

Project Two

Contextual Analysis _____ An Urban Palimpsest

Investigation

Project One introduced the notion of context as the composition of various elements, the dynamics of which fuel one's perceptions. Project Two shall again focus on this thought, and should be considered continuation of the efforts made to develop an awareness and understanding of the various elements that can define the experience of a specific environment.

This project again involves the analysis of an existing context, but at a significantly larger scale. The focus of study for the project will be a full-scale urban landscape in Northwest Portland, the prevailing quality of which is the result of a layering of various patterns over an extensive period of time. The area can be considered a hybrid landscape of-sorts, where both formal and phenomenological elements of the past, present and future are merged, putting forth a character that is, almost simultaneously, both familiar and unfamiliar.

The goal of this project will be to define this character, and it's many layers, through the development of a qualitative site analysis. The analysis will look beyond simply the formal aspects of the site, and will question how other elements can be explored to construct and communicate the totality of it's perception.

Methodology

Students are to understand that critical to this process is an awareness of, and sensitivity to, the experiential point of view. This positioning takes into account everything that makes each student unique, and must be questioned with a great deal of humility in order for a design process to become truly and competently personalized.

The application of the experiential point of view is working towards a thorough understanding of the spatial relationships and qualities existing within the specific context of investigation. Whereas images of the 'whole' – such as site maps and aerial photographs - will be utilized, students are to conduct an analytical survey based on various information gathered while *on site*. The challenge will be to develop an understanding of the site through the cumulative association of various moments and criteria.

In order to begin this process of definition, students will be asked to develop a series of analytical plan gestures of the following factors:

Public / Private spaces	Sense of Fear / Tranquility
Transition / Threshold Spaces	Transformation from Day to Night
Qualities of Sound	Qualities and Degrees of Enclosure
Textures of surfaces	Qualities of Natural / Artificial Light
Zones of Various Uses	Solid / Void relationships
Historical Layers	[Other]

Plan gestures must be proportionally accurate (drawn at 1" = 50'-0"), and will be based on the areas designated on the site map handed out by studio instructors. As the initial context of study is quite large, students should first concentrate on developing an understanding of the larger scale gestures of the site, and progress to smaller scale zones within the overall site. The gestures should incorporate varying lineweights/tones/etc to communicate the vertical and horizontal relationships within the experience.

The developed two-dimensional material will then be used as the departure point for the construction of a three-dimensional site investigation; one which uses all distinctive elements to establish the overall spatial quality of the site.

Project Two Schedule

Week Two April 09	Project Two _ Contextual Analysis Site Visit <i>Groups will meet at site; N.W. 16th + Raleigh Streets</i> Students <u>must</u> bring the following items: <i>Sketchbook</i> <i>Pencils / Pens / Charcoal / Etc.</i> <i>Camera</i> Optional Items: <i>Sound-recording device</i> <i>Video camera</i>
Week Three April 14	Site Analysis Presentation: Two-Dimensional Graphic Studies <i>Due:</i> <i>Six (6) Plan Gestures (@ 1" = 50'-0")</i> <i>Ink on mylar + pencil process studies on trace</i> <i>Collage techniques</i> <i>Four (4) "Hockney" Photomontages + Perspectives</i> <i>@ Sequentially Choreographed Spaces</i>
April 16	Existing Conditions Spatial Construct: Three-Dimensional Studies <i>Due:</i> <i>Model (@ 1" = 50'-0")</i> <i>Chipboard, museum board, etc</i> <i>Basswood (no balsa wood)</i> <i>Sheet metal</i> <i>Metal / fabric screen</i> <i>Plexiglas</i>
Week Four April 21 April 23	Existing Conditions Spatial Construct – Development Existing Conditions Spatial Construct – Development <i>Focus Area - Scale Shift</i>
Week Five April 28	Midterm Review Existing Conditions Spatial Construct - Final