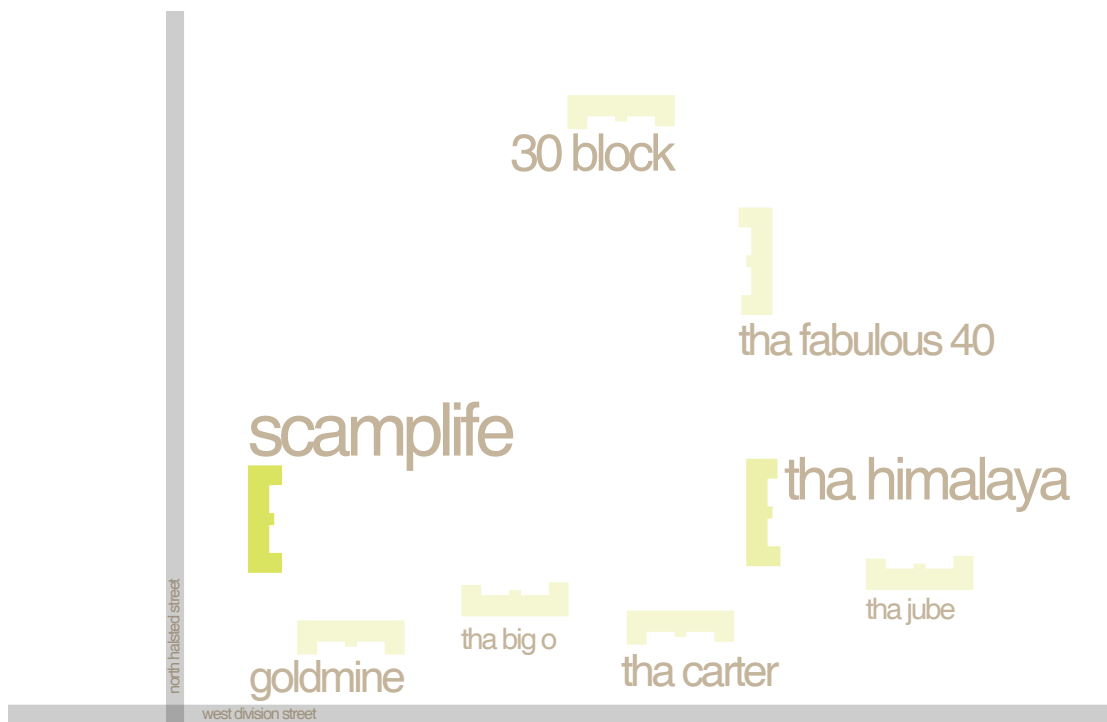


# The Demolition of the Cabrini-Green White Walls Towers

Dorothy Schwankl

At the intersection of Division and Halsted on Chicago's North Side, the Cabrini Green White Walls development was completed in 1962 as part of the urban renewal movement. Cheap construction methods and poor maintenance took their toll on the towers and in 1995 demolition of the eight towers began. Once a center of gang violence and social problems, Cabrini Green has been reduced to one tower, nicknamed "Scamplife" by the residents, but it too is slated for abandonment and demolition.



All images by Dorothy Schwankl



**form**

The original complex contained eight identical towers, creating a heavily shadowed megablock. The last remaining tower stands as a lone figure against an emptied ground plane.

**identity**

Demolition on the towers continues slowly, leaving the interiors of the units with their painted block walls exposed.







**boundary**

The metal gates have been removed, but the brick wall structure that supported them still stands, clearly delineating the site from the street.



**infrastructure**

A fire station across Larrabee Street now stands alone, no longer surrounded by the towers. The neglect of the building is visible on the exterior. Hints of the state of the interior are also discernible.

**scraped**

A lightpole on the western edge of site reveals layers of paint accumulated over the years.





**palimpsest**

The unbroken grid of the street facade of the last remaining building highlights the damage that the concrete has accumulated over the years.

**scarcity**

A lone planting survives along the unforgiving face of a school on the site.