

Project #1: WELCOME TO BROOKLYN Pavilion

During Marty Markowitz's term as Brooklyn Borough President, the downtown area has witnessed an architectural renaissance. DUMBO has been transformed from a decaying industrial neighborhood into a vibrant residential area, complete with elegant shops, restaurants and design centers. The first phase of the award winning Brooklyn Bridge Park has been successfully completed, creating a much welcomed green belt along the East River waterfront.

In March 2011, CityTech, along with Poly, City College and Pratt, were invited by the Brooklyn Borough President's Office to submit architectural proposals for creating a graceful, connecting link between the Brooklyn Municipal Building and the waterfront. In researching the possibilities, our architectural students identified a number of locations for significant, cost effective architectural transformations. Foremost among these is the triangular site east of Borough Hall at the corner of Joralemon and Adams Street. Presently, it is used as a parking lot for judges presiding at the courthouses. (They will not give up their spaces!) The challenge is to create an attractive raised platform above the parking spaces that will house an architecturally exciting "Welcome to Brooklyn Pavilion". This underutilized site, surrounded by mature elegant trees, is the ideal location for an information center. It would be used to promote Brooklyn's cultural activities and to serve as a TKTS center for both Broadway shows and for the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM). Also, this location marks the gateway to Brooklyn Heights, multiple courthouses, five major colleges, the Fulton Mall, MetroTech, and a wide range of civic and economic activities.

The site is located above six major subway lines. It serves as a hub for multiple activities. The NY Times reported that the two bottom floors of the Brooklyn Municipal Building are being transformed into 47,000 square feet of expensive shops and a restaurant. And last week a proposal to create the Borough Hall Skyscraper Historic District was approved by a City Council Sub-Committee.

The assignment:

- a. Prepare a research paper, presented in a power point, comparing two existing projects which have served similar or related purposes. The analysis should discuss the use of space, materials, and critique the relative success of the project. Photographs, plans, or other pertinent information should be included.
- b. Analyze our site, identifying all architectural aspects, tree locations, sun orientation, etc.
- c. Design an architecturally exciting solution which will presented in model and drawing form to the Brooklyn Borough President.

Have fun!

Week 1

1/31/12

1. Introductions
2. Review of architectural/graphic vocabulary developed in AR311 (the development of architectural parti, definition of space and path) and introduction to site analysis and research.
3. Introduction to **PROJECT 1: Welcome to Brooklyn Pavilion**. Explanation of this type of project and assignment of site. Review methods used to research an architectural project through the use of the library, architectural journals, interviews, visits to similar facilities. *This is not so much a building as an idea and response to the site.*
4. Assignment: Research Paper – building type examples and analysis. What forms, types, materials, characteristics, elements would be appropriate for this site and why? Document the site through photographs and drawings. Hand sketches are required. Powerpoint and hard copy due in class 2/9/12.
5. Discussion: Review of site analysis criteria – context, site amenities, grade changes, sun orientation, pedestrian traffic, views. Concepts of scale, hierarchy, proportion, structure, development of ideas through materials, texture, detail.
6. Each student must visit the site at least once prior to next class. Be prepared to discuss your impressions.

2/2/12

1. Discussion: Review of site impressions.
2. Review of building types, architectural precedent and process.
3. Assignment: Develop a parti and schematics.
4. Lab time/Desk crits.

Week 2

2/7/12

1. Pin Up: Preliminary Site Analysis and Parti
2. Continue working on Project 1. Evaluation and redevelopment.
3. Lab time/Desk crits

2/9/12

1. Student presentations of research. PPT and hand in hard copy.
2. Lab time/Desk crits

Week 3

2/14/12

1. Review of scale, hierarchy, rhythm.
2. Review of presentation requirements.
3. Lab time/Desk crits (final models and drawings)

2/16/12

1. Juried Pin Up of PROJECT 1
 - a. Site plan and model
 - b. Site section and larger scale drawings necessary to fully describe the project.
 - c. Idea board incorporating site analysis, inspirations and precedents.