

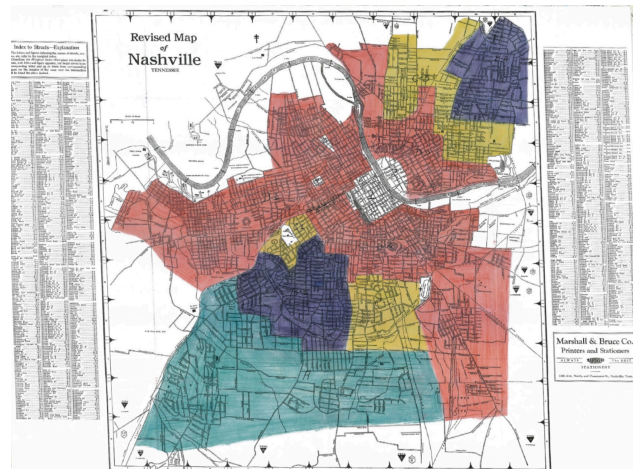
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Architecture History

Project 4 - Reflection

Project 4 gives the opportunity to reflect and discuss the findings not only from our semester in History of American Architecture but combine that with our work and research done in Studio 4. Our studio spent the entirety of this semester working through two projects, both involving the North Nashville neighborhood and specifically Jefferson St. This project was organized as a result of two pivotal moments in history. The first being the Interstate Act in the 1960's that resulted in I-40 being built through the middle of Jefferson St and North Nashville and the second moment being the proposal presented to the public of a Cap project over Interstate-40 to reconnect the North Nashville neighborhood in 2021.

The first moment occurred as a result of the 'redlining' maps we discussed in history class, pictured here. These maps were released by the Home Owners Loan Corporation in the 1930's to show lenders which neighborhoods were risky and which would more secure for mortgages. The result of this was further segregation of cities across the country due the labeling of 'hazardous' to predominantly African-American neighborhoods.



The second moment was when the city of Nashville tried to right the wrong of the Interstate Act by building a cap over I-40 and reconnecting the streets that once thrived in north Nashville. The concept and idea was a good, the follow-through and due diligence was not. The unfortunate result of this proposal, as we learned in our research was that there were very few discussions with the actual residents of North Nashville and more assumptions as to what the neighborhood needed. The resulting proposal was something the neighborhood ultimately opposed and therefore the \$120 million project never took place.

Our project for studio 4 addressed this as an issue and proceeded to discuss the needs and wants of the neighborhood with several community leaders and developers who each hold tremendous pride for the neighborhood of North Nashville and historic Jefferson St. These conversations took place over a couple months and continued into the semester as we presented multiple ideas for the Jefferson St Cap project. Understanding our project for Studio 4 was hypothetical and not a real concept, the conversations that occurred were still accepted with positive and uplifting remarks of thanks and appreciation for listening to actual needs and desires from actual residents.

Relating this discussion back to the beginning of the semester and the idea of 'unlearning' even furthered my appreciation for this project. As we discovered through the research of Jefferson St. and even the resulting discussions and design reviews with several interested parties, the needs are real and legitimate. The area is in need of support and is still today being threatened by increased land values, property taxes and gentrification as a result of a growing city and influx of new residents to the area.

The question still remains as to how to appeal to the needs of the current residents in order maintain the integrity of the neighbor while not attracting new homeowners and higher values. The surrounding universities have an opportunity to play a role as does the City of Nashville as long as the intentions are in the right places and the important conversations are taking place.