

Assignment 8: Thesis Document

Objectives

- to sharpen and consolidate the project ideas
- to effectively communicate the ideas to your audience



image by Hans Claessen

To complete the term, you will refine and compile the components of this term's study into a coherent **THESIS DOCUMENT**. Together with your work-in-progress documentation and images of your final design, this document will be the culmination of your studies. It needs to communicate why you care about this project. Make the issues come alive through vivid graphic, spatial and material representations. Describe how your project addresses the **BioSynergies** theme, the relationship between nature and culture through the lenses of Eco-Districts and Biomimicry.

Your thesis document needs to describe the conceptual basis for your design exploration. In your **STATEMENT**, describe the essential question being addressed and how your site and program contribute to the consideration of that question. Document the **PROGRAM** by articulating the noblest values and aspirations of your client and by providing space quantities, relationships and requirements. The **SITE** needs to be represented in compelling **ANALYTICAL GRAPHICS** (diagrams, maps, sections, photos and drawings). Include at least one beautiful **3D ARTISTIC SITE INTERPRETATION** that will inspire you and your audience to appreciate the place you have chosen.

Through your annotated **BIBLIOGRAPHY**, show that you have made a good start to understanding how your project can build on the existing body of knowledge or challenge it. Which authors have been most influential? Which schools, firms or individuals are currently generating the most provocative, stimulating ideas through writing or practice? Why are their ideas relevant for your project?

By describing, analyzing and interpreting **PRECEDENTS** with the lens of your investigation, you will more easily find ways to synthesize your own hybrids or challenge the conventions to find your own path.

Develop a **LEARNING COMMUNITY** by finding and engaging with those who share your passions. They can become your allies, mentors and cheerleaders. Share resources and ideas. Invite peers, client stand-ins, architects and other environmental design professionals to comment on your blog.

Schedule

Tues, Nov. 20: **PRECEDENT STUDIES & REVISION of THESIS WORK due**, incorporating pinup feedback. **List three external people** who share your interests and invite them to look at your project.

Tues Nov. 27 (no class): **BOOKLET draft due** on blog. Conferences Nov. 26 - 30.

Tues. Dec. 4, 9am-12noon: **FINAL REVIEW OF PROJECTS:** revised Booklet printed as 11 x 17 and 3D Interpretation sheets for science fair.

Fri. Dec. 7, 9am: **Final PDF due** on blog.

Suggested Procedure

1. **Gather and assess** your work. What can you build on? What's missing?
2. **Organize the structure** of your document. Sequence the ideas to build a story. Plan how you want to graphically portray your project, thinking about your audience.
3. **Revise and develop** text and graphics for each section. Your document is only as strong as its weakest piece. **Be sure to include citations** for all borrowed pieces.
4. **Design the booklet.** Sketch thumbnail possibilities, create a graphic template page, trying out different color and font possibilities. Use the template to develop the document, prepare artwork by scanning and improving images. Images for print need high resolution (~170 pixels per inch for a 600 dpi printer).
5. **Publish drafts, Proofread and Revise.** Work with partners to give feedback about each others' work.