

Urban Architecture

by Frank X Walker

Main Street in Over-the-Rhine
between 12th and 14th

is landscaped with lean black hustlers
in long white tees

and young mothers who drag children
down the street like leg irons,

has learned to ignore statistics and the ammonia scent
of summer concrete soaked in piss

stacks its poor twelve deep at bus stops and wraps
its homeless in empty store fronts and cardboard

blankets, at night. Around the corner
from another new condo and secure off-street parking

something the size and color of hope
dies every 30 seconds,

so junior pallbearers crowd street corners
practice pouring libations

dark suits in their pockets
their neighborhood's last rites already waived.