

Comprehensive Project Letters to Students

Vol No. 5 - Nov. 2000

from Jerry

LA 490 Comp Prep
Nov. '00
Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: No Name (I know it's you A)

Title: Restorative Gardens for the Hawthorn Apartments

Comments:

A:

It has evolved nicely, remarkably, hasn't it? I like the way you write about it. The general problem and your personal concern now have a face and place. In fact, these are now reflected in the many faces of the people of the Hawthorn Apartments and their needs. Nice going.

You list a number of things that need doing and that's a start. Each of these needs to be made more specific as I tried to convey in class. For example, when you say "Spaces and gardens that will facilitate in the healing process," I wonder what their names are. It sounds to me as though there are both public gathering and movement spaces and private spaces that relate to specific people.

I don't know what the turnover rate is here, but if people stay a while maybe you can design very special gardens for each one. Why not list the gardens e.g. Dave's Garden, say who he is and what kind of garden you're planning to reflect his personality and needs and support his healing. Dr. Al prescribing gardens, full of just the right things and helping to provide just the right amount of order, delight, personal objects, place to garden, read, socialize etc. There are two complementary ways to approach this. One is to itemize all the activities that need to be accommodated and provide the appropriate space and equipment, a kind of behavioral, functional approach that is just plain thorough and practical. Another is to concentrate on the qualities the place needs to capture and express the mood and tone of the garden, the feelings that are so important to each person's health and well being. To go beyond the institutional, each of the private gardens should contain personal objects that give them identity and the person an existential foothold.

Why not do the same for the communal spaces? Build a better list of what need's to go on in these places. Apply your list to the existing communal place and diagnose it from your criteria, your point of view. Use both functional and qualitative criteria in making your judgements about what specifically what needs to be done, what you'd like to accomplish. Try to be as specific as possible.

So how about a more specific list of all the sub-places, public and private (places of repose and passage) on f the site and your program for each of them, Dr?

Put yourself into one of the very personal and private places and ask yourself what you'd include in Al's Garden. And then imagine the site as a series of pools, like the one produced by rain on water, private worlds inevitably overlapping, coming together. I know we're usually oriented to the public system in places, the framework. In this one I'd start with the personal worlds that each person has and try to get beyond the institutional response.

I think your plans drawings and proposals need to reflect this increased sense of detail, this intimacy. Maybe the photos need to become double-wides and panoramas. Maybe they set up some before and after situations that show off your proposals...

Over to you A,

Jerry

LA 490 Comp Prep
Nov. '00
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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: A H

Title: Willamette Greenway Park:
A Vision of Restoration, Transportation, and Recreation

Comments:

A:

I think you're right, we don't need a polemic about the demerits of the Riverfront Research Park. We need an alternate vision, and that is what you intend to propose, one that restores the urbanized river terrace while it sets forth an integrated program for our human presence. Is that a park? Yes, but because it takes place within the Willamette Greenway, it's a special kind of park, a Willamette Greenway Park.

You don't say much about the Willamette Greenway or show a map of its boundaries and probably need to do both as a way of supporting your concept. You should refer to the goals of the WG, since they are very strong value-based generators of the kinds of proposals you hope to make. It's also helpful to understand how weak these goals are in urban areas and how they still allow projects like the Riverfront Research Park. In order to build a RRP, the developer must receive a conditional use permit from the city. This process requires the applicant to say how their project meets the Greenway goals. It might be instructive to read through the RRP submittal, which is a public document. It might also be useful for you to think through the same process as a way of building the concept of a Greenway Park.

You write about "your" project very well, A. I understand the area and its sub-parts and systems easily from your imagery, maps, photos and diagrams. You are already thinking about strategies for doing the restoration effort, with its bigger dimensions of time, space and effort, and have found a good place to concentrate on where your interests converge. I think I'd be a little less focused on the bike bridge and big 'O' per se and take in the area it's a part of (it makes a whole with) as the focal area. There are a number of elements in this place that need reconsideration as you point out in your narrative and the "O" is an important one of them. How about a similar site evaluation, like your fold out of the larger Greenway Park, for this site that includes the soccer field, bridge, riverside shelf, etc and probably needs other facilities, a resolution of the entry road situation &... More specific diagnosis here will lead to more a specific program will allow you to do a schematic proposal for this area by end of term.

Excellent, elegant, thoughtful, sensitive work. I'm impressed.

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: No Name (I know it's you A)

Title: Rebuilding the Island's Gateway:
Restoring Nantucket's Waterfront Community

Comments:

A:

You've done a good job, A, of putting this together. I actually (think) I understand what you are hoping to achieve at the entrance to Nantucket. Thanks for the historic overview. It helps to understand a bit about the place and the way it's evolved. The range, 9,000 vs. 60,000, in the summer provides me with a way to understand the magnitude of the influx. The map diagrams are very helpful in visualizing the relationship of the places along the harbor. You've also been willing to evaluate each place, e.g. the parking lot is visually cut off from the waterfront, and that sets up a design goal array and some possible solutions. Good, good, good.

I think I'd add an area to your maps, though, one that is central to everything, and that is the waterfront area. You arrive there and enter from it. Everything relates back to it. It connects all the waterfront and your target sites together.

The next step for you (and almost everyone in class) is to develop a more specific program for the Electric Company and A&P Parking sites - "Deeper Parts." You say perhaps some housing, a museum, public spaces connected to the harbor, parking, and a transportation station. How about trying to say how much and how big and how many as a beginning program for you to work from. And how about finding some back up information for each of these uses so you can speak intelligently about them. And how about a relational diagram on the site for these uses as a step in the direction of your end of term schematic site plan????

Now that you've committed yourself to a place and a direction, nested and connected to the Nantucket waterfront, I want to get you committed to a specific program that you can use for at least your first attempts to physically compose the place. The least you can expect from doing this is to learn early on that you've got too much or not enough of something or other and that your program needs some adjusting. In practice you'd also work with an economist that would help you with some of the market dimensions of the problem. But I've found that economists don't project a good program based on pure market analysis. A good economist wants to know your vision for the area and will then help determine whether its feasible and needs adjusting/revising/expanding/fine tuning to be feasible.

So, party on with the planning, bringing in down now out of the Sea of Generalities and into the Harbor of Particulars.

Brava,

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: BR

Title: Future of a Family Farm on Sauvies Island

Comments:

B:

If I'm reading this right, you intend to transform the GM Douglas Farm, a conventional commercial operation, into an organic, Community Supported Agriculture farm. Say this or your version of this up front in the project abstract I asked you to try to write and then what that will require you to do and the products you'll have to make this proposal vivid, satisfying and successful.

I understand the larger context from your writing. Sauvies Island is under pressure from Portland and the small family farm from agribusiness. I'm personally very sympathetic to these problems and would enjoy your success at making your family farm a community supported organic farm. I also know that there are a number of good local examples of community supported farms in Eugene (and probably Portland) to serve as models for you. I see you have some reference material about them and wonder if you'd had a chance to visit any of them and talk to their owners. Nothing like some first hand knowledge about this experience.

What I think needs work now is a closer look at the GM Davis Farm and its operation and your more specific evaluation so that you pin yourself down a bit about what needs doing. The report doesn't explain much about the existing condition, how things work (or don't work) now, or evaluate what needs to be changed for the organic conversion. I know generally that the new model will be more labor-intensive etc. Will that mean a shift in the present farm's land uses and crops? Will you need to at least conceptually compare old and new business plans for the farm? Do you plan any work in the places where people live, or are all these sub-areas just fine the way they are. I'd like to see you zoom into this place and spell out some of the more specific work that needs doing. I'm trying to imagine what you'll draw, based on what you've written, when I ask you to do a schematic proposal for the new farm by term's end. What will you base this on? Put yourself in a position to answer this question spatially and diagrammatically.

I also imagine you showing the changing life of the farm at your comp presentation: the farm through the seasons as it is now and as you intend it to become; the old model vs. the new; the many ways that the place has physically had to adjust to the new values it embodies. What it's like to live and work there...

Could you please put some of these seeds in the ground and grow them a little more specifically?

I can hardly wait to taste the fruit.

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: BS

Title: Poekoelan

Comments:

B:

Thanks for the introduction to Poekoelan. I may even learn to pronounce it by the end of term. There is no question that your project has a lens through which it looks - in this instance a belief system and a program and 200 people, looking to inhabit a place. This "colored" perspective comes through pointedly when you visit and see "small pools for soaking, hidden nooks for meditating, and various ground layer obstacles for exciting training opportunities."

You've made a good list of some of the functional elements of the place. Giving the elements number, size and dimension can enhance its planning and schematic usefulness. Turning the items into a scaled relational diagram, as we earlier discussed is a next step. Fitting the idealized diagram to the actual site naturally follows, and since idealized diagrams like us live in a complex world, there is usually a need to respond and adjust - like the bamboo. You've begun this, but your diagrammatic plan is so small it's hard to understand. Can you blow things up to page size at least so they're readable?

Besides the above primary qualities (as they are called) there are other important qualities to provide for, especially in this project. Some of the places emphasize communal action, some are private and meditative and so on. Can you expand your list above to include the key qualities your physical design proposals need to capture and express.

You mention the other teachers and other camps. Do you have any information about them as precedents for your work? I wonder, for example, if there is a particular building system and favored materials which are linked to the Poekoelan spirit, art and origin?

I like the phrase "dense floral compassion." Send me a flat would you.

This is an inspiring project B, and my general sense of it at mid-term is that it just needs to engage the real site more thoroughly and also to expand the elements and qualities you know it will need to make a fuller program that you can use to make a more vivid and profound place.

"Keeping your animal spirit moving from training ground to garden," so to speak

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: CD

Title: Emerald Pieces of the Chain

Comments:

C: Well, the pieces are falling into place, aren't they. The general paragraph at the beginning crisply sets out the vision: "I visualize this site (this section of Ashland Creek?) as a strand of rich garden experiences, binding together distinctly different regions in a sensitive, graceful manner." Yes, I can see it too, and I would like to see it happen. As an outsider to your mental process (or say, a client) I'd appreciate a map diagram here, probably just a simple one that helps me understand the where and overall structure of the place of the sequence – like your yellow one in the back, maybe naming the garden beads. You could also say at this point what you intend as the products of your work. I'd try to be specific. If you say "a bunch of gardens" I'm not sure how that will help you develop the key parts of this work – or in the future how to know how to construct boundaries around your work and set a fee. Why not just go ahead and name the areas you think you know will need proposals and the path that binds them all together. It's OK, you can change your mind as much as you like – for a while.

I think I'd also recommend a table of contents for you to use to organize and compose the parts of this report: so it can make the transition from personal notebook to a purposeful composition of parts intended to instruct your client/reader.
e.g.

1. Abstract: Ashland Creek Gardens: The Emerald Pieces of the Chain
2. Site Location
3. Existing Conditions and Urban Problems (Perhaps you could combine this discussion with your very nice larger map diagram to give the issue discussion some greater locality?)
4. Overall Concepts: Programmatic layers of the project make up the pieces of the chain...
5. Project Goals and objectives
6. Site Evaluation
7. Programs for the Trail and Gardens
8. Intended Products

Now, I think you need to take the plunge and name the parts, move into each key part – i.e. make it large enough to work on – **and especially try to be as specific as possible about the design program for each part**.

Your observations on your site map are excellent. So What are your more specific intentions in each area? You have to start to try to be specific somewhere? Each of these parts is, as you say, its own special world. You'll need drawings of these places – the ones where you expect the most work to be done - large enough to be able to design the qualities you want them to have. The present site scale is terrific for relations, path location and the design of sequences, but not for the artistic garden proposals to come. Face this now. Make bigger maps of selected areas that can turn into plans and proposals. Collect specific slides and images for strategic before and after drawings and watercolors etc you know you'll want to do. Try to imagine how many you'll need to pull this off.

I particularly enjoyed your goal and objective thoughts with the yellow objective boxes and their refinements and elaborations floating beneath. Note, however, that the more specific level of making them tangible in places is missing. Is this tragic? No, it's just revealing of where you need to go from here. This is a wonderful project, but it needs more programmatic depth right now, not later. Happy gardening!

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: CE

Title: The Eastern Addition:
Gardening for Educators and School
Gardens Design Manual

Comments:

C : Yes, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to pursue your interests and I certainly share your sense of their importance. I like the photo of your brothers playing as an expression of your clients/constituents!

There are a number of related parts to this work: the Coke site; the various school projects; the curriculum and manual. I can imagine a presentation that brings these all together – probably in the spring? – and I agree, I don't think the manual would have to be all completed to complete the comp. It will be enough to show its conception and progress and the relationship it has to your process.

For comp itself, I think I'd focus on the Coke site setting and work now to describe all the elements that need to be there to be able to support an ideal teaching program.

If you can name the important parts and lay them out on the site and bring them to life by illustrating the way they create an environment for a program that is expressive of that program's values, you'll have created a useful prototype model.

You can compare this full functioning example of an educator's garden with the more limited adaptations and applications at the varying school, giving them all something to shoot for as they continue to invest in their places over time. So the Coke site, it seems to me, needs to embody the best that can be done, the most supportive and inspiring, a place that really supports the garden learning and sharing of a different land ethic.

So, I'm not trying to change your mind about anything here, just get you set up to be able to propose a first class version of the teaching/learning place. You've probably seen Richard Britz's original drawings and diagrams for the Urban Farm in *The Edible City Resource Manual*? If not, have Ann show them to you. How about gathering the base material and programmatic parts now that would allow you to do a schematic drawing of the "Eastern Addition" by term end. What will you include and how should they relate to one another and the site? What structures will be needed? How big will things need to be? What processes need to be considered to make a functioning garden and to teach about those processes?

More specific cultivation is needed now to make things grow and blossom by spring.

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: CE

Title: On the Banks of the Willamette River:
Riparian Restoration of Agricultural Land

Comments:

C: First of all, let me compliment you on the overall look, organization and quality of writing of your mid-term report. The cover is beautiful, the table of contents is helpful – it serves as an overall outline up front - and the Horning Site project is nested nicely in the larger effort as we had discussed earlier. Your use of air photos, plan and section diagrams is excellent. Having said all that, what would I suggest?

Well, there are a few things. I'd consider turning the title around to read: Riparian Restoration of Agricultural Land on the Banks of the Willamette River. This probably doesn't matter, but it seems more direct to me.

I like the discussion of the WRFIP and would think ahead about how to show examples of the kinds of improvements you mention as a part of your presentation. These examples might figure in the poster that you are proposing to help educate about the overall WRFIP program.

You've been naturally focusing on the bank restoration and now you are starting to place it in its context with the riverside field. This strengthens the agricultural context for your work. Your project proposal extension with its hedgerows and extended tree canopy, field management plan etc seems just right to me, placing the bank restoration within the larger agricultural whole. A field planting proposal (like the one you drew) that extends the edges, showing the riverbank planting being a critical part of that larger system looks very convincing. I wonder how the bank restoration site is related to the depositional bank area to the north on the site? And why the bank area to the south of the designated project site isn't perhaps a model for the restoration? Isn't the bank site directly a part of the overall bank condition, which is vegetated for a while, then too steep, and then slopes down into a depositional plane? Don't these need to become a part of the discussion? I like your widening of the project's scope here, making it easy to see at least two significant site scales, the bank area nested in its field, each having some things that need doing.

One such consequence is that your bank section for the larger scale might have to extend west to the canopy edge or hedgerow at the broader scale and then focus down to your existing bank section for more specific remodeling. Since the earth gets pushed around a bit in grading, you probably need a slightly wider slice anyway. Are there any trails or roads into the site? Won't you need to show the larger area of grazing land that this is a part of and provide an accounting of the reduced acreage your plan would require? Excellent start!

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: CM

Title: Port of the Dalles:
Rebuilding the riverfront and designing for change.

Comments:

C: The report is very well done, Colin. It reads well, sets out the present situation, discusses issues, opportunities and constraints, and says what your work will focus on. I know that you're making a Port District Vision Plan; that you will be making recommendations for the 130 acre undevelopable part; developing a streetscape plan; and will present a concept plan for the commercial areas that connects them to other areas and to the river. I think I'd add more specifically, a riverfront system and setting that provides a graceful connection and port access system for all. The riverfront and other connectors, including the street, can provide an overall public structure for recreation, conservation and development.

Your images are all well chosen. The cover is haunting. I saw it in the R.G. this weekend with the note that it came from Horse Thief St. Park (I think it was). What I miss is you overlaying your images with diagrams that go with your narrative as a way to both locate things and to project your program in a very beginning conceptual way. Give it a try.

So I think the project is terrific and I'm impressed with your work as far as it goes. What's missing for me right now is you taking each of the things you intend to do and taking them to the next stage of intentions. What if you had to do a whole report about each of the three elements of your visioning plan? Well, OK, not a whole report. How about an expansion and an attempt to give your designer self a more specific program for each element? Very quickly now I'm going to be asking you to do a schematic plan. See if you can generate the more specific elements needed to make one out of.

Thoughtful and thorough. Now more development.

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: No Name (I know it's you C. Who else is from Sutter County and Yuba City?)

Title: Sutter County Greenway:
A Plan for Rural Renaissance

Comments:

C: You set the scene well: the once agricultural county is suburbanizing. The need for developing a broader public landscape structure to contain and direct these transforming forces is apparent but hard to accomplish in the press and crush of day to day. Enter C A, Landscape Architect, with an Olmstedian heart and an artist's eye, proposing a greenway plan. Sounds both important and challenging. Brava!

I have two questions.

1. How can I help you to be in position to do a schematic proposal for your greenway this term? What resources will you need to make a preliminary proposal of the greenway and do you already have them or can you obtain them now?
2. How can I encourage you to use your artist's eye and sensibility so that the project captures, expresses and presents the qualities you write so well about and doesn't end up being just a bunch of abstract maps?

Of course I am raising the question of resources needed because I don't see them yet in the report. I see a good specification for a greenway and am anxious to move toward a version of the physically specific. For starters, how about a spatial diagram with some key parts, places and nodes? And how about some base materials that will help you with your nodal development. Should the final product end up as a publication that could be given to the county?

I'm also imaging the project backwards and trying to project the imagery and strategies you will use to bring this place and the experience to life. And I'm trying to imagine how to tune these things to your educational needs and interests right now. If I were to guess about this, it's a need to unite your capacity for broad conceptual thinking with some significant design work that makes the proposal really beautiful. Not a bad range.

So, I think you've gone from fixing up your favorite golf course to becoming an important landscape architect and planner for Sutter County – and in such a very short time. Sounds to me as though you are getting your moneys worth here.

Go for it.

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: J-S C

Title: A Living Community: The Center for Traditional Arts

Comments:

J-S : This is an exceptionally fine project report, beautifully presented and thoughtfully constructed. Your goals are well chosen and clear and the objectives provide additional direction for their development. I understand the key parts you intend to develop: the storefront street; theme museum system; performance and folk craft school; temple; performance area; farmhouse/farmlands; and ecological design elements and systems. I suspect there are also key entrances into the village to develop from the water and entrance road. Is there also an administrative center or is that part of the school?

The next step is to take the design program into greater detail, make it spatial, and also try to diagram some of the relationships between the parts. You need to develop the elements of your design program enough to be able to make a schematic plan proposal by the end of the term. Make a schematic of each of the parts now, and explore some ideal relationships between elements that you would like to be able to achieve.

You might also enlarge your site plan so that you could explore the options for locating the various site elements. Moving closer into the site should help you think about it in additional detail.

Very impressive work. Thanks,

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: K M

Title: Aberdeen, Washington:
Bringing Life to the Heart of a Restless City

Comments:

K: I enjoyed reading this Kim. You write clearly and well, set the scene and provide a good assessment of Aberdeen's needs. After reading it, I'd vote for you for City Manager.

But I kept wondering as you provided your comprehensive overview, "What piece of this is she going to do that will make an important contribution to the downtown. I also wanted to see smaller scaled maps and images of the streets and places you were talking about. Most of the images you use are quite general, very useful for showing general areas and relationships and for relating area history, but I know you'll need more focused base material for the work you intend to do.

The last paragraph is to the point. "I intend working on the infrastructure..." I love it when you finally commit yourself. Now bring this intentional perspective up to the front in a project abstract of a paragraph or two. You might even reconsider the title. The present one is very general and you might focus it a bit. Investing in the public framework of the downtown? Waterworks in Downtown Aberdeen? OK, I know you can do better.

The next step is to take your Phase 4 and zoom in on it, making it, rather than all of Aberdeen, the subject and focus of your work. Can you pick a few key blocks and streets along the waterfront to develop and demonstrate your interests, make them physical and tangible proposals? Can you set this demo area into a broader middle scale – downtown open space and drainage system - context? How about developing some base materials now for the scales your closer up work will require.

This project is still mostly at seagull's eye level. It needs to get down and walk the street. It needs for you to imagine the steps you'll have to take to accomplish your work and the products you'll want to be able to provide. Sure, you can still talk about the whole and how the idea is to bring life to the heart of a city. And how one of the things that needs to be done is to invest in the development of the public infrastructure downtown.

This is a fine project that just needs some second staging now. In just a very short while I'll be asking you to do a schematic proposal. You'll be able to do that at area scale (not city scale) if you choose a place now and evaluate it more precisely from your chosen point of view.

Happy Aberdeening.

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: MF

Title: Garden Of Escape:
A Place Inbetween: City and River – Art and Wildness

Comments:

M:

This is inspiring to read, to look at, touch and to contemplate, M. A garden of Escape, a place between provides a powerful conceptual frame for your work. And you're doing a good job expressing your viewpoint in word, images, colors, textures, overlays...

And it's important to see the life of the site that the air photo sequence provides. You could overlay these with your commentary about the various parts, areas, things and how they've changed over time. You could evaluate today's site for its potential to support your Escape Garden. A cognitive site map!

Having paid my respect as an admirer of your brilliance, I'd like to try to help you build a site program of some of the other important project elements. You'll need a conceptual museum program. It needs a size and bubble diagram of its parts to scale in order to place it on the site. People will enter somewhere and circulate through its main galleries... New things will be received, stored and hung/displayed. A few people will park. Other will come by bike, bus etc. I know it will have an expression to rival Bilbao, and you don't have to design it completely, only conceptually so that you can use it as a good site planner to help construct the over all place. It is of course one element of "the garden."

There are other elements and places to name, size, and relate. The bike/walking path runs dynamically through the site, maybe even through the museum. Eighth Ave. and Hillyard St connect to the site from the west. The railroad tracks bound the place to the south and the museum site will be an important, probably spectacular, part of the entry experience into the city by train.

Perhaps your place will have a transient garden, with transitory structures for temporary living, some public & social services – toilets? Some resident managers? Wild? Whatever. I'm just trying to stimulate you to break the general concept down into its sub-gardens and systems so that when I ask you to do a site schematic, there are elements to locate and relate, paths of movement and named places that all begin to add up and fit together in your conceptual frame.

So in a word, terrific! But more specific evaluation of this focal place to support your ideas, and more specific sub-place programs to make the intangible tangible, touchable, experientable, evocative, real – in the Yi-fu Tuan sense. "A designer's job is to make places feel more real..."

Brava, bravissima!

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: SC

Title: Dairy to Prairie: The Breyer Farm Restoration
Long Lake, Minnesota

Comments:

S: This is a very good "mid" Stew: a subtitle might well be "Restoration is not an afternoon job." You use your images very well to explain the where and what about the place and its parts. I get a good feel for the site from the nice variety of photos you include. And you've made an excellent start in creating an intentional structure for your work. Your writing is clear and direct and the report well organized. Thanks!

You could include your intended products in the project description, saying perhaps in the sentence before the last, that you intend to provide a restoration and management plan for each of the key ecosystems of the site.

In looking at your historic site photo, I wondered about the old farmstead site in the southern portion of the meadow. You don't mention anything about it. Should your work also include some element of historic conservation, which focuses on the Breyer family settlement? Might this be a part of the visitor experience. It sounds as though a good part of the visitor experience is from the use of the property by surrounding neighbors, riding their horses and walking in the area.

Regarding proposals, I understand that you plan to concentrate your work on the meadow and woods zones, but I would still plan to make proposals for the whole farm. A proposal for the Pasture Zone could be that it continues to be used for local recreation. My point is that the plan ought to say what you intend for it, even in the most general terms, not that you are going to ignore it. I know this is what you mean.

Being willing as you are to identify what the restoration plan for each ecosystem will include really helps move this project along. I like the things you've identified, but I miss up front, a good educational presentation of the ecosystem under discussion, along with some sense of its history in the region. Your "Big Forest" image wets the appetite. After knowing a bit more about the system, a plant list etc makes more sense.

I didn't see any prototype restoration projects listed in your bibliography. Are there some good models out there you might adapt to your needs? Have you asked Bart about this?

This being the first report I've read, I have to say I am very encouraged.

Bravo.

Jerry

LA 490 Comp Prep
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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: S R

Title: Warner Fire Process Research Natural Area
A Vision of Knowledge

Comments:

S: I agree: this is a project that is critical to people, forests and their relationship to fire. It's also a Promethean project, this time bringing not just fire but fire knowledge to people. Steve Prometheus!

You do a good job setting up the problem, its philosophical and scientific underpinning and the opportunity available due to the Warner Creek burn. The imagery is starting to work for you very well, and David tells me you're talking about ways to make this as three-dimensional as possible. All this sounds just right.

I see the project as having two distinct parts. The first is setting out the case for the larger RNA. I know this will be important to the project, whoever gets elected. Of course I have no official position – as a university employee – at all. I do wish salmon could vote, million year old fossils had rights, and fire could get in a few licks.

The second, which I think needs more work and more emphasis in your report, is the program for developing the RNA, its areas, systems and facilities. As important politically as justification will be, I think an envisioning of an actively functioning place and an understanding of the experiences that you'll need to support here, will really give this proposal the depth it needs. You may not know exactly what's needed here, but you can model your program on other RNA related facilities and try to site things well. Before you can site them, however, you have to say what they are. Make a list and check it twice (it's the season).

I like being able to visualize the proposed RNA area with the burn within. How about a further refinement of cognitive mapping in this area? I see valleys and ridges and the site dividing itself into quite distinct areas. I see waterways and roads. How about an evaluation of these areas with respect to some of your programmatic needs?

Let's build a fire under this.

Good luck.

Jerry

LA 490 Comp Prep
Nov. '00
Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: S R

Title: Autzen Stadium Expansion:
Joining Community, Pride and the Environment

Comments:

S:

Yours is an admirable, big tent, comprehensive approach to the Autzen Plain. I understand your intent to create a proposal that simultaneously resolves: parking/transportation issues; expands opportunities for social/recreational use of the Autzen space both in and off football season; and restores, enhances and develops site ecological systems. Additionally, you'll improve the experience of using the site, taming the vast over-scaled spaces, enhancing entrances, places of passage and plantings, and blending the stadium dominated space into its surroundings.

You've made a good start at all these matters, by articulating and defining them and then gathering materials and precedents that help you think about them. The historic air photos do an excellent job of bringing out the social and ecological dynamics of the site. Good work!

You've made good use of the class models, although there is some overlap of place materials in the first few questions. But I can see that you've grasped the intent behind the questions and the Fan of Values.

Transforming the value fan into a Fan of Intentions is the next obvious step. The beginning intentional structure you include is just fine and only needs to be carried further into detail, as we discussed in class today, to help you provide specific programmatic material in each area. Try to say more specifically now what work you'll do. This is a big place and you have multiple strands of interest, making it impossible to resolve all your proposals to the same level of detail. You'll need to work strategically. Try identifying, right now, what products you see as necessary to your work as a strategy for scoping the project. Try imagining an end of term presentation of this project and the outline you'll follow and the images you'll need as a way of laying out the critical aspects of the work.

You already have excellent resources, and based on your writing, are full of the passion that will make this a great project.

Good start (kickoff?). I'm impressed. Now, more detail in your intentional framework to use as a planning and design program. Do you have the material you'll need to make a schematic proposal by term's end? Try a quick one now and see if you can do it, then go back when you find there are no criteria for making decisions and give yourself some.

Yes, I agree, even parking can be interesting if we leave behind our single vision.

Jerry

LA 490 Comp Prep
Nov. '00
Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: S W

Title: Central Amazon Restoration & Land Use Planning:
Design and planning recommendation for enhancing
habitat, water quality and neighborhood connections
along an urban waterway

Comments:

S: Your project is clearly spelled out: it is clear that you'll explore three areas of concern in the Central Amazon.

1. Restoration and enhancement of the channel
2. Bicycle and pedestrian planning; and
3. Land use planning and site design prototypes in three areas.

The context map is especially good for identifying your project boundaries as a part of the larger system. Steve Gordon told me Thursday that he expected the funding for the Upper Amazon Project any day now. You don't mention Jeff Krueger's work, but I'd think it would be a natural precedent project to mention and draw from. The images are well chosen and useful but a bit too dark. Lighten up, Scott!

Re: the Issues and Interventions.

While the issues are well chosen and articulated, and I understand in each case what you intend to do generally, there is a need to second stage each of these and try to provide a more detailed program. This is especially true in the three areas you intend to work on. None of these appears (larger than a dime), and each will need expanded site mapping, an evaluation, an assessment of what needs doing, and a resultant specific program. So, get deeper into the parts of the system and the parts of the parts.

Try to bring as much of the analysis and evaluation of the channel and three sites into the prep part of this work, leaving as much time as possible in studio work for proposals and their refinement. Make the base materials for the work this term so that you can use it to process things in more depth. Note that the only existing maps in the report are at general scales. The slides do particularize things, and you do make general evaluations, but you need to go on to say what needs doing if these are the key places that allow you plan to use to make recommendations about the system.

This is a terrific project, well-underway, just needing some more second and third staging now to move along. Good work.

Jerry

LA 490 Comp Prep
Nov. '00
Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: YT

Title: Emerging High-tech Harmony:
Corporate Landscape Design of Hyundai
Semiconductor America, Eugene, Oregon

Comments:

Y : First of all, I want to compliment you on your hard work on this. It's really paying off and I'm sure will make a fine comprehensive project. Yes, there are still typos and such, but I'm not having any trouble understanding your intentions.

The large site map is especially useful for locating things and understanding the place. In looking at it, I wonder where the barbed wire fence you mention is located, since I know it's been identified as part of the image problem. My point is that it is important to identify the places where there is work to be done. Will you need to plant some additional trees in or around the parking area? You could also use another copy of this map to diagram the areas where changes are contemplated – where there are things that need repair or opportunities to achieve some of your goals and objectives.

The map that shows the connections to 18th and 11th has gotten a bit small. Perhaps you can diagram over it digitally, showing the key connections into the site. The wetlands overlay on the air photo is very effective, but I also want to be able to see the northeastern part – all of the parking and the entrance road connection. There have been a number of diagrams of the site and the Hyundai expansion plans in the Eugene Register Guard over the past several months you might be able to scan and make use of. I think you might dash in the Hyundai site on your Willow Creek Area 1994 aerial too as a good orientation device.

Your goals and objectives are coming along nicely, but goal 4 and 5 are very underdeveloped. They need more objectives and design objectives to expand the “what” you intend to do. And in general all your design objectives are not specific enough yet. For example in Goal 1, Design Obj. 1: “a safe outdoor place” doesn't tell me enough to know how big, for what specifically, for how many people etc. I couldn't begin to locate, draw or build anything yet from this description. In Goal 5, your Design Obj. is really still at a fairly general objective level. Be more specific even if it hurts right now. You don't make any connection between the value areas of your fan and your 5 goals, but I can guess. My advice is to hide the fan and other PIE models when you write these reports since clients don't ever understand these things and start your intentional discussion with the value statements that drive the goals and objectives framework you've constructed for the project.

You should do the site assessments and analysis you mention now, not plan to wait until studio. Otherwise you'll not be able to say whether you have any of the kinds of site places you need. Use your studio time to make these places wonderful.

There are probably 4 important scales (rather than 3) to this project because of the size and complexity of your site. City and neighborhood scales aren't going to be the focus of very much of your work. But the many places within your site will. The smallest scale is therefore not the Hyundai site itself, but rather the collection of smaller parts and systems that comprise it. You need to identify and zoom into each of the subparts, especially the ones where you'll be making proposals for change. You've taken some good photos of the site that help explain the place and it's character. Perhaps it's time to add to this collection with the idea of gathering photos that can be used specifically to show before and after images of your proposals.

A closer focus and evaluation of the sub-parts of the site and some attention to the development of programmatic design objects in all your goal areas will help you now to develop your comp program. Very good beginning.

And keep working on this, Jerry