

PHASE I

Kati Eitzman

PHASE II

When I came to Albion, I saw three major traits of most of its citizens. The first of these was a huge sense of trust. Repeatedly, I heard residents say they left their cars unlocked, their front doors open, because you never knew if someone would need to use either of these things. There was never an underlying fear of burglary or vandalism. The other major way I saw trust exemplified was in the downtown area. There aren't any stop signs, traffic lights or even crosswalks on your main streets! But you're not worried about this because you all know you'll take care of each other; you'll watch out for children crossing the streets and other cars you meet along the way.

The second value I saw was a strong sense of values. One of the most stereotypical ways I saw this played out was with the sheer number of churches in your surrounding area- about 11 working for 1800 people! And they're not just the typical Presbyterian, there's Catholic, Lutheran, Seventh Day Adventists too. This shows an acceptance and embracing of beliefs.

The final trait I observed in Albion was a very strong sense of pride. As we were taking the bus tour through town, one by one, people would pop up and say "there's my house!" or "there's the hospital with its advanced technologies!" Everyone was excited by their town and what it contained. The history of the town and Boone County also seems just as important as the future for the residents too. The history museum has so many unique artifacts and an extensive collection of everything past-Albion.

TRUST...



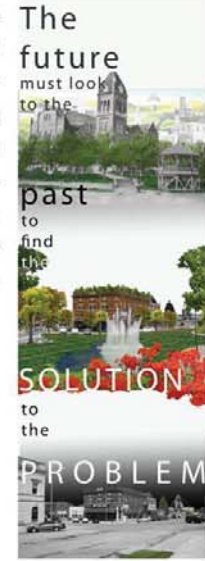
...values



PRIDE...



For this second phase, we were to focus on something that was once present but now gone. I immediately thought of the trees and greenspace that seemed so prevalent in the past but now erased from the downtown area. This is such a contrast from the residential part of the town, where there are landscaped lawns and large trees lining the streets providing the sidewalks with shade in the summer. Why such a strong dichotomy? The middle image shown on this board proposes a drastic change of completely "greening" the downtown area with grass, trees, plants, flowers and water, leaving the bare cement and cars completely out of the center.



PHASE III

For this stage of the research, I focused on the Boone country fairgrounds and race track. These two features have held strength through the years and obviously proved themselves as successful and necessary parts of the fabric of Albion. The raceway has enjoyed successful years of spectators flocking to see first horse races and now different types of car races. It is something not only local residents, but also surrounding areas' residents enjoy.



Only the
strongest
survive

PHASE IV

For a research precedent that I found interesting, I presented an idea from the developers MacroSea. They are working with architects and artists to redevelop and revitalize dead spaces, specifically big box stores and strip malls that have been long abandoned and faded. Instead of just letting these huge, ugly creatures pollute the landscape, the firm wants to instead introduce thriving community gathering centers and activity hubs where opportunities range from gardening and shopping to a skate park and swimming. These would be physically spruced up and modernized, reusing the empty shell of something that no longer works and filling it with something delicious that everyone in the community could enjoy at different times of the year.

