



9.15 Position of prominent management in Times Square over one day

by performing and selling in the space, whilst the regularity of element 16 (opposite) effectively prevented such activity.

The corners of buildings, particularly where the corners were indented (elements 1 and 3), almost always had activity. This had a lot to do with the presence of hotdog and other vendors, human and mechanical, at these locations. These indented corners were used as places to meet others, smoking or break areas for the local office workers, and as impromptu arenas for buskers and street performers. Described as spaces to 'loiter', these spaces became centres of activity, essential in keeping the kinetic nature of Times Square alive. They provided an important contrast to the sleek commercial homogeneity of parts of the square.

Control and surveillance

The location and activities of management figures in the form of BID public safety officers (PSO), sanitation workers (SAN), NYPD, and NYPD traffic division (TRAF) were noted over a 15-hour period on Saturday 23 March 2002 (Figure 9.15). A Saturday was chosen as the time when the area is at its most lively and busy. The number of management figures fluctuated throughout the day, and dropped substantially at lunchtime. In the evening there was a large presence of NYPD and public safety officers, reflecting the large crowds flocking to the Broadway shows in the area. By 1.00am the square was still busy but only NYPD were left in the study area.

The observations revealed that there were relatively few public safety officers at certain times of day. These officers work in shifts from 9.30am–6.00pm, 11.30am–8.00pm, and 3.30pm–12.00am, although with many