

HOUSTON INTERNSHIP

FINAL REVIEW—AUG.5, 2005

PROJECT PROGRAM INFORMATION:

The project is a multi-use development that encompasses what is referred to as the ‘superblock’ in midtown. Midtown sits between downtown and the medical center. The site is located along the light rail on Main Street bordering McGowen, Main, Travis and in part, Anita.

The basic program requirements were as follows:

- **500 residential apartment units**
- **25,000sf retail at street level**
- **Parking at 1.7/unit ratio**
- **Mid-Rise Code Requirements**
- **Height Restriction of 75’ to the last floor served**

Additional requirements:

- **Develop an amenity package for urban dwellers defined as single professionals, likely no families but some may be couples. Their primary focus is access to work in the medical center and downtown.**
- **Must place emphasis on pedestrian level public space that opens up to and attaches itself in some way to the light rail stop at Elgin St.**

The remainder of the program was developed by the student team. The students engaged in market research, interviews, visitations, etc... in order to obtain information needed to develop what would become their final design concept and approach.

The students were then allowed to present an alternative program for the project that they felt more effectively addressed the site and community needs. Each team changed the program to address public space. The height restriction and basic use of retail and residential were two program requirements they were not allowed to change.

The work should be reviewed from the perspective of an overall design concept and its development into a comprehensive building type. The importance of urban design issues is also important to the design solution and should be addressed by the team.

The students final presentation is done as a team. The work they present is a reflection of the summer long studio. Students also were engaged in an individual internship program with a local architectural or consulting firm.