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For me, the professional challenge, whether I am an architect in the rural American South or the American West, is how to avoid becoming so stunned by the power of modern technology and economic affluence that I lose focus on the fact that people and place matter.

Samuel Mockbee

●●●●● REGIONAL NEWS

SITES & DESIGNS



The Lucas County Courthouse forms one end of Toledo's Civic Center Mall.

Collaboration in Toledo Creates Opportunities for GSA, City, and County

In Toledo, Ohio on June 7 and 8, representatives from GSA's Urban Development/ Good Neighbor Program, Center for Courthouse Programs, and Great Lakes Region participated in a unique early planning effort. Their goal was to coordinate the location of a new U.S. District Courthouse with a planned Municipal Courthouse and County Justice Facility, all on the city's grand Civic Center Mall. GSA associates joined representatives from other federal agencies; Mehrdad Yazdani, the architect selected to design the new federal courthouse; a broad representation from the Toledo City and Lucas County governments (<http://www.ci.toledo.oh.us/index.cfm?Article=720>); and three peers selected to provide urban design and landscape expertise: Michael Fifield of the University of Oregon (http://architecture.uoregon.edu/people/fac_ag/fifield.htm), James Urban, a landscape architect in Annapolis, Maryland, and Steve Davies, of Project for Public Spaces (<http://www.pps.org/info/aboutpps/staff/sdavies>). Both days included useful discussions of opportunities for creative land use and possible coordination with local redevelopment efforts. Indeed, one participant noted that the event's success was apparent as stakeholders often became advocates for each others' interests, showing how a common goal can grow out of early collaboration. This first planning meeting will lead to future meetings towards developing a master plan for the city's government center and surrounding area and ensuring design solutions that benefit all stakeholders. Contact Frank Giblin (202) 501-1856.

CS Find the [executive summary and report](#) from the workshop on CivicSquare.

Red Carpet Becoming Familiar to Erie's New Courthouse

Each month seems to bring news of another award for the Mid-Atlantic Region's new U.S. Courthouse in Erie, Pennsylvania. In March, the federal courthouse complex—which includes renovations of the Moderne-style Federal Building and Courthouse, the Beaux-Arts former Erie County Library Building, and the Art Deco Isaac Baker & Sons clothing store, as well as a new annex—received a Citation for Design Excellence in Preservation during GSA's semiannual Design Awards. In May,

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