is not an architecture that represents the principles of democracy. The Greek temples they were modeled after were designed to house gods not government and over the years this has affected the way citizens and government representatives behave. More and more, our elected officials act as though they rule over the citizens rather than serve them. Citizens, even though they are unhappy with their representation, go on about their daily lives as though they don’t have the power to make change. While architecture is not fully to blame it does play a role in how people perceive their environment and it can play a role in changing that perception. If we are to create an architecture of democracy, then we must start with the principles of democracy.
The two parts of the entablature are the frieze and the pediment. The Greeks decorated the frieze with triglyphs and metopes. The later is a more decorative piece with the triglyphs used as a break between them. The pediment was sometimes decorated with sculpture or it may be left blank giving more emphasis to the frieze.

There were three orders of columns each with their own base, shaft and capitol. The bases range from elevated to direct contact with the floor. Shafts were all very similar most notably being fluted all the way up. The capitals showed the most range from a plain connection (Doric) to scrolls on either side (Ionic) and the most decorative having leaves and scrolls (Corinthian).

The stylobate was a way to elevate the temple above the commoners who were not allowed inside the temple. It also raised the eye level of an onlooker so that they were looking up in reverence.
Thomas Jefferson’s entablature was also made up of two parts. The frieze still alternated but he opted to leave the space between triglyphs empty in most cases. The pediment was usually left blank with the exception of a Palladian window and in many cases the edges of the pediment were rusticated giving the building a stronger, more harsh presence.

Jefferson also used different types of columns depending on the situation. Many of his columns mixed the typical Greek orders based on the style he wanted to achieve. He would also use different column styles on the same building highlighting the columns different purposes. One major difference is that he opted for smooth instead of fluted columns in most cases.

Almost all of Jefferson’s buildings also had a raised entry bringing the eye up to admire the building while also creating a hierarchy between inside and out.
Kiruna City Hall

**Location:** Kiruna, Sweden

**Year:** 2016

**Architect:** Henning Larsen

Kiruna city hall in northern Sweden is composed of two parts. The innermost piece is a crystal symbolic of the deposit underneath the town and the outer ring providing a protective shell. Just as the exterior suggests, the functions of the two spaces are different. The outer ring is comprised of offices for government work and the crystal in the center supports public functions. Peer Teglgaard Jeppesen of Henning Larson architects says it “is a democratic building open to everybody.” Adding “inside the building, the democratic process is supported by the interplay between offices at the periphery and public functions at the heart of the building.”

Another important aspect of the design is the space surrounding the building is activated with monuments and entertainment space.
The Toronto city hall and adjacent public square originally opened in 1965 was designed by Finnish architect Viljo Revell. The design features two curved towers with a circular center piece on top of a rectangular base. The building is an excellent representation of how the three branches of democracy can work together while overseeing one another. From each of the two towers you can look down to the central council chamber and across into the adjacent tower. The problem with this government building and many others like it is that the public space is separate from it. By blending public space with civic space the interaction between government and the people increases.

While the space seems very active people are still not engaged in government. They are simply having an event or activating the public space adjacent to the government building.
Day Street Apartments

Location: Sydney, Australia

Year: 2017

Architect: Tzannes Loftex

The Day Street Apartments is a multiuse facility which infills a series of warehouses on the lower levels with commercial retail and office space. The upper floors of apartments are new construction which lets the apartments float over the commercial space. The contrasting construction reveals the programmatic difference however it also shows a clear line of separation between the two. From a social aspect the separation speaks to a social hierarchy between those working and shopping there and those who live there.
The Valley

Location: Amsterdam
Year: 2021
Architect: MVRDV

While still stacking the residential on top of the retail and office space MVRDV has created a mixed-use facility that blends some of its functions together. The lower levels of office and retail are well blended together with what they call “valley” and “culture” spaces. Some of the retail has even been elevated to the highest point expressing the hybridization of the space.
CHAPTER 2

DESIGN ANALYSIS
The federal Capitol Building has served as a model for state capitol since its conception. Keeping that in mind I will lay out the parameters of this thesis in a way which is adaptable so that this too may serve as a model for state governments.

Our nations capital and the paragon of democracy around the world. The District of Columbia has gained this reputation thanks to the federal governments three branches being located there. D.C. is also home to many national monuments and museums bringing in a diverse group of tourists, citizens and government workers.

The city of Washington was one of the neoclassical cities which was based on Roman ideal city plans. Latrobe’s plan for Washington was a grid system which was only cut by major arteries. At the center of all of this was the capitol building. It was the starting point for the grid system and the hub that all of the major arteries run through.
The axes within the city play an important role in connecting key points. Most of these points are civic spaces related to the function of the government. Some of the axes also run through parks and large open spaces which are often used for rallies and social meetings. At the crossing of these paths where you don’t find important civic buildings you find parks and places for social gatherings.
The figure ground reveals the axes more clearly and also shows the large open spaces at the crossings. Another thing the figure ground shows us is moving from west to east after the group of civic buildings surrounding the capitol building everything becomes much smaller, the block size and building size. The capitol building serves as a dividing line between the residential side and the side where government and commercial buildings blend together. Whether on purpose or by accident it seems that government entities have separated themselves from the people and surrounded themselves with corporate entities.
SITE ANALYSIS

BUILDING USE

- Civic
- Collaborative
- Residential
- Commercial
- Arts/Museum
The commercial space is scattered amongst the civic buildings and in many cases commercial office space in the same building will be occupied by a government bureau as well as a corporate entity.

The residential map is very telling of the current state of affairs between the government and citizens. There is a very clear division between where the government buildings are and where residents live.
Being that Washington is the federal capital it is littered with civic buildings, much more than any other city. Most of the office buildings in Washington serve as government offices for some department or bureau of the federal government.

Another thing that stands out about Washington is the amount of large open park spaces where social gatherings and events geared toward bringing attention to a problem can be held.
Like the agora, Washington started as a collection of civic buildings. Over the years it has developed and grown but one thing that has stayed is the collaborative space, the space average citizens use to voice their grievances and bring light to the issues they find important. The major difference between the agoras collaborative space and that found in Washington is that the people they are trying to influence are not in the space.

Typically, civic space is a collaborative space where social and economic exchanges take place. For the purpose of this project I am separating the civic space from the collaborative. The civic will be defined as spaces which relate to the function of our government and collaborative spaces are those which have the potential for social exchange.
In the agora all of these different functions, and more importantly people from all social classes, were contained within about one city block. So the important distinction here is that while Washington has all of these different social classes they don’t interact with one another because they are so spread out.

Developing over the years from a collection of civic buildings into an eclectic blend of commercial and civic spaces as well as museums and galleries that tell the story of what America was and is. Last year D.C. was host to 22 million visitors and thousands of events. As for those who live there Washington represents the largest income inequality of any city within the United States. The ratio of top end earners to bottom end is 6.3. This means people in the top 10 percent earn 6.3x more than those in the bottom 10 percent. All of these facts express how many socio-economic groups are represented in Washington D.C.
Connections

As with the agora it is important to pay attention to the paths within Washington and more specifically where these paths cross. Each path creates an axis within the city and these axes carry people from different parts of the city and in turn different social classes. Therefore, where the paths cross so do the different social classes.

The major axis runs west to east through monuments and the national mall on through the capitol building and into the residential area. All of the major axes intersect at the capitol building and others intersect and create these large parks and socially inclusive spaces.
The most prominent collaborative space is the national mall which is also part of the most significant axis through the city. Drawing in all of the different social classes from different functions within the city will be key to orchestrating social interactions between these different groups.
Jane Jacobs is most well known for her work *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. This is one of the most influential books on urban planning. In it she discusses many elements of the city but none more than streets. Given that the National Mall acts as a street for pedestrians between the capitol building and the Washington monument, her input serves to create a dynamic space where all of the socio-economic classes might mingle.

“Here it is necessary to take issue with a common belief about cities – the belief that uses of low status drive out uses of high status. This is not how cities behave... people or uses with more money at their command or greater respectability can fairly easily supplant those less prosperous... the reverse seldom happens.”
In one of her lesser known books, *Systems of Survival*, Jacobs lays out 2 ethical systems: commercial and guardian. These systems or “syndromes” are classified by a set of behaviors. The guardian syndrome (which includes government) is defined by precepts which include; be loyal, be exclusive and respect hierarchy among other things.

Civic institutions are assets which serve the entire community and are free for everyone to access. They are the connective tissue that binds our communities. From libraries to parks to recreation centers they are democratizing places that foster inclusion and opportunity. Our civic assets were once the pride of our communities. Our libraries, parks, community centers, and schoolyards served rich and poor alike as neutral ground where common purpose was nurtured. As communities became segmented by income, technology advanced and needs changed, support for civic assets declined.
Max Weber’s theory of class stratification differs from other theorist, namely Karl Marx, in that it has three components. Most theorists conclude that wealth is the most important way to divide society because being rich affords someone all of the other benefits one might divide society by. However today more than ever you can easily become famous without being rich. You can also influence many people without being rich. For these reasons Max Weber’s theory is more comprehensive and inclusive than others.

Three-component theory of stratification, or Weberian stratification, identifies three ways to divide society into classes: wealth, power and status. Wealth is the way most people divide society into classes ranging from rich to poor. Power refers to one’s ability to make decisions which affect others. These are the boss vs employee type divisions. Finally, status or prestige refers to someone’s notoriety in society, whether someone is famous or not.

Aside for writing The Death and Life of Great American Cities Jane Jacobs also played a large role in fighting against Robert Moses’ plan for “slum clearance”. In doing so she took on corporate and high class take over and fought for small businesses and diverse communities.

Quotes

“In architecture as in literature and the drama, it is the richness of human variation that gives vitality and color to the human setting... Considering the hazard of monotony... the most serious fault in our zoning laws lies in the fact that they permit an entire area to be devoted to a single use.”

“Intricate minglings of different uses in cities are not a form of chaos. On the contrary, they represent a complex and highly developed form of order.”
Jacobs talks much about the diversifying of streets and buildings and cities. It is clear that she advocates that understanding and embracing each other’s differences is key to creating solutions. She also talks much about the how trust is made over time through many little interactions.

Quotes

“Under [a well-compartmentalized local] system, it is possible in a city street neighborhood to know all kinds of people without unwelcome entanglements, without boredom, necessity for excuses, explanations, fears of giving offense, embarrassments respecting impositions or commitments, and all such paraphernalia of obligations which can accompany less limited relationships. It is possible to be on excellent sidewalk terms with people who are very different from oneself…”

“People are accommodated and assimilated, not in undigestible floods but as gradual additions, in neighborhoods capable of accepting and handling strangers in a civilized fashion…”

“Influences

“Social Friction” is a term coined by Richard Sennett to describe the interactions between different groups in a society. These interactions can provide beneficial dialogue and be a way to work towards solving issues either between these groups or issues in which a typical solution would disproportionately affect one group or the other. This thesis examines how this social phenomenon may be used as a design tool and conversely if we can design in such a way so that we encourage these social interactions.

Social friction is a sociological phenomenon that most of us engage in every day without knowing it. In its simplest form it is an interaction, as small as a nod or wave, with someone from a different social circle. The engagement of difference is often the source of the solution to social problems.
Section 2 – Practicum
MAJOR AXIS
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Full trend

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GALLUP

The U.S. Capitol Police has 2200 officers and an annual budget of around $375 million with a budget request for this year of 426.6 million. Charged with protecting congress men and women and securing the capitol building they set up barricades on the steps and stand guard armed with assault rifles. Being that they are standing on the steps of what appears to be an ancient Greek temple made for gods not governments you get a striking visual that leaves you weary of even coming close to the building. When you pair this visual with the fact that the chambers these officers are working so hard to protect are only used an average of 138 days a year and most of the building is off limits to the public even when congress is not in session its no wonder the general public doesn’t think they are in control of this democracy. Campaign promises go unkept and congressional approval ratings are regularly below 20% and yet they retain their jobs and there seems to be no consequence. Gallup (an analytics company) takes a poll once a month to assess the American public’s view of how congress is doing at their job. Since 2009 the highest approval rating was 28% with that number dropping as low as 9% at times and yet in our most recent election 97% of the members of the House of Representatives were reelected.
With the capitol building only being used 1/3 of the time this means it is empty twice as much as it is used and yet we still pay for a lavish police presence to keep the general public out of this space. These actions paired with the architecture of the capitol give congress the impression that they rule over their constituents. Getting congress out amongst the people will return them to a servant role and give the power back to the people. The role of the capitol building is for congress to get together and discuss legislation. This discussion happens in the respective chambers, but the rest of the building is just office space. It is this office space that I am proposing giving back to the people.
Washington Monument

Box

Axis

Courtyard

Slope

Capitol building

Bookends

Open Axis

Increase Access

Give back to the people

SCHEMATIC
Social Theories

Add Program
Combine
Blend

Create Holes
Expand
Connect

Social Friction
Stratification
The new congressional offices will need to have a level of safety which most normal buildings do not have provide. Moving the offices underground not only makes them safer but also serves to respect the monument by keeping the view of it unobstructed. There is another axis that intersects with the Washington Monument and runs north through the White House. The president and congressmen have many meetings so bringing their offices closer together could benefit both parties and increase efficiency (although we are talking about Washington).
Civic space (for the purpose of this project) is anything that relates to the functioning of the government. What I am referring to in this case is the new congressional offices that will be replacing the ones taken out of the capitol building. Putting these offices amongst other program exposes congressmen to their constituents and promotes accountability.
From real estate agents to entrepreneurs to freelancing designers and traveling salesmen a coworking environment/ facility provides not only an office or a desk to work at but it provides a community of people that the ‘work from home’ type professionals miss out on. There are differing models of coworking that range from a large open area where independent professionals can come together and work in the same space to a decentralized cooperative model where individuals rent shared space as needed so conference rooms spend less time empty and rising professionals can have an office with all the amenities of their larger corporate counterparts at very low cost. This type of environment presents opportunity everyday for new paths to cross and new ideas to spawn.
There are 3 types of cooperative businesses and they are based on who has stock in the success of the cooperatives. Producer owned cooperatives allow farmers and small businesses to sell their product at rates that will compete with larger producers. Consumer owned cooperatives allow members to purchase a number of products from child care to health care at lower rates for each individual. The most common would be a worker owned cooperative and these can range from grocery stores or hardware stores to coffee shops or bike shops. Really anything can be a cooperative, what sets them apart from other businesses is that the members pool their purchasing power and resources to be able to compete with large corporations.
Traditional vocational training starts after high school and works as a replacement for college classes to teach a skill or trade. Today this training is being used earlier for children that might be at risk of dropping out or being involved in criminal activity. Given that Washington D.C. has the largest income inequality in the country the children around the capitol either attend a private school or display some at risk behaviors. By taking these at-risk children and teaching them a skill we provide a way out of their situation and by placing it adjacent to the capitol building and allowing these kids access to the capitol they can feel a sense of attainment and know that their goals are within reach.
This program was chosen to fill the Weberian stratification model. Vocational training is typically undertaken by persons from the lower strata of society, maybe even as a way out. Co-working brings in people from many strata because there are a number of reasons why someone might need that space. However once someone reaches the upper levels of society they are probably not going to use these spaces. Because there are so many types of cooperative businesses these too bring in many different strata. This is one of the areas of the project which is adjustable for the state level. I have chosen these three functions but any combination which checks all of the boxes in the Weberian stratification model could be used.
Stratify new offices.

Encourage interaction

Move congressional offices

Open capitol building to bring people through.
CHAPTER 4

DESIGN SYNTHESIS
This thesis creates an architecture of democracy by applying three interventions in Washington. The first intervention is at the capitol building. By removing congress from behind its exclusive temple architecture it brings them back to the level of the people they serve. This intervention also opens up, to the residential area, the axis that runs through the capitol. The next step is creating new offices to replace the ones taken out of the capitol building. Unlike other congressional office buildings this is a blended space that mixes other program into the same space. Putting these offices at the other end of the mall creates a dynamic space in between where congress will be forced to interact with their constituents. Adding pavilions and gathering areas in this dynamic space encourages interaction between people who normally wouldn’t.
Smithsonian Museum of Democracy
The national mall is surrounded by an array of museums and research centers collectively curated by the Smithsonian institute. To give the capitol building back to the people this thesis proposes turning the core of the capitol building into the Smithsonian Museum of Democracy. There are 3 floors and a basement to the capitol building. Each of the floors will be dedicated to a branch of the government: executive, legislative and judicial. The basement will be dedicated to the people and public spaces of democracy.
Jeffersonian architecture took so many elements from the Greeks because people of that period believed that Greek society was something to be sought after and this thesis makes that same argument. The difference arises with which building should be used as precedent. Jeffersonian architecture used elements mainly from the temples which were designed for gods not governments and were exclusive spaces. The stoas were the buildings which framed the public space. Three walls and an open front lined with columns which marked the threshold, this is what I modeled the design after.
The Judicial part of our federal government includes the Supreme Court and 9 Justices. They are special judges who interpret laws according to the Constitution. These justices only hear cases that pertain to issues related to the Constitution. They are the highest court in our country. The federal judicial system also has lower courts located in each state to hear cases involving federal issues.
The Legislative part of our government is called Congress. Congress makes our laws. Congress is divided into 2 parts. One part is called the Senate. There are 100 Senators—2 from each of our states. Another part is called the House of Representatives. Representatives meet together to discuss ideas and decide if these ideas (bills) should become laws. There are 435 Representatives. The number of representatives each state gets is determined by its population. Some states have just 2 representatives. Others have as many as 40. Both senators and representatives are elected by the eligible voters in their states.
The President of the United States administers the Executive Branch of our government. The President enforces the laws that the Legislative Branch (Congress) makes. The President is elected by United States citizens, 18 years of age and older, who vote in the presidential elections in their states. These votes are tallied by states and form the Electoral College system. States have the number of electoral votes which equal the number of senators and representatives they have. It is possible to have the most popular votes throughout the nation and NOT win the electoral vote of the Electoral College.
The people are the part of a democracy which are often not talked about, but they can have a major impact on everything. The few elected representatives are vastly outnumbered by the people and when they come together they can create change. Aside from being a museum of people and public space in democracy, the basement also serves as a connection through the capitol building from east to west. Currently there is a gift shop out front that does not connect to the capitol building. Connecting the two would allow someone to enter into the gift shop and walk through a proposed local market emerging between the two main stair cases on the west side.
New Offices
Monument Intervention

Ground Plan

Underground Plan
NEW OFFICES
NEW OFFICES
The Monument of the Eponymous Heroes was a marble podium with bronze statues. It became an important information center for the ancient Athenians, it was used as a monument where proposed legislation, decrees and announcements were posted.

Near the center of the agora the Alter of Twelve Gods became a point from which distances were measured. The Altar also functioned as a place of supplication and refuge for many visitors and less fortunate.
Electroluminescent panels have electrodes built into them. These electrodes can be turned on or off to display information in different ways with the same electrodes. The way an older digital clock works is a great example of this, all numbers 0-9 can be displayed by lighting up different electrodes. Transparent Electroluminescent (TASEL) displays combine the rugged and reliable build of thin film electroluminescence with the unique freedom of designing a completely transparent display.
Curated by the Smithsonian Museum of Democracy these informative displays will become a way of getting information out to the people. Knowing which way a congressman voted on an issue can promote accountability in Washington. To the right and left of the maps are the names of the bills being voted on and brief descriptions of the content in that proposed legislation. The house and senate maps show every district from around the country with a red outline and green fill. When the representative from that district votes the map will light up with either a green center for a vote in favor of the bill or a red outline for a vote opposed.
Shared Space
https://www.aoc.gov/capitol-buildings/about-us-capitol-building
The Architect of the Capitol provides in depth looks at all of the buildings in our nation’s capital from square footage to use and plans. This site also provides a history of each of the buildings and their construction including dates and architects.

“The Influence of Ancient Greek Architecture”, Owlcation, updated 06-09-2016
https://owlcation.com/humanities/The-Influence-of-Ancient-Greek-Architecture
The author takes a look at how Greek architecture influenced other architecture around the world and throughout history. The most relevant information to my study is the brief mention of the federal style in America. The other topics provide a background of information and explore the parts of Greek architecture that were exported and what they were originally used for vs how they are used now.

http://www.ancient.eu/agora/
This article provides a baseline of what the Greek agora was and what it meant to the people who used it. From traders to philosophers the Greek agora was the place to be for everyone. The Romans adopted the agora as a central meeting place and a vital way of life

Richard Sennett is a sociologist whose work focuses around the development of cities and how society is shaped in the city. The part of his work this thesis focuses on is about social friction which uses difference amongst groups in society to explain how people interact.

https://www.thoughtco.com/max-weber-relevance-to-sociology-3026500
Explaining Max Weber’s far reaching contribution to sociology and along what lines society is divided allows this thesis to design in a way which will encourage interaction between these groups.

“Reimagining the Civic Commons” Civic Commons. updated December 2017
http://civiccommons.us/
Reimagining the Civic Commons is a movement currently in 5 U.S. cities. The movement seeks to connect the people within a city by connecting civic assets such as libraries, recreation centers and parks.