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Fall 2006

## Connecting Identity and Place: Refugee Relocation Facility

Kathryn Walsh

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An aerial photograph of a city, likely Syracuse, New York, showing a dense grid of buildings and streets. A river flows through the city, and a major highway interchange is visible in the lower right quadrant. The image is in black and white, with a dark, grainy texture.

# Connecting Identity and Place:

Refugee Relocation  
Facility  
Syracuse, New York

Kathryn Walsh

Fall 2006  
Committee:  
Lori Brown  
Terrance Goode

THE GLOBE SHRINKS FOR THOSE WHO OWN IT,  
FOR THE DISPLACED OR THE DISPOSED,  
THE MIGRANT OR THE REFUGEE -  
NO DISTANCE IS MORE AWESOME THAN THE  
FEW FEET ACROSS  
BORDERS OR FRONTIERS...  
-HOMI BHABHA



There has been an increase of global flow of  
people:

immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers,  
migrants

to new locations.

Many forced, and many are based on extreme  
political, religious, and economic  
conditions.

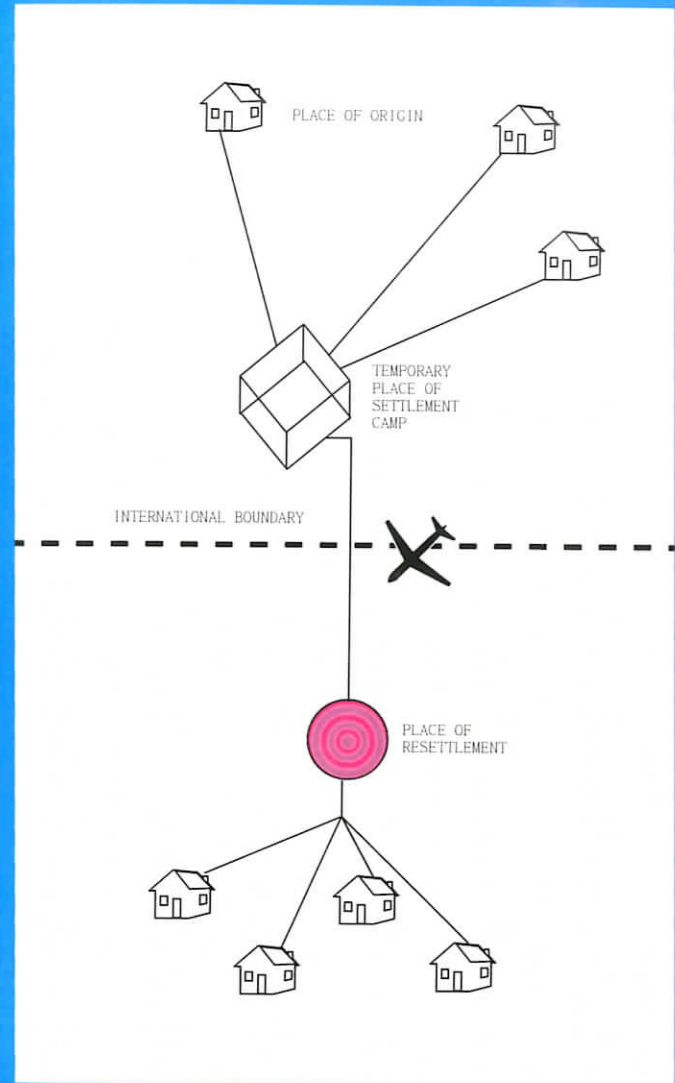
Because of the changes in the world,  
ones relationship with "place" has changed  
meaning.

One's identity with place has weakened  
and has become more of a  
hybrid, layered situation between  
place, identity, and space.

Not one culture or group can be defined for a long period of time in one place. The contemporary city cannot be universalized as a single ideal place - but it should be considered as a multi-space made up of interactive, linked coexistence and evolutions.

Immigration and refugee migration cannot survive without sharing some kind of relationship to institutional program with their new host culture. Because of this architecture, has been often expendable based on the political and economic conditions of the institutional power. Hence, refugee relocation centers are often housed in religiously or politically charged institutions, such as churches or past elementary schools. Refugee relocation programs have adjusted to past building types, and the architecture does not respond to the given condition.

Architecture's place in the global flow of people, identity, and the city can no longer be taken for granted. Architecture must consider the current conditions, the past histories, and future prospects of its relationship to identity and place within the changing city.



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- \_\_ SITE: syracuse, new york
- \_\_ PROGRAM: refugee relocation facility
- \_\_ APENDIX: architecture + migrancy
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**difference**

The condition, quality, or fact of being different, or not the same in quality or in essence; dissimilarity, distinction, diversity; the relation of non-agreement or non-identity between two or more things, disagreement.

**field**

"describes a space of propagation, of effects." Sanford Kwinter

*"A field condition could be any formal or spatial matrix capable of unifying diverse elements while respecting the identity of each." Stan Allen*

**identity**

sameness of a person or thing at all times or in all circumstances; the condition or fact that a person or thing is itself and not something else; individuality, personality.

*"Identity refers to lived experiences and all the subjective feelings associated with everyday consciousness. Identity marks the conjuncture of our past with social, cultural and economic relations we live within" Doreen Massey*

**immigrant**

To come to settle in a country (which is not one's own); to pass into a new habitat or place of residence

**place**

a position or station occupied by custom, entitlement, or right; an allotted position

**representation**

The action of placing a fact before another or others by means of discourse; a statement or account, esp. one intended to convey a particular view or impression of a matter in order to influence opinion or action.

**re-connecting**

to express further repetition of a link, that which connects or links one thing or member of a series with another; techn. a link with a movable section, used to connect two links of a broken chain.

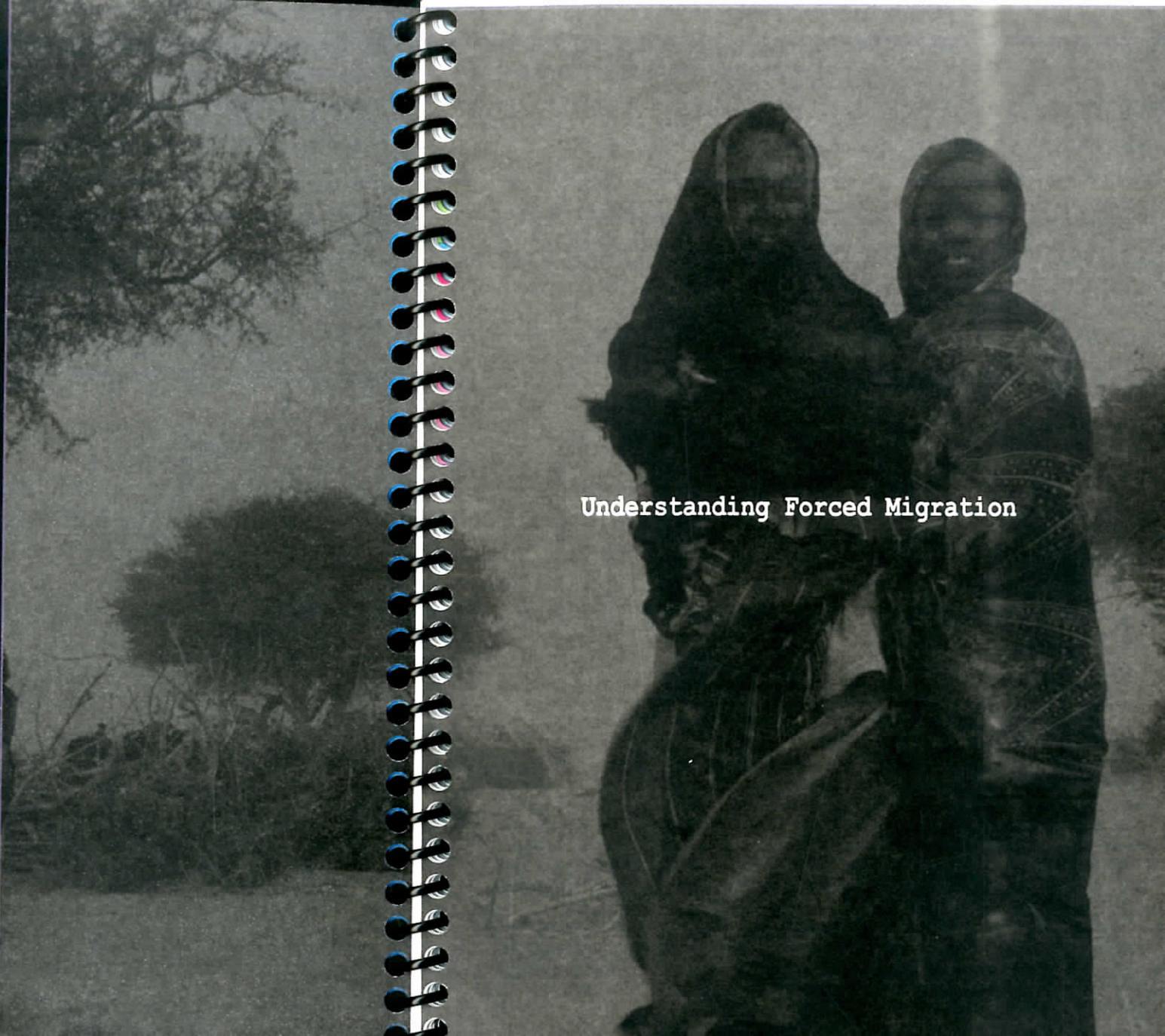
**solidarity**

The fact or quality, on the part of communities, etc., of being perfectly united or at one in some respect, esp. in interests, sympathies, or aspirations; spec. with reference to the aspirations or actions of trade-union members.

## DEFINITION OF REFUGEE

Refugee

any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion



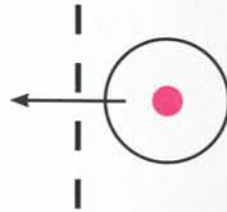
Understanding Forced Migration



## Refugee

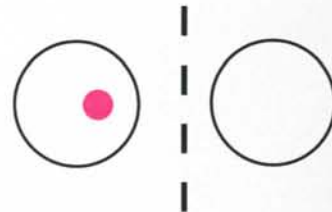
A refugee is a person unable or unwilling to return to his or her native country due to a well-founded fear of persecution or because the person's life or freedom would be threatened. To apply for refugee status, the applicant must be physically located outside the United States.

new settlement      origin



## Asylum Seeker:

Individuals already physically present in the country may apply for asylum, provided they meet the definition of a refugee and are not barred by law from applying for or being granted asylum.



## Internally Displaced:

An internally displaced person (IDP) is someone who has been forced to leave their home for reasons such as religious or political persecution or war, but has not crossed an international border.



**Refugees:** Applications for resettlement to the United States are compiled by Overseas Processing Entities (OPEs) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on behalf of refugees. Applications are submitted to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

After approval for resettlement, a principal applicant, either alone or with his or her close family (spouses, minor unmarried children, and dependent parents), is eligible to come to the United States through the refugee resettlement program. USCIS collects data on refugees when their applications are submitted abroad through the OPEs or UNHCR, when they arrive in the United States for resettlement, and when they adjust their status to Lawful Permanent Resident.

Refugees and their family members (spouses and children older than 14) are entitled to work in the United States and to other kinds of services and assistance.

**Asylees:** According to the US Refugee Act of 1980 and based on the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, any aliens, whether their current immigration status is legal or not, who are physically present in the country or at a port of entry may apply for asylum. An asylum seeker acquires asylee status when his or her application has been processed and approved and asylum is granted. A person granted asylum in the United States is entitled to a social security card, employment authorization, and other assistance.

In the United States, the main difference between these two groups of people is the location of the person at the time of application – the refugees are generally outside of the United States when they are considered for resettlement, whereas asylum seekers submit their applications while they are physically present in the United States or at a port of entry.

Besides the definitional difference, refugees and asylees are different in the way they are treated by immigration and refugee law at the time of application, admission, and adjustment of their status to lawful permanent resident (LPR) status (see sidebar).

# Reconfirming Identity: process for resettlement to United States

Screened by the UNHCR to determine if person is qualified as a refugee under international law

who is outside any country of such person's person having no nationality, is outside any country habitually resided, and who is unable or unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the cause of persecution or a well-founded fear of ce, religion, nationality, membership in a part or political opinion

Screened by the US Embassy in the Host Country - which has contracts with private organizations to collect information about refugees



Embassy will check the name of refugee in Consular Lookout and Support System [database of people who have been denied visa]



Department of Homeland Security BCIS conducts face-to-face interview and reviews file



When one has passed all interviews and paperwork, they are photographed and fingerprinted by the State Department and possible FBI clearance. Enters within 5 to 6 months of final approval



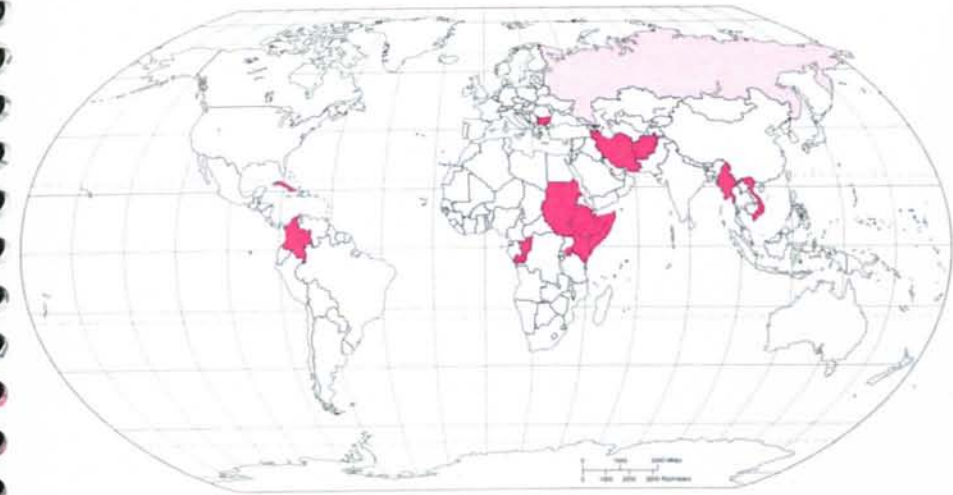
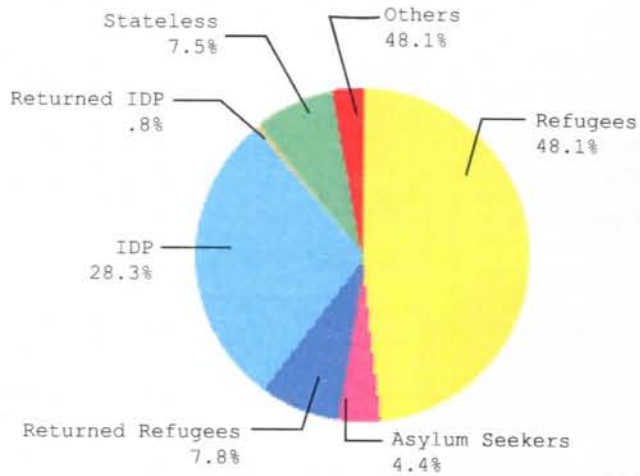
Proceeds to the US. Inspector from Bureau of Customs and Border Protection conducts one more interview and compares with host country US embassy records

Departure Number <b>000000000 00</b>		ADMITTED AS A REFUGEE PURSUANT TO SECTION 207 OF THE INA FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME. IF YOU DEPART THE U.S. YOU WILL NEED PRIOR PERMISSION FROM INS TO RETURN. EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZED. NYC DATE IMM.OFF. <b>JUN - 7 1995 NYC 000</b>
Immigration and Naturalization Service I-94 Department Record		
14. Family Name		
15. First (Given) Name		16. Birth Date (Day/Mo/Yr)
17. Country of Citizenship		

Adjustment to LPR: Both refugees and asylees are eligible to apply for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status after one year of continuous presence in the United States in their respective status of refugee or asylee. Whereas there have been no annual limitation on the number of refugees eligible to adjust to LPR, the 10,000-per-year limit on asylee-status adjusters was eliminated in 2005 as a result of the REAL ID Act.

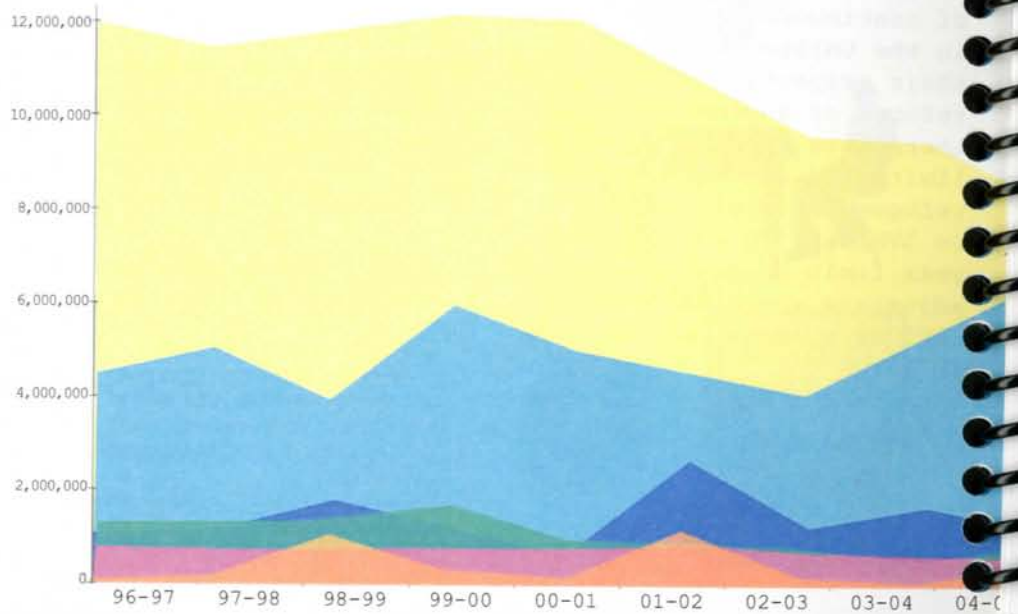
**Annual limits on admission:** While there is an annual limit on the number of refugee admissions, no such cap exists on the number of asylum applications or approvals for asylum.

### Total Population of Concern [by Category]

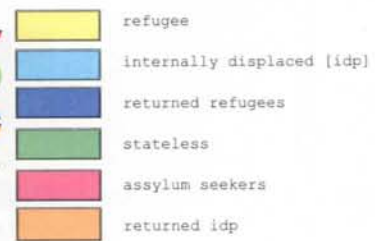


MAJOR ORIGINS OF REFUGEES [2005]

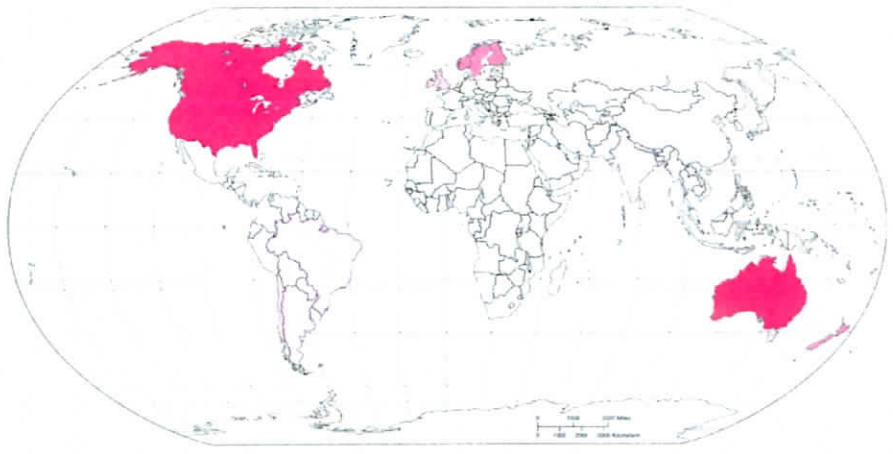
### Refugee/Asylum/IDP in numbers



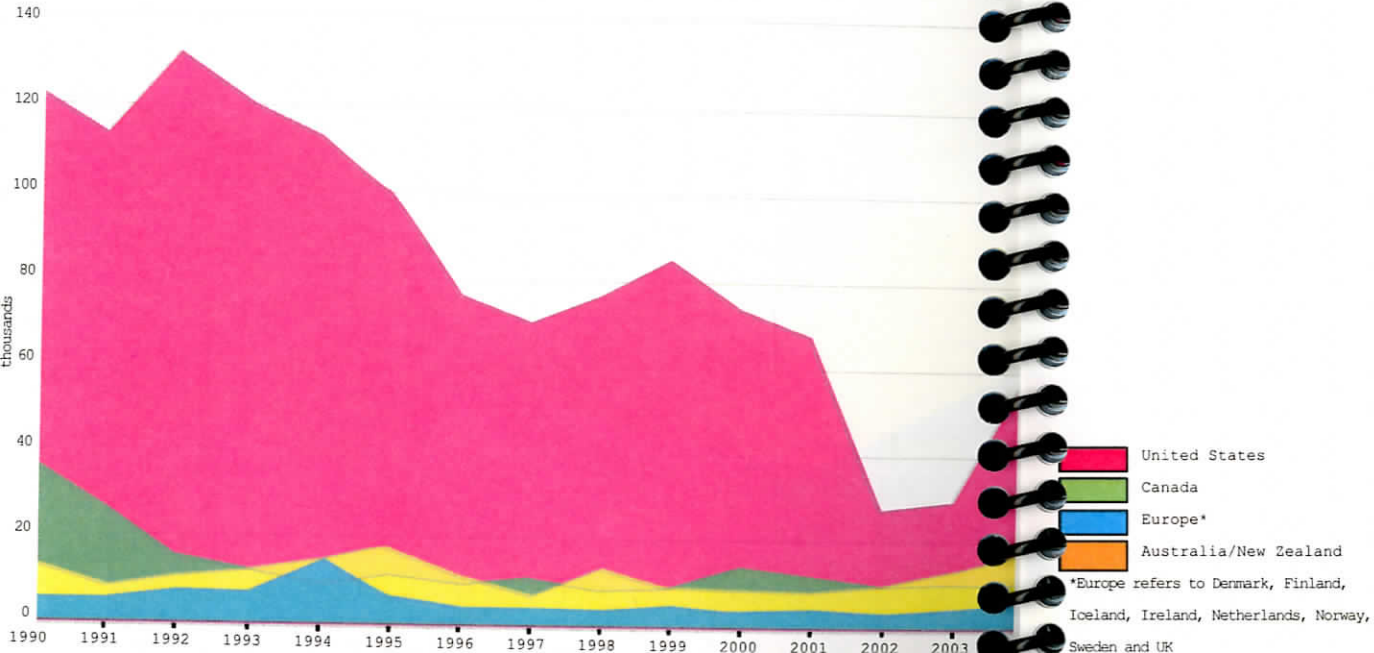
- 1,908,100 \_ Afghanistan
- 693,300 \_ Sudan
- 438,700 \_ Burundi
- 430,600 \_ Dem. Rep of the Congo
- 394,800 \_ Somalia
- 358,200 \_ Vietnam
- 349,700 \_ Palestinians
- 262,100 \_ Iraq
- 233,700 \_ Azerbaijan
- 231,100 \_ Liberia



"Through resettlement, refugees gain legal protection - residency and often eventually citizenship - from governments who agree, on a case-by-case basis, to open up their communities to new members. The task of receiving and settling refugees requires that UNHCR works closely with central and local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and religious and social welfare groups. It is often through the efforts of NGOs that the public in resettlement countries is made aware of the plight of needy refugees." UNHCR website



**Number of Arrivals of Refugees Resettled in Industrialized Countries**



**MAIN COUNTRIES OF RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES [in 2005]**

Country	Total
United States	53,813
Australia	11,654
Canada	10,400
Sweden	1,263
Finland	766
Norway	749
New Zealand	741
Denmark	483
Netherlands	419
United Kingdom	175
Ireland	117
Brazil	76
Chile	46
Argentina	34
Iceland	31
Mexico	29

United States  
 Canada  
 Europe\*  
 Australia/New Zealand  
 \*Europe refers to Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and UK

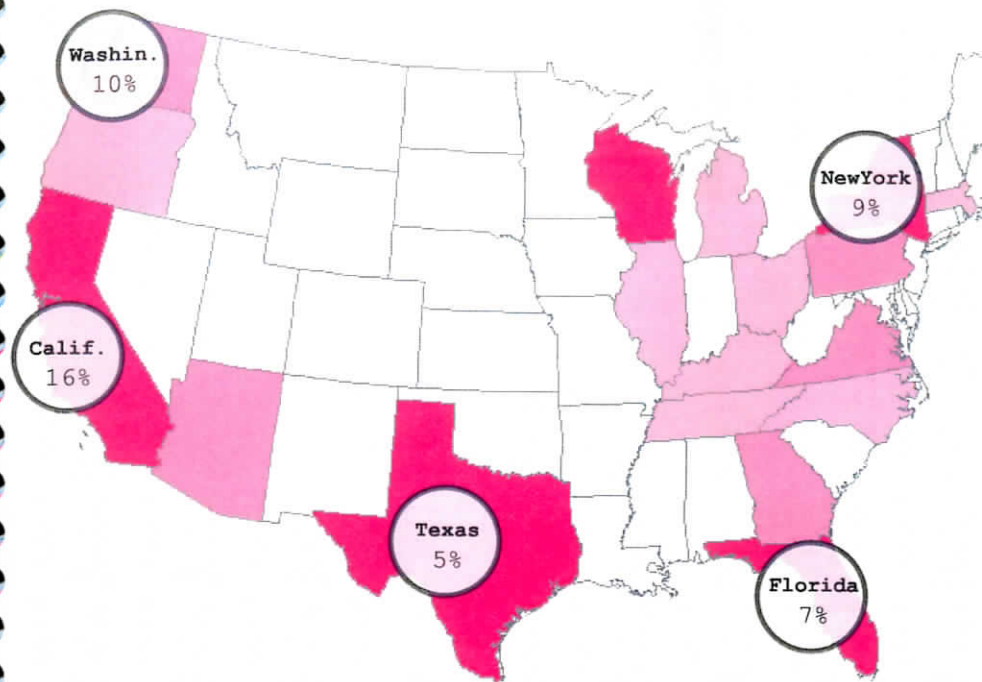
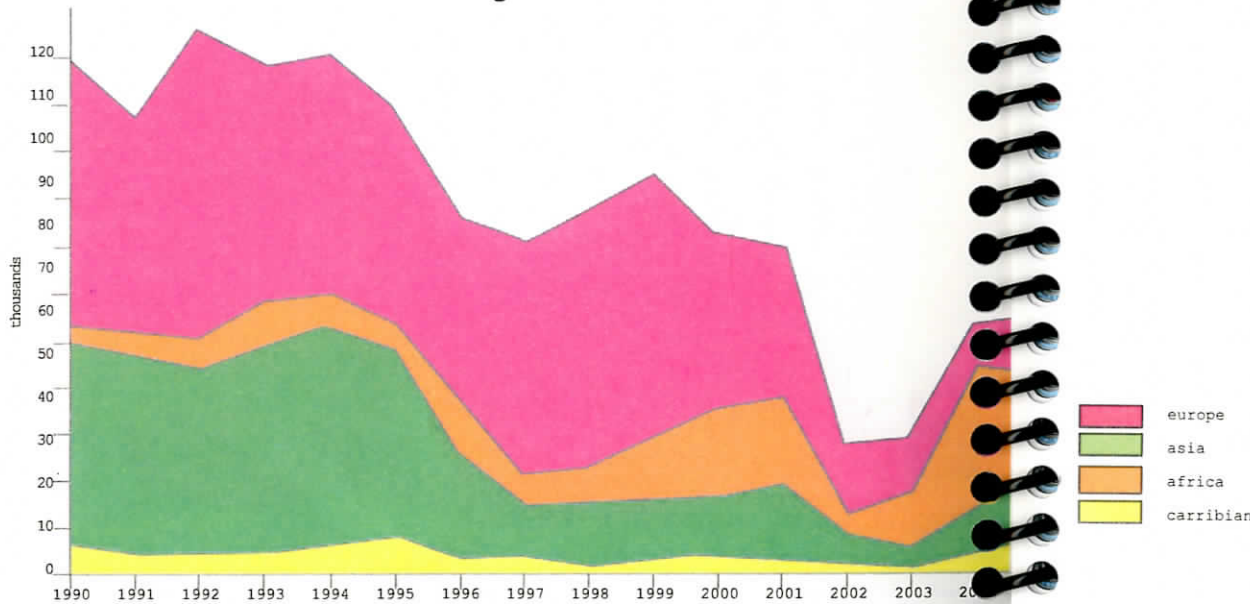
## United States

Admission of refugees to the United States and their resettlement here are authorized by the Immigration and Nationality Act, amended by the Refugee Act of 1980. The act had two basic purposes:

1. provide a uniform procedure for refugee admissions
2. to authorize federal assistance to resettle refugees and promote their self-sufficiency.

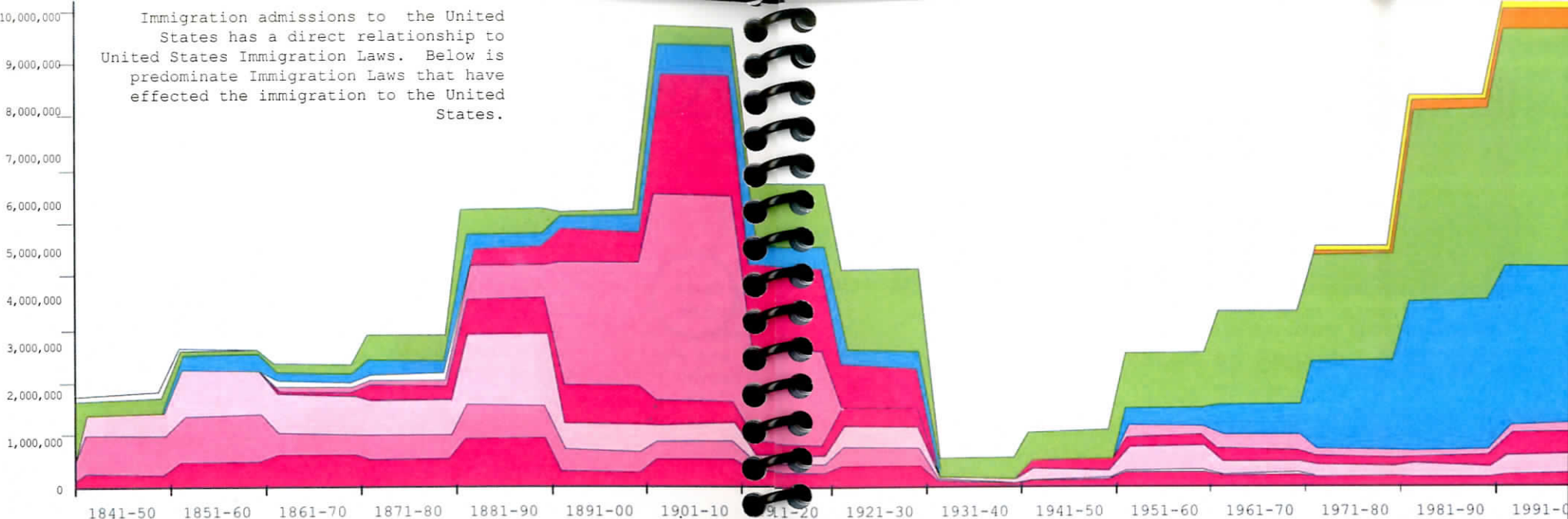
Refugees are processed and admitted to the United States from abroad. The State Department handles overseas processing of refugees and US Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security makes final determinations about eligibility for admissions. Separate provision is made in the INA for the granting of asylum on a case-by-case basis to asylee who are physically present in the United States or at a land border or port of entry and who meet the definition of a refugee.

**Refugee Admissions to US based on Region**



United States received 73,850 refugees in 2004, representing the 4th largest resettlement host country in the world. Of that, New York State represents the 4th largest refugee resettlement state within the United States, following, California, Florida, and Texas. Speculating on migrant border crossing, it is interesting to note that both Texas and Florida have a high percentage of Cuban and Mexican refugees and asylum seekers, where New York State represented a high percentage of refugees and asylum seekers from all over the world.

Immigration admissions to the United States has a direct relationship to United States Immigration Laws. Below is predominate Immigration Laws that have effected the immigration to the United States.



- Europe
- S.America
- Asia
- Africa
- Russia

**1903\_Alien Immigration Act**  
Excluded: idiots, insane, epileptics, paupers - professional beggars, polygamists, anarchists, prostitutes, illiterates  
Rules for entry and inspection of aliens crossing Mexican Border

**1907\_ "Gentlemen's Agreement"**  
Japan agreed to stop issuing passports for those who wanted to emigrate to the US passports were allowed for the territory of Hawaii

**1917\_ Immigration Act of 1917**  
Requiring immigrants must be able to read at least one language

**1920\_ Temporary Quota Act**  
limits immigrations by nation of origin

**1921\_ Emergency Quota Act**  
set national quotas on immigration based on the number of foreign-born residents of each nationality who were living in the United States as of the 1910 census.

**1924\_ Immigration Act of 1924**  
Quota based on the ratio of 150,000 immigrants to inhabitants in US - minimum quota of 100 for each national - Asians Bared

**1924\_ First Border Patrol**

**1932\_Great Depression**  
Immigration to US shuts down

**1940\_Alien Registration**  
Required all aliens within the US to register with the Government and receive "alien registration receipt card" [now green card]

**1943\_Chinese Exclusion Act repealed**

**1945\_War Brides Act**  
Allows foreign-born wives of US citizens who had served in the US army forces to immigrate

**1946-1951\_ United Nations creates International Refugee Organization**

**1948\_Displaced Persons Act**  
First Refugee Law Establishes the admission of European [Holocaust survivors and immigrants for the Soviet Union annexed] refugees to America

**1950\_International Security Act**  
barred admission to any foreigner who is a communist "or who endanger the welfare or safety of the United States"

**1951\_UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees**  
The definition of a refugee at this time was an individual with either a "Nansen" passport or a "Certificate of Eligibility" issued by the International Refugee Organization.

**1952\_ Immigration & Nationality Act**  
Restrictions against those who supported communism, anarchy Kept the national origin quota system - highly anti-Asian

**1953\_Refugee Relief Act**  
extends refugee status to non Europeans

**1954\_Operation Wetback**  
forces the return of thousands of illegal aliens to mexico

**1965\_ Immigration & Nationality Act Amendment**  
Abolished the racially bias act of 1952 or national-origin quotas - propriety on family reunification

**1980\_Refugee Act of 1980**  
Established policies for refugees redefining "refugee" according to United Nations norms

**1986\_Immigration Reform and Control Act [IRCA]**  
Employer sanctions against companies that "knowingly" hired illegal aliens. Regulations on marriage fraud

**1990\_ Immigration Act [IMMACT]**  
Established annual limit for certain categories of immigrants and increased visas by 40 percent

**1995\_Wet feet, dry feet policy**  
Anyone who fled Cuba and got into US would be allowed to pursue residency a year later

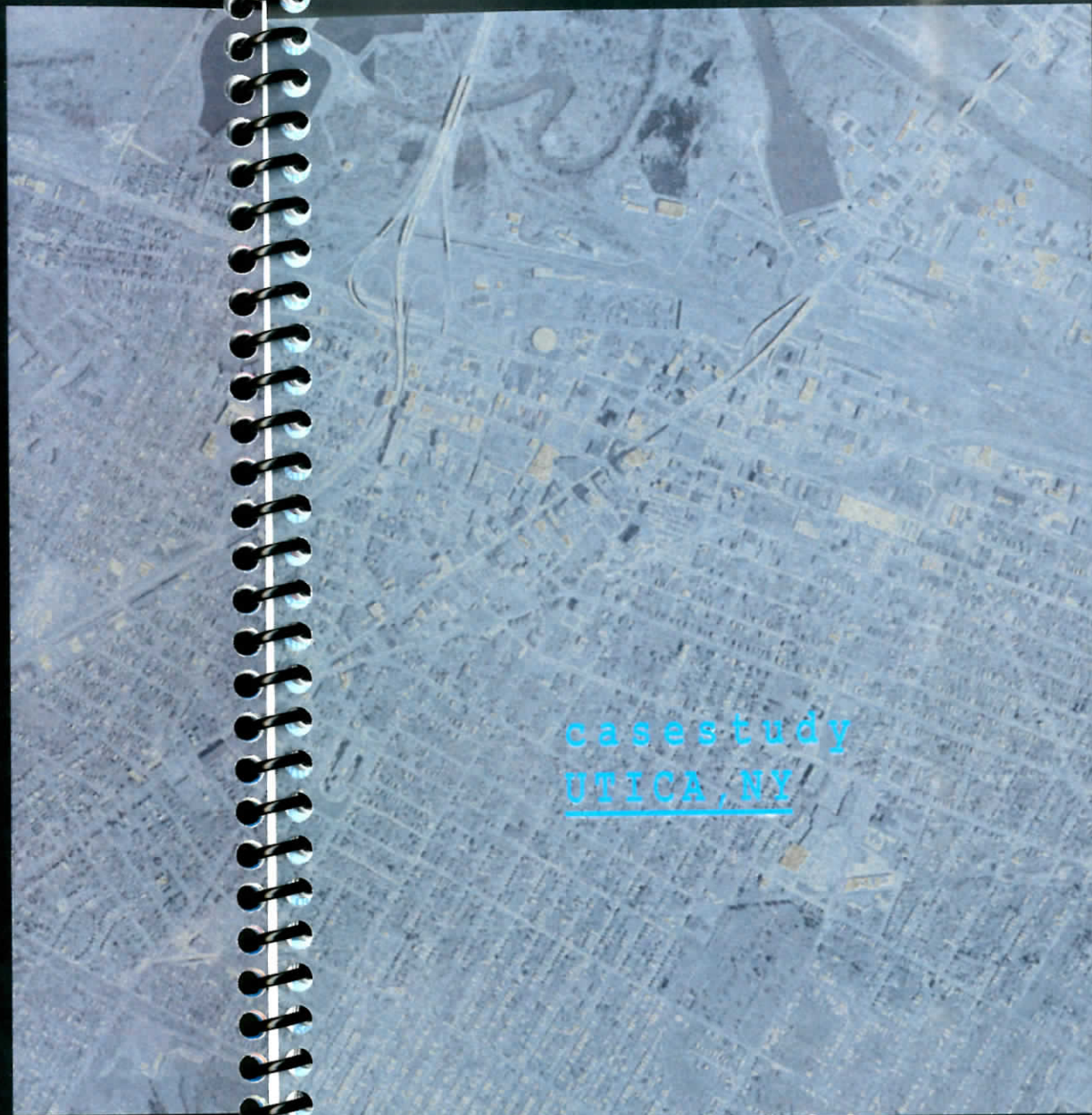
**1996\_ Illegal Immigration Reform**  
increased the categories of criminal activity for immigrants to be deported and impose mandatory detention for criminal activity. Also, applicant must apply for asylum within one year of entry

**2003\_USCIS 200**  
US immigration naturalization service becomes part of the Department of Homeland Security  
US Citizenship & US immigration Services departments handle immigratic services/benefits, citizenship, permanent residence, asylum and refugee status



Forced migration takes place under specific circumstances and to understand the experiences of displacement of each refugee moment, it must be treated individually. The migration situation is activated by an increasingly wide range of events. For centuries migration has been shaped by the demands of capitalism. America for this reason, has been represented as a place of freedom, refuge.

The following is a case study on the refugee resettlement in Utica, NY. Utica was chosen for its proximity to Syracuse and its similar urban post-industrial city path. Utica is also the 4th largest refugee dense city in United States and is very successful with resettlement. The outcome of this analysis is to see what urban strategies work that could be applied to Syracuse, Ny refugee resettlement.







# The Town That Loves Refugees

Situated within the region of Mohawk Valley, Utica is the 4th density refugee city in the United States. The availability of transportation system has a great influenced the development of the area. Ideally situated on major railroads and highways. However, like many industrial towns and cities located along the Erie Canal, Utica has experienced a major reduction in manufacturing activity in the past several decades and is in serious financial problems. Utica is experiencing severe suburban sprawl, where the depopulation, deindustrialization and urban sprawl to the suburbs has created rapid population loss and economic struggles for the city.

A post-industrial city, Utica has begun to revive itself with the introduction of new refugee population.

Utica's population

Reporters as far away as Germany want to know what's going on in Utica. Aren't immigrants, especially refugees, supposed to be a drag on the economy?

— Forbes Magazine, Aug. 9, 1999

Hanna — who left Utica for 10 years — returned and was elected mayor in 1995. He vowed to restore the city's history.



## Looking to Prosper as a Melting Pot

### Utica, Long in Decline, Welcomes an Influx of Refugees

"Move? Why?" Ruznic followed. "I stay here!"

### Rebuilding East Utica

It seems simple, but the roots of change in Utica began long ago and far away.

After World War II, the United Nations passed a universal declaration of human rights.

In 1948, America began accepting refugees from troubled places around the globe, focusing during the Cold War on those fleeing communism. In 1966, the Cubans came. In 1977, the tide of Indochinese refugees began. In the late 1980s, the Reagan and Bush administrations accepted the highest numbers of refugees in history. And in the mid-1990s, when the former Yugoslavia exploded into genocide, hundreds of thousands of Bosnians sought safe harbor in America.

About 6,000 eventually came to Utica, helping to offset the loss of population from the closing in 1995 of the nearby Griffiss Air Force Base.

They began to arrive on the



ZINETA KORALIC, OF UTICA, originally from Bosnia, waves to her American flag, given to her by Kathleen Shafer from the Utica High School.

## Bosnians start anew in Utica

The new melting pot

Students from 36 countries. Puerto Ricans attend in the school.

The children speak 38 different languages, including three from Somalia, home to some of the newest refugees: May-May, Miziqua and Kiziqua, a



## 10,000 REFUGEES AND COUNTING

subsidized.

Between 1970 and 1990, the Utica area lost 19,000 manufacturing jobs, according to the census. Since 1980, Utica's population has experienced one of the nation's sharpest rates of decline.

The former Italian enclave of the city's lower East Side has

has replaced the highest population density in the city. Utica has lost 651 in the

one of every six who has since become a citizen. in 36 countries, changes. The in- the streets of cross-cultural weeker Street, billboard a few nameless res- taurant Italian in Asian gro-

Street, recent ar- mar (formerly and Turkey Bosnian cus- Ruznic's Market owner Samir ns, who came ut almost noth- business three

"Ruznic bel- are."

opened in 1932, crowds our Utica's newest e 28 classroom's modern innova- lock and radio. when the

Diocese of Syr- sed the De Sales enrollment stood at

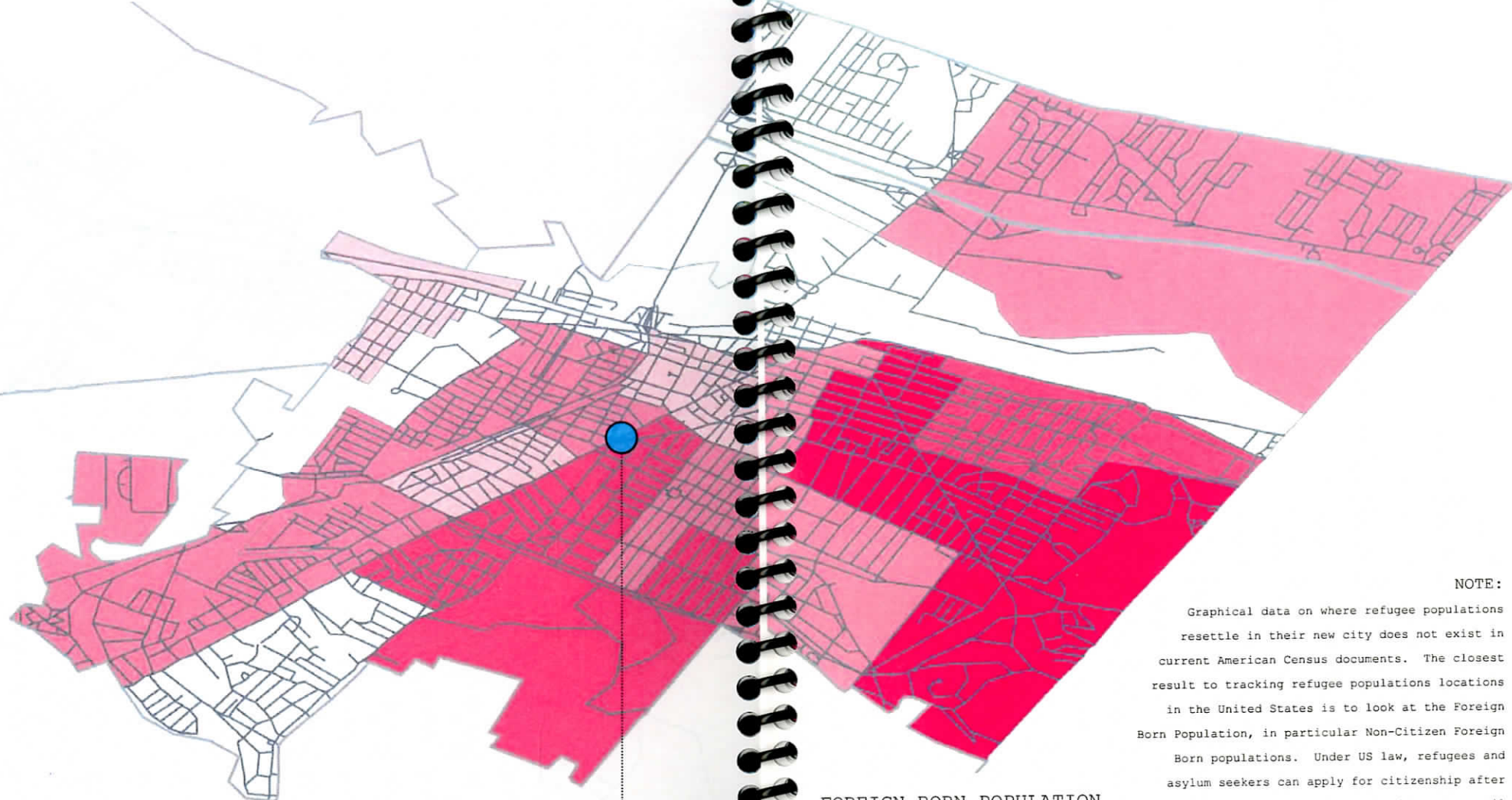
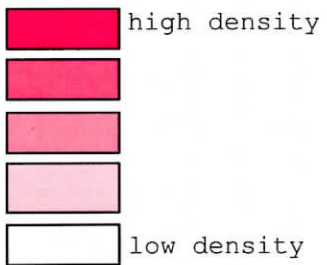
from around the from high ceilings. es of clothing hang on ills above signs with in English. The De

UTICA URBAN RENEWAL

Utica, New York has been highly profiled in the media for its success in refugee resettlement. Much of its success is because of Utica's depopulation from post-industrialization. The new immigrant and refugee population are filling in the void. Hamilton College, in New York, produced an extensive survey on the growing refugee and immigrant population and its impact on the urban economy of Utica.

The main findings were: Refugees are a net cost initially, because the costs are front loaded by the government. However, benefits occur both on the individual level and city level approximately 15 years after resettlement. For a depopulated and postindustrial city such as Utica, the refugee population is indeed an asset to the economy.

What does this mean urbanistically? With the closing of major industrial manufacturing companies in the late 1990's, the new immigrants are helping the small manufacturing industries by working in the production line. With Utica's growing economy, urban renewal of downtown has begun to occur.



FOREIGN BORN POPULATION  
 Utica's refugee and immigrant populations resettle within the center of the city. Typically in low residential areas of the city.

NOTE:  
 Graphical data on where refugee populations resettle in their new city does not exist in current American Census documents. The closest result to tracking refugee populations locations in the United States is to look at the Foreign Born Population, in particular Non-Citizen Foreign Born populations. Under US law, refugees and asylum seekers can apply for citizenship after several years living in the United States, until then, they are registered as "non-citizens". Looking at non-citizen populations can be misleading, because foreign students, foreign laborers with work visa, etc, are also considered "non-citizens". However, after looking at the city of Utica, one can see that population is in that general area

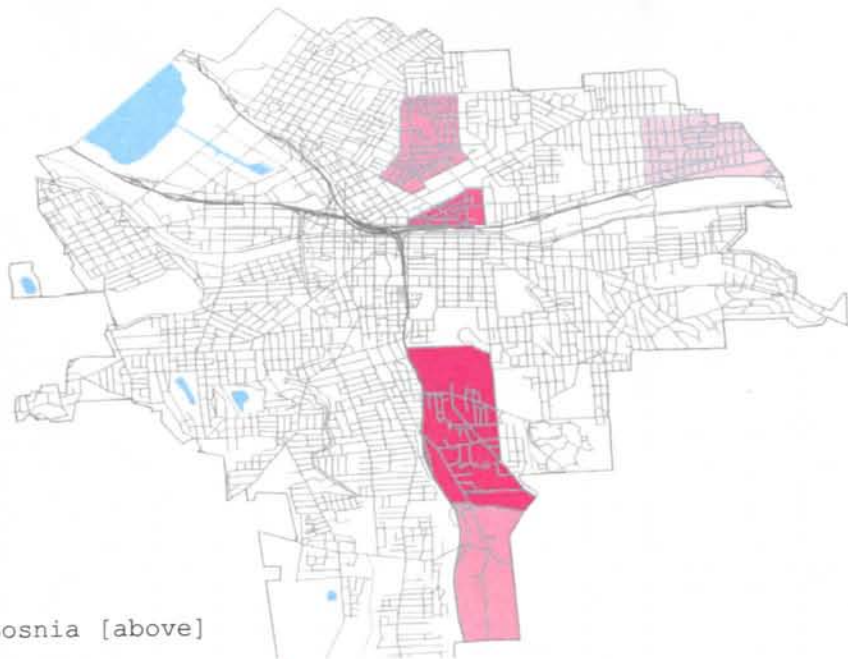


Cuba [above]

Africa [below]

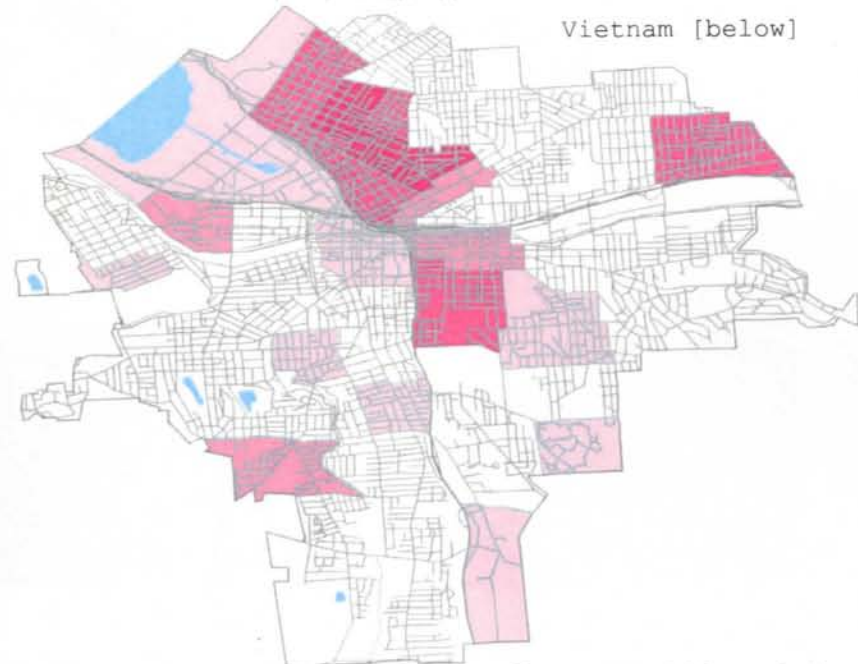


Foreign Born Populations tend to settle around the center of the city. Looking at the individual populations, one can see how urban communities and blocks tend to form small communities. These areas tend to be low income housing.

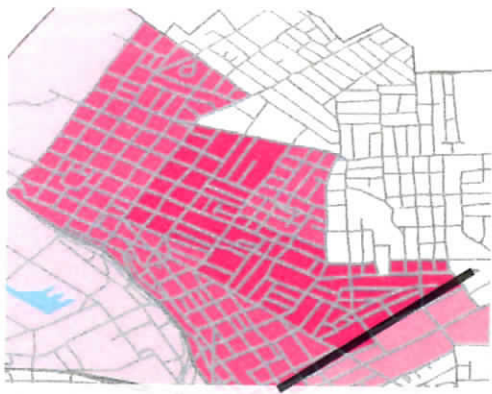


Bosnia [above]

Vietnam [below]

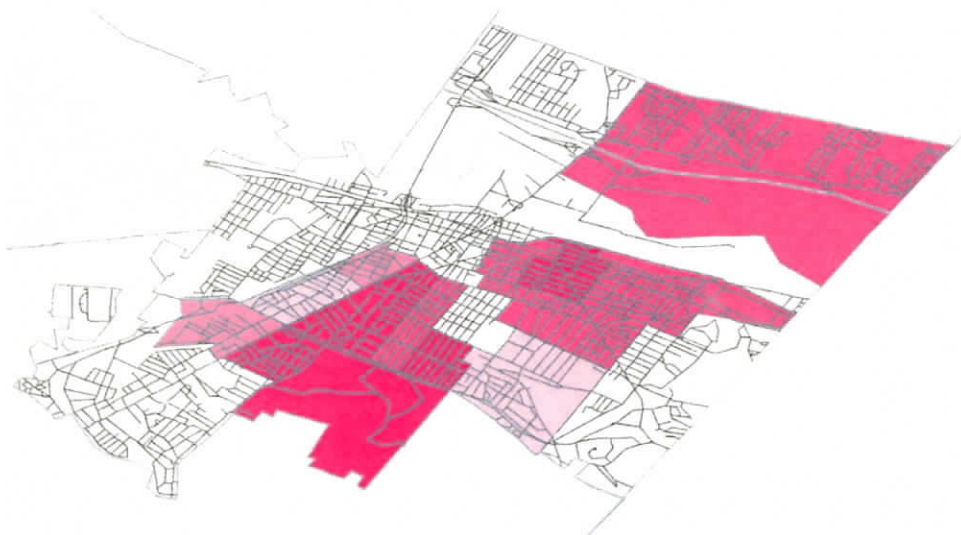


Populations were chosen based on refugee resettlement trends to the United States from UNCHR data.



Bosnia [above]

Vietnam [below]



Populations were chosen based on refugee resettlement trends to the United States from UNCHR data.



Munson-Williams-  
Proctor Arts Institute



"Building bridges between  
the two groups [refugees and  
americans]"

--peter bogelaar

St. Francis De Sales  
Church



The Mohawk Refugee Resettlement Program was founded in 1975 by the clergy of St. Francis De Sales Church. The refugee center is responsible for assisting Utica refugees with the readjustment to American life and culture. They also assist in advising local institutions such as schools, hospitals, and apartment owners in how they can both understand and assist the often overwhelmed newcomers.

The center is located on Utica's main street, Genesee Street. Various programs assist in the success of the refugee program.



Utica Public Library

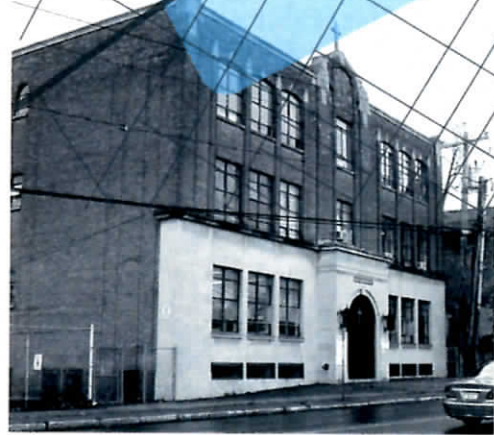
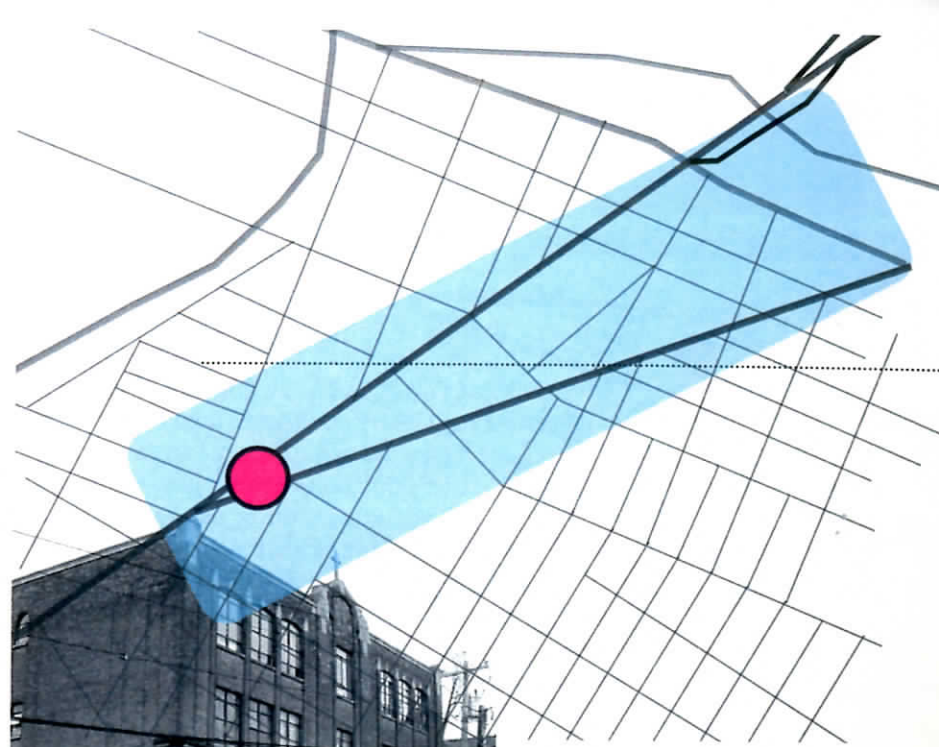
Art/Theater

Library/School

Church

Government

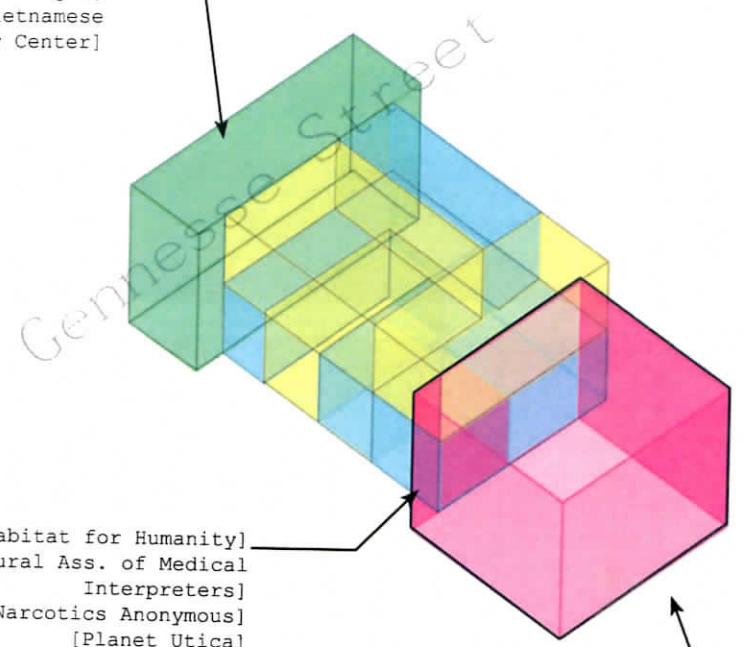
Mohawk Refugee Center



**hyper program**

One of the successes of the Mohwalk Refugee Center it is centrally located on Utica's mainstreet. It is also housed in a multi-programed former Catholic School. The building has 3 entrances on the west, south, and east of the building.

- [Our Kids Klan XL]
- [Bowman Bridges]
- [Vietnamese Community Center]

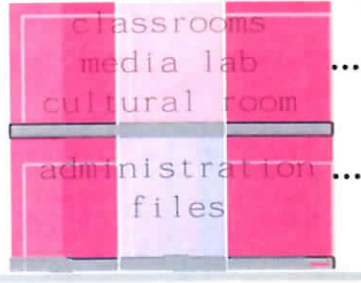


- [Habitat for Humanity]
- [Multicultural Ass. of Medical Interpreters]
- [Narcotics Anonymous]
- [Planet Utica]
- [Utica Boxing Assoc.]
- [WIC Program]

[Mohwalk Valley Refugee Center]

### Section

Sectionally, the building is divided by services on the ground floor, and classroom/media lab on the second floor. Interaction between the happen in the transition zone: the stair. Here events, job posting, and other activities are posted.

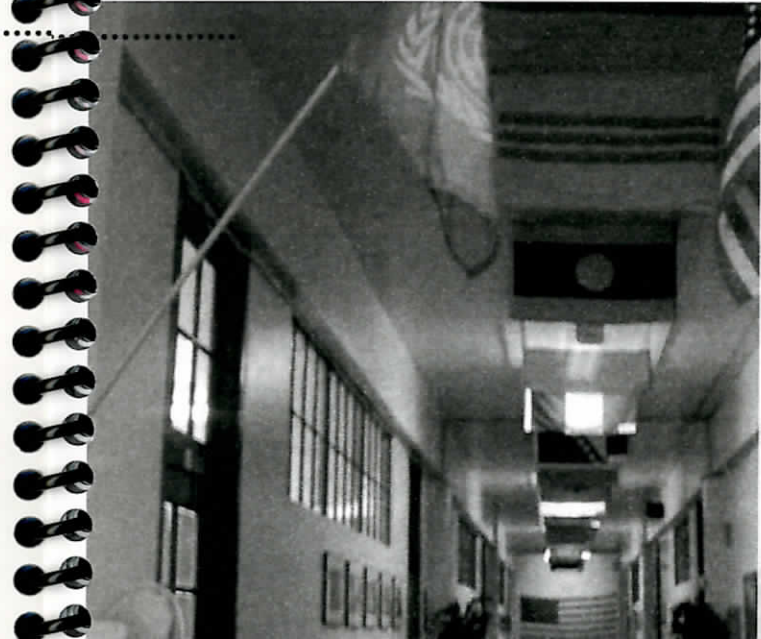
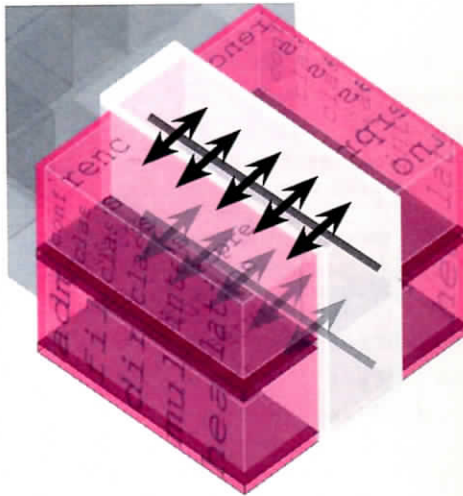


### Community

The Second floor corridor differs from the first floor corridor in that it creates a more communal relationship between students, refugees, teachers. Chairs line the wall, where waiting for class in the corridor becomes a communal event. The walls are also lined with stories and pictures of past and present lives of the refugees representing the changing identities.

### Corridor

The Corridor is used as an organizational strategy for the programs. The ground floors house administration/files/directors' offices. The second floor houses classrooms/media lab/conference rooms. There is a strange relationship between both floors.



### Nationalism

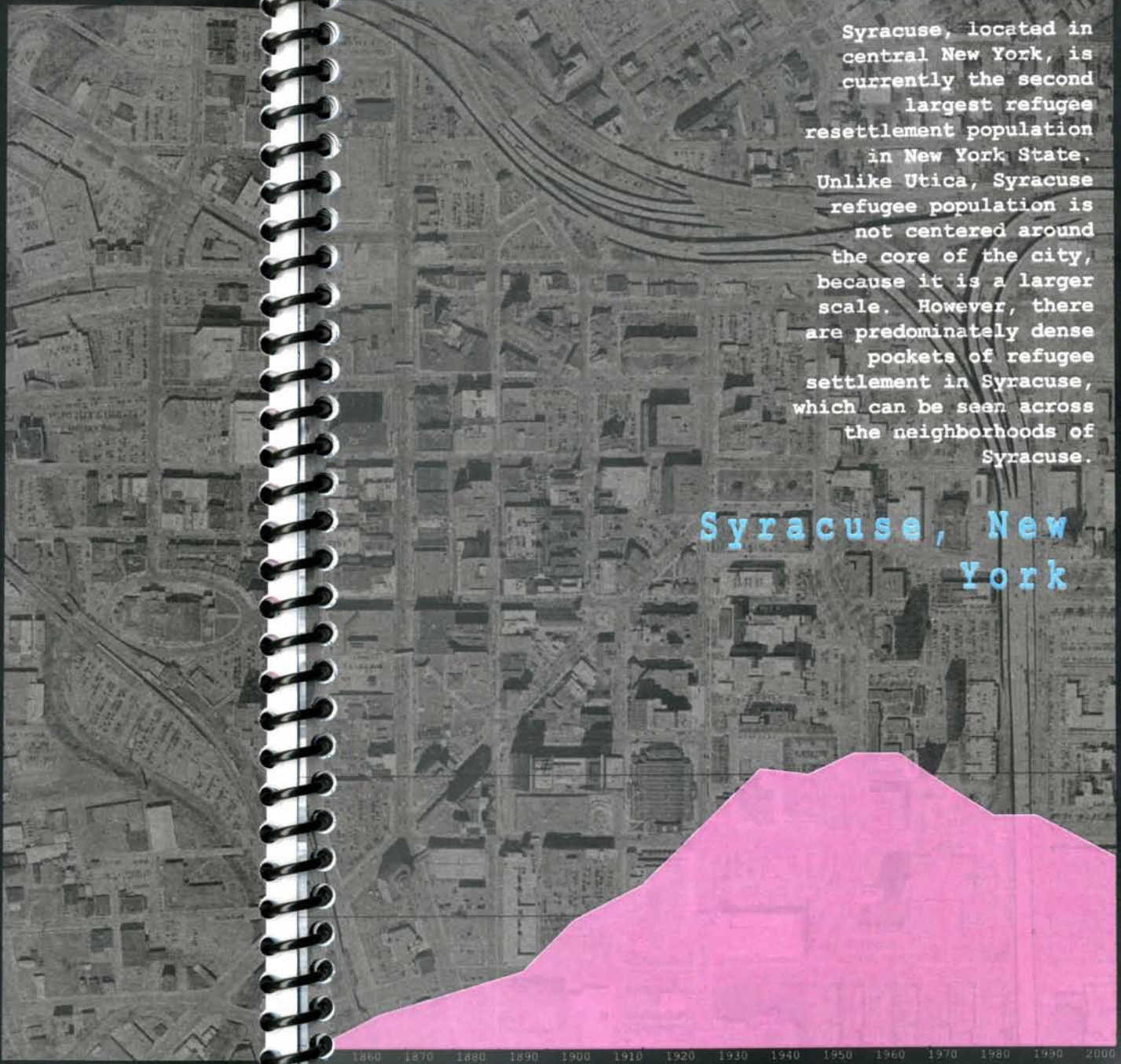
Signs and symbols become an important representation of one's identity.



Through out time, our conception of place is being produced and reexamined by our relationship between urban space and social networks. Often, when we describe place, we contrast ourselves and our identities with somewhere or something that is very different from ourselves. We associate place with familiarity and security with belonging to a location. (DMassey)

Place cannot be defined as one idea or one representation. It is something created by people, both by the individual and the collective. Our sense of place is centrally tied to our identity and our relationship with the city. When we are connected to a place, we have feeling of belonging to a given location.

Identities of place are undefined and unfixed because the social relations out of which they are constructed. By their very nature, identities of places are dynamic and always changing because of the constant flows of people, technology, and the renegotiation of the past. Connection to uniqueness of place -- or more precisely, in establishing authenticity of meaning, memory, histories, and identities as differential function of places.



Syracuse, located in central New York, is currently the second largest refugee resettlement population in New York State. Unlike Utica, Syracuse refugee population is not centered around the core of the city, because it is a larger scale. However, there are predominately dense pockets of refugee settlement in Syracuse, which can be seen across the neighborhoods of Syracuse.

fled war-torn nations for a new life here

Refugee resettlement to Syracuse New York has received much media attention over the past few years on the local level. The left is examples on the media representation of refugee identity.

Returning to Liberia

Refugees repatriated to Liberia receive the following items:

- Kitchen set: one per family
- Blanket: one per person
- Sleeping mat: one per person
- Soap: 2 bars of 250g per person
- Bucket: one per family
- Lantern: one per family
- Empty bag: one per person
- Mosquito net: one per family
- Plastic sheet: one for families (1-3 people)
- Sanitary kit: one piece of fabric, 2 pair underwear, 2 bars of soap

Source: UNHCR's camp bulletin board in Ghana

Coming to Syracuse

Refugees are settled in a furnished apartment and also receive health benefits, food stamps and other financial assistance in the first month.

- Here's a breakdown of what a refugee family of four receives, according to Kip Hargrave, director of Catholic Charities' refugee program:
  - \$400 per adult or child (one-time payment)
  - Bed for each person
  - One dresser per household
  - Kitchen table and four chairs
  - Four dishes, glasses and cups
  - Two chairs or a couch and end tables
  - Lamps
  - Television

For the more than 400 Indochinese refugees living in the Syracuse area, no Christmas ever could equal the opportunity to start a new life in this nation. And to many who know how to sew, it's a chance to see their skills put to use. They are seated on a bench outside Tenth of 31 as they wait for friends to get their cut.

The New Immigrants



AU THON, 17, watches the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" in an English class at the Syracuse School District's 10th grade at Tenth of 31. In January, Thon will enroll in the Tenth of 31 at the Tenth of 31 High School.



Rebecca says that at 49, she is too old to return and see Johnson Sirleaf's new Liberia. She took a chance, crossed the ocean and found her new day in America. She is counting on a higher authority to save Liberia for her grandchildren, should they choose to return.

ing — among 22 candidates — a Harvard-educated economist, former politician and political prisoner as their new president.

In Syracuse, the Dayes were window-shopping at Carmusel Center mall, but still buying clothes at the Salvation Army, as they were taught back at the refugee camp. They paid their \$200 utilities for the second time, paid their \$900 rent and sent \$200 to relatives and friends in the refugee camp.

"God bless you, you bless somebody, too," Rebecca said. Then, on Dec. 15, Kilian placed her, Henry and a handful of others on leave.

Moving forward

"Catching hard times," Rebecca called it. Two weeks after Christmas, Rebecca was still out of work. She started sewing, picking together \$15 dresses for fellow refugees, but remained optimistic that she and her children would return to the factories soon.

"You work towards your faith," she said, "and everything comes to pass."

Last Thursday, Kilian hired Rebecca back. Monday, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became Liberia's new president — the first woman to lead an African country.

"Let us begin anew, moving forward into a future that is filled with hope and promise," Sirleaf, 67, said in her inauguration speech.

Rebecca says that at 49, she is too old to return and see Johnson Sirleaf's new Liberia. She took a chance, crossed the ocean and found her new day in America. She is counting on a higher authority to save Liberia for her grandchildren, should they choose to return.

"When God says peace," she says, "peace will be forever." — Molly Hennessy-Fiske can be reached at 470-2261 or mhennessyfiske@syracuse.com.



MADE TALADO (left), 18, and his aunt, Barbara Malan (second from right), were granted entry to the United States at Syracuse Hancock International Airport after being rescued from Somalia. (For right, see Ben's credit.)

Life very 'strange' here

"Five years I have taken care of my baby and somebody is telling me I don't know what to do?" Patricia says, frowning. "I say, 'Welcome to America.'"

Causgrove said her agency tries to educate refugee parents to watch children at all times or else leave them with a responsible child who won't leave, knows whom to call in case of a fire, poisoning or other emergency.

"In the refugee camps they have more of a looser, communal way of life where maybe kids are more loosely supervised," she said. "... Sometimes we have to let our fatalities know that it's not OK for young children to be left unsupervised in the neighborhood."

Patricia tried switching shifts to stay home with Chris, but fell asleep at work. Although she said she begged for her job, she was fired Dec. 22. She is scheduled to return to court Jan. 25.

"A lot of strange things go on here," she said while stringing beads last month for a traditional belt, her thin fingers steady. "A whole lot of changes."

Rebecca wants her family to

Setting an education

The 5,000 miles between Ghana and Syracuse were most difficult for 4-year-old Christa, 4. Soon after arriving, he started for his friends.

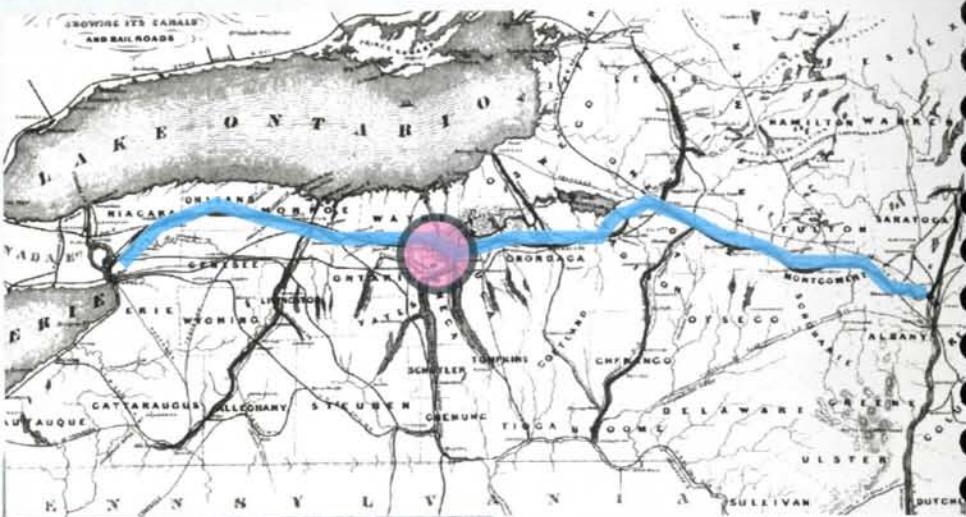
His mother, Patricia, tried to explain. He would not see his friends until he finished high school, she said, and found a job.

"Ah, that will take a long time," Chris said, eyes wide. "I will never go back." Chris walks a few blocks each morning to his first school, Franklin Elementary, past Somali mother and girls in veils. Franklin's 836 students include 100 other refugees from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean.

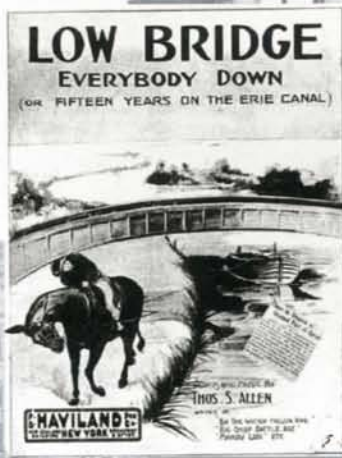
His day is divided between no words, language class and wood's kin. "I know it."

The nice...

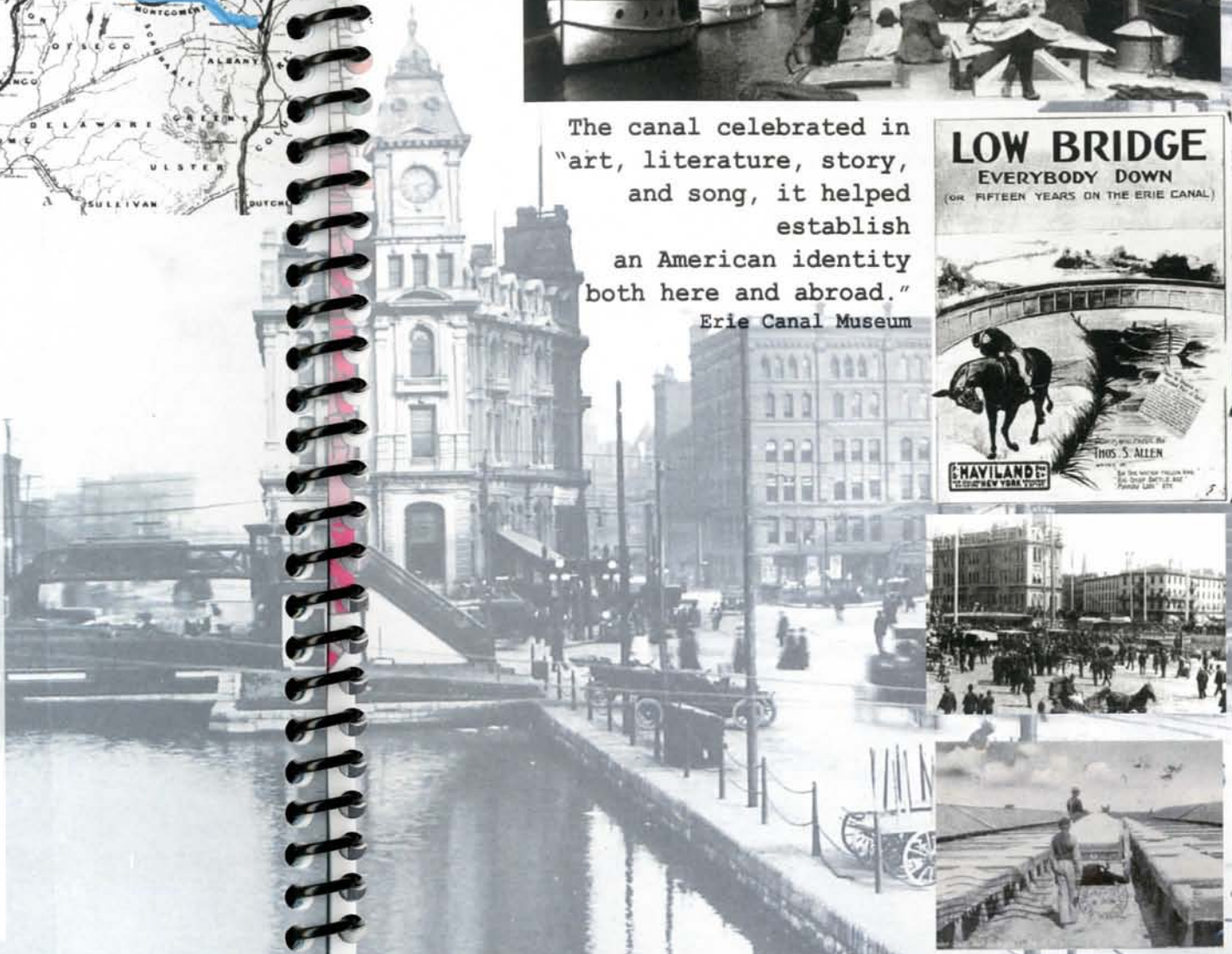
50 Amerasians and Families Immigrating to Syracuse



The canal celebrated in  
 "art, literature, story,  
 and song, it helped  
 establish  
 an American identity  
 both here and abroad."  
 Erie Canal Museum



Currently, Onondaga County is the second largest refugee resettled county in New York State. However, immigration to this area is not a new urban movement. Syracuse has been a place of immigrant resettlement for many diverse groups from all over the world for many decades. Many who have resettled here came for refuge from their existing political, economic and religious problems from their home country, looking to reestablish their lives by the manufacturing and canal industry. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 brought flows of migrants and manufactured goods from the Atlantic to the Great Lakes. The canal was a connective path, networking places, people, and ideas. With the development of the canal, came the development of towns and cities along the canal, where the industrialized industries and the building of the canal provided jobs for the newly arriving immigrants from across the world.

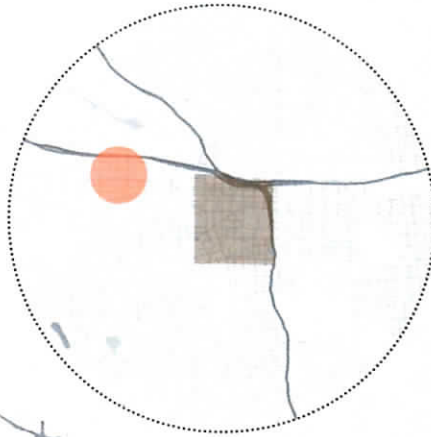


## Syracuse Irish

After the construction of the Erie Canal, the Irish immigrants settled just west of downtown Syracuse, named Tipperary Hill. The naming of the place is an example of the Irish marking place within the city.

The act of marking place can be recognized by the traffic light on the corner of Tompkins Street and Milton Avenue. When Syracuse started to install traffic lights to the city, the Irish insisted that green must be placed above red, arguing that red above green references the British, and "who dare would put red before green". The Irish, pleased with their victory, built a small park, the Tipperary Hill Memorial Park, and erected a statue, the Tipperary Hill Heritage Memorial. The memorial is dedicated to those who, in their opinions, were "brave sons of Ireland" that stood up to City Hall and won.

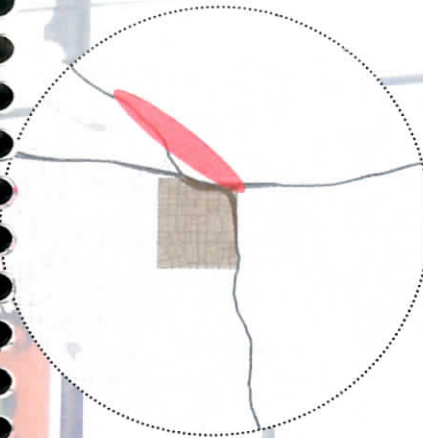
The erection of the monument symbolized Irish identity within Syracuse



## Syracuse Italian

Italian immigrants began coming to America in significant numbers after the unification of Italy in 1870. By then, the Erie Canal had already been built in Syracuse, but Italian day laborers worked on the Bare Canal and were hired to build railroads, streets, and water-works for Central New York. The pattern of Italian settlement in Syracuse at this time reflected the kinds of work they did. They lived near the rail yards, round houses, and track along the north side and soon opened business to serve their needs as well as those of larger community.

Unlike the Irish settlement in Syracuse, the representation of Italian identity has become materialized and constructed by urban renewal. The "true" Italian has become erased, were the capitalization and commodification has homogenized the representation of Syracuse Italian identity. Representation of iconic flags symbolizes and marks the spaces of the "Italian" culture. The erasure of Italian history of Syracuse has occurred to represent the icons of "Little Italies" and "chinatowns" of America - where the process of buying and the glorification of culture erases the true "authentic" Italy settlement.

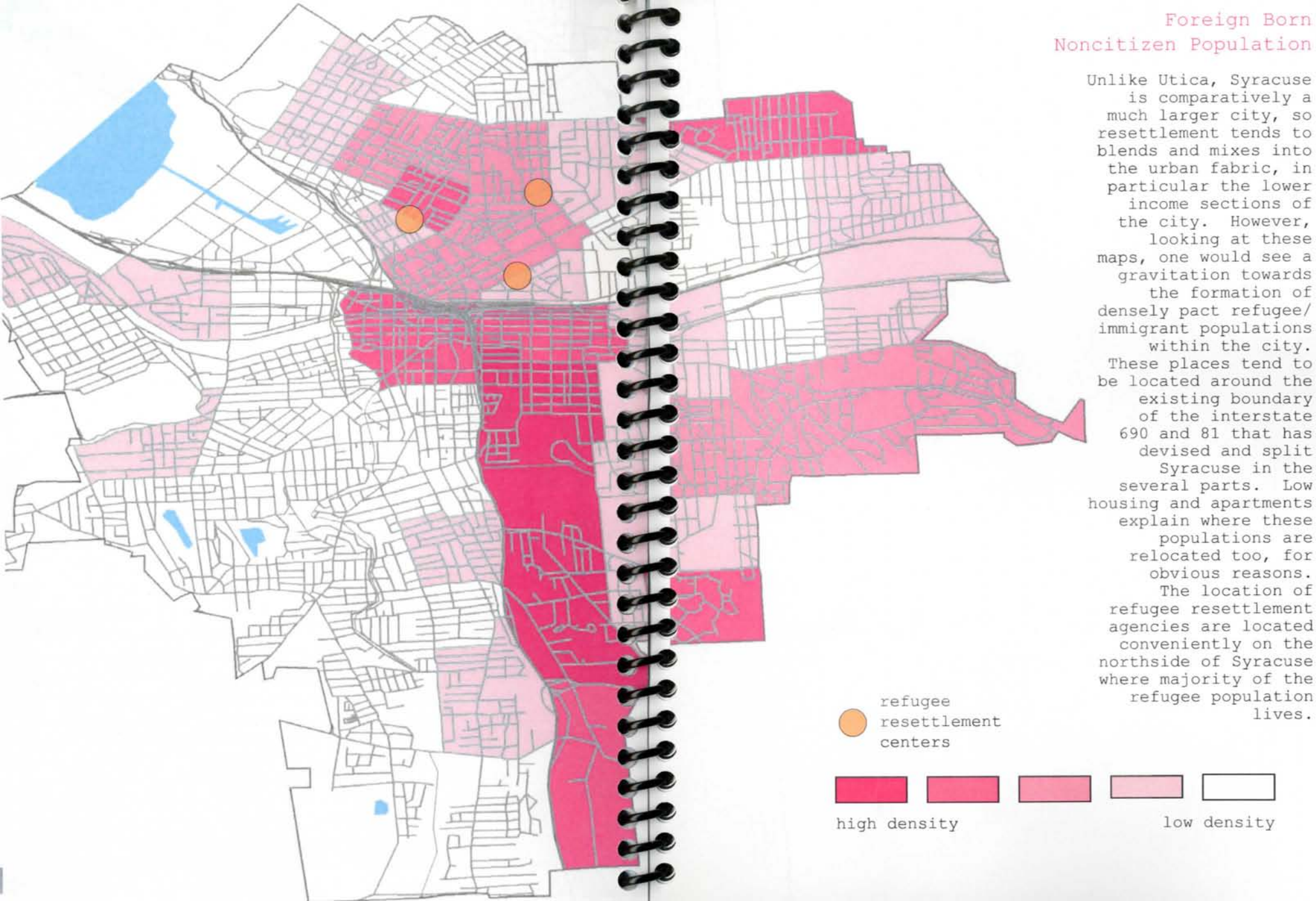


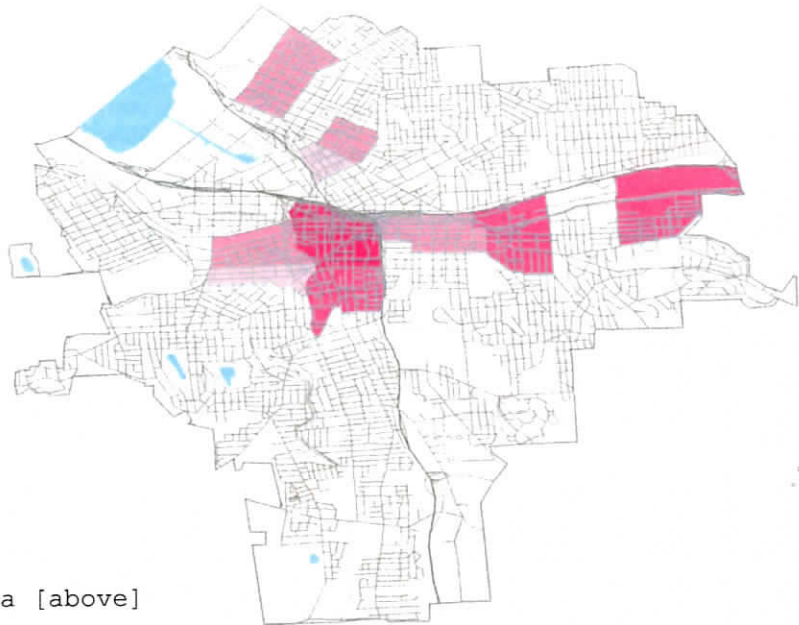
## Foreign Born Noncitizen Population

Unlike Utica, Syracuse is comparatively a much larger city, so resettlement tends to blend and mix into the urban fabric, in particular the lower income sections of the city. However, looking at these maps, one would see a gravitation towards the formation of densely packed refugee/immigrant populations within the city.

These places tend to be located around the existing boundary of the interstate 690 and 81 that has devised and split Syracuse in the several parts. Low housing and apartments explain where these populations are relocated too, for obvious reasons.

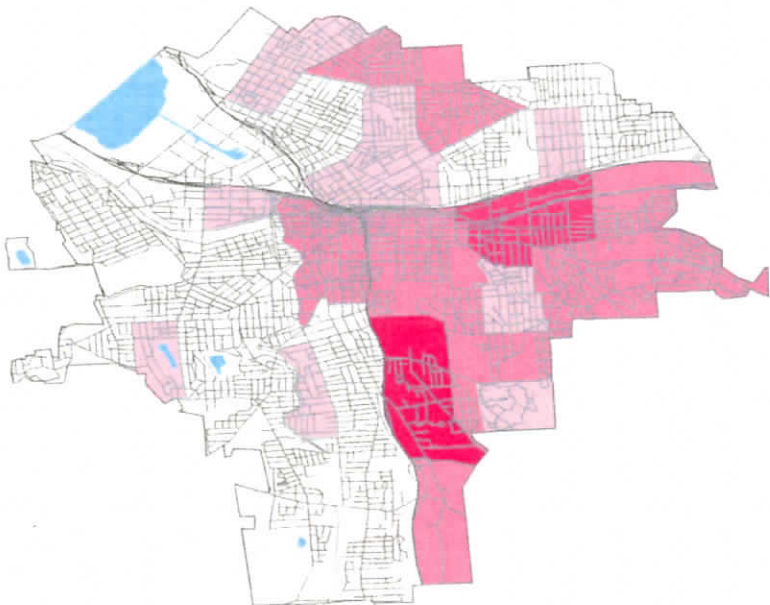
The location of refugee resettlement agencies are located conveniently on the northside of Syracuse where majority of the refugee population lives.





Cuba [above]

Africa [below]



How can one represent and reconnect urban unity while representing the diversity and identity of the individuals in the city?

Urban unity is achieved through diversity and identities of various scales: the city, the built form, the person, the everyday. The advantage of this scheme is its anticipation for future representation, future identities, the flexibility and flux of styles and functions.

## OPERATIONS

### Site

preserving place by  
reconnecting and reconstructing  
past, present, and future

### Program

flux vs. fixed  
cultural identity vs. institutional identity

### Methodology

-stitching together the fragmented urban  
landscape by reconnecting and reaffirming place  
and identity of the city

- To, "mediate impact of universal civilization with  
elements derived indirectly from peculiarities of  
particular place...  
self-consciousness"

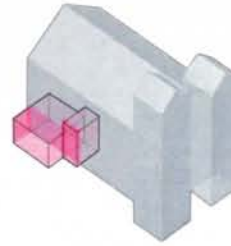
-K.Frampton

What remains invisible ...are the mediating forces of institutional and bureaucratic frameworks that direct such productions of identity, and the extent to which the identity of such institutional forces are themselves in continuous process of (re)articulation.

-Miwon Kwon

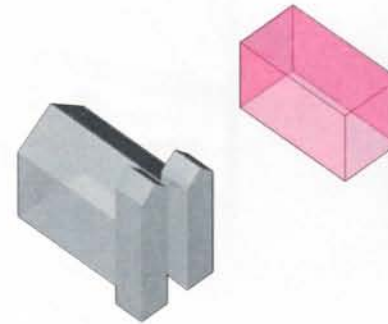
Refugee Relocation centers in Syracuse are literally situated in direct relationship to church building types. This is problematic in the sense that the power structure of the church and state are physically visible within the city. However, the relationship is necessary because of funding for refugee services, and the lack of funding to house a Refugee Resettlement Facility in a free standing structure. The relationship between the church building and refugee services is based upon the programmatic needs and services the institution provides.

Refugees and immigrants cannot survive without a relationship between institutional power: either the church or the state. Hence, the proposal for Refugee Resettlement Facility must recognize the institutional structure since refugee programs would not exist without them. The question is, how does the architecture, the program, reflect upon this relationship.



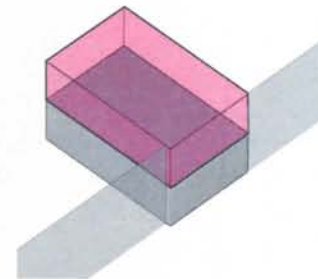
#### Office of Refugee Resettlement

The ORR services are offices for resettlement. It is housed attached to the church, in the old rectory portion.



#### Refugee Family Program

The RFP services are classrooms, offices, day-care, small auditorium, health care, housed in a former catholic school.



#### Catholic Charities

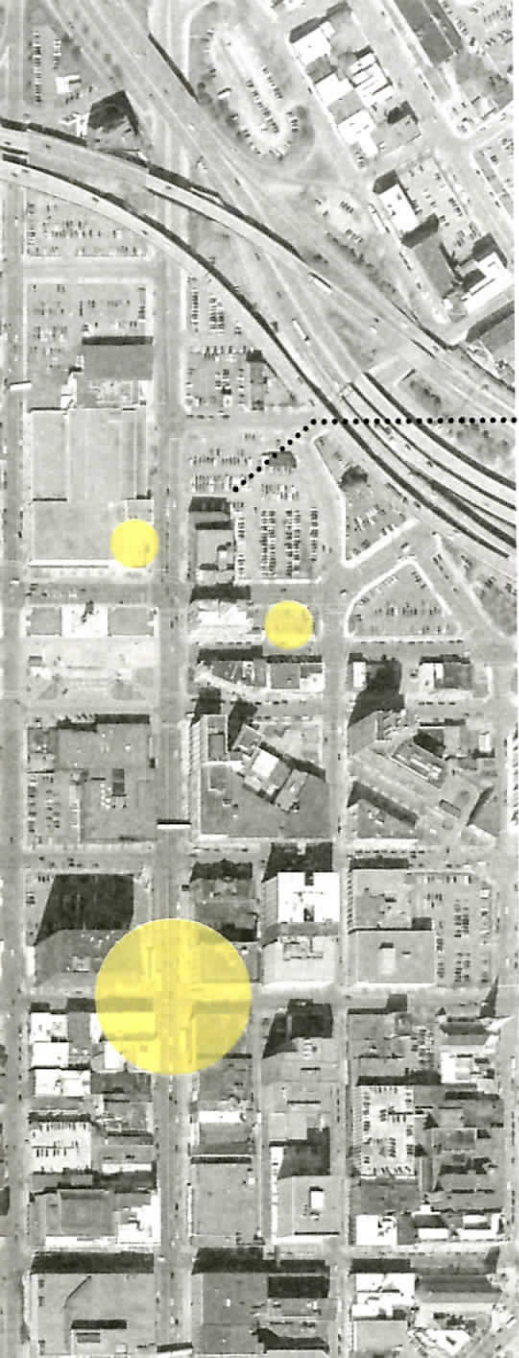
Programmatically, the ORR services are offices for resettlement. It is housed attached to the church, in the old rectory portion.



## Network

Immigration/refugee programs cannot survive without sharing some kind of relationship to other programs and institutions within their new city of resettlement.

Immigration Centers, Public School System, Governmental Facilities and Courts, Churches, and Bus Stations play an important piece to the immigration services.



Refugee Relocation



Schools + Library



Courts



Church



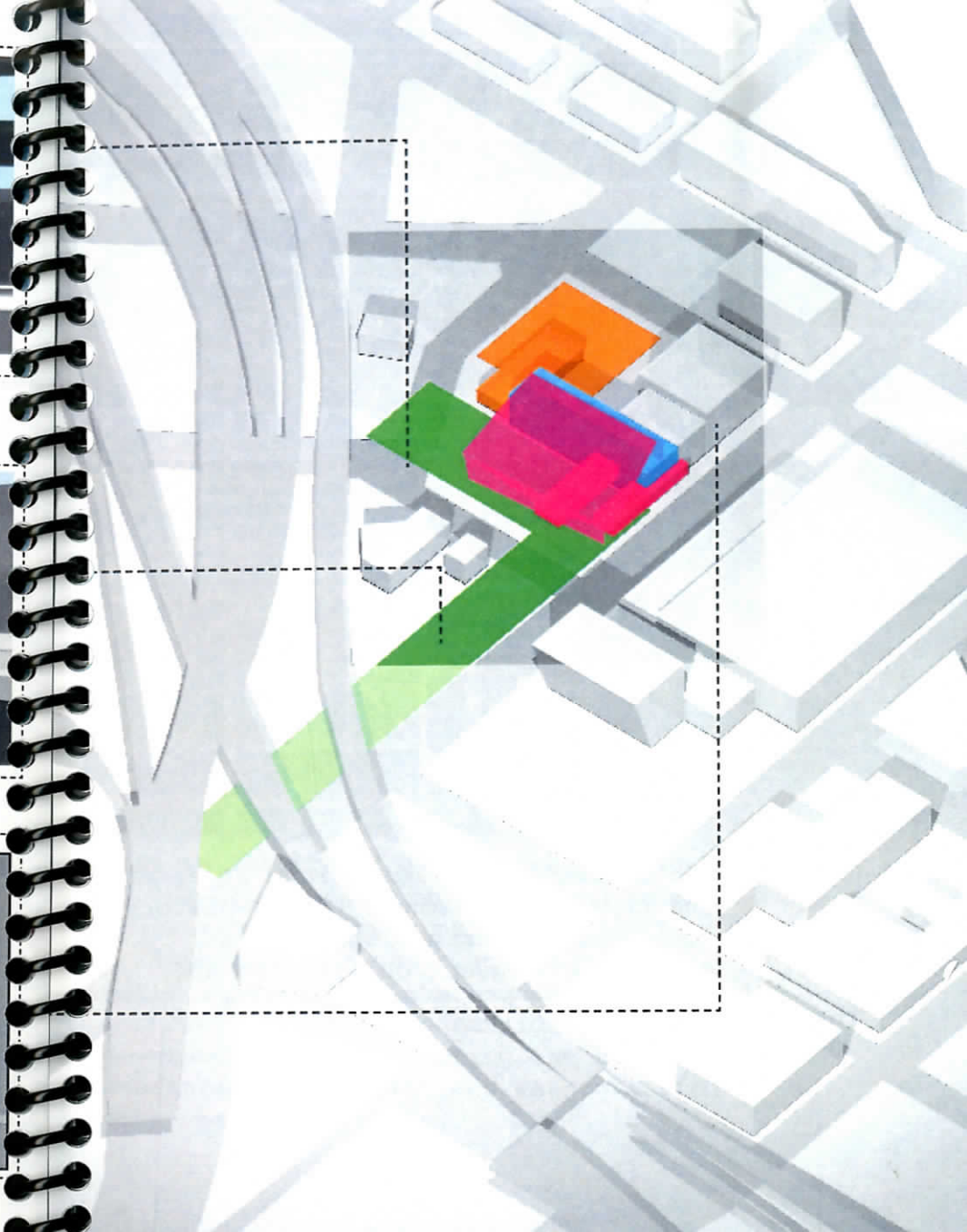
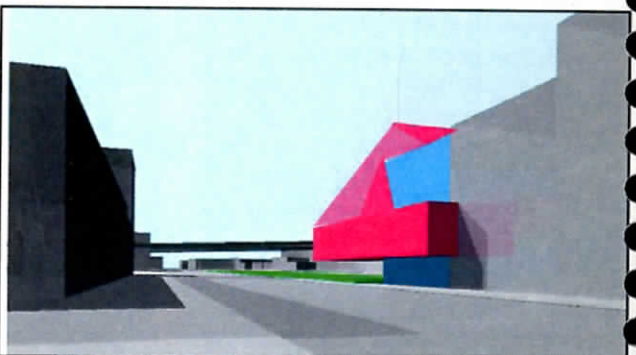
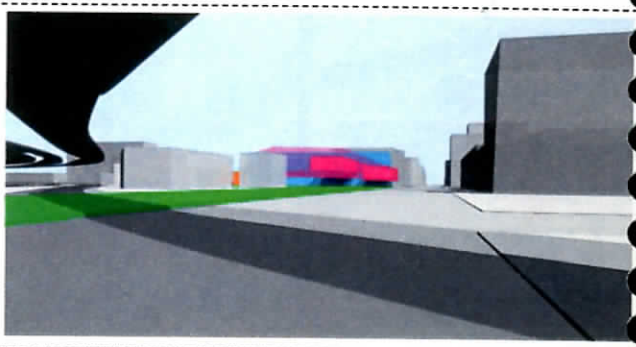
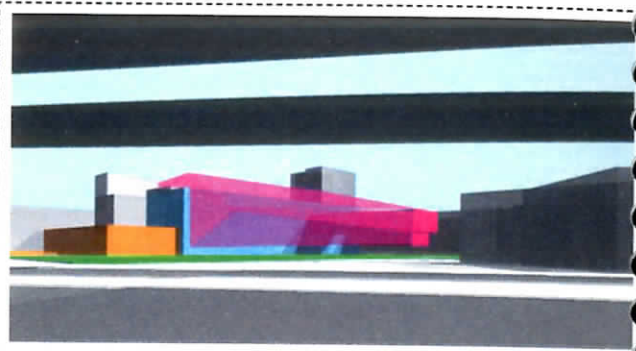
bus station locations

The Refugee Resettlement Facility site is a point within the network of current immigration aid in Syracuse. It connects existing refugee resettlement programs in Syracuse to downtown programs and main transportation point [Salina and Fayette].



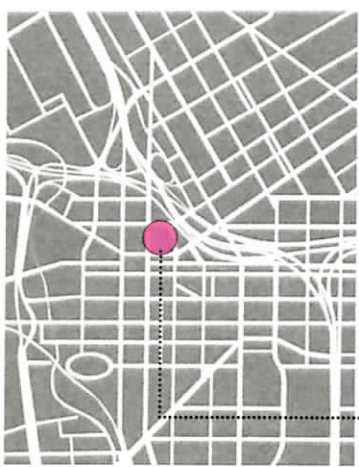
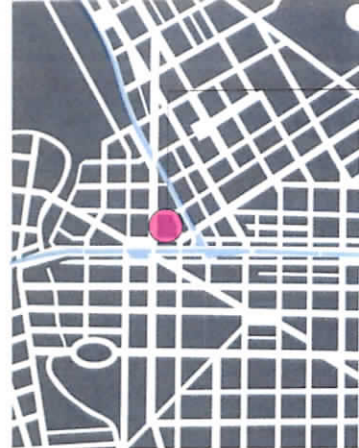
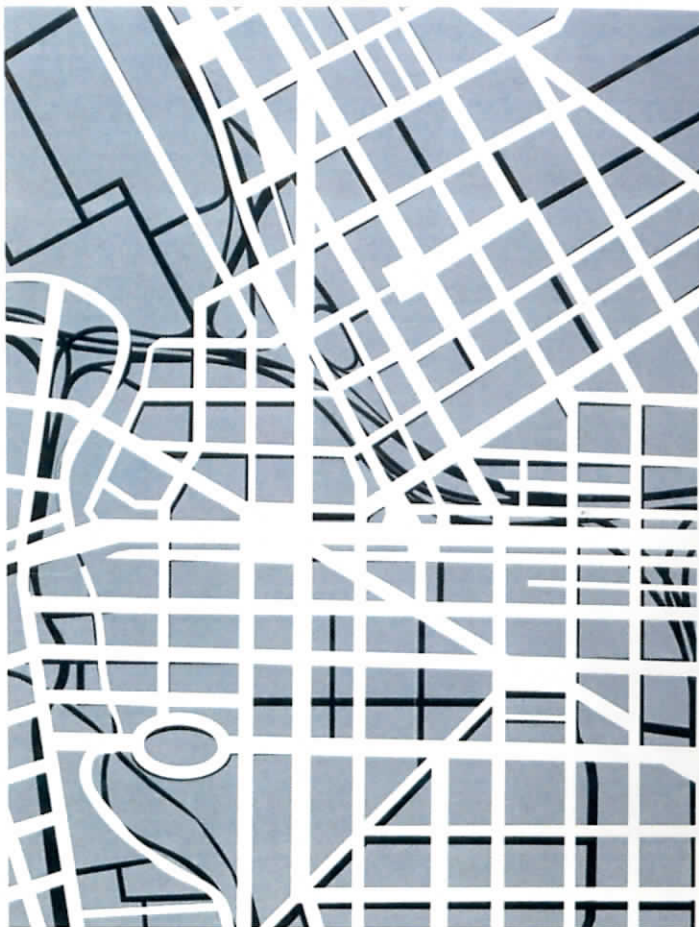
## Gateway

Recognizing the situation of the construction of the boundaries of the interstate, the Refugee Resettlement Facility becomes a gateway between northside and downtown Syracuse. Hence, it becomes a predominate facility within the Syracuse landscape.



Site

preserving place by reconnecting and  
reconstructing downtown syracuse to its historical  
past through density



"In laying the building into site, its  
the capacity to embody the prehistory  
of place, its archeological past,  
and its subsequent cultivation and  
transformation across time..."K.  
Frampton

Site is situated in the former center  
of the Erie Canal transportation route,  
which aided in immigration settlement  
in Syracuse. The construction of the  
major interstate highways created a  
boundary separating northside and  
downtown Syracuse. Siting the Refugee  
Resettlement Facility was was to stitch  
back the former state.

### Edge Boundary

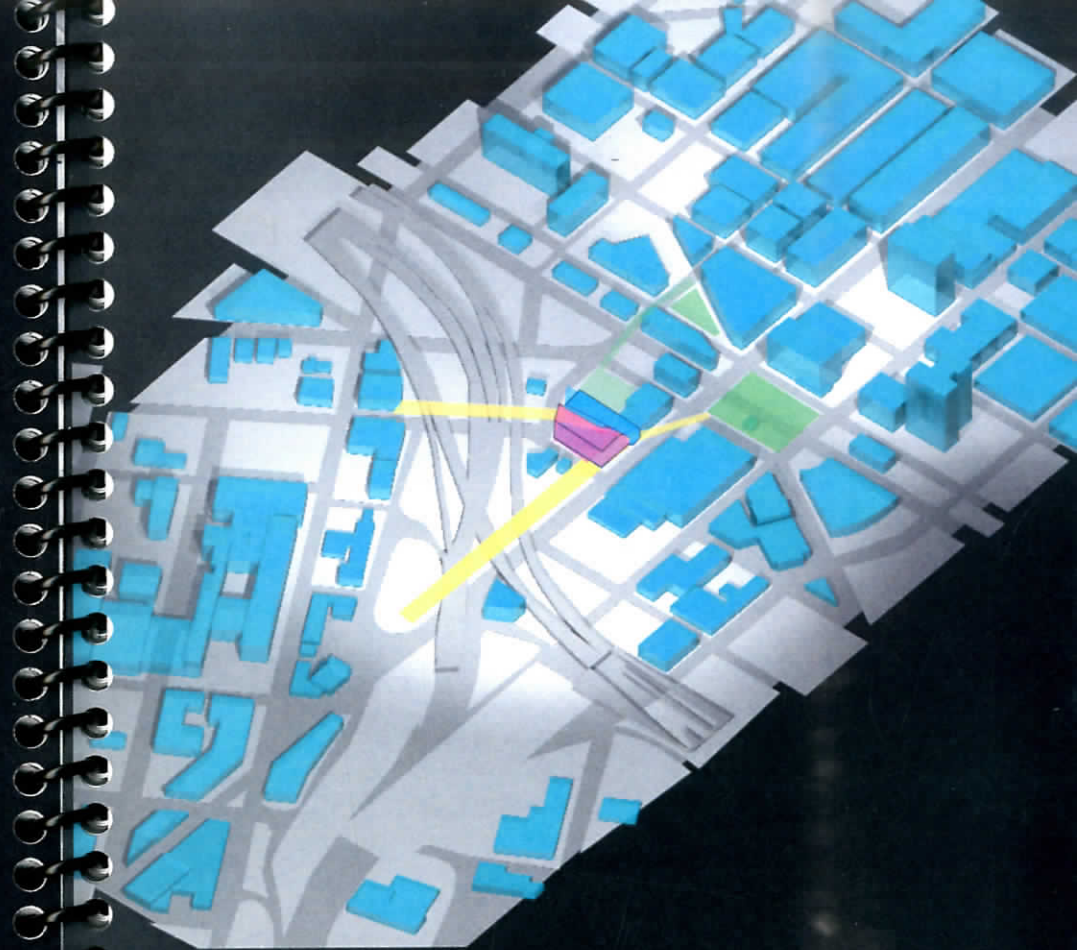
The physical boundary of 81-690 infrastructure literally separates downtown Syracuse to its surrounding communities. Siting the Refugee Relocation Facility at the edge of the boundary gives the significance of a Gateway to downtown. It is the interstitial zone between downtown and northside.

### Path + Connection stitch

Reconnecting pedestrian path to northside and downtown. Major bus stations are situated on three sides of the site. Heavy foot traffic between northside and downtown cross at the intersection of site.

### Surface

The surface of the refugee resettlement facility is like a Palimpsest. [A parchment or other writing surface on which the original text has been effaced or partially erased, and then overwritten by another]. The idea is that over time, representation of identity if various cultures and individuals can be read over time.



**`Inasmuch as abstract space [of modernism and capital] tends towards homogeneity, towards the elimination of existing differences or peculiarities, a new space cannot be born [produced] unless it accentuates differences"**

*-Henri Lefebvre*

**Program:**

A refugee relocation center is an entry port to refugee's new place and identity. It is a center which introduces one to an a new lifestyle, customs, and culture. Upon arrival to their new location, a refugee or asylum seeker is placed on a time schedule designated by the political system of their new country, that they must meet in order to stay in the country and gain citizenship. These include cultural adjustment classes to health checkups to job placement in their new locations. The center acts the heart of their relocation process that houses these ritualistic activities, and hence, architecture can play a vital role in establishing these activities to aid in the relocation process and also a new identity. However, how can the changing and temporal course of refugee identities be layered and filtered architecturally? The Refugee Relocation center is also part of a larger institutional setting, where it must accommodate the small scale needs of the people with the larger scale needs of the institution. What is the role of architecture in relationship to the institution and agencies? How is the city brought into the public and social realm?

The program for the Refugee Resettlement Facility has been divided into two parts:

Fixed Program vs. Flux Program.

Fixed is program that is always needed for the relocation process. Flux program describes the program the changes based upon the refugee population coming to Syracuse.

f i x e d	f l u x
administrator office x3	special collection[library]
staff room	gallery [flex]
employment office	market
health office	theater 500 cap
file storage	restaurant
bathroom	landscape
classroom x6	media lab
media lab	i d e n t i t y
conference	
p l a c e	

The Construction of program is based on the theoretical urban strategies by Stan Allen in Points and Lines.

*"a field condition could be any formal or spatial matrix capable of unifying diverse elements while respecting the identity of each. Field configurations are loosely bound aggregates characterized by porosity and local interconnectivity. Overall shape and extent are highly fluid and less important than the internal relationships of the parts, which determine the behavior of the field"*

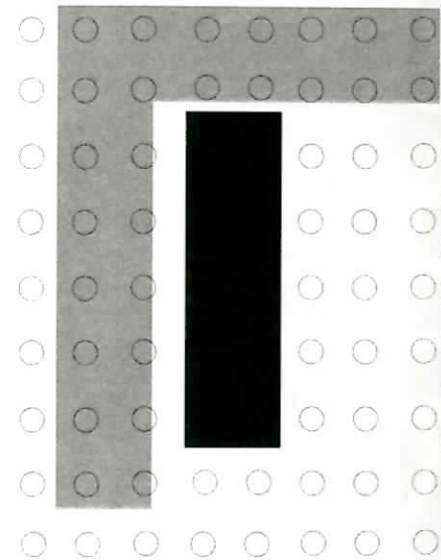
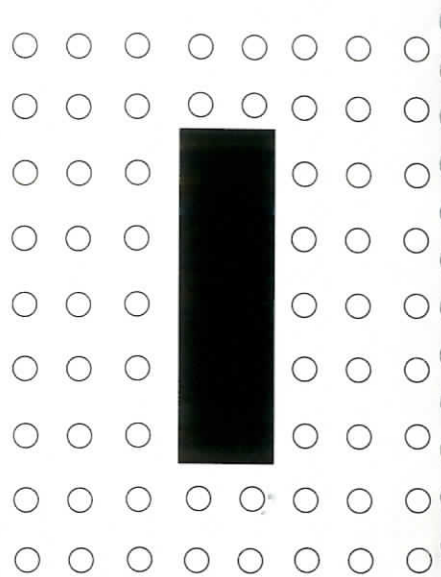
### Flux Program:

Contemporary life can be seen as a network of unanchored flows. Kwon argues in One Place After Another that even Kenneth Frampton's "critical regionalism" seems outdated to the global situation because, "it is predicated on the belief that a particular site/place, with its identity-given or identifying properties, exist always and already prior to whatever new cultural forms might be introduced to it or emerge from it (p164)." Hence, a critical regionalism site-specific understanding of site is reactive, harvesting what is presumed to be there already rather than generating new identities, or new histories. Hence, the Flux program changes, evolves, and adapts based upon the current and future refugee populations of Syracuse. It is not that identities are erased when relocating to Syracuse, but evolve based on relocating to Syracuse. The projected program situations is based upon the incoming New York State arrivals.



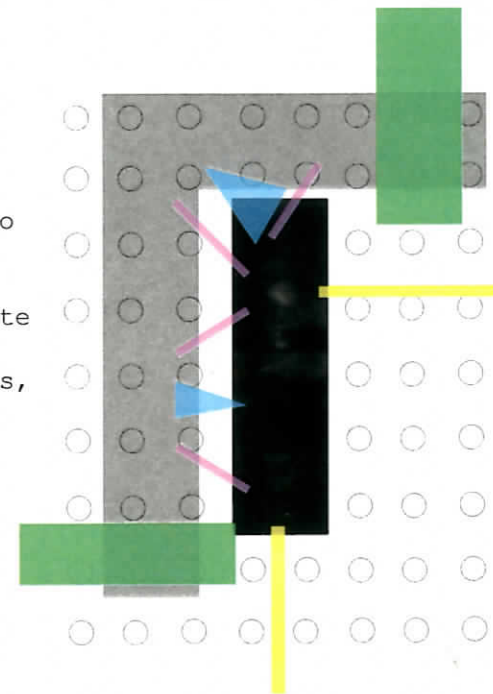
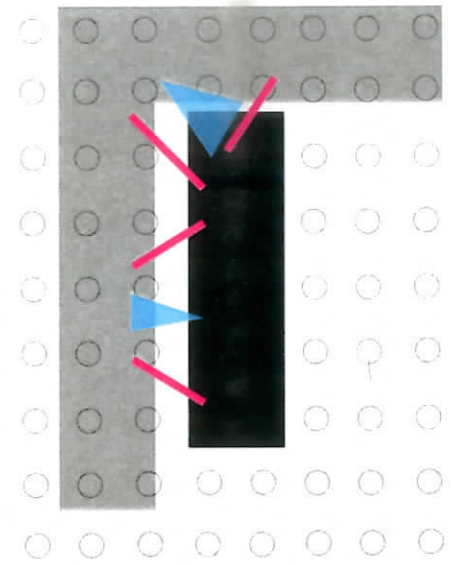
Fixed Program situated within flux program. Flux program is represented in a field where multiple possibilities can occur.

The circles become representation of landscape, the light gray becomes the identity programs, wrapping the fixed program.

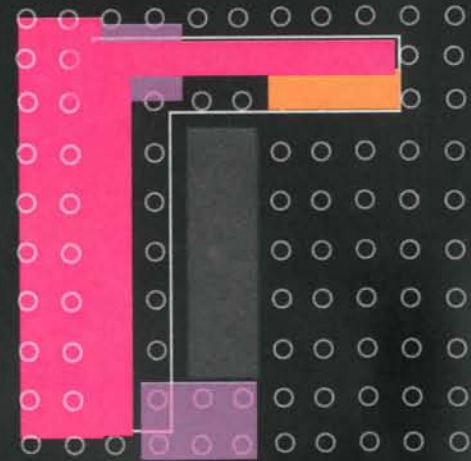
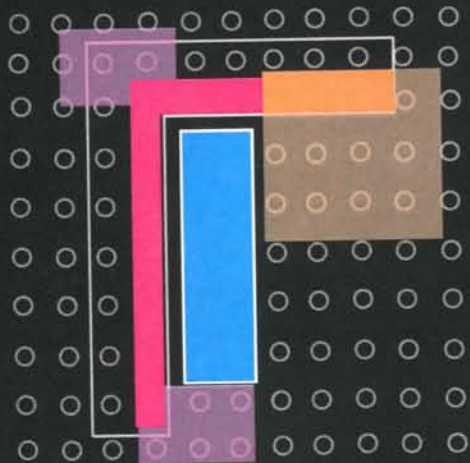
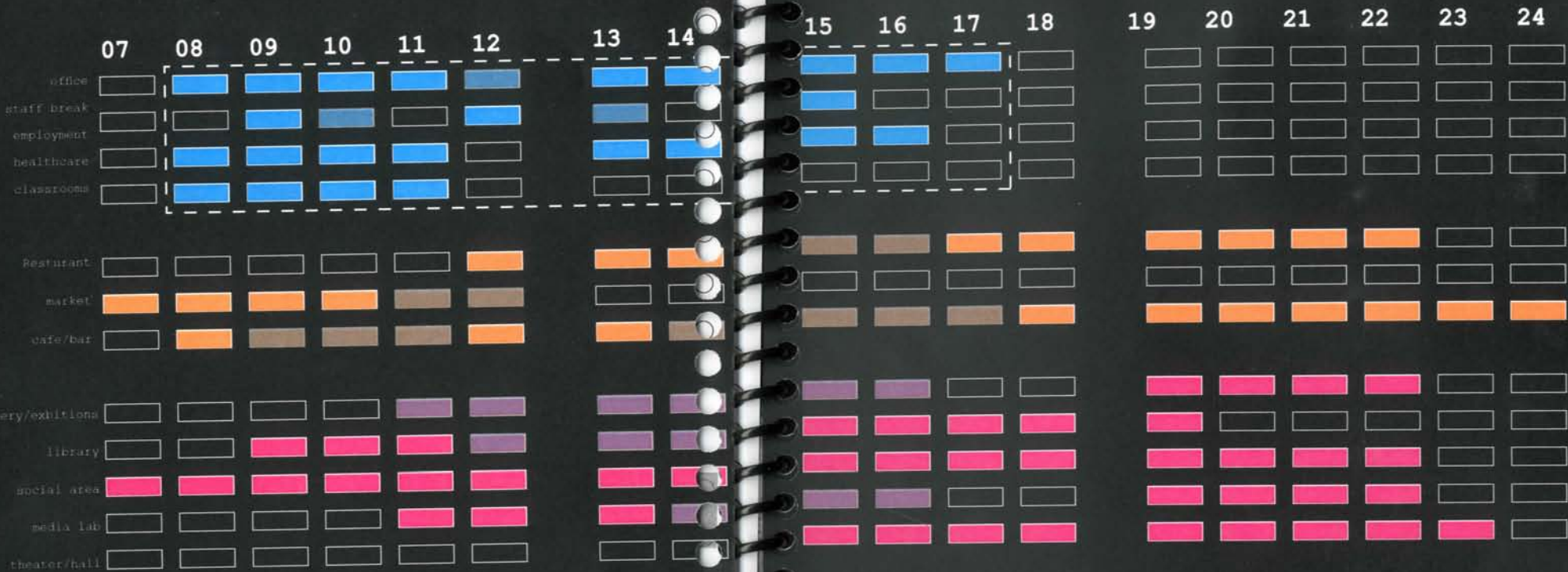


**Internal Connection:**  
Neither the fixed, nor flux program can survive without some relationship with each other. Visual connections and path provide connections between both facilities.

**External Connection:**  
Within the operations, two sequences emerge. The public vs. the private relationships. The private is the entrance to the resettlement core programs, while the public entrance is based on flux programs.



program relationships based on 24 hour time

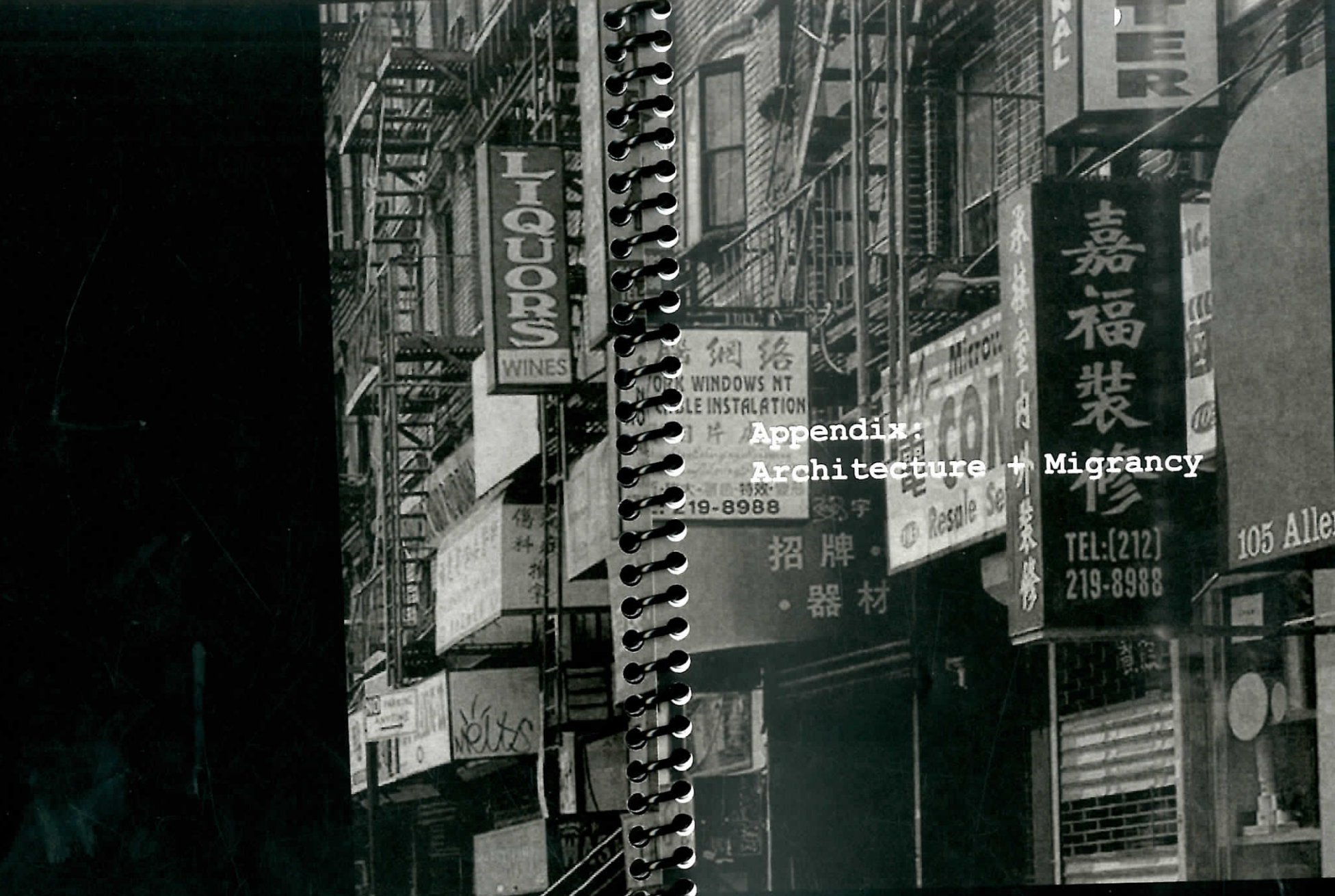




### **Conclusion:**

Place is to be seen as a specific locational point, where the current histories and the current situation of the city of Syracuse can begin to reflect each other, not homogenize the situation. With the increase of refugee and immigrant flows, Syracuse can begin to not only recognize the situation, but address it. Not in a way of erasing cultural differences and identities, but layering the histories and futures, creating solidarity.

The drive towards a universal civilization, creating the homogenization of places and erasure of cultural and individual identity, is not what this thesis project tries to drive for. The degree of success this architecture thesis is to be measured in relation to the degree in which the expression of identity, AFFIRMS rather than questions the cultural differences and identity in relationship to place.



HIGGONS  
WINES

网络  
WINDOWS NT  
INSTALLATION  
19-8988

Appendix:  
Architecture + Migrancy

嘉福裝修  
TEL: (212)  
219-8988

Micro  
Resale Se

招牌  
器材

105 Allen

## Modes of Migrancy and Architecture

How can the terms architecture and migration be related? The concept of architecture is an immobile, grounded, stable object, rooted in location and the culture of the given site. Migration, is in flux and travels across cultures and location, typically under conditions of the individual. Reading only the binary relationships between architecture and migrancy privileges such principles as settlement, stability, and permanence over those of mobility, transit, and fluidity. Hence, architecture, tries to bring order from chaos and mobility. Historically, architecture and migrancy has taken various forms, from the construction of individual buildings by host communities (colonial architecture) to the construction of individual dwellings (emergency shelters). The following proposes the three modes in which architecture and migrancy can be related.

## Architecture by Migrants

Architecture can be seen in two modes:

Architecture that has been carried out by migrants on "architectures of their destinations." (Cairns p18)

The most obvious example of this is the Chinatowns and the Little Italies sprinkled across the major American Cities. The idea of place within a place has been hyper-commodified and over generalized to represent the symbol of the culture they originally came from. Cultural identity has been erased where tourism and capitalism buys into the cultures iconized identity (Cairns). The architectures of "chinatowns" take on exotic forms, styles, and symbols by meshing with the new city fabric. Typically signs and symbols with native languages and icons assist in creating and marking identity and the origins of "place" within the city.

-Architectures of "Hyper" Privileged  
-Architecture that has been carried out by privileged migrants: those individuals that are in service to the "empire", businessmen, colonial agencies, soldiers

"These architectures of migrancy of the self-consciously embody a unified test of cultures, including architectural style, fashions, and technology into local middle class life (Cairns p20)." These architectures tend to represent "out of placesness" where architecture from the "empire" is exported to the colonial land.



architecture of destinations chinatown New York City



architecture of "hyper" privileged India architecture vs. British Colonial architecture

## Architecture for Migrants

Architecture for migrants are structures designed to respond to emergency situations, creating disaster relief structures and housing for mass displacement. Cairns argues these "architectures are coded in terms of economic, logistical, structural, and material efficiency." The built projects tend to be homogenous, large scale, and funded by governmental and non-governmental agencies, and hence are concerned with funding. "As a kind of bureaucratic vernacular, these architectures can be thought of as a different kind of architecture-without-architects (p24)."

Several architects have tapped into disaster relief structures, most famous is Shigeru Ban. Cairns questions the architect for their "socio-political" power in working with disaster relief structures, however, what is noteworthy about architects working with disaster relief architecture is its a sign of the architects agency. "That architecture's aesthetic capacities are exercised even in these most challenging situations. (p25)"



Shigeru Ban's disaster relief structure



image shelterproject



examples of disaster relief architecture from shelter and architecture

## Architecture as Migrants

Architecture itself can be migrants. One predominate example of this is the International Style, where the German Bauhaus styles emigrated to various parts of the globe: United States, South Africa, South America, Israel, and Australia (Cairns p28). An example of this is Mies Van der Rohe's Crown Hall at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and New National Gallery in Berlin. Both have a similar architectural language and can be interchange locations, place does not matter. Architecture became less confined by international borders and boundaries.



Crown Hall

New National Gallery



## Historical Right to Sanctuary [refuge]

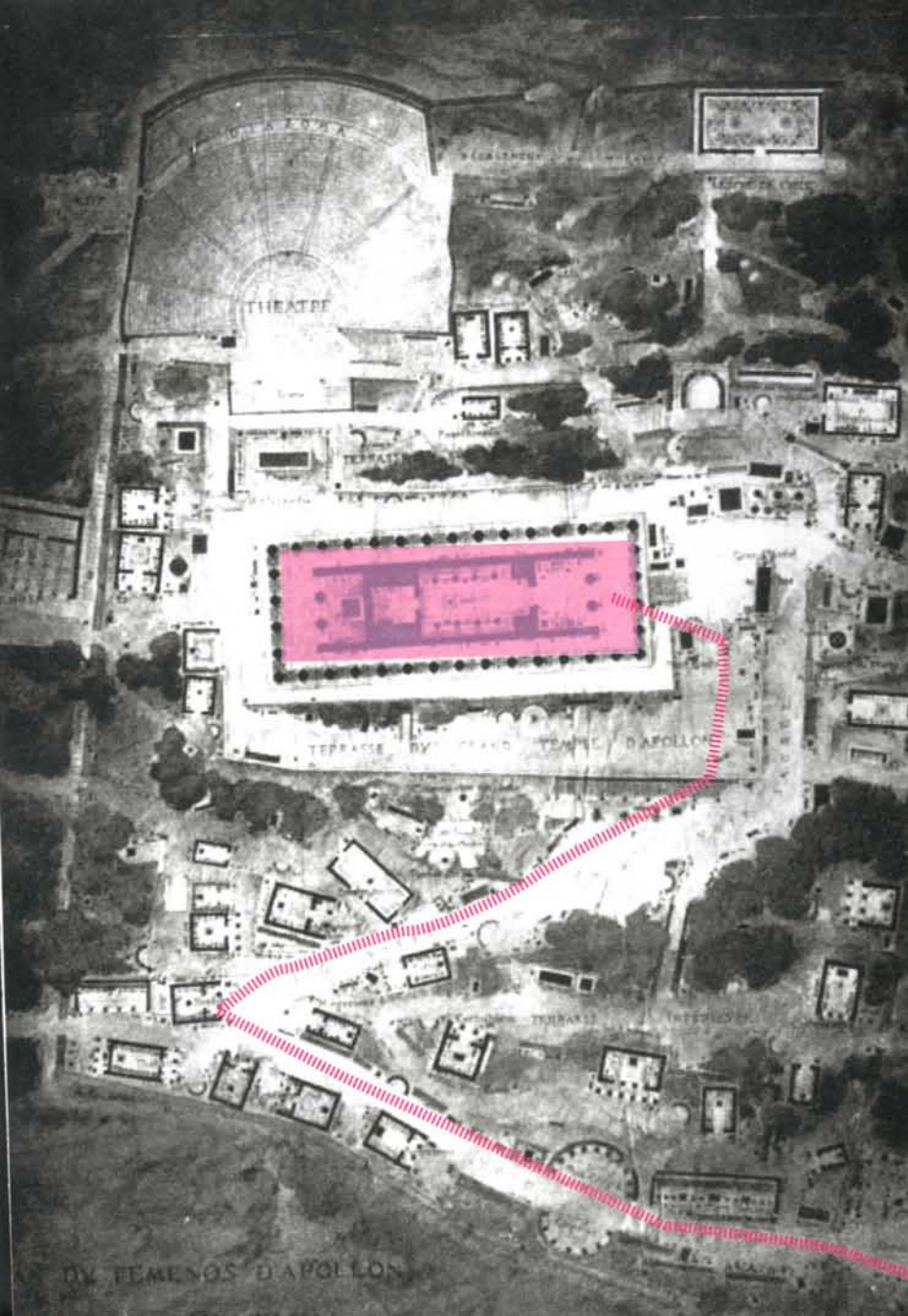
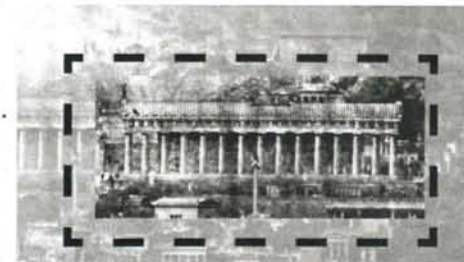
In the 21st century forced migrants make claims for asylum on the basis the right to refuge, a "universal" right to sanctuary (Ryan). The right to sanctuary has existed in many ancient western cultures, coming from the Greek word, *salon*, meaning the right to pillage. In ancient Greece, the institutions of refuge represented several functions, most importantly, its role in protecting survivors of repeated conflicts between neighboring city states. It was considered useful to aid them as exiles, people who were required to live under the protection of the gods of the host city. Places of sanctuary were typically associated with local deities, temples, and other religious sites. Exiles were viewed as powerless, far from their homes and their gods. The principle purpose of sanctuary was to save the lives of those defeated in war.

The Roman right to sanctuary was often sought by fugitive slaves looking for temporary protection. They protected the innocent, injured, oppressed, and unfortunate. However, fugitives fled for safety to the statues or busts of the Caesars. Roman religious buildings did not grant sanctuary. Christian churches were given the right of sanctuary by Constantine I. As the Christian

faith was the new religious authority, churches began to play a vital role in creating a space for refuge. By the early Middle Ages, churches and other sites of religious significance were widely seen as places where those could seek refuge within church walls. The right to sanctuary for fugitives was abolished in England in 1623, because of abuses to the right to sanctuary.

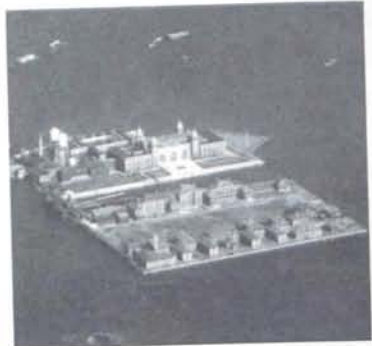
### The Temple of Apollo

The images of the left is the Temple of Apollo in Greece. It was one of the first refuge sanctuaries. The most important aspect of the temple is the sequence and layout of the buildings. When one went to apply for sanctuary, they would travel along the specific path, leading up to the temple. At the steps of the temple, one would be granted sanctuary, and most likely would be a slave to the temple complex.



# Ellis Island Immigration Gateway

Located on the mouth of the Hudson River, Ellis Island was the main immigration entry port to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was a transition point for millions of people, symbolizing new life, new beginnings and leaving behind of origins. The architecture symbolized the bureaucratic and ideological functions of an immigration centre. The building was modest in size based on its relationship to the mass amounts of people, and organizationally was based on controlled movement.



Site:  
 Located on an Island in the harbor in New York, Ellis Island "typifies the eventually role of architecture in the face of cultural migrants". (Intergram). Placed on an island, it symbolizes the gateway between in and out.

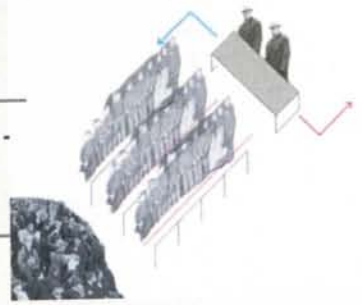


passed:  
 admitted to the  
 United States

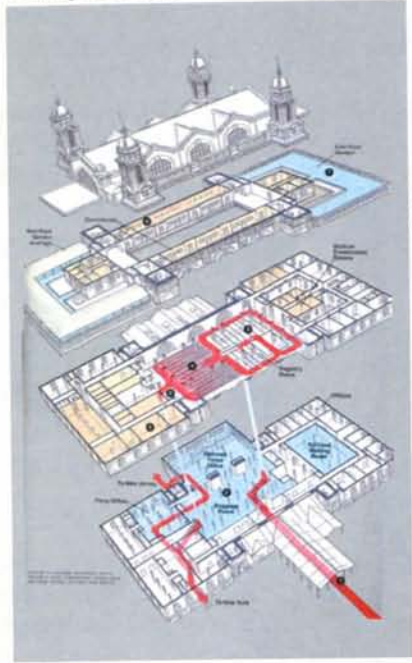


As the immigrants walked up this staircase, United States Public Health physicians watched them for signs of a number of illnesses. Those who showed signs of disease, insanity, or other conditions were marked for a more detailed examination.

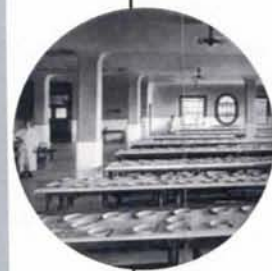
Sequence →



checkpoint: determined if one was admitted to the US or deported back to country of origin.



detained at  
 ellis island



Deported to  
 country of  
 origin



# Asylum Registration Center

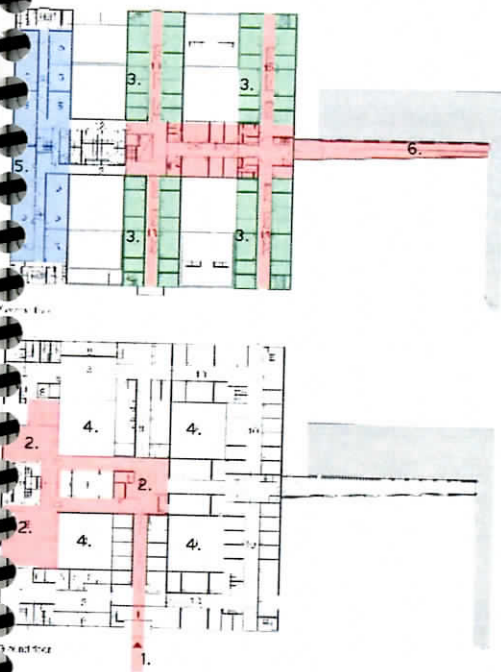


Registration Center at Ter Apel, is the first asylum center in the Netherlands to be built and designed specifically for a resettlement center, not being housed in another building. "The aim of the registration center is to separate those asylum seekers who stand a chance of being granted asylum from those who do not within 48 hours by, among other things, investigating whether someone has previously submitted a request for asylum, by establishing identity, nationality and route taken, and not by listing the reasons for feeling the country of origin (Archis p41). Organizationally, the center was driven by the idea of movement, and the use of the corridor. As one enters the center, they become a voluntary prisoner.

Site  
Symbolically, the Center lies in the far southeast corner, on the border of Germany. The three other asylum centers in the Netherlands are placed along the north, south, east and west corners of the country. "The message would seem to be that anyone who enters one of these centers is not really in the Netherlands, but rather in a transitional zone. (archis p41)" The location of these centers has nothing to do with one's point of entry.

## Spatial Sequence

1. Immigrants entered under a metal-and-glass awning.
2. Waiting room, where paperwork is filed
3. Refugees go up the stairs to the 2nd floor where interview process would begin in individual rooms
4. Rooms for meditation are placed along the waiting rooms, and open courtyard/patio also placed along the waiting rooms for contemplation. (Modeled after monasteries)
5. Detainees and those who got denied entry into the country are housed in the dormitories and await further information on being deported back to their country of origin.
6. If one passed inspection, they would walk across the connective corridor where further processing and forms would be followed in the neighboring building.



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United Nations High Commission on Refugees:

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US Office of Immigration Stats:

<http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/data/index.htm>

Office of Refugee Resettlement:

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Data area:

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