

# HARLEM USA

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The Harlem USA complex stands as a direct representation of capitalism erasing valuable history. Like many other sites along 125th, this corporate imposed commercial space is a reminder that capitalism has deeply ingrained itself to everyday life. It makes one wonder if there was any way to weave the history of a place into the design without being forceful? Can we build or adapt places to benefit the community while keeping its spirit alive?

## ERASURE

125th and Frederick Douglass Boulevard, otherwise known as Harlem USA, is the perfect example of the capitalist America in which we live. Built in 2000, this SOM building stands as a symbol of capitalist innovation and historic erasure. Looking at this building through the lens of Radical Preservation, this building exemplifies the themes of capitalism and market, as well as erasure. This is important because these large corporations are imposing themselves in areas to dive up rent and displace those who are economically disadvantaged. We see in real time how this “gentrification” can cause serious problems in a community.