

## Assignment 1: UTOPIAN DREAM PLACE

**Hand-in:** Monday, Oct. 6, 1pm



“There is no place like home.” – Wizard of Oz

### A. MIND-MAP (In-class exercise)

What places feel like paradise to you? Consider sites of joyful n ry places. Is it a natural oasis, a hideaway, the ultimate party palace? In envisioning a home for a new society, it can be helpful to brainstorm about what appeals to you personally as well as learn how others visions are different.

Working with an unfamiliar partner, write down phrases and draw icons to represent this Dream place using sticky notes or moving paper to cluster ideas:

- Adjectives that describe the place
- Action Verbs for key activities
- Nouns of valued aspects

Can you come up with a common vision? From these create and share a 3 minute story describing a wonderful dream place. Introduce your partner and share the story with the class.

### B. INVESTIGATE

“Toto, I have a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore.” – Wizard of Oz

Identify a crucial urban challenge that most threatens our hopes for a prosperous, equitable society. Is it overpopulation, unpredictable weather, pollution, income inequality? Then with your partner, find, analyze and document two related innovative community visions that address this challenge. You can select from an architectural manifesto with a related visionary project, a real community, or a robust imaginary representation (a novel or movie).

1. Describe the vision or ethos (i.e. spiritual, ecological or political bent), social structure and shared activities.
2. Diagram the most useful relationships in plan and section:
  - Relationship to nature (sun, water, vegetation, habitat)
  - Public | semipublic | private areas and describe how interaction is encouraged and privacy is maintained
  - External connections (i.e. transit, functional zones, service)
3. Is there one really great space? Draw it to scale to understand how built and vegetative components shape the space
4. In the language of the Evolo competition, can you identify a way that the community responds or adapts to its natural environment? If not, how could it be changed to do so?

### C. SHARE

Work with your partner to present your findings as a precedent case study with the issues that will be central to your project. Create a minimum of 4 @ 11 x 17 horizontal pages that includes diagrams, and at least 4 paragraphs (around 300 words) of text. Create a PDF that will be shared with the class via the course website. **\*\*Cite all sources or it will be considered plagiarism\*\***

Contribute three annotated to the group annotated bibliography on the course website.

#### Architectural Manifestos

- Antonio Sant'Elia, Manifesto of Futurist Architecture
- Frank Lloyd Wright, The Disappearing City Broadacre City
- Le Corbusier, Towards a New Architecture
- Paolo Soleri, Arcology: The City in the Image of Man
- Bjarke Ingels, Yes is More

#### Fiction (pair with a real location)

- Ernest Callenbach, Ecotopia
- Ursula K. LeGuin, The Dispossessed: an ambiguous utopia

#### Intentional Communities: <http://ic.org>

- Auroville, Pondicherry, India
- Ecovillage at Ithaca, NY
- Kathleen Kinkade, Is it Utopia Yet? (Twin Oaks <http://www.twinoaks.org>)

### **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES**

From the Purdue Online Writing Lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>

*A bibliography is a list of sources (books, journals, websites, periodicals, etc.) one has used for researching a topic. Bibliographies are sometimes called "references" or "works cited".*

*An annotated bibliography includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources. Depending on your project or the assignment, your annotations may do one or more of the following:*

**Summarize:** *Some annotations merely summarize the source. What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say? The length of your annotations will determine how detailed your summary is. For more help, see our handout on paraphrasing sources.*

**Assess:** *After summarizing a source, it may be helpful to evaluate it. Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is this source biased or objective? What is the goal of this source?*

**Reflect:** *Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?*