

URBAN OBSERVATION, DATA DIGGING

PUDM 3301 Research and Development Methods

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West 95th Street Area



I. SITE DIAGRAM:

Observation Site:

West 96~95th Street, Residential neighborhood

Between Columbus Ave and Broadway, Upper West Side

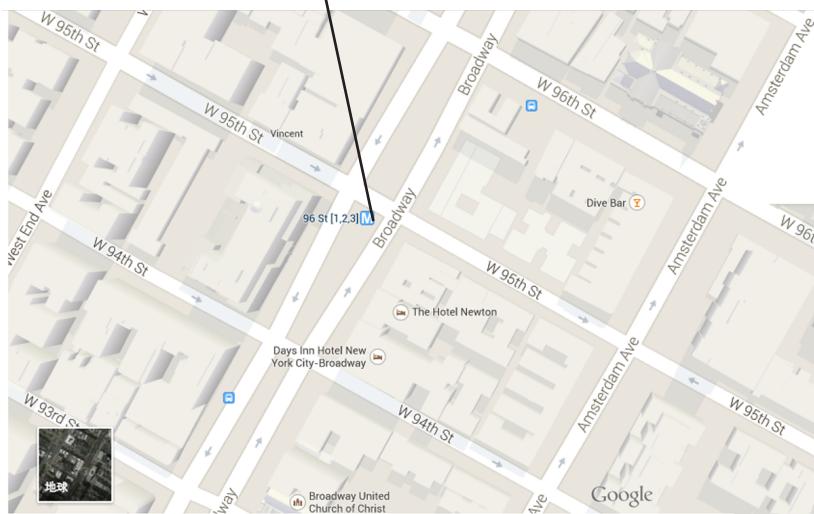
Observation Purpose:

To observe the behavior patterns of people in this residential area in different period in order to explore the quality of this residential site.





96th St Subway Station



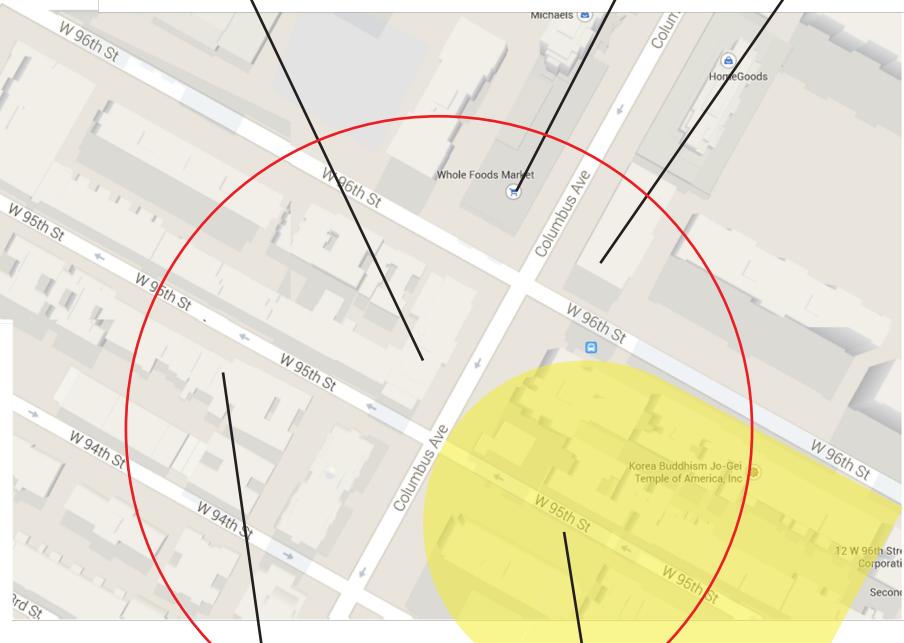
Gorcery Stores



Whole Foods Market



Chase Bank



Residential Area



Manhattan Children Center/Church



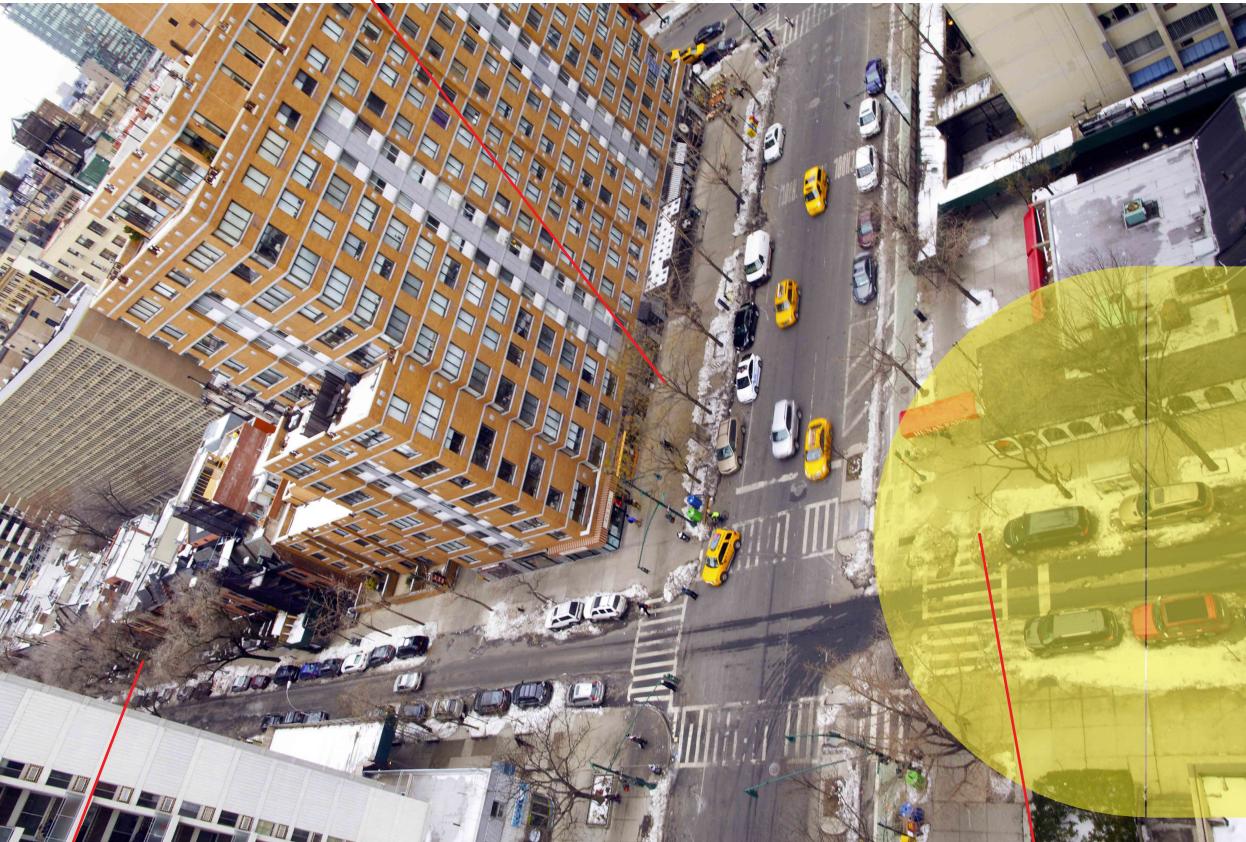
Whole Foods Market



Chase Bank



Grocery Stores



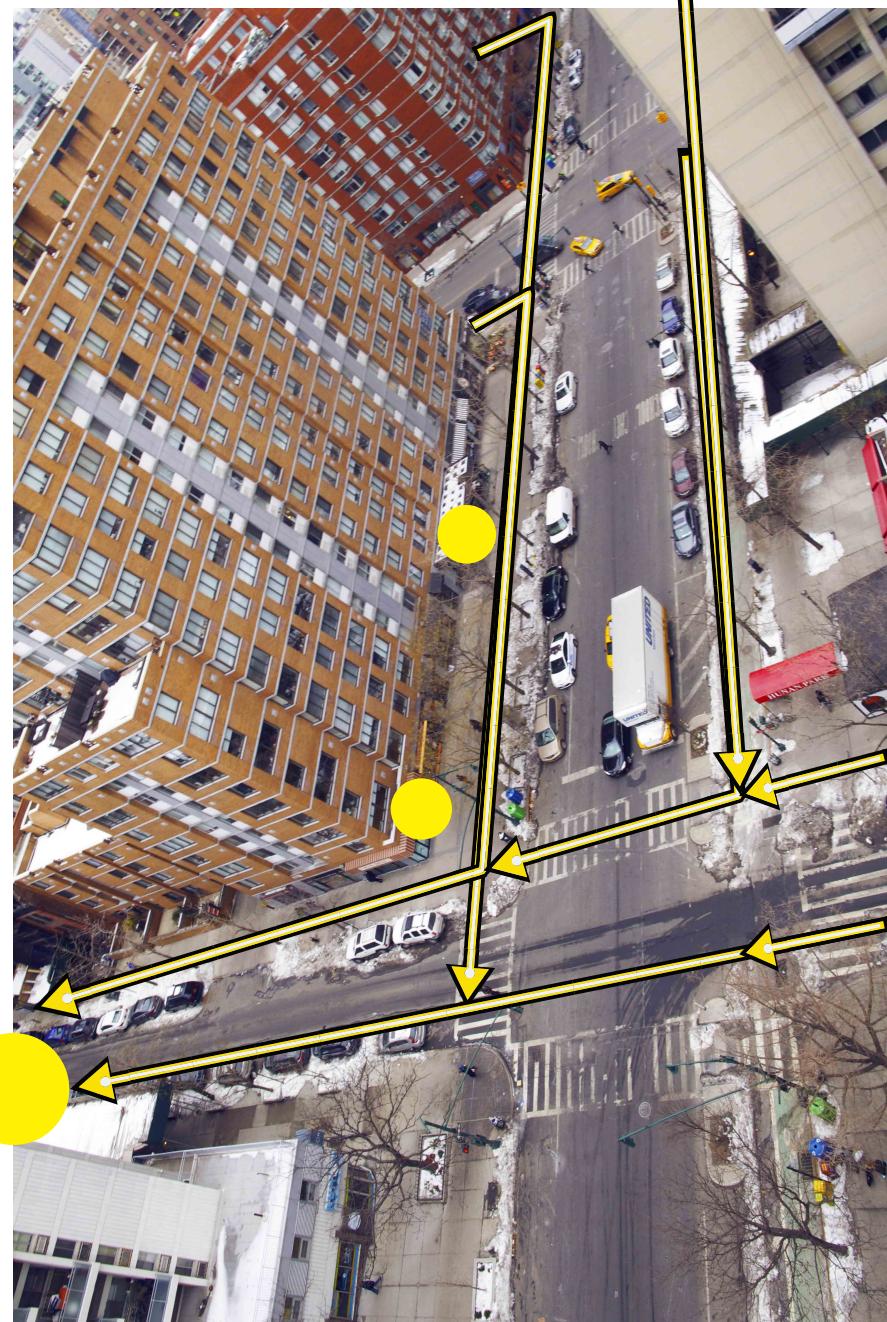
Residential Area



Manhattan Children Center



II. USE PATTERNS



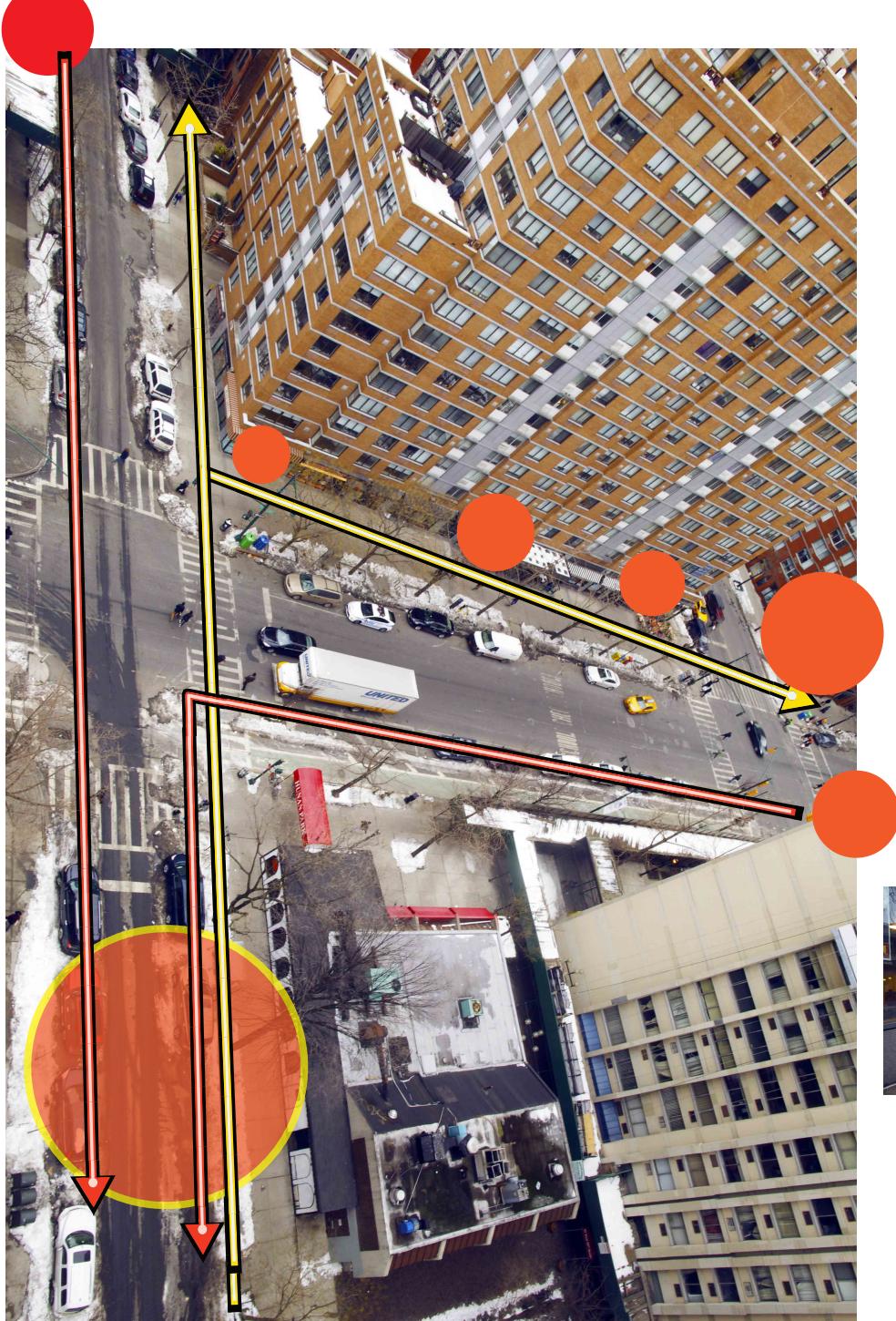
I observed this site in three different time period, which are Febuary 6th, 14:00~14:30, Febuary 7th, 08:00~09:00 and Febuary 10th, 13:30~14:00. In different time, people's behaviors and site use patterns were changing.

For the report, I used Febuary 7th and 10th data to analyse.

Febuary 7th, 08:00~09:00, people in this area were mainly having one destination, subway station. Parents took their children to the Chilren Center and they went to the Subway Station. Students and other working people stopped at the grocery shops or coffee shop then went to the Subway Station. Some elder peopole went out and wandered around the street and got some gorcery shopping and breakfast then back home.

The main crowd flow direction is from residential area to the Subway Station spot. There are three yellow dot presenting three sites people may stop.





February 10th, 13:30~14:00. At this time period, since students from Manhattan Children Center were going back to home, so big part of them back to the residential area and people were having lunch or doing grocery shopping in Deli or Whole Foods Market, and some people went to bank for ATM service or just to get warmed.

I also observed that some people - most of them are workers from near building site - gathered around Children Center and Church, lay on the stairs or sit at the pavement.

As the picture shows, the red arrow presents the main crowd flow that back to residential area and yellow arrow presents people go out from residential area. Orange spots present the sites that people may stay and red spot is Children Center and Church that children



III. TAXONOMY OF USERS AND USE PATTERNS:

Kangaroo Parents→	Keep children in Children Center and then jump back in their work.
Freshers Children→	Children as garden flower, go to Children Center and back to home as wished.
“9-5” working nuts→	9am to work and “5pm” back home, they are working like nuts with every-same pattern.
Youwth Spiriter Students→	With their youth spirit, students have enough energy to wonder and “study” while doing a lot of other things.
Choosy Elders→	Elder people wandered in the street and pickily chose their gorceries.
Cofesquito→	People that live for the cup of coffee, sip like mosquito.
Aholishopper→	People that go shopping on time, even take taxi to a stop then leave.
BankFrider/Chaser→	People that go to bank for warm, especially homeless people in the snowy day. People that go to bank for financial demands.
City Edgers→	People that are fading into the city, served for lots of people but can only sit at the edge of city.

All these use patterns such as parents took children to the Children Cetner, and went to subway station. Students went to coffee shop and subway station. Elder people walked and shopped. People that shopped and bought gorceries and went to bank for service are intended using these sites. However, for some behaviors, for instance, workers gather around the church and children center, are unintended to use these sites.

IV. DATA DIGGING:



went up in the late 1980's, a furious mixture of plain builder-vernacular. The corner of 95th and Central Park West are not obviously anything special but these structures, done in a tame style. The New York Tribune described this site only as "comfortable neighborhood".

Despite the fact that the environment has a great impact on the happiness and well-being of individuals, urban planners and designers have not taken much action to shaped the environment where people can live comfortably and enjoy the highest possible quality of life.

This residential area contains big supermarket, children center, church, delis and convenient transportation station, and as a neighborhood, according to the New York Real Estate, the Livability Calculator, the importance of the various factors that make up a neighborhood's quality of life, the most important element is affordability, housing cost, and transit/proximity, shopping, schools, and restaurants. West 95th Street area



Citizen participation and influence on planning decisions must be central to the improvement of the quality of life in residential area. As this area, people connect with all the sites and appropriately use them to create a comfortable atmosphere for all. Even though there are some unintended behaviors, but they will not actually threat people or harm the residential environment. In this area, the only element is lack to create the higher quality of life is too few of restaurants. Residents and sites are affecting each other, they should work together to take specific actions aimed at strengthening the social ties within communities.



In doing so, the neighborhood is pleasant with a higher quality of life.



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