

# Castro Street Reconfiguration and Design

Mountain View, CA



As the centerpiece of a revitalized town center, FTS' redesign of Castro Street has been a catalyst of its revitalization. The design reconfigured the main street from a 4-lane arterial to a 3-lane walkable street with special "flexible zones" serving as tree-shaded curbside parking or on-demand as outdoor café dining patios. Together with custom furnishings, they create a unique district identity.

## BEFORE

- The 2/3 mile long street was overly auto-oriented.
- Rents were low yet vacancies were numerous.
- The district was deserted after dark.



Castro Street's sidewalks were narrow and its roadway was wide and auto-dominated prior to reconstruction.

## OUTCOMES

- Construction was completed in 1989.
- Over a dozen flexible zone cafés flourish today and downtown eateries and shops are vibrant.
- Downtown has successfully attracted substantial residential, transit and workplace investment.



Bus Shelters were designed as "civic umbrellas" accommodating shelter, seats, and lean rails while contributing to the identity of the street.

## RECOGNITIONS

- 1993 Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects, San Francisco Chapter, to the City of Mountain View for downtown's revitalization.
- Profiled in *Great Streets* by Allan B. Jacobs.

**CLIENT:** City of Mountain View

**IN COLLABORATION WITH:** Mark Thomas & Co., Inc., Sugimura Associates, DKS Engineering, The Engineering Enterprise

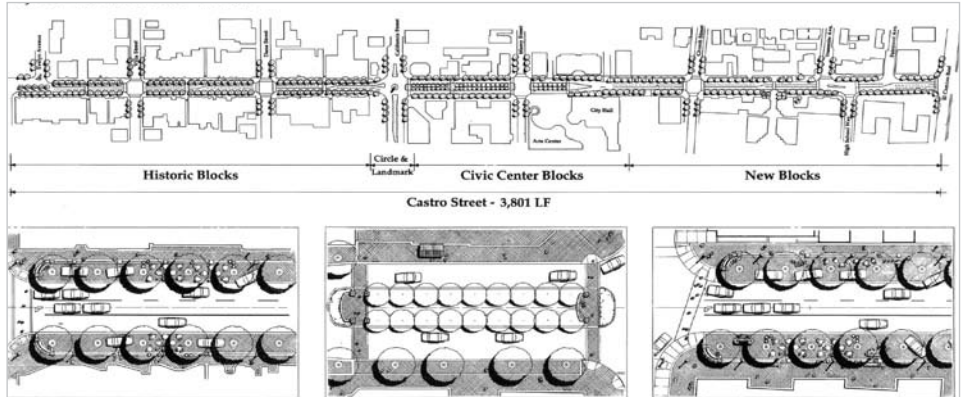
**FTB:** When this project was completed the firm name was Freedman Tung & Bottomley (FTB).



The flexible zones' outdoor dining capability has created a lively restaurant scene in the historic core both day and night.



The streetscape design treatments adjust for different segments and widths, but always prioritize the pedestrian experience.



Three distinct treatments at historic, civic center, and new downtown segments create a memorable spatial sequence.