
DESIGN PRINCIPLES

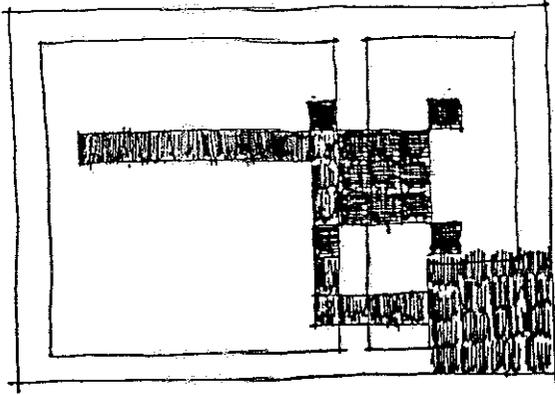
The common misconception about the topic of paving is that it is exclusively used for parking lots. In this section, two new concepts are introduced that redefine the way in which paving is viewed. The two major sections stimulate and promote thinking about the exterior horizontal surfaces in a non-traditional way and presents diagrams and illustrations that integrate the use of precast concrete pavers into the design of the built environment. The two major sections include;

Urban Carpet

Green Structure

At first reading, these terms seem to be oxymorons. Most design discussions typically focus on urban structures and green carpet therefore isolating them from one another. The juxtaposition of these two terms is intended to pose an alternative way for horizontal surfaces to be perceived. It is an effort to stimulate the thought process and present design issues that can be integrated during the overall design process.

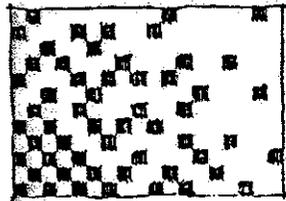
The two sections and most of the principles within are presented as interdependant, parallel concepts that can be applied in design at both the individual paver scale as well as the overall city scale.



Urban Carpet

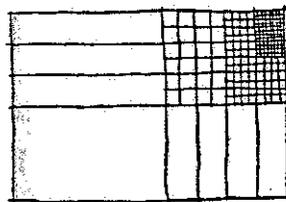
The term Urban Carpet forces the designer to reconsider the quality of the vast floor of cities, towns and urban environments. It elevates the awareness that the ground plane of these built environments are the principal surfaces with which that humans have contact. The Urban Carpet is a reconceptualization of the exterior paving surfaces and attempts to recast the design of these surfaces as an equal one of three planes that can be used to define and create volume and place.

The design vocabulary of the Urban Carpet is consistent with that of building design, neighborhood design and urban design. At the urban design scale, the principles parallel the cognitive mapping work of Kevin Lynch. The concentration of this section will therefore be placed on the paver scale of design but the reader should allow for these principles to "jump" scale to the site, neighborhood or city scale to achieve the greatest integration. The major topics for design consideration at the paver scale are listed below.



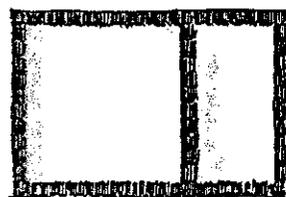
Mosaics

Includes the use of segmental paving for creation of the "urban carpet."



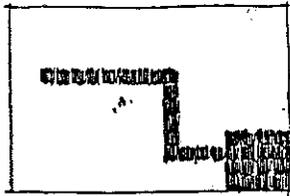
Scale

Includes the use of segmental paving to alter, transform or suggest scale in a large paved environment.



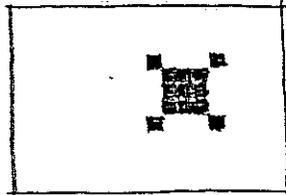
Zoning

Includes the use of segmental paving to suggest different zones of use or spatial orientations.



Markers

Includes the use of segmental paving to identify specific activities, areas of use or for providing visual cues to the environment.



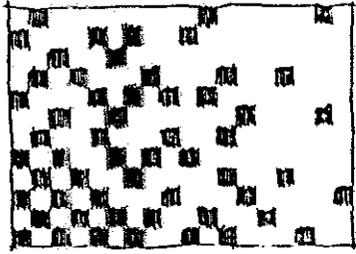
Emphasis

Includes the use of segmental paving to develop a focus or emphasize a design element.



Edge

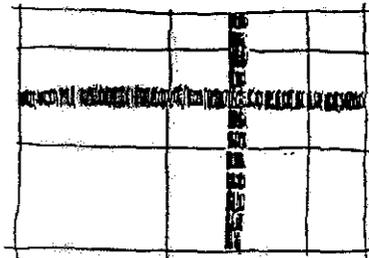
Includes the design options for the edges of segmentally paved surfaces.



Mosaics

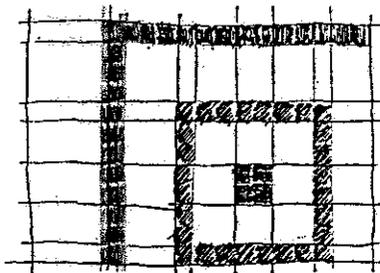
The concept of an urban carpet is most obviously expressed through the use of segmental pavers to create a large scale mosaic. Mosaics integrated in the paving of exterior surfaces can serve several functions that go beyond simple decoration. They can provide visual cues to the environment, lend a sense of scale to a large area, suggest movement or emphasize an aspect of an overall design concept. The most commonly used urban carpet mosaics can be classified as either geometric patterns or pictorial patterns.

GEOMETRIC PATTERNS



GRIDS

Grids are used to alter the scale of a very large scale paved area. They can suggest quadrants of use as well as providing visual cues to different activities.



CENTERED

A centered pattern typically incorporates a border and a focal point. In design terms it is most similar to an oriental carpet. It can be used to emphasize or focus on a design element.



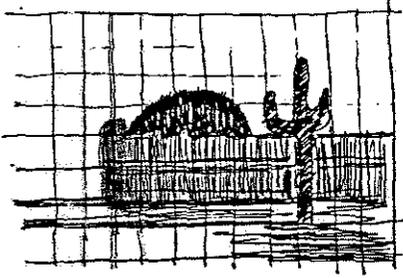
LINEAR

Linear patterns can be used to suggest direction, separate parallel activities or mark subsurface utility lines or services.

PICTORIAL PATTERNS

MURALS

Murals are accomplished through variations in the color and patterns of the precast concrete pavers. Individual units can be cut and placed to represent a specific picture or design on the ground plane.



MAPS

Scale maps can be integrated within the ground plane as a means to achieve spacial orientation and to provide visual interest. The "blocks" within the map can suggest areas of use in the paved or landscaped area while the "roads" may suggest a path of travel.

