

First Steps

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- to document site and program conditions and create instruments for the creative process
- to develop conceptual metaphors
- to incorporate community and ecology in creating siting strategies



painting by Keith Haring

In the next three weeks, we need to define exactly what we will be designing, identify and develop the most promising site design strategies.

I. PRECEDENT STUDIES (followup hand-in for Friday Oct 5)

To make Precedent Studies as useful as possible, consider

- What are the major points being made? How can they be applied to our site?
- If parts are hard to follow, ask for clarification or suggest editing.
- How do the physical environments supports community activity?
- Which visuals support the points most effectively? What is missing? How could diagrams or graphics be improved or cut to make a stronger case?

From the strongest presentations, identify techniques to improve your own visual and verbal presentation. Make edits to your reports and upload them with a SFTP or Fugo and make a link from the Wiki (or get help on this).

Server: design.uoregon.edu, Login: coho
 URL: <http://design.uoregon.edu/studio/coho>

SITE VISIT & ANALYSIS ROLES	POST-VISIT DOCUMENTATION ROLES
Natural Forces (sun, wind, water, vegetation, animals, ...) 3	Site Analysis consolidation & summary: (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) (3):
Man-made Context (transportation, codes, architectural heritage, history, utilities, ...) 4	Site Model (3+ all help) Digital Model (2):
Spatial Environment (dimensions of existing structures, archetypal places) 2	Site Elevation (2) Site Sections (2)
Human Behavior & Culture (Values, Activities, Public/Private realms, Boundaries) 4	Program (2): Wiki & Photo lead (1):
Sensory Environment (views, impressions, smells, ...) 2	Banker (1 part time): Librarian(1 part time):

** Research background material, plan on-site activities, prepare materials & equipment

Program Definition:

From interviews, activities, observations and notes with the Fields Farm cohousing, we need to define a single program brief with activities, space sizes and check the fit with the existing site. Understanding the client is a crucial part of the design process.

Site Analysis:

Each group will make sketches and succinct graphics that contain the most relevant site forces impacting the project. Each person will look with a specific lens and then contribute to a series of analytical plans, sections & images coordinated by the site analysis leaders.

Site Documentation:

Site model, Pettigrew street elevation, photocollages of street & panoramas



concept model: an agricultural parterre

V. CONCEPTUAL SITE RESPONSES

Your job is to translate the client's needs and aspirations into physical form. Consider the cohousing members' values, dreams, experiences and attitudes. How do their concepts of home, community, and sustainability alter your original Ecotopia ideas? Use descriptive adjectives and action verbs to **develop a metaphor**. This metaphor could give you ideas on how to

- Develop shared space
- Enclose shelter
- Use color, texture and materials
- Manipulate daylighting
- Create sequences and transitions

Create a simple concept model on an 8 ½ X 11" base. Focus on a few elements (air, land, water, people, energy, space) and show their relationship in a simple, spatial way.

Reference: Paul Laseau's Graphic Thinking for Architects and Designers, Ch. 8 esp. p. 144 Analogies

IV. GROUP SITE DESIGN

As a team, envision an environment would accommodate the community. Look at how building form can support user needs including community/privacy, and movement/repose. Consider site conditions, such as the flow of sun, water, energy, garbage and waste.

REQUIREMENTS

1. List design objectives - what you believe every scheme should do.
2. Create a model toolkit and play with it. Use the design objectives, constraints and conceptual metaphors to explore how to organize the program on the site. **Photograph at least 3 different massing alternatives** for discussion.
3. Research & summarize sustainability recommendations: what landscape and building measures will you incorporate? Include a reference image and bullet points for each technology
4. Create at least five 1/32" digital diagrams that show program organization and at most relevant factors such as private/public, sunny/shady, wet/dry, man-made / green divisions.

5. Develop your favorite scheme with:

- Site model (final site models will be 1"=16', preliminary can be 32')
- Site plan
- Site section
- 1/8" Enlarged partial site section
- Axonometric massing diagram
- Imagined perspective sketches of life in the community

READINGS FROM THE COURSE READER:

- *Corvallis Site Analysis* by Kathryn McCamant & SERA Architects [a strong example of how to organize user and site information into guidelines]
- Rocky Mountain Institute, *Green Development*. Ch. 5: Site Planning and Design, pp. 123-156.
- Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, *New Housing in Existing Neighbourhoods: Advisory Document*

ON BLACKBOARD UNDER "ECODESIGN"

- Ch 13: "Developing Sustainable Human Settlements" from Christian, Diana Leaf, *Creating a Life Together: Practical Tools to Grow Ecovillages and Intentional Communities*

BOOKS

- Edward T. White, *Site Analysis*. Types of site information, example of analysis diagrams paired with design diagrams. NA2540.5.W48 1983
- Kevin Lynch "Sensuous Form" in *Site Planning*. Explains how forms and elements shape experience NA9031 .L94 1971
- Chiras, Daniel & Dave Wann, *Superbia! : 31 ways to create sustainable neighborhoods*, Gabriola, B.C. : New Society Publishers, 2003.

Schedule

- Wed 10/3: Present Case studies, plan visit, site documentation & programming activities
- Fri 10/5: Revise & upload report. 10:45-Sat 9:00pm Field Trip to Bend

Week 3: CREATE DESIGN INSTRUMENTS, CONCEPTS

- Mon 10/8: Site diagrams, model base due consolidate site photos. Pick groups
- Wed 10/10: Site analysis & documentation due
- Fri 10/12: Concept models, toolkits due

Week 4: SITE DESIGN

- Mon: 10/15: informal crits
- Wed 10/17: Site models due
- Fri 10/19: informal crits
- Sun 10/21: **All material posted online by 10pm**

Week 5: REVIEW / SELECT SITE STRATEGIES, JUGGLE TEAMS

- Mon 10/22: REVIEW SITE DESIGNS 1-2:45 in 279, 3:00-4:50 in Studio A Knight Library