

Assignment 2: Understanding Place

Due: Oct 11, 9am: Meet at AMAA, 6720 SW Macadam Ave.

When working on an architectural design, your mind holds a mental map of the project's site. If you create a compelling record of the place, it can act as a storehouse for these memories. It can stimulate related memories and thoughts, and gradually becoming imbued with additional meaning.

Your job is to create at least one beautiful artifact to hold memories about the **relationship between nature and culture** at a site. Ideally, this will seed a set of explorations that can bring you from description through analysis, interpretation and design. Consider how sites could help you explore your core interests.

I. GATHER DATA

Start by touring the place either by walking a cross-section or by touring virtually. Compile and organize site information. Create sketches and diagrams of the site. Interview stakeholders about the place, showing them site images, quotes (i.e. opinions, journalist coverage, policy, etc.) to stimulate deeper reactions. Record the context at different scales (urban, ecosystem, building profiles, corners, entrances, materials, details). Reflect on how you perceive the site when you travel at different speeds. This activity may be done as groupwork.

II. INTERPRET

Use color, form, and texture to summarize an essential relationship of a natural and an artificial system. Use the piece to express your emotional reaction to the place. To generate ideas about the relationships of nature and humanity, use descriptive adjectives and action verbs to **develop a**

metaphor. This metaphor could give you ideas on how to create a sense of place.



concept model: an agricultural parterre

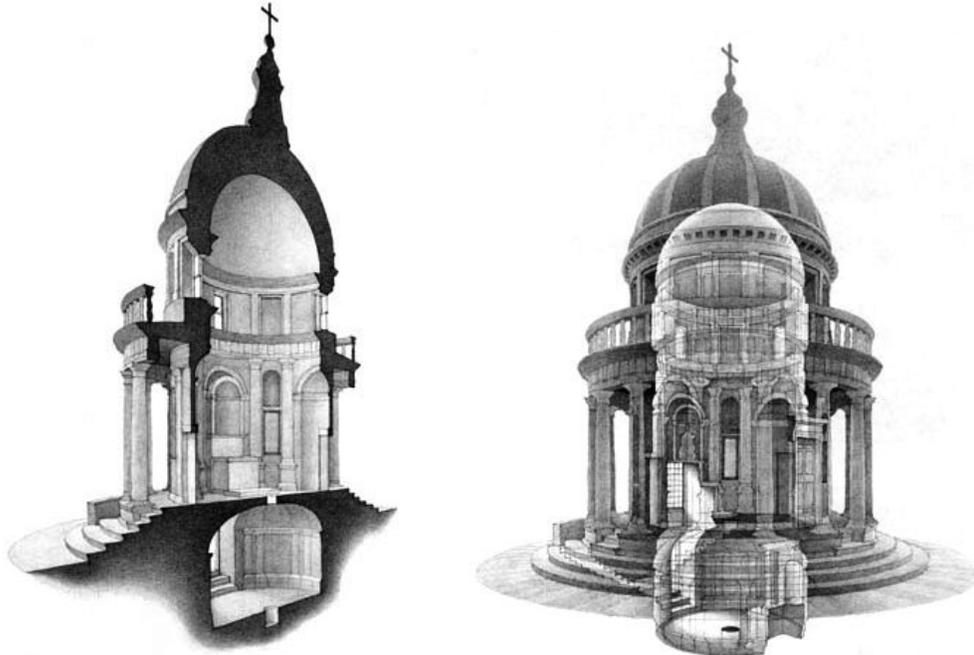
While your thesis project needs to build on your strengths, this and subsequent revisions provide a chance to develop new methods. Explore a new way of working on your project that works with materials that are characteristic of the place or material qualities that are represent the place. Develop skills to generate artifacts that stimulate your creativity, that open up insights and possibilities. Stretch your use of 3D representation, naturalistic & analytical color, time-based techniques or by collaging appropriated imagery & samples.

Each type of representation reveals and conceals. So at every step, consider

- What is a major question at this point?
- What ways have others pursued this line of inquiry?
- Can changing the viewpoint or the medium provide a fresh understanding?

III. SHARE

Post an image of the work with a paragraph describing the conceptual relationship and your underlying metaphor on your blog. Speculate on two program possibilities for two kinds of sites with explorative annotated drawings. How does your understanding of the site's resources and liabilities shape the program potentials?



Daniel Castor's renderings of Bramante's Tempietto reveal the relationship between interior and exterior volumes. See <http://vasi.uoregon.edu> & the UO JSMA show for more representations of Rome.

READING:

- R. Trancik's Finding Lost Space, Ch. 4 & 6 provide an accessible illustrated grounding in urban theory and design process.
- Meinig, D.W., "The Beholding Eye. Ten versions of the Same Landscape."
- City of Portland Urban Design Studio
<http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?c=43729>

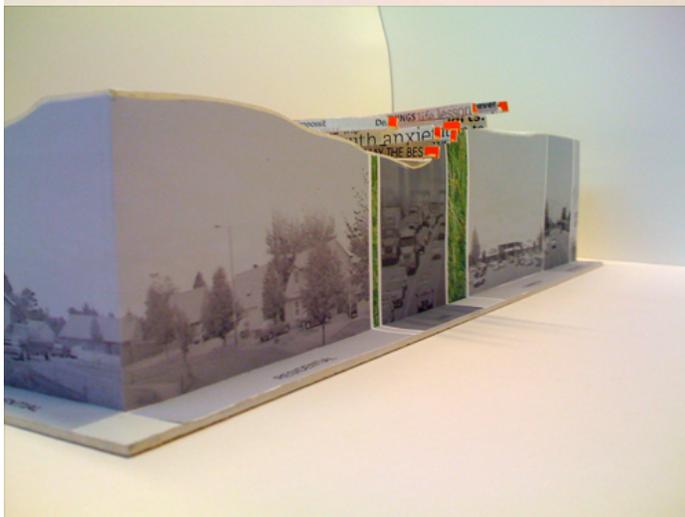
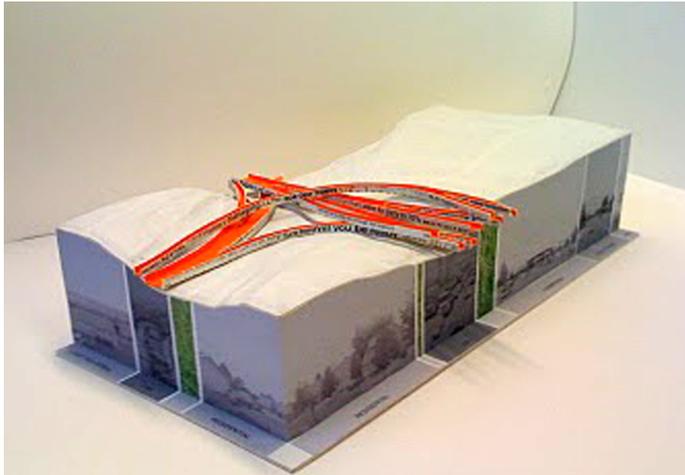
REFERENCES

Bosselmann, Peter. Representation of Places (NA9031 .B69 199)
White, Edward. Site Analysis, (NA2540.5.W48 1983)
Marx, Jenny, Curious Terrain cards: <http://curiousterrain.com>

>> SERA Architects Tim Smith, Eric Ridenour and Annaliese Sitterly will speak about Ecodistricts Wed Oct. 5 at 12noon in room 451 WSB
Preview: <http://www.sera-architects.com/blog/2011/08/tim-smith-civic-ecology-tedx/>

FIELD TRIP: October 11

8:30am	Bus 35 Macadam/Greeley south, Departs from NW 5th and Davis
8:53	Arrive at SW Macadam and Clackamas, walk north 3 minutes to ANKROM MOISON ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS, 6720 SW Macadam Avenue,
9:00am	Meet with Scott Thayer, Associate Principal of AMAA to discuss design process on Ecodistrict projects. [10:03 get ready to leave]
10:10am	From SW Macadam and Florida, take Bus 35 Macadam/Greeley north towards University of Portland, Get off at SW Macadam and Curry
10:30am	Meet Bob Hastings, Chief Architect of TriMet OHSU CENTER FOR HEALTH & HEALING, 3303 S.W. Bond Ave., Portland, OR 97239 double height lobby (where there are couches on a colorful rug) OHSU info line 503 494-8311
ad hoc	Take Streetcar to PSU area, then take Yellow Line back to NW 6th and Davis by ~noon.



site interpretation by Matthew Nick Byers