

place. Perhaps the idea of a square is out of place in the contemporary social and cultural climate of Southern California. It is more likely that the surrounding uses do not generate the variety of people who would be square users. Only the poor are habitués.

The events in the Square do attract people even though questions have been raised about how the park is managed by the Los Angeles Parks Department. The benches in Pershing Square do provide a place for the homeless to gather. At lunchtime workers from the surrounding buildings take lunch there and the square is a popular place for rallies. It, however, consists of a number of poorly integrated fragments. Time will tell whether the mixture of elements will hold up well. Overcoming the presence of the underground garage has proven to be a continuing concern. Having a plaza above the surroundings ground level presents a difficult design problem. Maybe having too many

panhandlers for the middle class to tolerate cannot be overcome by design although the redesign of Bryant Park by Olin seems to have been successful in revitalizing a previously notorious open space. Perhaps the revitalization of central Los Angeles that is now (in 2004) beginning to take place will make the park a more congenial place without any design changes.

### Major references

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## CASE STUDY

### La Place des Terreaux, Lyon, France: a revamped historical square (1994+)

Improving the quality of the public realm can be a catalyst for urban development and/or redevelopment. During the 1980s the municipality of Lyon, France's third largest city, initiated a series of planning and design initiatives – the Lyon 2010 project. The model was the designs in Barcelona carried out under the direction of Oriol Bohigas. In Lyon a series of public works has been undertaken, many by internationally renowned architects: the Opera House was renovated by Jean Nouvel, the Satolas

Station was designed by Santiago Calatrava and the Cité Internationale by Renzo Piano. The process was driven by politicians Henry Chabert (who was closely aligned with Lyon's mayor) and Jean Pierre Charbonneau.

These works were part of a number of coordinated plans of which the Schema d'Amenagement des Espaces Publics focused on seven spaces in the city. The Place des Terreaux was one of them. The overall budget for the seven spaces was tight – 350 million francs (about \$US60 million). The square