

Henderson....street interview

I suppose what strikes me here a bit is some of the furniture of the street. Certainly the width of the sidewalk, and the intrusion upon it of signs, Warren chambers drugs, certainly the clock. However, I like the quality of the book stalls set outside...the informal quality.

Certainly they intrude rather carelessly on the sidewalk...like that red brick low walks, but they're rather attractive in themselves. somewhat too formal for the rest of the character.

On the other side of the street a great many things. Unorganized assortment of facades, which, nevertheless, aren't objectionable....certainly provide a lot of interest and contrast.

On the building on the right, the use of cast iron...an open quality..

Certainly this strikes me as a rather wealthy street in terms of real estate and it is reflected in the type of people you see on the sidewalks. French poodle set....although not entirely restricted to them, but they predominate.

The street really seems to have no particular ending as we look ahead into the garden. I suspect the slight bend in Boylston st. has something to do with that. It just sort of comes to this corner and open up. The space doesn't seem to be controlled, but merely to flow out over the garden.... in a rather undetermined manner. A barrier to the right with all the other stores.

As we reach this point the space does seem to take on some kind of form....the Arlington st^h church has a rather nice setting...from this limited point of view. Trying to determine whether the traffic interferes with the open quality of the garden...the cars really don't help a great deal.

(corner) At this point I seem to sense a bit more organization of this open space. Its overall form becomes clear to me...a rectangular quality. Interesting framing...the spire of new england mutual hall at the end of the alley...certainly dramatic...I've never noticed that before.

Perhaps I'm thinking too much in one vein... (corner) This is a particular view which I always enjoy...the assortment of buildings down the right hand side of the street...particularly punctuated by the church with the rather nice spire...This particular view is rather rich, particularly with the sun as it is now, ahead of us, and some trees.

Nothing I object to in this street, except for an ugly little spot where they've cut out some buildings and provided parking. It has a very unfinished look....a gaping hole...otherwise would have been nice buildings.

People on this street even more than on boylston seem to be of a particular class, because of the retail stores attracting even more of the upper crust I think a person not of that group might be a little out of place here. A perfectly definite atmosphere here, more than on Boylston.. This is pretty definitely limited to these wealthy classes. The Brooks bros. out on the man that just passed is pretty indicative...

222222. Henderson.

A very interesting contrast coming up here.... Bonwit taller in the foreground and New Eng Mut in the background.... two buildings of totally different scale. Not an unpleasant contrast.... certainly indicative of two different eras of architectural problems and use.

As we turn the corners you suddenly are faced with a very ugly mass, the John Hancock, which rises much too high, much too out of shape.

The facades ahead of us on the right are a much more organized quality and a lot better than Newbury street... seem to be more arranged with more consideration for each other... not a very creative combination... not better really but it gives a feeling of being built all at once, although it isn't.

(alley) This is sort of a small scale wall street, without the brass. The same canyon like feeling and certainly the rear end of everything we've seen so far... the filth... not bad odors but certain odors... connected with the utility end of buildings. Obviously very little thought given to what effects might be achieved. Some sculptural qualities in the fire escapes which is interesting and exciting contrasted with the drabness of the rest of the area. Particularly as they peer against the sky, a tracery effect.

A tree... apparently nothing left of it.

Gee... suddenly the glaring, plain facade of that building hit you. (Ritz) The gap here from this point of view provides relief from that canyon. I'm sure it wasn't designed to do that, but it does.

Always seemed to be an inappropriate sculptural formation on the corner... a bit too pompous for a humble and actually rather informal park. I'm a little unhappy this time of the year to see a pond without water.

Looking way off in the horizon, this gives a very nice picture of the Beacon Hill section with the gold dome predominating. The courthouse behind it is certainly out of scale with the general character of the rest.