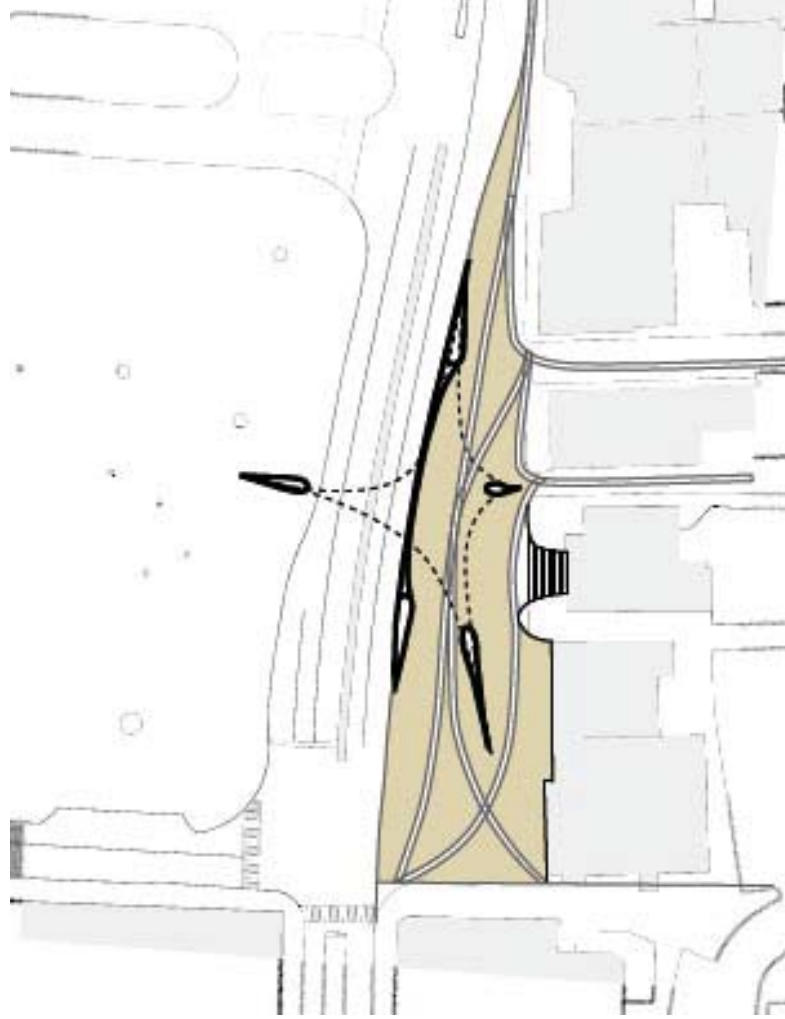
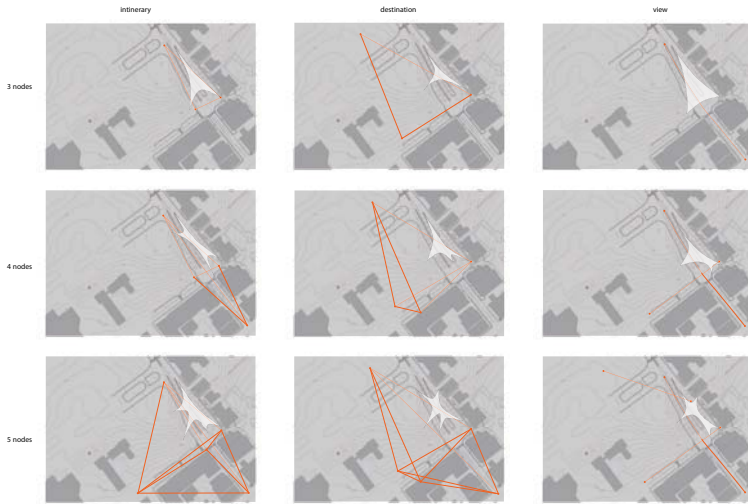


# INHABITABLE ART: Blacksburg's New Art District

Using the University's arts initiative and the planned Performing Arts center as an impetus for design, the project transforms a forgotten piece of asphalt to unite the Lyric Theatre, the downtown galleries, and Virginia Tech's arts programs creating an Art District for the city of Blacksburg.

As the terminus to College Avenue and edge to Blacksburg's "16 blocks", the Old Main Street site is primed to serve as a gateway between the city and the university. This reflective steel structure spans the site and crosses Main Street, reminiscent of the Alumni Gate that used to exist near the site. It engages passersby and provides a focal point that affords a flexible space for events, art displays, and everyday activities.



Many unique schemes were considered for the basic shape of the design, each based on differing sets of existing focal points. The chosen scheme is focused on enhancing visual and physical corridors to the Lyric Theatre, VT's Black Box Theatre, and the planned Performing Arts Center at the corner of Main Street and the Alumni Mall.

