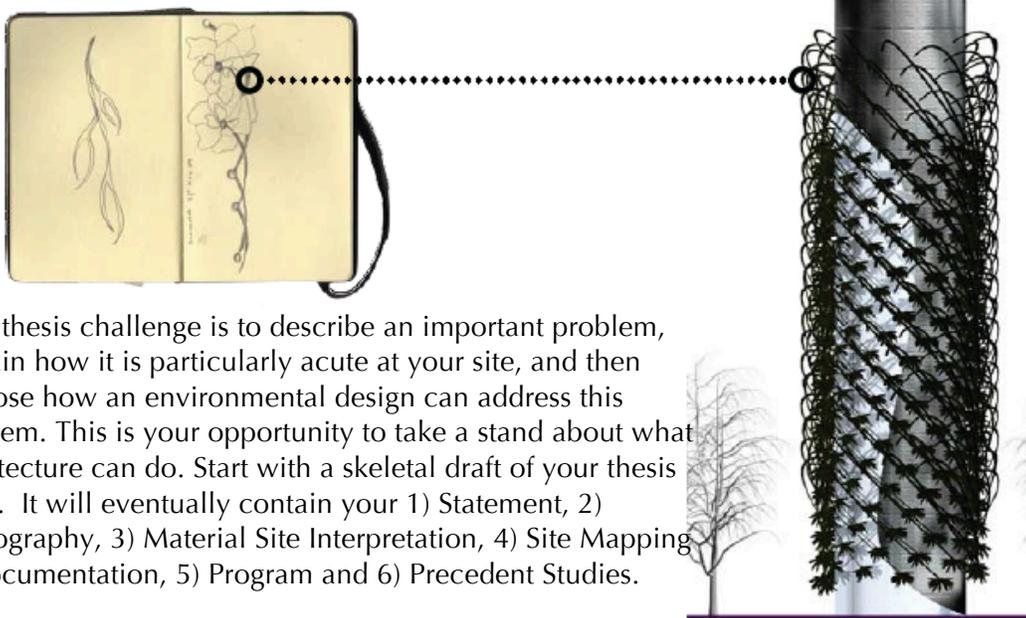


Assignment 4: Thesis Booklet 1.0

Blogpost due by Tues, Oct 23 at 8:20am. Bibliography could be linked from Diigo.com.



Your thesis challenge is to describe an important problem, explain how it is particularly acute at your site, and then propose how an environmental design can address this problem. This is your opportunity to take a stand about what architecture can do. Start with a skeletal draft of your thesis book. It will eventually contain your 1) Statement, 2) Bibliography, 3) Material Site Interpretation, 4) Site Mapping & Documentation, 5) Program and 6) Precedent Studies.

I. THESIS STATEMENT (300 words) : Articulate a cogent problem definition and argument: What is being investigated? Why is it important?

Your investigation should be leading you towards a provocative question or set of questions that will shape your design problem and process. The statement should reflect your idea of a building's role in its context, for example, how architecture can connect visitors to a place's heritage, how a clinic can shape the relationships between patient and doctor, how a classroom can facilitate collaborative learning, etc.

While a hypothesis is a tentative conjecture that explains facts or observations, a thesis is a considered position that is supported by analyzing and interpreting evidence. The design project will demonstrate how an architectural design can address the problem.

II. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (10 solid entries)

Document your understanding of the reference works and how they apply to your project. You need to be reading deeply and interviewing people to become knowledgeable about these areas...

- A. The Thesis Focus
- B. The Site
- C. The Program and Building Type
- D. Design approaches (media and representation)

> Use your detective skills to figure out which books are the standard classics and who are the most influential emerging voices. If you don't know, ask the smartest person you know.

> Summarize the key works about your interest areas and discuss which authors have been most influential and how their ideas differ or build on each other.

III. NARRATIVE

SITE: Describe the location where you plan to design your building. Explain how the neighborhood is suitable for your thesis focus. Summarize the history of the area's development, considering the social, political, economic and ecological aspects.

PROGRAM OPTIONS: Propose two different possible programs for your site. Describe who would inhabit your building and why they fit. List key Action Verbs that describe the major activities, and see if you can step back to see what they really entail. Your design project will only be as strong as your understanding of the client values and activities and precedents buildings of the same type.

READINGS for next week

- Meinig, D.W., "The Beholding Eye. Ten versions of the Same Landscape."

http://www.larch.umd.edu/classes/larc/l160/readings/meinig_beholding_eye.pdf

- R. Trancik's Finding Lost Space, Ch. 4 & 6 provide an accessible illustrated grounding in urban theory and design process.

OPTIONAL: Glass, Ira et. al. This American Life episode 110: Mapping.

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/110/Mapping>

See images link at the bottom of the page.

FIELD TRIP: October 23

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.
