SITE ANALYSIS

[course phase 2]

As you already know from the syllabus, starting with the site visit on Thursday 09/29, we entered the second phase of this course. This part of the course represents 45% of the final grade. You were/will be assigned one of two available sites that goes along the PRT route: Walnut (yellow) site or Beechurst (blue) site. The first thing that you have to do is ***site analysis***, based on the principles that we already applied throughout the first phase of our course. You have exactly one week to do the investigation: from 10/04 to 10/11. It is highly recommended for students who already have their sites assigned to start analysis immediately.

The knowledge gained through *site analysis* process will be useful for development of your *project design*. Thus, it is mandatory to complete this part of the assignment on time (by 10/11 studio class).

What you have to do?

In order to analyze assigned site, you will have to use the same components identified for the case study analysis. That is, you are going to visit your site in multiple occasions and collect all available data on:

ELEMENTS

- ***buildings***
  Every building in the actual site(s) must be marked down in your analysis map (luckily, majority of them are already in there). Furthermore, you must determine typology of the building, how many floors it has, what is the function of ground floor compare to the rest of the building, where are the entrances, what kind of façade it has, is there a direct physical connection with PRT line or not, etc. All maps and areal views are already on eCampus. Areal view map is from 2014, and the AutoCAD map is from 2003. Consequently, you are going to notice minor differences between them and it is up to you coordinate these two maps during the analysis process.
- ***landforms***
  All altitude coordinates and the contour lines are already provided in your paper/PDF and AutoCAD maps. Therefore, use them for the analysis of the landform. If you have any problems with map reading, please let us know. In this phase of the assignment, analysis of landforms' differences must be supported with site images, descriptions, and different types of graphics.
- ***site structures***
  Except for the obvious site structures (chairs, benches, flowerpots, electric poles, etc.), pay special attention to the infrastructure elements, like electric boxes, water drains, sewer covers, PRT infrastructure, etc. Everything must be documented.
- ***pavement***
  All different types of pavement must be marked down in your analysis map, and be supported with images, descriptions, and graphics.
- ***plant material***

If you are not able to recognize specific type of the greenery (completely understandable), we strongly encourage you to use different types of categorization provided in the "Basic Elements of LA" class material.

- ***water***
  The only water element present at both sites is Monongahela River. However, pay special attention to storm/run-off water: how the water from the site is collected and distributed further.

PROCESSES

- ***human activities***
  - by hour/different time of the day, and
  - by season/different weather conditions.
- ***different types of traffic***
  - cars, parking lots, and garages (intensity and frequency during different times of the day, connectivity with the surrounding setting, etc.),
  - public transit (bus and PRT stations, distances to the site, etc.),
  - bicycle traffic (intensity and frequency during different times of the day, connectivity with the surrounding setting, etc.),
  - pedestrian traffic (sidewalks, Mon River trail, and other types of pedestrian paths; its connectivity with surrounding context, etc.).

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION*

CONCEPT(S)*

**Note*: These components will have greater significance during the project design phase. In fact, since the assigned sites are "non-designed" spaces, you won't be able to identify concept(s) and find a rationale for the spatial organization. Nonetheless, during the process of site analysis be always aware how spatial elements/processes are related to each other, and what kind of consequences/behaviors those specific relationships produce in specific site.

How you are going to do it?

You are going to do analysis by rigorous process of *observation*. Use the maps to mark down every single element/process on the site, by going through the lists that we already provided to you in the first phase of the course. You will visit the site in multiple occasions, in order to understand behavioral differences *during different times of the day and different weather conditions*. The analysis will happen in the following order:

- mark down the element/process on the ***map.****
  To achieve successful graphic presentation of site analysis, use different colors, hatches, and symbols to mark different element/processes on the site.
- take ***pictures/videos*** of the element/process.
- write some ***comments*** down.
  Recognize the most interesting, important, negative/positive feature connected with the particular element(s) (for example: "I noticed 3 benches on this particular part of the site, but no one ever sits there. I should definitely reuse them/move them into another part of the site – along the riverbank – during design phase").

**Note*: We strongly suggest that you print more copies of the map before you revisit the site. You can use one for greenery and pavement analysis, another for buildings and landforms, etc. You can download the maps from eCampus (PDF format maps are in scale for printing, don't use "fit" command when printing them).

PRT PROJECT DESIGN II

[course phase 2]

Your task for next four weeks is to design/re-design chosen location between two PRT columns inside the limits of previously assigned analysis site (Beechurst or Walnut). You are going to conduct this intervention by using the knowledge gained through the site analysis assignment. Up to this point, you already made decisions about exact *project design location, project program and project concept* (if not, please consult your course instructor). Presentation of the course phase 2 will be on Thursday, November 10th. We urge you to keep it your design as simple as possible.

BASIC RULES:

- You will gradually develop your project, starting from your chosen program and effective concept. Through this process, as stated in syllabus, you will define a spatial organization, identify the processes/activities of your space, and choose the basic elements that you want to use in your design (pavement materials, lightening, greenery, water features, etc.)
- Do not forget to think about the weather protection, light – natural and artificial, sounds, smells, views, etc.
- The biggest challenge for all will be solving the problem of different height elevations
- The spaces that you create must have real life purpose and must be habitable by humans (basic measurements of human activities will be provided to you during the lecture time)
- Please engage both 2d and 3d features of the given site in order to develop effective design idea. Therefore, projects that you design must occupy the whole 3d volume created by PRT columns and PRT track
- If possible, try to create site design that can be replicable to other parts of PRT structure outside given locations (by using same modules, structures, plant materials, colors, materials, lightening elements, etc.).
- Pay special attention to how visually your site can be perceived from PRT line and all other locations around the chosen site.

REQUIRED DRAWINGS AND SCALE:

- Plan(s): 1/8"=1'-0" or 1/16"=1'-0"
- Section-Elevation(s): 1/8"=1'-0" or 1/16"=1'-0"
- 3d Model – perspective or axonometric drawing (45° or 30°/60°)

MEDIA:

- Drafts: your choice (plan(s), section(s) and perspective/axonometry)
- Final: Ink on paper of your choice or computer-generated drawings (plan, section-elevation and perspective/axonometry)

DUE DATES:

1. ***Draft 1*:** Thursday, October 20, 2016 – desk crits
    - DRAFT of a plan and section-elevation at 1/8"=1'-0" or 1/16"=1'-0"
    - Use the media of your choice for this draft:
        - pencil or ink on trace, vellum or mylar; or
        - computer generated drawings – printed hard copy in time for discussion
    - Any paper size is acceptable for this draft, as long the drawings are in scale
    - *From now on, put the date in ink on your every drawing sheet*

2. ***Draft 2*:** Thursday, Octobar 27, 2016 – desk crits
    - REVISED DRAFTS of plan and section elevation in chosen scale (that means at least two new improved drawings based on discussion with your instructor; we are not going to accept exactly the same set of drawings produced for previous Draft 1 phase)
    - Use the media of your choice for this draft:
        - pencil or ink on trace, vellum or mylar; or

    - computer generated drawings – printed hard copy in time for discussion
- Any paper size is acceptable for this draft, as long the drawings are in scale

3. ***Draft 3***: Thursday, November 3, 2016 – pin up
    - REVISED DRAFTS of plan, section-elevation, and 3d perspective/axonometry in chosen scale (that means at least two new improved drawings based on discussion with your instructor; we are not going to accept exactly the same set of drawings produced for previous Draft 2 phase)
    - Use the media of your choice for this draft:
        - pencil or ink on trace, vellum or mylar; or
        - computer generated drawings – printed hard copy in time for discussion
    - Any paper size is acceptable for this draft, as long the drawings are in scale
    - Hard copy of your project (plan, section and axonometry) is mandatory for this phase of design
    - Please put your name, scale, north arrow and elevation symbol on your sheets
    - It is recommended to come up with your own title for your project design
    - These should be a very detailed and thorough drafts, final design drawings if possible

From this point, you have one more week to correct your final design drawings in due time for presentation, if necessary.

4. ***Presentation***: Thursday, November 10, 2016
   You will present all work done during phase 2 of your project: PRT site analysis assignment and PRT project design assignments (previous assignment sheets are available on eCampus and were given to you during lecture time).

   Power Point presentations will contain:

   A. All analysis maps required for PRT site analysis assignment of:
        - Elements: buildings, landforms, site structures, pavement, plant material and water
        - Processes: human activities and different types of traffic (cars, parking lots, garages; public transit; bicycle traffic; pedestrian traffic

   All analysis maps must have titles and corresponding legends, clearly designed and easy to read. Use the media of your choice for the final site analysis drawings. For more details, see Site Analysis assignment sheet. Slides with site analysis maps must be organized/combined logically, in order to provide logical flow of your presentation

   B. Rationale of your specific location choice, program and design concept. Please, use not only text for this part of assignment, but also graphics: diagrams, drawings, photomontages, etc.

   C. FINAL DESIGN DRAWINGS of your project, that include:
        - at least one plan in pre-assigned scale 1/8”=1’-0” or 1/16”=1’-0”
        - at least one section-elevation in pre-assigned scale 1/8”=1’-0” or 1/16”=1’-0
        - one 3d Model – perspective or axonometric drawing (45° or 30°/60°)

REMEMBER:
- Each drawing must be labeled as plan, section-elevation, etc.
- A graphic scale and a north arrow sign, as well as elevation symbols are required for plan drawing
- A graphic scale and elevation symbols are required for section-elevation drawing
- All final drawings done by hand, in pencil and ink, must be scanned in 300ppi resolution, properly cropped and cleaned of smudges. Pictures taken with your phone or any other device will not be accepted
- All final drawings must be meticulously drafted, labeled, and lettered beautifully
- As stated above, it is recommended to come up with your own title for your design project
- The second phase of the course (everything presented on November 10th) represents 45% of the final grade

PRT PROJECT DESIGN

[course phase 2]

After completion of *site analysis* assignment, the next part of the project is to re-design part of the assigned location(s). The second phase of the course (together with site analysis work) represents 45% of the final grade. You will choose the space between ***two PRT columns***, inside the boundaries provided for each site, for your design intervention. If necessary, you can extend your work outside assigned borders but one PRT column must always be situated inside the assigned site.

There are few decisions that you have to make before the beginning of the design process:

- ***to choose exact location for design intervention***
  during the studio time on Tuesday 10/11, and definitely before studio time on Thursday 10/13, you have to choose exact location for your design intervention. To determine the size of it, you will use graphic explanation provided below (image 1). It could be space between *any* two PRT columns inside assigned location. This decision must be justified with valid explanation based on your personal insight and understanding of the space. It is recommended to use all knowledge gained through site analysis assignment to defend your decision on site location. In other words, you have to provide us rationale behind your choice.

- ***to choose project concept and project program***
  by the end of the studio time on Thursday 10/13 you will have to make decision about project *typology* and *concept* you would like to use in your design phase. *The list of possible program(s) and concept themes will be provided to those students who do not succeed to finish the task by the end of studio time.* Consequently, instructors will send the list by the end of the day (10/13). Ability to make insightful decision about the site, program, and concept for your project design will be part of your grading criteria. Again, try to explain your choices by using the outcomes of your location analysis. Ask yourself: what are the positive and negative aspects of the site? Who are my users? What are their needs? Who is my target population? What I would like to improve? How can I solve existing problems? What are inspiring elements of the site? What can I keep or reuse? How my design can improve the life of this place?

After successful defense of your choices, you can continue your project design work. In other words: your instructor must approve your design intervention site, project program and project concept. Please engage both 2d and 3d features of the given site in order to develop effective design idea that can be replicable (if possible) to other parts of PRT structure outside given locations (by using same modules, structures, plant materials, colors, materials, lightening elements, etc.). Pay special attention to how visually your site can be perceived from:

- PRT line; and
- all other locations around the chosen site.

More precise *maps* of PRT will be provided to you in the beginning of next week. We will make decision about the *graphic scale* of your individual projects based on the size of actual chosen site.

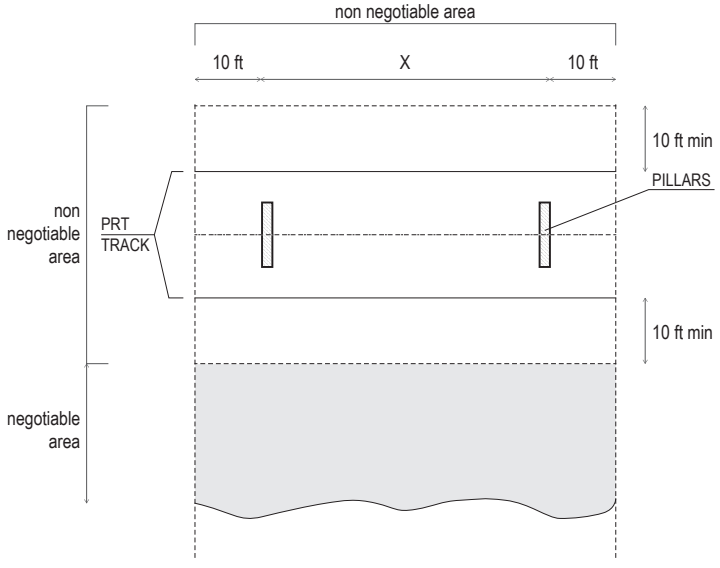

image 1: graphic presentation of PRT project design area

PRT PROJECT DESIGN POSTER PRESENTATION

[course phase 3]

Your task from today until the end of the semester is to create presentation poster, size **22.0 x 34.0 inches**, that will represent all your work done in phase 2 of PRT Design Project. The list of the poster elements and drawings is provided below. The work done in the third phase of the course will be presented on December 6th and it represents 30% of your final grade. Decision not to present will result in an F for the third phase of the course.

REQUIRED POSTER DRAWINGS AND ELEMENTS:

As stated in syllabus, your final poster will consist of:

1. ***Maps, photomontages and images through which you will describe the site analysis***
    - Part of the poster that contains analysis maps *cannot take more than 1/3 of the whole poster* sheet (together with all descriptions texts, titles, legends, and all other necessary elements).
2. ***Plan(s): scale 1/8"=1'-0" or 1/16"=1'-0"***
3. ***Section-Elevation(s): scale 1/8"=1'-0" or 1/16"=1'-0"***
4. ***Two 3d Models – perspective or axonometric drawing (45 or 30 /60 degrees)***
5. ***An orientation map*** *(not necessarily in scale)*
    - By using this map, you have to show us the broader context of your project. This can be done in multiple ways. You can use the maps provided on eCampus and mark/label/photomontage your design site into the orientation map. It is really important to position north arrow correctly in this map. This drawing could be especially helpful in justifying your program, concept and location choice.
6. ***A short description of the project (text)***
    - This part of the poster will contain rationale of your specific location choice, program and design concept. Please, do not use more than 500 words for all the text on your poster sheet. The size of the letters cannot be smaller than 14 pt. In other words, be careful how you are choosing the font and the font size because it must be clear and visible from afar.
7. ***Title block***

    Understanding relationships between the font types and font sizes is crucial for designing successful title block.

    Your title block must contain:
    - number and name of the course
    - title of the project
    - semester: Fall 2016
    - student name
    - instructors' names

MEDIA:

- Drafts: your choice of media (hand drawn poster outlines sketch or computer generated poster layout)
- Final: Computer-generated poster layout. It can be done by using any available computer software, including Power Point, as long as it fits in already pre-established criteria.

DUE DATES:

1. ***Draft 1:*** Thursday, November 17, 2016 – desk crits
    - You have to provide rough graphic draft (media of your choice) and explanation how your drawings and poster elements will be distributed throughout assigned poster sheet layout.

2. ***Draft 2*****:** Thursday, December 1, 2016 – desk crits
    - You have to provide revised draft of your poster layout. It is highly recommended for this draft phase to be done by using chosen computer software.

From this point, you have 5 more days to correct your final design drawings and poster layout in due time for presentation.

3. ***Presentation*:** Tuesday, December 6, 2016
    - You will print the poster, pin it up and present your own work in front of your colleagues and the professors invited. Please, be on time. You have to pin up your poster before beginning of presentation (9:30am for morning group and 2:00pm for afternoon group) not during the presentation. That way we will avoid interruptions and disturbances of your colleagues' performances.

REMEMBER:

- Both, plan(s) and section-elevation(s) drawings must be in assigned scale
- Each drawing must be labeled as plan, section-elevation, etc.
- A *graphic scale and a north arrow sign*, as well as *elevation symbols* are required for plan drawing
- A *graphic scale* and *elevation symbols* are required for section-elevation drawing
- All final drawings done by hand, in pencil and ink, must be scanned in 300ppi resolution, properly cropped and cleaned of smudges. Pictures taken with your phone or any other device will not be accepted
- All final drawings must be meticulously drafted, labeled, and lettered beautifully
- As stated above, it is recommended to come up with your own title for your design project
- *As professor Yuill stated, the graphics (maps, sections and 3d) have to be self explanatory*