

SITE ANALYSIS

ARC 2215/2216

Spring Semester 2003

Instructor: Mark A. Comeau, AIA (885-2387 Day); email MystArch@aol.com; www.geocities.com/profmarkcomeau
Grading: Quizzes (2) 15% • Mid-term & Final 15% each • Exercises 30% • Resource Book 10%

Course Objective: To introduce the Architectural Design Technology students to an overview inventory of the systems & elements which are encountered in the analysis of site conditions. The student will explore how each element operates and procedures to maintain or improve the quality of the site environment. Students develop a value system which fosters the concept of fitness to human purpose & specific site context through an ecological approach to design.

Method: Lectures, Slide Lectures, Class Discussion
Text: SITE ANALYSIS, James A. LaGro Jr.

Week 1 Introduction & Course Outline
(1/23) *Course Layout and Projects*

Resource Analysis

Week 2 Context & Elements: Cultural/Natural
(1/28) *Reading: pp 3-16, 95-113*

Week 3 Climatology, Hydrology
(2/04) *Reading: pp 67-86*

Week 4 Soils, Flora
(2/11) *Reading: pp 87-94*

Land Use

Week 5 Historic Elements, Design Elements
(2/18) *Reading: pp 95-106*

Regulation

Week 6 Zoning, Codes & Ordinances
(2/25) *Reading: pp 95-106*

Week 7 Accessibility/Barrier-Free Design
(3/04) *Reading: pp 95-106*

Land Form

Week 8 Topography & Contours
(3/11) *Reading: (See Handouts)*

*Week 9, 3/17-21 Spring Vacation

Week 10 Grading & Earthwork
(3/25) *Reading: (See Handouts)*

Circulation

Week 11 Access: Pedestrian & Vehicular
(4/01) *Reading: 155-174*

Infrastructures

Week 12 Access Planning
(4/08) *Reading: pp 51, 68, 102*

Week 13 Utility Services & Distribution
(4/15) *Reading: pp 44, 52, 152-168*

Week 14 Drainage & Waste Systems
(4/22) *Reading: pp 181-184*

Landscaping

Week 15 Design Concepts & Materials
(4/29) *Reading: pp 184-207*

Site Design Project

Week 16 Program: Evaluation/Selection
(5/06) *Reading: pp 33-48*

Week 17 Project Development
(5/13) *Reading: pp 117-141*

Week 17 Project Presentations
(5/15) *Reading: pp 175-197*

Suggested Reading:

1. Site Planning, Kevin Lynch
2. Design With Nature, Ian McHarg
3. Form, Space & Order, F.D. Ching

Objectives

Broad scope:

1. To develop an awareness and understanding of ecosystems (the relationship between organisms and their environment). To understand how a good environment supports purposeful behavior and makes a good fit with user actions.
2. To have an awareness of how civilizations develop their own unique interpretation of a fit-attuned to the time, place, culture and technology of that civilization.
3. To stress the urgency of a comprehensive approach to the evaluation and protection of the environment. Current events (news articles, television, internet, etc) are used to dramatize the urgency of the issues and encourages life-long learning and commitment.
4. To understand the interrelationships between the professions of architecture, planning, civil engineering and landscape architecture.

Narrow scope:

1. To be able to identify sources of information and record inventory data.
2. To be able to interpret and analyze inventory data.
3. To be able to organize the analysis into summaries of opportunities and constraints for site development.
4. To be able to prepare site development criteria and guidelines.
5. To be able to prepare basic site design proposals which address the major site analysis factors outlined in this course.
6. To be able to select the appropriate biotic and abiotic materials to be used in site development.

The Resource Book

1. The course will provide reference handouts for each area of site analysis. Students will be required to develop his/her own resource notebook. This notebook must be submitted for review and approval at the end of the semester. No passing grade will be issued until this requirement has been completed.

Commentary

We are only beginning to understand how to introduce human use as a part of a site's natural system without destroying the attributes which attract us to it. This course will provide the student with a background in the development of site analysis and the ability to conduct the process of inventory, analysis, and the preparation of development criteria and guidelines.

This course will present a background and method of implementing Kevin Lynch's statement that, "site planning is the art of arranging on the land and shaping the spaces between, an art linked to architecture and city planning ... making places that fit human purposes is the task of site planning".

The central focus of this course is a presentation of a rational basis for the process of land development and preservation. This process follows the order of inventory, analysis, judgment, and recommendations. The inventory is a recording of existing and extractable material descriptive of the study area. The analysis interprets the build-up of data affecting all parts of the study area. The aggregation of permissive and/or restrictive factors generates a profile of land potential. These are outlined as summaries of opportunities and constraints for site development. The recommendations coalesce these findings into a form suitable for implementation.

The material is organized into two main areas of Site Analysis Inventory:

1. Natural Factors;
2. Cultural Factors.