

Environmental Design 1

July 29, 2019

Exercises Three—Strategies for changing the Hierarchical Framework within as sub-area of your Neighborhood

Overview:

The purpose of Exercise Three is to now use your understanding of one of the sub-areas of your neighborhood (one of nine vignettes showcased in your film) to propose a strategy for improving its environmental/people relationship in your neighborhood. The built and natural environment is defined by the physical manifestation of elements that have been created over time in the neighborhood thus establishing a character to the place and nested in the larger hierarchical structure of the East Bay and the larger Bay Area. You need to use all of the tools and principles we have talked and read about in this course: a) elements and principles of composition, etc. shape, size, etc. balance, accent, harmony etc.; b) nested patterns from major arterials to the utensils; c) chambers of memory; d) the tectonic of materials; e) maps, diagrams, and concepts; and f) the nature of design challenges. This is now a time to look even more carefully at the composition of the sub-neighborhood and find a way to intervene and make a change that makes major improvements in both the quality of the physical environment and more importantly in the nature of the human inhabitation, but respects the history of the place and makes it possible to receiving future changes. This intervention can be at any scale from an individual response to a limited situation to a larger project addressing specific issues of urban transformation. It can be one site or a small set of sites that have systemic implications. Think outside the box!!! Do something that is not the obvious proposed response, i.e., everyday street furniture, a mini park, or change in land use as examples of these types of everyday intervention. See how far you can reach outside this box!

The Process Parts:

Part 1. Using digital photography (still or film) record, the “is” conditions of the physical relationships of the selected location(s) you have chosen and illustrate how the existing composition of the sub-area you have selected assigned creates a framework/context for making an intervention. Using a selected set of images taken by the group and create a digital presentation using a minimum of 15 and no more than 25 slides or 2 to 3 minutes of film, that demonstrate the group’s understanding of this “is condition” and demonstrate your understanding of what needs to be improved or changed to make a better place for human inhabitation.

Part 2. The second part of this exercise shifts to establishing a digital library of examples and precedents of places that you find and know that represent the qualities and attributes of the environmental inhabitation you would like to create. Spend time in the library, visiting places in the Bay Area, on the web, looking at planning studies of Berkeley and other cities and engage any other sources you might discover to find examples of these precedents and the conditions you would like to capture. These precedents will be used as templates to communicate the detail qualities of the changes you propose in your sub-area.

Part 3. The third part of the project uses your base images of the place you as a team want to change and improve and selected specific examples for your precedent library as a resource library from, which you will create an intervention in the place you have selected. Use overlays, tracing or modeling processes to illustrate the types of environmental inhabitation intervention you would make in this place. These overlays should be scanned or photographed at given intervals in the process to capture and document the development of the investigation of the proposed changes, illustrating choices made, and how the change evolved over time, and what were the factors and attributes that contributed to making this place(s) more inhabitable.

With these developed materials and create an electronic presentation 25-40 slides that illustrate the nature of the “is” condition of the places you have selected in your sub-area, the precedents used to inform the proposed changes, and images of the transformed places that create a better physical and human condition human inhabitation in your neighborhood. This should be illustrated using images, diagrams, maps, plans, models, stories, etc., but be highly graphic and capture the character of how your neighborhood would change and the process that lead to the final resolution including a clear statement of what were the issues, positions and arguments you used to create this place (The Why).

Requirements:

1. Design and construct a digital presentation including the three parts: 1. the “is” conditions, 2. the precedent library, and 3. the recording of the change proposal.
2. Minimum number of slides 30 and no more than 50. This digital presentation should address the process and outcome of the total response to this exercise. It is to be submitted as documentation of the group’s total effort.
3. Include on each slide the supporting documentation, key words or phrases, diagrams, drawings, photographs, models, plans, sections, elevations etc. that help demonstrate the intent of each slide.
4. For the change location, compose a set of slides that illustrates the basics of the “is” condition, the utilized precedents, and the outcome of the proposed change.
5. Give the digital presentation (the introductory slide) a name, maximum of ten words, that is descriptive of your message embedded in the change proposals.
6. From this master digital presentation create an abstract set of slides no more than 15 slides that illustrate the major moments and decisions that informed your intervention. This abstract set will be used to make your group’s final presentation. You will be given 20 minutes (15 to present 4-5 minutes to discuss) your process and outcome
7. Post both the full digital outcome and the abstract slides are to place in Bbox no later than Sunday, August 11, at 9:00 PM. Please notify us that the outcomes have been posted.
8. The presentations will be given in class on Monday and Wednesday, August 12 and August 14 in Wurster 112, where you will be given 20 minutes to present and review the outcomes as noted above. Your presentation will be made from my computer so it is critical that it be tested before class on August 12 or 14 (A random presentation order will be provided for each day of presentations.)