

along the river and stretching for 21 city blocks was constructed with the funding available. It was budgeted to cost about 1940\$US300,000. It, however, cost about \$430,000 funded partially by a city bond issue of \$75,000, a 1.5 cents per \$1000 assessed value property tax on local owners and a WPA grant of \$335,000. The development ultimately comprised 17,000 feet (about 5 kilometres) of walkways, 31 stairways leading down to the walkways from 21 bridges and 11,000 trees. Today, tall cypresses and dense foliage make for a tropical garden like atmosphere. To unify the project visually, Hugman used a local sand-coloured stone throughout. Figure 10.23 shows the state of the project in 1993.

Due to major cost overruns Hugman was dismissed as project architect and replaced by J. Fred Buenz in 1940, and the WPA project was completed. The result was very attractive. The onset of World War II further inhibited development. Lack of maintenance meant that by the 1960s, the river in downtown San Antonio had deteriorated and had an exaggerated reputation of being a hanging-out area for 'unsavoury types, vandals and derelicts'. Perceptions of its state sparked a series of redevelopment ideas. A San Antonio businessman, David Straus, started a campaign to boost the economic state of the downtown area and to restore the river and redevelop its surroundings. San Antonio's Tourist Attraction Committee proposed a redevelopment plan drawn up by MARCO Engineering but the plan was rejected as having too trite a character. In 1962 the San Antonio Riverwalk Commission was established and charged with developing a new master plan.

This plan, which received a design award from *Progressive Architecture*, was developed

by a group led by Cyrus Wagner and sponsored by the American Institute of Architects. The improvements and redesign of the walkway acted as a catalyst for the building of hotels (eight in all), local shops and restaurants (Casa Rio was the first) along the river. It was also a selling point in San Antonio developing the 1968 HemisFair under the auspices of the Bureau of International Exhibitions and it was, in turn, a catalyst for the redevelopment of Riverwalk to which the fair was linked. The whole plan recognized the need for continuous upgrading and maintenance of the Riverwalk, something often neglected in urban designing.

The reclaiming of the river, as intended, reinvigorated San Antonio's central area. Riverwalk is now home to numerous cafés and restaurants. Some of the buildings that backed on to the river have been turned around to face it but the backs of others have simply been tidied up and act as a reminder of the former status of the river. Other buildings changed their uses (e.g. a college into a hotel). The plugged-in elements include the Hyatt Hotel, whose base and atrium acts as a link to the Alamo, the Convention Center, and River Center (a shopping complex). The Paseo del Alamo to Riverwalk, a link between Riverwalk and Alamo Plaza, is an extension designed by Boon Powell of Ford, Powell and Carson. The 17-foot (5-metre) height difference between the two is handled with a multi-level walkway and a series of descending plazas. A positive response to a user satisfaction study led to plans for the expansion of Riverwalk and a study by Skidmore Owings and Merrill was commissioned.

A third generation of development is now occurring. A team led by Ted Flato, David Lake, John Blood and Elizabeth Danze won a competition to design the International