

Assignment 3: Material Site Interpretation

nature | culture

Due: Oct 16, 9am

Your job is to create at least one beautiful 3D artifact that depicts the **relationship between nature and culture**. Ideally, this will seed a set of explorations that can bring you through description, analysis, interpretation and design. Consider how a site could help you explore your core interests.

Option 1) Site Interpretation

What do you read as the existing relationship between natural forces and built form?

When working on an architectural design, your mind holds a mental map of the project's locale. 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.

Option 2) Utopian proposal

Can you model your version of a future Eden?

Option 3) Biomimetic metaphor

Carefully study the form and mechanism of how a creature or plant relates to its environment. Create a model that reveals the essential relationship.

I. GATHER DATA

Start by touring the place or creature or by direct observation or by touring virtually. Compile and organize the information. Create sketches and diagrams. Interview resource people, showing them images or quotes (i.e. opinions, journalist coverage, policy, etc.) to stimulate deeper reactions.

Record the context at different scales (urban, ecosystem, profiles, corners, 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 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.



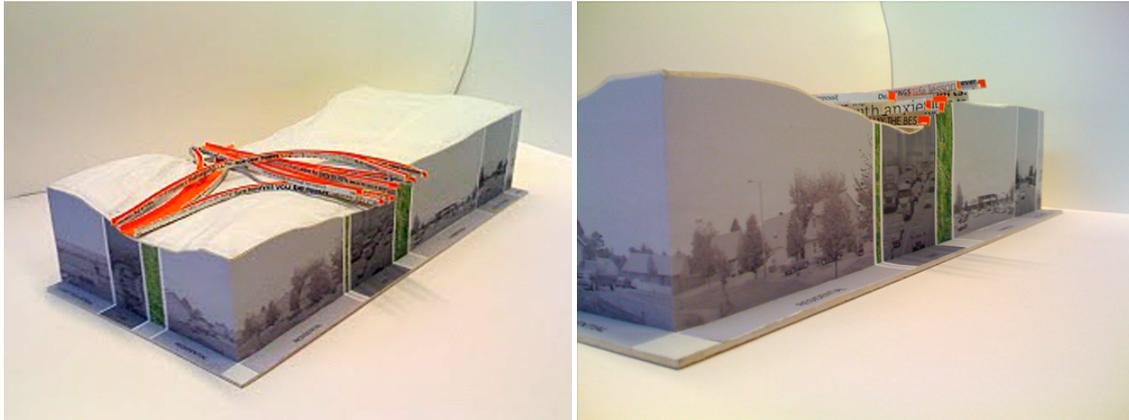
concept model: an agricultural parterre

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

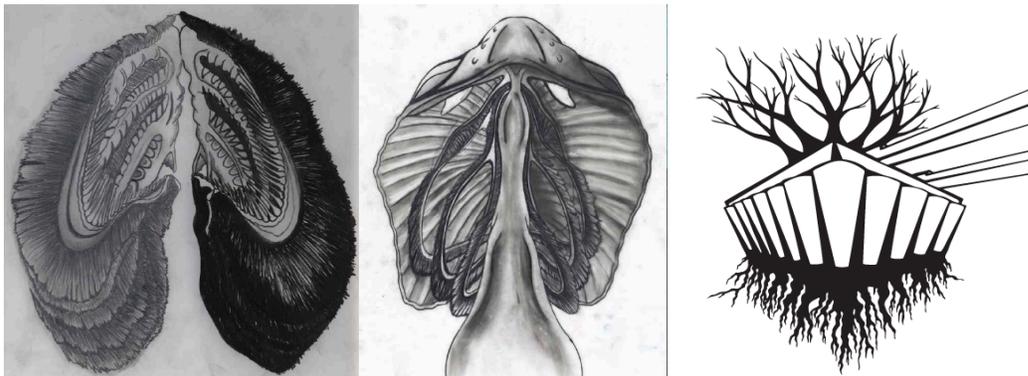
- What is a major question at this point?
- What ways have others pursued this line of inquiry?
- Can changing the viewpoint or the medium provide a fresh understanding?



site interpretation by Matthew Nick Byers

III. SHARE

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



John Hutton's studies for the Mycorrhizal Rejuvenation Learning Center

READING: Achim Menges' Integrative Design Computation from ACADIA2011 pp. 72-81.

Recommended:

- Peter Forbes: The Gecko's Foot, Ch. 13 Push-Pull Building System
- Hensel, Menges and Weinstock's Emergent Technologies and Design: Towards a Biological Paradigm for Architecture & AD issues on MorphoEcologies (on reserve)
- Bio-Structural Analogues in Architecture by Joseph Lim.
http://issuu.com/bis_publishers/docs/bio_structural
- John Hutton's Mycorrhizal Rejuvenation Learning Center
<http://www.issuu.com/johnhutton/docs/mycorrhizalrejuvenation>