



**agriCITY: Little Rock, Remediated**

**The Identity of a City**  
As the capitol of Arkansas, how does downtown Little Rock represent both the city and the state? The answer, for many, would be that it lacks an identity reflective of its collective cultural and textural context. On the 100th anniversary of John Nolen's 'City in a Park' master plan, we find a city barely holding on to the dreams of what it was destined to someday become. Somewhere along the way, perhaps beyond our cumulative control, the ambitions for it faltered. What downtown Little Rock needs now is a renewed vision for the 21st century.

**Car Culture and Urban Decay**  
In the United States, the accepted norms of our automobile-reliant culture and its resultant infrastructure have proved detrimental to the evolution of our cities through an unbalanced favoring of sprawl and hard surfaces over sustainable density and an integrated landscape. The effects of this neglect are seen not only in our major metropolises, but also particularly strongly in the deteriorating urban cores of our growing mid-sized metropolitan cities all across the contemporary landscape.

**A Problem in Organized Complexity**  
Jane Jacobs once said that "cities happen to be problems in organized complexity.... They present situations in which half a dozen or several dozen quantities are all varying simultaneously and in subtly interconnected ways.... The variables are many but they are not better sketched; they are interrelated into an organic whole." How might organized complexity be defined? It is the non-random, or correlated, interaction between the parts. These relationships create a differentiated structure which can, as a system, interact with other systems. The coordinated system manifests properties not carried by, or dictated by, individual parts. Cities, in essence, are fields of organized complexity made up of interrelated collections of parts. This proposal is about these collections. It is about the aggregation of urban regeneration and landscape infrastructure throughout a decaying urban field condition.

**Gateway as Catalyst**  
Any gateway to downtown Little Rock must be thought of as part of a larger system. It is much more than simply a gateway, it is a catalyst for the future identity of the capitol city - a manifestation of Arkansas identity. As such, the city's remediation process begins with the construction of the Capitol Gateway, including the agriCITY Center - a collaborative public institution providing a planning platform for the regeneration of the city core. Straddling Interstate 30, the gateway includes demonstration projects highlighting the various land use typologies from agriCITY's planning palette. Anchoring the Capitol Avenue corridor from the east, the gateway begins the first phase in remediating the parking city.

