

WEEK 08 + 09: ARCHITECTURE + PUBLIC SPACE -- VISIT | RECORD | PRESENT OBSERVATIONS + ANALYSIS

DUE DATES:

WEDNESDAY MARCH 30 10PM: Choose Place + Submit Site Plan

THURSDAY: APRIL 7, 2022: In-class Presentation with slides

*PLEASE READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE ASSIGNMENT AND LOOK AT THE SLIDES FROM CLASS – WEEK 8.
If you have questions please email me. The slides are linked to Agenda on OpenLab*

Objectives and Outline

- An introduction to site planning principles through observation and analysis.
- Discover the relationship of buildings and their context: how does the site relate to its urban setting?
- Through site observation, inventory and analysis -- present your findings on the site you choose.

For this assignment you will go out [or online] and investigate the built environment. You will be assessed on how well you can express your experience of the place you choose in your presentation, and how well you can translate your experience into critical evaluation of your place. Prepare a Slide Presentation of your place. Your presentation will include images and written descriptions that help you describe and analyze your site.

Step 1: Locate + Choose Site: Define the boundaries of your location. Confirm boundaries with your professor. Students will choose sites Week 8, by the end of class.

You may choose a **public open space** anywhere in the world. It's helpful if you've been there, but it not necessary (of course). We looked at some examples of sites on the Slides in class, posted on OpenLab.

If you want to research a New York site, you may choose from these or another with Professor's approval:

- Union Square, Manhattan
- Bryant Park including New York Public Library
- Rockefeller Center
- Lincoln Center, Manhattan
- Columbia University – Morningside Campus, (116th St. + Broadway), OR the recent northern expansion of the university that starts at 125th St.
- Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn
- Barclay Center, Brooklyn

You may also choose from these spaces below, or another with Professor's approval:

- St. Peter's Square + Vatican, Rome, Italy
- Plaza del Zócalo, Mexico City
- National Mall, Washington, DC
- Ginza Crossing, Tokyo, Japan

Step 2: Research: You should always begin a project knowing as much as you can about your site. Provide enough background and history to inform your audience about your location. This background and history should be very general and brief. **Remember the goal is to analyze your place.**

Step 3: Observe and document: If your site is in New York City, go there and photograph things that relate to the topics below. If you chose somewhere other than NYC, find photos and other images that address the topics below.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR at your site – ***Write notes and sketches into your sketchbook as you research your site.***

- Circulation – walkways; streets; access to the main outdoor space
- Scale: Note building heights and open space
- Public areas: what is successful...what is not...WHY?
- Ordering Structures: Axis, or more than 1 axis; Center and re-centering
- Views...to what or where??
- What draws people to this site? Why do people come here...or not?
- Use of Landscaping – walks, plants...+ scale of plantings; seating;
- Texture – of both the buildings and the streets + open spaces: materials, shape + form;

Step 4: Present: **Your presentation is to include ALL the topics below:**

1. **TOPIC 1.** Describe the buildings:

- a. What do they look like?
- b. What are they made of?
- c. How do the buildings on the site work together (scale, material, color)? Or if you don't think they do, why not?

2. **TOPIC 2.** Describe how the building masses relate to the public spaces

- a. What is dominant, the building(s) or the space?
- b. Is there a hierarchy among the buildings?
- c. Is there a physical - or spacial - center of the complex?

3. **TOPIC 3.** Describe how the public spaces are treated:

- a. Are they landscaped? If so, describe materials, objects and scale.
- b. Are there places for people to meet and sit?
- c. What are the people around there doing?
- d. Is the site mainly flat, or are there level changes and different experiences.

4. **TOPIC 4.** How is the infrastructure treated?

- a. Where do the cars go?
- b. Are the pedestrians separated from the cars?
- c. Where do the loading trucks go?
- d. Subway/Bus access?

DELIVERABLES – Be prepared to present your research in class.

SLIDE PRESENTATION: [Google Slides or PowerPoint]

INCLUDE:

1. Provide spatial context. Provide 3 - 4 slides showing the location of your place, with images, maps etc.; and brief history to orient your audience.
2. Provide a site plan showing all the buildings, spaces, streets, etc. (Get this first before you either visit the site if in NYC or research online if not in NYC.)

EXPLAIN how the buildings, pedestrian spaces, and streets relate.

Note on your Site Plan where your images are located.

3. 5 -10 slides that cover the 4 Topics listed above on page 2;

NOTE: Be sure your images are large enough; the text should take up less space than the image.

- a. Every slide should have a short caption to describe what you are showing.
 - b. You may put more than one image on a slide.
 - c. If you are showing a street, you should have a site plan showing where that street is.
 - d. If you are showing a building, you should show us on a site plan where that building is.
4. Each student will present their place; and there will be time for questions and discussion.