Olneyville Square Urban Design

City of Providence, Rhode Island



Project Summary:

Olneyville Square has always been an urban nexus where the Northeast Rail Corridor and the Woonasquatucket River conspire to force eight major roadways through what used to be a vibrant urban node. Professor Edgar Adams and his Urban Design Studio worked with the Providence Planning Department who were in the process of developing a "Special Area Plan" in anticipation of the rebuilding and possible relocation of the junction of routes 6 & 10. With the rise of industry in Rhode Island, the Woonasquatucket was soon lined by mills. Later the proximity to the Northeast Rail Corridor and the 6 & 10 connector made it a prime location for manufacturing. The loss of manufacturing left Olneyville a shadow of its former self. The students worked in teams to develop strategies to repurpose abandoned mills, reconnect neighborhoods, provide links to the Woonasquatucket Greenway and reenergize the core of Olneyville Square.













