TUCKER’S RESTAURANT

Parklet

Tucker’s & Over-The-Rhine

Tucker’s has been in business in Over-the-Rhine since 1946. Although many things have changed in the urban core surrounding Tucker’s since that time, the restaurant has sustained itself with a local and curious following who love the diner-style cooking and its humble, cozy interior. For some of Cincinnati’s best-goofs, a local creation -- and served just right -- Tucker’s is the place.

Over-the-Rhine is a notable neighborhood for several reasons. First, it has the largest area of historic Italianate architecture in the United States. A hub for all ethnocracies and socioeconomic groups of Cincinnati’s first settlers, the area shifted to housing mainly the working class and many breweries in the 19th century. After the Civil War and the high volume of breweries, the area became a place for relocations urban African American and Appalachian families. And as cheap rent gases, the artists and artisans soon followed, attracted to the European feeling of the streets.

Tucker’s has experienced its’ share of upssets from crime and citizens’ unrest over time due to its location on Vine Street, a center of unstable activity over the years. While today there are many improvements in Over-the-Rhine near other significant sites, the portion of Vine Street where Tucker’s is located still suffers from lack of greenery and public space. As the neighborhood becomes revitalized as a whole, this popular icon should be celebrated as one who survived it all, spurred by a public element such as a parklet.

PARK(ing) Day Cincinnati 2009

PARK(ing) Day challenged people to rethink the way streets are used and reinforced the need for broad-based changes to urban infrastructure. Urban centers around the world with inexpensive curbside parking resulting in increased traffic, wasted fuel, and more pollution. The strategies that generated these conditions are not sustainable, nor do they promote a healthy, vibrant, urban human habitat. PARK(ing) Day re-imagined the possibilities of the metropolitan landscape.

Tucker’s Parklet

Creating a Parklet in front of Tucker’s is an opportunity to spur more interest in the blocks of Vine Street that have not yet been restored as part of the latest developments in OTR. With its’ proximity to Findlay Market, nearby growth districts, and a major bus artery, an inviting section of public space would provide an expansion for Tucker’s to utilize outdoor dining as well as attract the nearby pedestrian traffic. This view to promote the public streets. Tucker’s Parklet will include many places for greenery, health, beauty, and social interaction.

Local Designers of Architecture, Interiors, and Landscapes:
Michelle Andersen, Becky Schneider, & Michael Uhlenhake

WHAT IS A PARKLET?

A small urban park, often created by replacing under-utilized paralel parking spots with a patio, plants, trees, benches, café tables, a fountain, artwork, and/or bicycle parking. Parklets provide a public place for citizens to relax and enjoy the atmosphere of the city around them. In places where either current urban parks are lacking or if the existing sidewalk width is not large enough to accommodate vibrant street life activities. Parklets can be permanent fixtures, or temporary/temporized in places where snow removal is a concern.

Parklet Precedents

Philadelphia Parklet

San Francisco Parklet

Parklet Pioneer

San Francisco has pioneered the parklet movement in the U.S. With over 40 Parklets, residents even have the luxury of applying for new parklets via a city permit. Parklets are the newest tool in a kit of low-cost amenities that cities have been using to make urban living more pleasant and to encourage people to linger on the sidewalks. Like bike lanes and farmers’ markets, they’re cheap and easy to install.