

Symbology and Cinema

Portland Riverfront Landing

ARCH 4/507 Terminal Studio: Biosynergies
Fall 2012, University of Oregon

October 30 Field Trip

Squeeze the most out of your site visits by creating **comprehensive experiential field records** that complement your knowledge of form and function. Use the *Curious Terrain Explorer's Deck* as a tool for sharpening your observations of the unique experiential elements and qualities that define the site.

Materials

1. An 8.5 x 11 inch base map of your site.
2. Multiple 8.5 x 11 inch sheets of trace paper to overlay your map, and a clip to keep everything together.
3. Drawing materials and sketchbook.
4. Your assigned *Discover* cards from the *Explorer's Deck*.

In the Field

1. Place your trace paper on top of your base map. Choose one of your *Discover* cards, and write its title in the designated space, *on the trace paper*.
2. Carefully read the card, and explore the site, focusing your observations on the theme of your *Discover* card, and *only* that theme. Use the card as a starting point, and feel free to interpret the theme in your own way.
3. Record your discoveries on the trace paper, directly on top of your base map. Create your own **symbology** for expressing the theme of your card, along the right side of the map.
4. When you find a site view or element that illuminates essential elements of your theme, quickly draw one or more vignettes in your sketchbook, and write a caption underneath. These are your **storyboards**. Use a series of them to communicate a quality that takes place *over time* rather than in a single moment. Think **cinematically**, as if you are a film director visually communicating a scene to the crew.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 with your remaining *Discover* card/s. Use a *different piece of trace* each time you switch cards.

November 6 Assignment

Merge your field maps and storyboards into a single, 11x17 inch record to share with the rest of the class. You may use any combination of manual and digital methods, text and images.

The final piece must include:

1. An **experiential map** of the site that includes *all* of the themes from your *Discover* cards. Edit and refine your symbology, and create an intuitive key of symbols so that someone else can easily interpret your map.
2. Six small storyboard images that evoke your experience in a cinematic way. Be sure to connect those scenes to the map, so that it is clear where the scenes take place.

Be sure to experiment by overlaying your multiple trace papers in various ways, to find the most effective combination. Do not try to include every single thing in your final piece. *What you choose to leave out is as important as what you choose to include.*

The purpose of the 11x17 final piece:

1. To take a fragmented collection of field records and synthesize them into an elegant, illuminative record in a concise amount of space. With thoughtful attention to organization, hierarchy and detail, you can pour an enormous amount of information into an 11x17 inch piece of paper.
2. To transform your personal, idiosyncratic field records into a record that another person can easily interpret *without you walking them through it*.

Symbology and Cinema Base Map

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Discover Card:

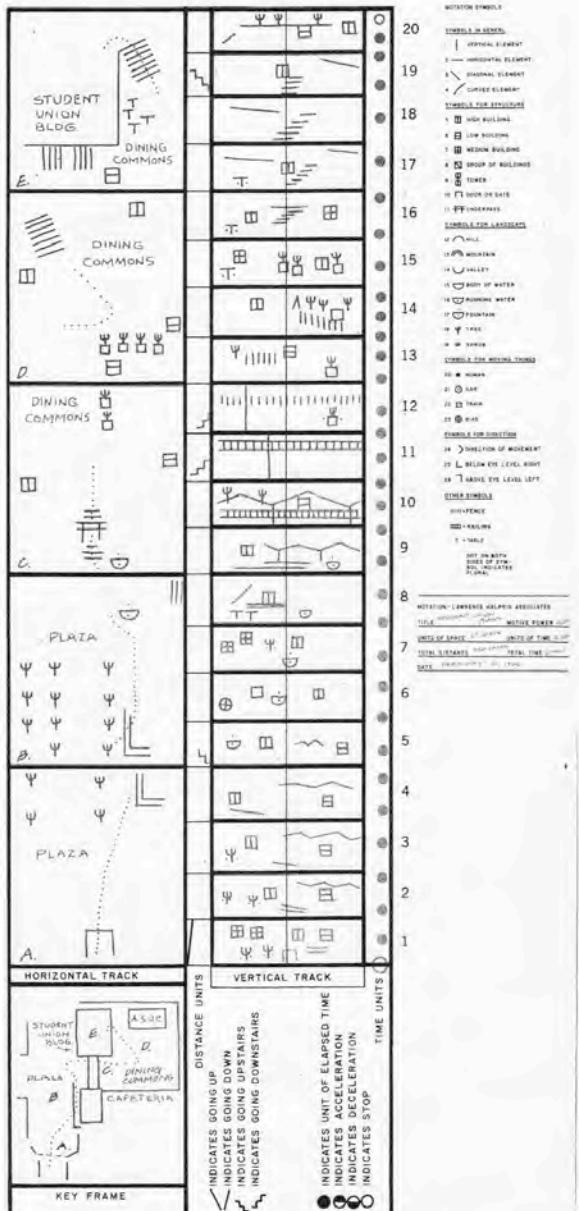
Symbology



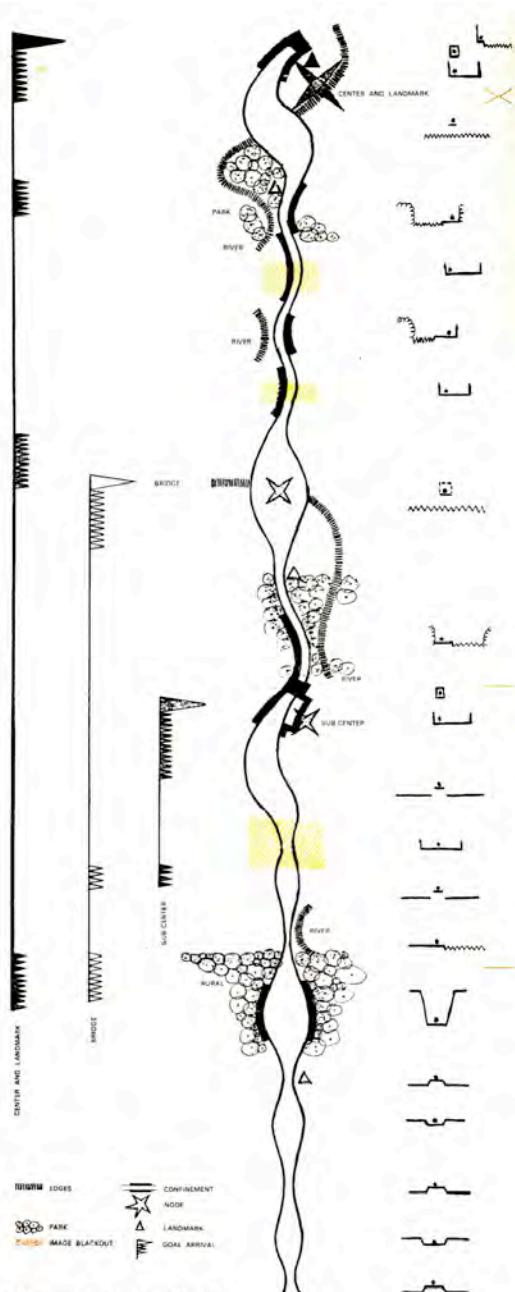
Symbol	Meaning

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A few inspirational examples of notations and storyboards. Lots more in the library!



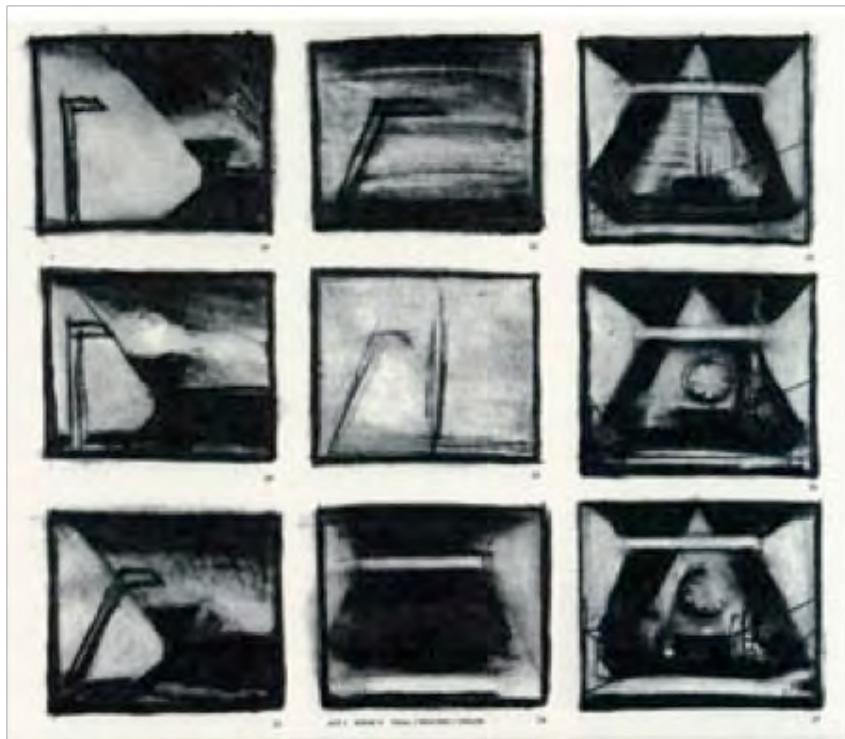
Halprin, Lawrence. "Motation." *Progressive Architecture*. Vol. 46, July 1965: pp. 126-133.



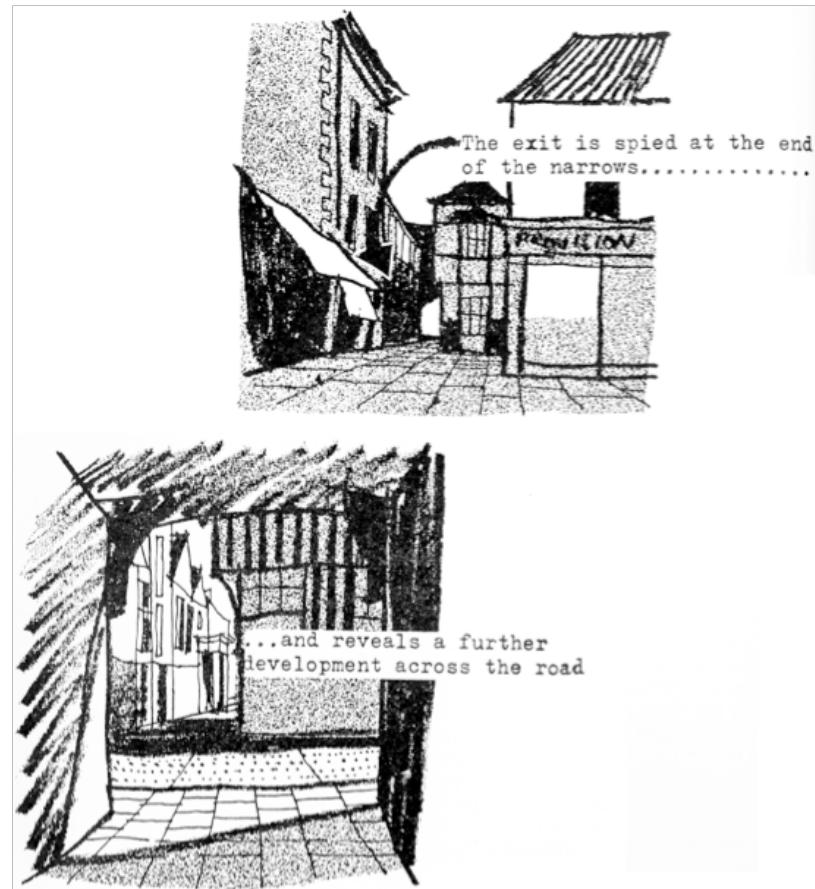
Appleyard, Donald, Kevin Lynch, and John R. Myer. *The View from the Road*. The MIT Press, 1965.

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Robert Wilson. Storyboards for an opera, "*Einstein on the Beach*."
<http://prelectur.stanford.edu/lecturers/wilson/>



Gordon Cullen. *Townscape*. New York: Reinhold Book Corp, 1961.