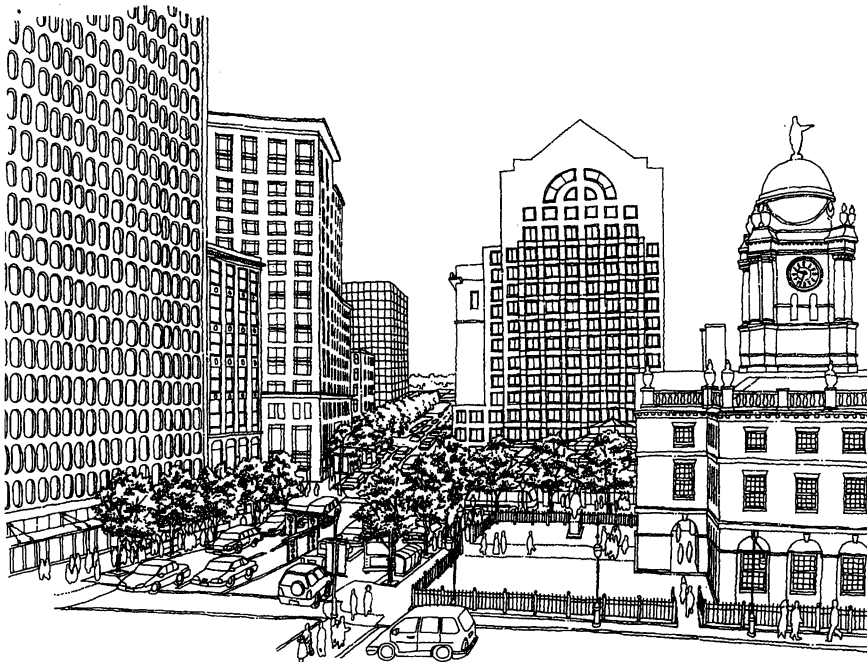


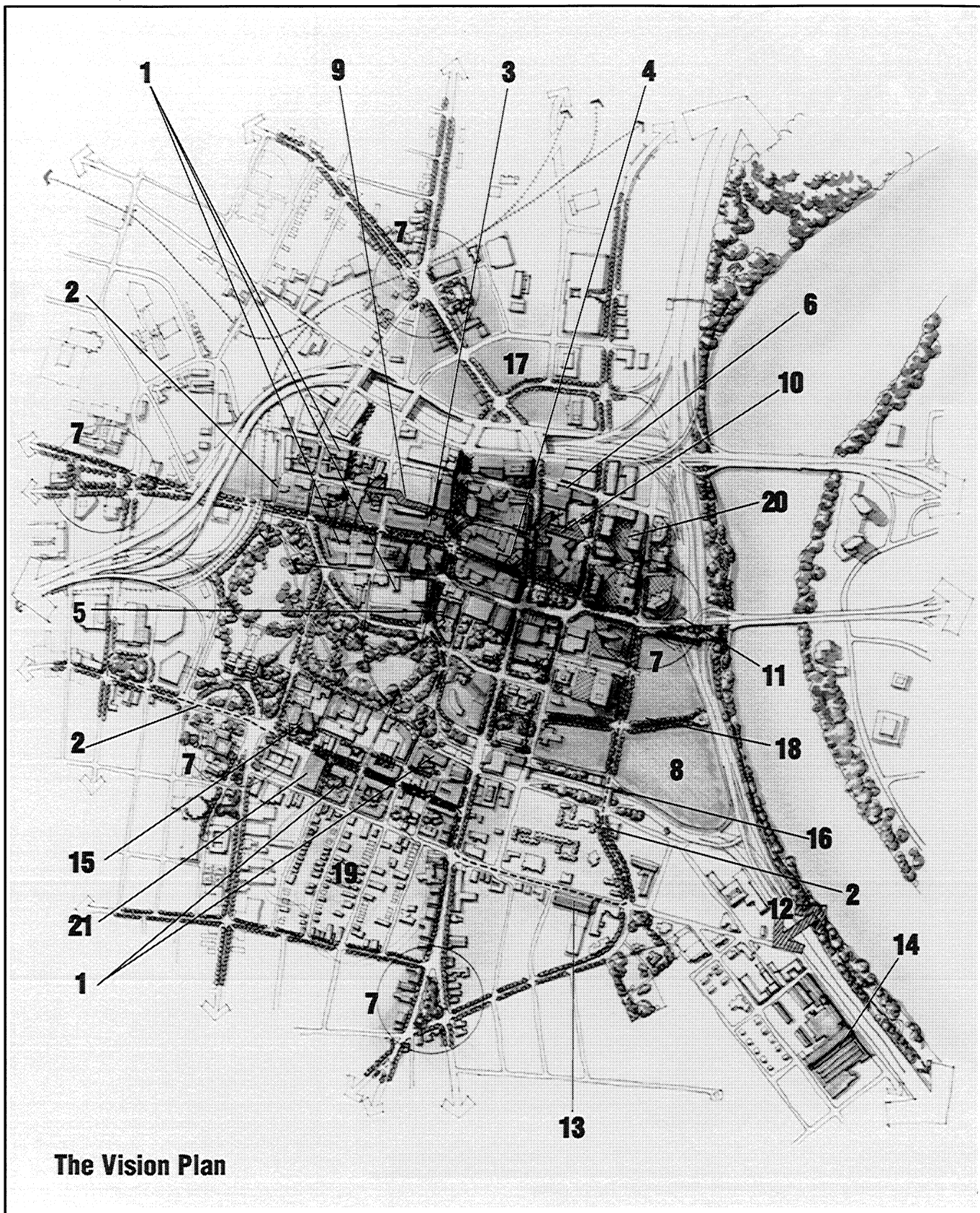
## Vision

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The road to renewal is being followed by downtowns across the continent, forming a recognizable and repeated pattern of reinvestment as the inner cities meet suburban competition by carving out a new, unique and competitive niche. In the future, downtown Hartford will do what downtowns do best - offer an urban, intense, cultural experience. In this role, downtown will not compete with or attempt to replicate the suburbs. Downtown will succeed on its own terms. With a renewed sense of confidence, the downtown community will recognize that only urban areas can offer urban experiences and that people travel all over the world to visit great cities.



Main Street landscaping and traffic calming are some of the many relatively inexpensive and fast improvements to be implemented. These investments will make downtown a more inviting place to be and help set the stage for other development to take place.



**The Vision Plan legend**

1	Potential housing sites	12	Proposed connection to river
2	Circuit Line	13	Proposed housing conversion
3	Civic Center renovation / potential Higher Education Center location	14	Proposed Coltec and Conservatory / Botanical Gardens development
4	Proposed hotel	15	The Bushnell expansion
5	Proposed hotel and housing	16	Library expansion
6	Proposed G. Fox department store renovation	17	12B site - possible stadium / convention center location
7	Gateway	18	Proposed Olmsted Boulevard
8	Proposed stadium / convention center	19	Housing infill and conversion
9	New connection through Civic Center	20	Constitution Plaza - potential Higher- Education Center location
10	Re-open Temple Street	21	Proposed parking location
11	New connection to river		

The new downtown will offer a wide range of opportunities for living, working and playing. As the hub of cultural and artistic activity in the region, entertainment, arts and cultural venues will be clustered in the warehouse and commercial district east of Union Station, along Main Street and south of Bushnell Park. New, mixed income housing will be situated around the north and south sides of Bushnell Park and cater to those who seek an alternative to suburban living, including the empty nesters, young professionals and families.

The city will have a much more complex pattern of use. Visitors will frequently have multiple destinations on each trip. Patrons of The Bushnell can arrive early, walk to nearby restaurants for dinner, and take the shuttle to have drinks at a late-night cafe following the performance. After work, workers may stay downtown to enjoy dinner and relax with friends. A new community of residents will be able to patronize local shops, walk to work, local cafes and restaurants, and bicycle through the streets in the evenings and on weekends. Families with children can enjoy the playground in Bushnell Park and attend free concerts.

Shopping in downtown, in one of a kind, specialty stores, will be an enjoyable activity. Focused on the historic axes of Main and Asylum Streets, clusters of retail stores will line these corridors from north of I-84 to South Green and from west of the I-84 to the edges of the Connecticut River. A major new grocery store will support the emerging new downtown population and encourage others to relocate to downtown.

Downtown Hartford has an intact and healthy structure on which to recreate and reposition itself. Hartford's vast legacy of parks will provide residents and visitors with a wide variety of opportunities for recreation and leisure activities. Bushnell Park will form the center piece and a venue for many musical and theatrical events year-round, as well as the home of the new skating rink and children's playground. Renewed

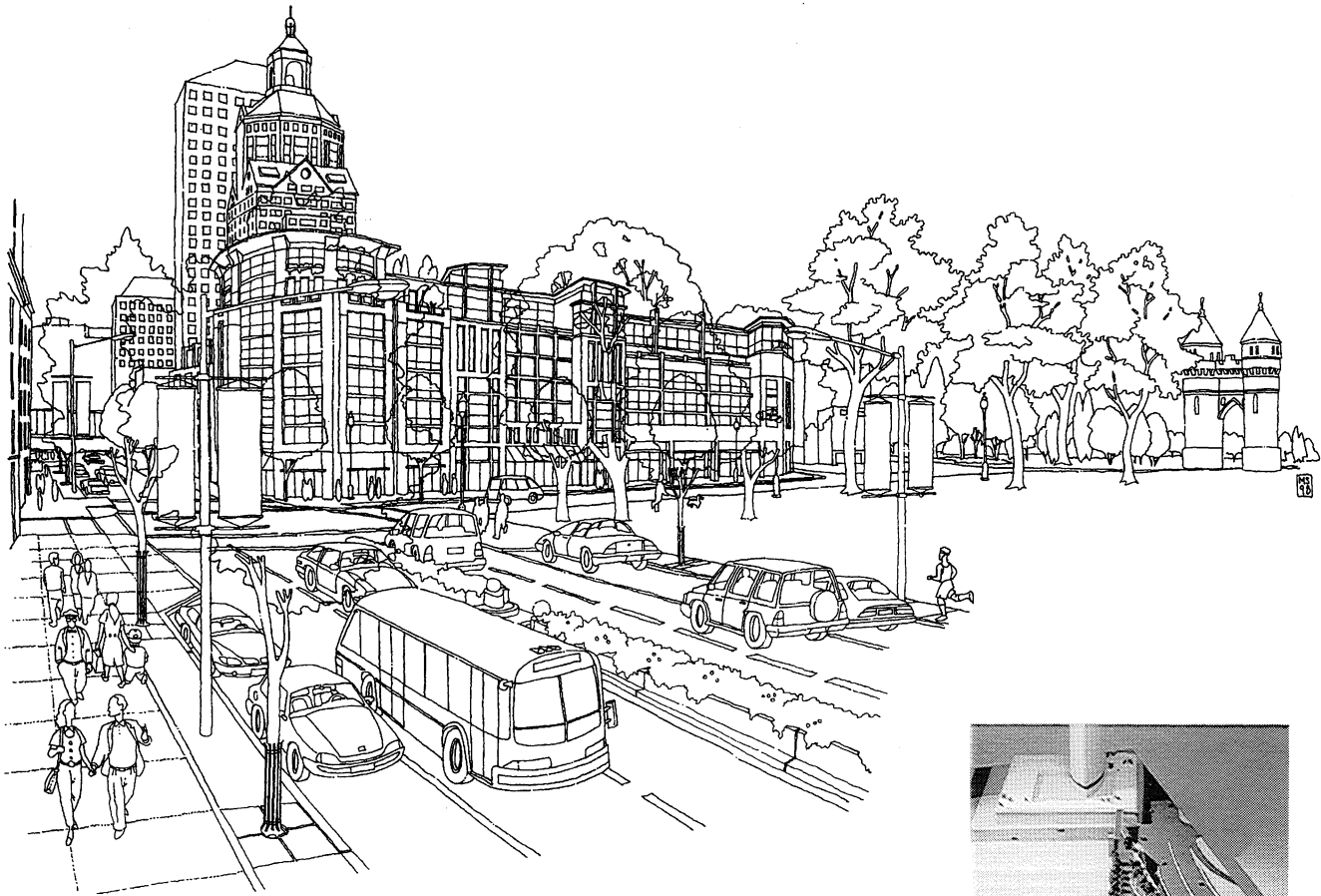


Proposed housing on Capitol Avenue, looking towards the Bushnell Theater

by the efforts of the Bushnell Park Foundation, Bushnell Park will be revered as an outstanding urban park and the sites around it, some of the most valuable in the downtown.

Downtown Hartford will be reconnected. The riverfront deck and the promenade on the new Founders Bridge will provide the residents of Hartford and the Greater Hartford Region an opportunity to access the Connecticut River. A recreational loop along both riverbanks will connect East Hartford with downtown and provide a unique facility for joggers, walkers and cyclists to experience the river and escape the hustle and bustle of downtown.

Adriaen's Landing will open up the east side of downtown and be home to the New England Patriots. Columbus Boulevard will be animated with retail stores along both sides. Olmsted Boulevard will assist in linking Bushnell Park and the new residential communities along its north and south sides with the River. Downtown will be closely tied to the City's neighborhoods and the Greater Hartford Region. The success of the downtown will assist to ensure the success of the entire region.

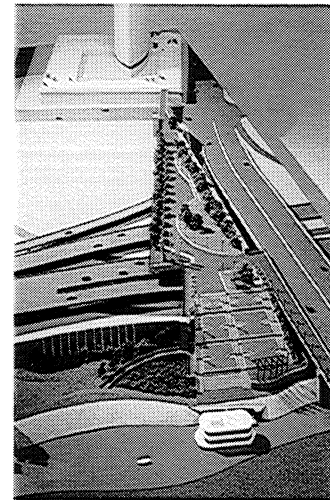


Proposed housing overlooking Bushnell Park, as seen looking east from Asylum Street.

The emerging downtown will emphasize the quality of the travel experience and will balance streets so that both pedestrians and cars are comfortable to use them. Visitors to downtown will navigate their way easily in an inviting, safe and attractive environment. The new Hartford will encourage strolling and lingering; the casual use of city streets for passing time, people watching, and sitting in cafes. The streets will be designed to ensure that the elderly and children can cross streets comfortably and in safety. Signals will provide an adequate length of time for pedestrians to cross.

In the future, the buildings, streets, the parks and transportation systems will be designed to work together.

The Action Strategy outlines the built form, land use, and transportation elements that underpin the vision and their relationship to each other. It then outlines the specific actions that must be taken to realize the vision. First, laying the groundwork for the Action Strategy and the Circuit Line, a number of principles for investing strategically are explored in Chapter 4.



The riverfront deck and the promenade on the new Founders Bridge will provide an opportunity to access the Connecticut River.

