

First Steps

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- to document site and program conditions and create instruments for the creative process
- to develop conceptual metaphors
- to incorporate community and ecology in creating siting strategies



painting by Keith Haring

DESCRIPTION

In the next two weeks, we need to define exactly what we will be designing and identify the most promising site design strategies.

I. PRECEDENT STUDIES (in class with followup hand-in)

To make Precedent Studies as useful as possible, consider

- What are the major points being made? How can they be applied to the River Road site?
- If parts are hard to follow, ask for clarification or suggest editing.
- How does each physical environment supports community activity?
- Which visuals support the points most effectively? What is missing? How could diagrams or graphics be improved or cut to make a stronger case?

From the strongest presentations, identify techniques to improve your own visual and verbal presentation. Make edits to your reports and upload them with a SFTP or Fugo and make a link from the Wiki (or get help on this).

Server: design.uoregon.edu, Login: rrcoho

URL: <http://design.uoregon.edu/studio/rrcoho>

II. PROGRAM DEFINITION:

From the attached "Desired Features" document, we need to define a single program brief with activities, space sizes and check the fit with the existing site.

III. SITE ANALYSIS:

As a class, create succinct graphics that contain the most relevant site forces impacting the project: a series of plans, sections & images documenting

Natural Forces (Vegetation)

Man-made Context (Transportation, Facades, History)

Spatial Environment

Human Behavior & Culture (Public/private spaces, Interviews, Boundaries)

Sensory Environment

SWOT analysis: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats

Documentation: Site model, River Road street elevation, photocollage of street

IV. CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Your job is to translate the client's needs and aspirations into physical form. Develop profiles of different cohousing members in terms of values, dreams, experiences and attitudes. Consider how their concepts of **home, community, and sustainability** might vary. Use descriptive adjectives and action verbs to **develop a metaphor**. This metaphor could give you ideas on how to

- Develop shared space
- Enclose shelters
- Use color, texture and materials
- Manipulate daylighting
- Create sequences and transitions

In parallel to the metaphor, start a list of design objectives and what you believe every scheme should do.

Reference: Paul Laseau's Graphic Thinking for Architects and Designers, Ch. 8 esp. p. 144 Analogies

V. GROUP SPACE AND FORM ORGANIZATION

As a team, envision an environment would accommodate the community. Look at how building form can support user needs including community/privacy, and movement/repose. Consider site conditions, such as the flow of sun, water, energy, garbage and waste. Identify your top sustainable techniques to study.

REQUIREMENTS:

Use the design objectives, constraints and conceptual metaphors to explore how to organize the program on the site. Create a model toolkit and play with it. Photograph at least 3 different massing alternatives for discussion.

To summarize your understanding, create at least five 1/32" digital diagrams that show program organization and at most relevant factors such as private/public, sunny/shady, wet/dry, man-made / green divisions. Working with your classmates, develop possible schemes with

- Site model (final site models will be 1"=16', preliminary can be 32')
- Site plan
- Site section
- 1/8" Enlarged partial site section
- Axonometric massing diagram
- Imagined perspective sketches of life in the community

READINGS FROM THE COURSE READER:

- *Corvallis Site Analysis* by Kathryn McCamant & SERA Architects [a strong example of how to organize user and site information into guidelines]
- Rocky Mountain Institute, *Green Development*. Ch. 5: Site Planning and Design, pp. 123-156.
- Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, *New Housing in Existing Neighbourhoods: Advisory Document*

ON BLACKBOARD UNDER "ECODESIGN"

- Ch 13: "Developing Sustainable Human Settlements" from Christian, Diana Leaf, *Creating a Life Together: Practical Tools to Grow Ecovillages and Intentional Communities*

BOOKS

- Edward T. White, *Site Analysis*. Types of site information, example of analysis diagrams paired with design diagrams. NA2540.5.W48 1983

- Kevin Lynch "Sensuous Form" in *Site Planning*. Explains how forms and elements shape experience NA9031 .L94 1971

- Chiras, Daniel & Dave Wann, *Superbia! : 31 ways to create sustainable neighborhoods*, Gabriola, B.C. : New Society Publishers, 2003.

SCHEDULE

- Wed 1/17: discuss case studies in small groups, gather in site groups to define program & plan site documentation
- Fri 1/19: Revise & upload report. 11:45-8:00pm Field Trip to Portland
 - 11:45 depart
 - 2:00 Cohousing
 - 3:00 Sunlight
 - 4:30 Sera
 - 5:30 go home
- Mon 1/22: Program. Site diagrams, model base, photos of street to make elevations consolidated. Pick site design groups
- Wed 1/24: Model and kit pieces mostly done
- Fri 1/26: preliminary design concepts
- Wed 1/31: REVIEW of Site Analysis, Sustainable Site Response.

ROLES

Site Analysis: Dan, Bish, Brent, Kristen

Site Model: Erin K, Lauren, Kaelee, Donny

Digital Model: Frank, Tuan, Matt

Site Elevation: Allyson, Carolina

Site Section: Rose

Program: ErinP, Martina

Banker: Kaelee

Librarian: Martina