

Global Interaction into the Traditional Design Studios through Blogs

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Special teaching methods used in an advanced design course, looks to enrich a student's experience by increasing the number of contact hours between student and online reviewers located around the world. In this design studio we try to bring global interaction into the traditional classroom through blogs. A blog is a chronological discussion or publication on the world-wide web. During the entire semester the students are required to keep all their research and design process on their own blog. Their research and work is shown on their blog through diagrams, drawings, sketches, images of models and text. Each student follows one another's blogs to see their work and give comments. The blogs create a virtual studio culture that connects the students to the professional world. All of the work of the students from research to design is posted on a bi-weekly basis online. Each student is assigned one to three online reviewers to follow their work on their blogs for the entire semester. Each online reviewer is a professional architect or designer with specialties that align with the projects of our students. They are located all around the world bringing a variety of ideas, projects, and cultural experiences. A formal dialogue is setup between each student and the online reviewer who acts as a critic throughout the semester. This connection of the students and the professional world rarely occurs. This is a unique and innovative way of connecting a design studio with professionals from all over the world. We have found blogs to be an important part of our studio environment.

Blogs:

- *Present, organize and protect students' work as a digital portfolio.*
- *Are a chronological arrangement of information and research.*
- *Create a dialog between the students and critics.*
- *Introduce a new skill of being part of global society.*
- *Expose student to alternative ways of thinking.*
- *Reinforce writing and promote discussion.*
- *Allow fellow students and professors to see work even when not in the studio.*
- *Allow students accessibility to a design critique twenty four hours a day.*
- *Create a studio at virtually anytime, at any place as long as there is internet access.*
- *Extend the classroom beyond the boundaries of the campus.*

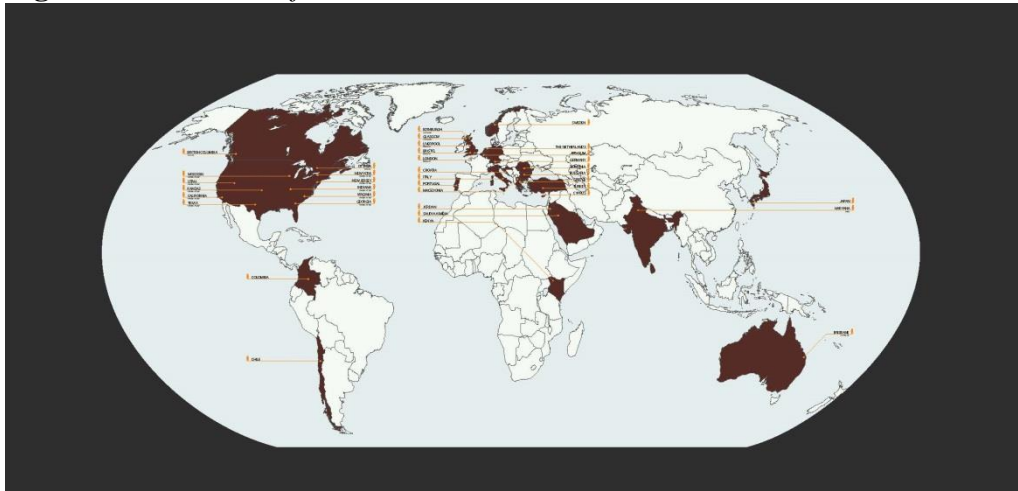
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- Provide students with new and unique references that are not familiar with through the online reviewers.
- Connect students with professionals throughout the world.
- Connect professors with other professionals.

Introduction

Figure 1. Locations of Online Reviewers



Goal

Connecting Our Students to the Outside World Using Online Reviewers and Student Blogs in the Classroom

Course Format

Students select a building type to research, program and design, documenting their process throughout the semester.

This is a documentation of the process we use in an advanced design studio. The project emphasis is on a more complex building organization, and the primary emphasis is in the further development and exploration of design principles involved in creating appropriate architecture, focusing on the integration of program, context, site, composition and space planning.

Online Blog

Blogs are individual websites that are updated by an author. They follow a chronological order and allow others to post comments and follow.

Why Do we Use Blogs in the Classroom?

- Blogs organize and protect students work as a digital portfolio
- Present a chronological arrangement of information
- Introduce a new skill of being part of global society
- Expose to alternative ways of thinking
- Reinforce writing and promote discussion

- Follow classmates work even when not at the studio

How Do we Use Blogs?

- Each student creates their blog the first day of class.
- They have assignments that they must post to their blogs.
- They add the professors to the blog which allows us to follow and review their work as well as leave comments.
- Online Reviewers are assigned.

Online Reviewers

Each semester we send emails to the former online reviewers asking if they would like to participate again. We have found the online reviewers using social media.

Why Do we Use Blogs?

- Students have access to a design critique at any time. Not only during class time.
- Creates a studio at virtually anytime, at any place as long as there is internet access.
- It extends the classroom beyond the boundaries of the campus.
- Connect students with professionals throughout the world.
- Online reviewers give references from their perspectives that the class may not be familiar with.
- Connects Professors with other professionals.

We have been using blogs with our students for the past twelve semesters. We currently have a pool of about one hundred online reviewers.

Blogs Assignments Calendar

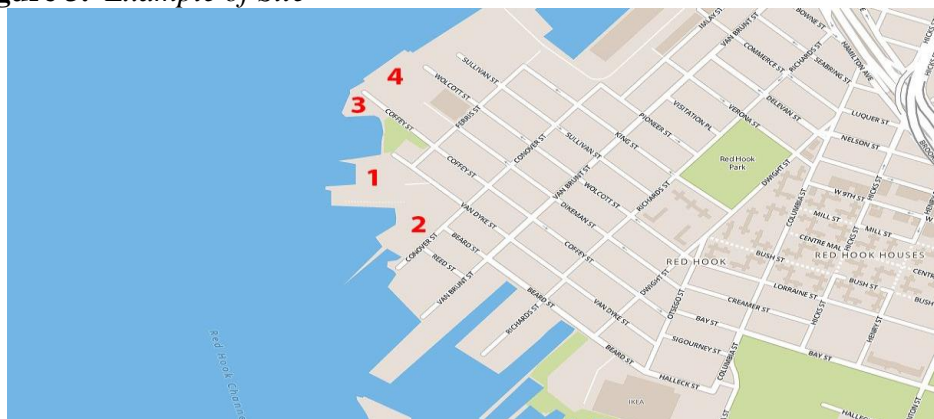
At the beginning of each class, students are given an assignment.

The students must post the completed assignment to their blog by the next class. Concurrently the assignment is emailed to the online reviewers so they get familiar with the syllabus and have a better understanding of what the students are posting.

Figure 2. List of Assignments-Sample

ASSIGNMENT NUMBER	ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE
1	Site Analysis	02/04/2013
2	Each student is to create a class blog. Answer questions on Typology, and provide 10 case study examples of their building type choice. Site analysis, and typology materials are to be posted on the individual blogs	02/13/2013
3	Find and analyze 10 examples of Parti + Massing, post examples to blog.	02/20/2013
4	Research 10 examples of Symmetry + Hierarchy, post examples to blog.	02/25/2013
5	Find 10 examples of Geometry + Natural Lighting + Structure, post examples to blog.	02/27/2013
6	Provide 10 examples of Public vs. Private space planning + Circulation + Approach, post examples to blog.	03/04/2013
7	Research 10 examples of space organization and make color coded diagrams showing each space location and scale, post examples to blog.	03/11/2013
8	Building program analysis based on precedent studies	03/13/2013
9	Concept Design	03/18/2013
10	Concept Design / 3 Dimensional Interpretation of Collage	03/20/2013
SPRING BREAK: 03/25/2013 - 04/02/2013		
MID SEMESTER EVALUATION: 4/15/2013		
11	Programatic Study & Development	04/22/2013
12	Refinement of Massing Studies	04/24/2013
13	Refinement of Plans & Sections	05/01/2013
14	Development of Exterior Elevations & Fenestration	05/08/2013
FINAL PRESENTATION: 5/20/2013		

Figure 3. Example of Site



Assignment 1 Site Analysis

Objective: Students will analyze social patterns, behaviors, flows and narratives specific to the sites in a chosen neighborhood in New York City. Initially, student groups will form, to collaborate and graphically document site-specific characteristics.

Structure: Students work in groups, and produce analytical site mappings/diagrams. They create a blog that will house all the collaborative documentation for each group's site analysis. This blogs will be available for each student to use for reference throughout the semester.

Each group collectively generates the following documentation:

SITE: Location- The site needs to be connected to existing major streets or landmarks. Aerial photographs help in this assessment stage. There should be documentation of distances and time from familiar reference points. major places

SITE: Generalities-Includes, figure ground diagram, neighborhood context, green space, places of interaction, accessibility, schools, places of worship, community centers, etc.

SITE: Legal Elements-Includes zoning classifications, FAR, set-backs, height restrictions, allowable site coverage, uses, and parking requirements etc

SITE: Commerce- Includes hotels, restaurants, lounges, cafes, bars, and etc.

SITE: Circulation/Pathways-Includes Residential to Commercial, Residential to Residential, Subways to Residential & Commercial, Schools to Commercial, etc.

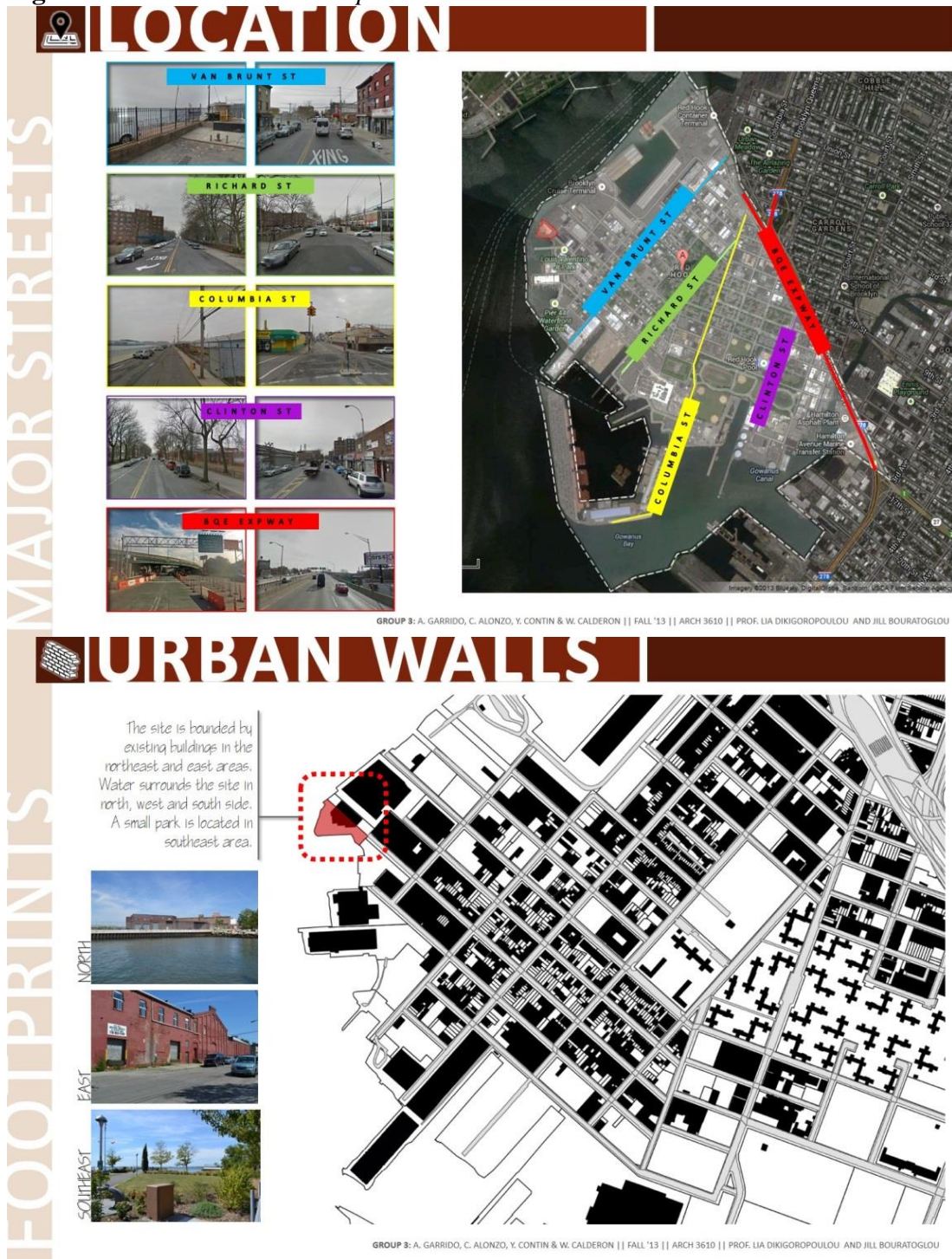
SITE: Circulation/Pathways-Includes Residential to Commercial, Residential to Residential, Subways to Residential & Commercial, Schools to Commercial, etc.

SITE: Urban Walls -Includes façade patterning, hierarchies, solid/void, rhythm, repetition, etc.

SITE: Climate and Natural Light-Includes natural light intensity, natural light density, analysis over time/space, etc.

SITE: History- Includes neighborhood history.




Figure 4. Student Work- Examples



Assignment 1 Site Analysis- Reviews

Figure 5. Comments

ASSIGNMENT 1 - REVIEWS

 <p>Phanos (Cyprus) September 19, 2013 at 1:57 AM</p>	<p>Your site analysis is thorough, well presented and easy to read! Well done to you and your classmates! The site you chose seems to offer a variety of challenges as well as opportunities. I am looking forward to see what you will come up with.</p>
 <p>Desiree (Atlanta, US) September 19, 2013 at 8:35 AM</p>	<p>Very thorough analysis. It reads well and is easy to follow. Looking forward to seeing your concept and the project as it unfolds.</p>
 <p>Graeme (UK) September 20, 2013 at 2:59 PM</p>	<p>What is the difference between a boutique hotel and a "normal hotel"? On a trip to New York last February I stayed in Dream Downtown hotel and I have to say I found it terribly disappointing. The rooms are very standard and small and the circulation is typically long, artificially light and ventilated. The plan is the usual double loaded corridor and the experience is that of being in any mid market hotel anywhere in the world and sadly not in one of the most exciting cities in the world (in my opinion anyway)</p> <p>Not sure what your analysis is trying to achieve. Perhaps looking at densities of rooms i.e. how efficient in plan are the examples you have chosen, how many rooms can be accommodated into a certain area, looking at the analysis of trying to avoid the very efficient double loaded corridor to achieve a much more pleasant experience for the visitor to your hotel.</p> <p>The site looks interesting and the analysis is good, it gives a good impression for someone who is not familiar with this area. Looking forward to seeing your ideas develop.</p> <p>Regards, Graeme</p>

Assignment 2 Building Typology

Objective: based on the results of the site analysis, each student will select a building type that they think is appropriate for the site

Structure: Answer the following questions:

Which building type are you researching?

Why are you researching this building?


What is the specialty of this building **type** you would like to research? i.e. Museum for dance, school for digital media.

Assignment 2 Student Work

Figure 6. Student Work

Building Typologies

1. Which building typology you are researching?
A museum
2. Why are you researching this building typology?
This is types of building that I have never done before, and I want to try something that is out of my normal element but create something that is very unique. I also wanted something that wasn't available in the area.
3. What is the specialty of this building type you would like to research i.e.? Museum for dance, school for media...
The museums would be for cars of all kind.
4. What are the examples that you will be researching... list the examples, location and architect (10 examples)







3Gatti Architecture Studio of Rome and Shanghai have won a competition to design an automobile museum in Nanjing, China.

Assignment 2 Reviews

Figure 7. Comments

ASSIGNMENT 2 - REVIEWS

FORMAT · REVIEWERS · BLOGS · ASSESSMENT

 Jill Bouratoglou (Professor) February 11, 2013 at 6:32 PM	This is a great typology especially for this neighborhood! You can also look at aquariums and science buildings to help with some of the spaces. Also think about how the community can be incorporated into the site and building.
 Claudia Perez-Snead (Germany) February 13, 2013 at 5:57 AM	Nice selection of examples. When looking for other case studies, especially the sustainable urban science center. Aside from taking into consideration flood zone criteria, have you considered sustainability as one of your project goals? Think of the impact a center like this would case to the surrounding, not only to the community but the environment.
 April Turner (Student) February 13, 2013 at 1:23 PM	Sustainability is one of my project goals, which is why several of my examples are LEED certified - The Sustainable Urban Science Center, the Natural Life Sciences Building, the Life Sciences Building and the Ocean and Coastal Studies Building? (I have to double-check for that one).
 Desiree (Atlanta, US) February 13, 2013 at 3:34 PM	Great examples. Do try to bring in the community and surrounding area as much as you can. DO look at the impact of having an educational facility of this type in this area. You are off to a great start.

ADVANCED DESIGN IN ARCHITECTURE · PROFESSOR JILL BOURATOGLOU · PROFESSOR LIA DIKIGOROPOULOU · CITY TECH

Assignment 3-7 Diagrammatic Analysis

Objective: Research and gather a minimum of ten examples of the following elements and post your findings to your blog.

Structure: Students are to collect examples of the following elements and use them to create a diagrammatic analysis.

The Students are asked to analyze precedents of the same building typology that they are proposing based on:

Parti- the dominant idea of a building. It is often referred to as the “big idea”. It is the main organizing thought behind an architect’s design and it is usually represented in the form of a very basic diagram, model or a statement. The objective is to recognize the parti of the particular project.

Massing- the collection of patterns. It is the act of composing 3-dimensional forms into a unified and coherent architectural composition.

Symmetry- Bilateral or radial symmetry are explored thru floor plans and elevations

Hierarchy the exploration of the importance or significance of one space versus another (or others)

Geometry- The floor plans, elevations and /or sections can are used to break down the design into simple geometric shapes. Is there additive or subtractive pieces? Using overlays the design is broken down into the simplest geometric shapes

Natural Light- Exploration of how natural lighting enters each building. The images can be of various exterior photographs and/or sections. Orientation of building is critical.

Structure - When we talk about structure we are referring to how is the building standing up? At the very basic level structure is: columns, planes or a combination of those. Structure could be used to define space, suggest movement or develop compositions.

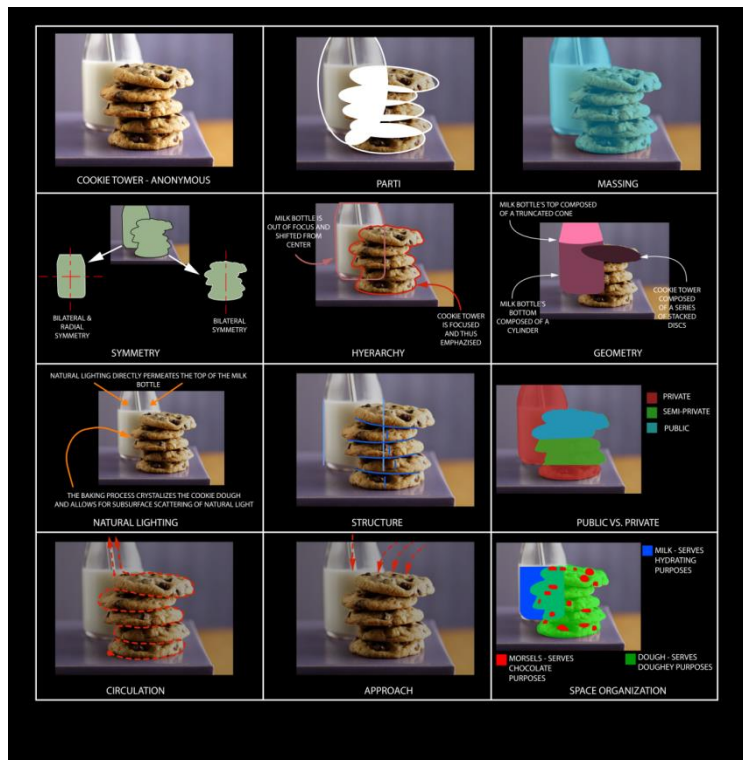
Approach and Circulation- Entrance(s), vertical circulation, and the main circulation throughout the floor plans are identified.

Public versus Private- Public would be the spaces that a any person in this building would have access to. Private would have restricted access. The types of spaces that are private and public will vary from building type to building type.

Space Organization- Buildings are composed of a lot of spaces. Those spaces are usually organized based on their function or use. Based on those diagrams you should get a clear understanding on how a particular type of building is organize

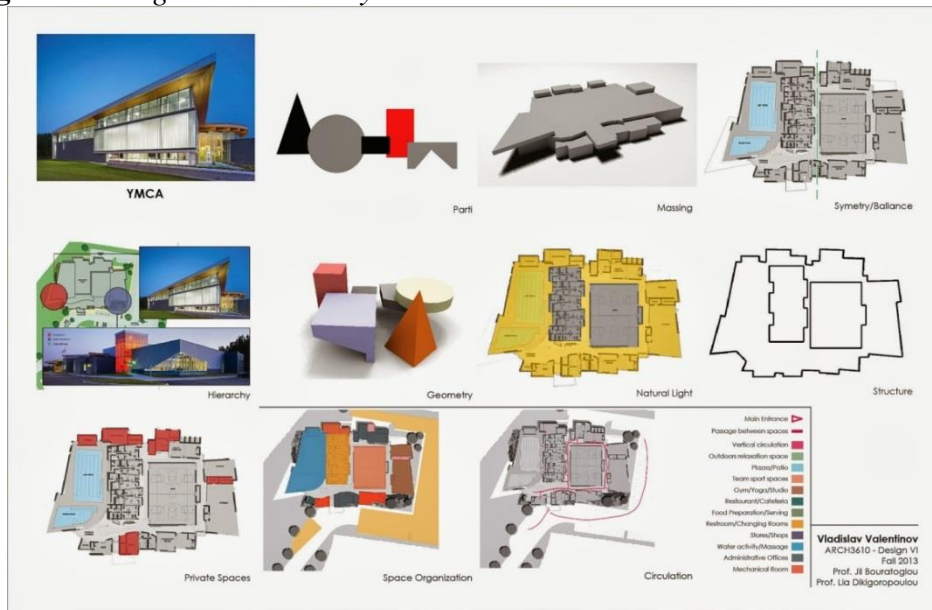
The building or any example is reduced to its bare essentials. Each student creates diagrams of the their precedents.

Figure 8. Milk and Cookies



Assignment 3-7 Diagrammatic Analysis - Student Work

Figure 9. Diagrammatic Analysis Student Work



Assignment 3-7 Diagrammatic Analysis – Reviews

Figure 10. Comments

ASSIGNMENTS 3 TO 7 - REVIEWS

<p> Lia Dikigoropoulou (Professor) September 27, 2013 at 7:50 PM</p>	<p>Great work. Your diagrams are very clear. I can't wait to see how all these will come into play into your own building</p>
<p> Andy Fastman (California, US) September 27, 2013 at 10:03 AM</p>	<p>Incredible analyses. To be 100% frank, I do not have it in me to reread thoroughly enough to find a point to critique. I am equally stoked to see how you use this knowledge deployed into your facility.</p>
<p> Lia Dikigoropoulou (Professor) September 27, 2013 at 10:33 AM</p>	<p>Coming from Andy, this is such a great compliment!!!!</p>
<p> Loukia Tsafoulia (New York, US) September 27, 2013 at 3:40 PM</p>	<p>Yes! Very good job! This summary is a great starting point for your own creation. Keep whatever you learned through that process in terms of clean visualization, appealing and straightforward diagrams, written explanation of ideas and criticism. Implement all these throughout your design process. Looking forward to see what's next!</p>
<p> Vladislav Vanlentinov (Student) September 27, 2013 at 8:58 PM</p>	<p>Thank you all, I feel that you are spoiling me. I can't hardly wait to start designing. I promise that I will not only try not to disappoint you, but will do my best to provide imaginary visitors with the most amazing and comfortable imaginary facility.</p>
<p> Hector (New York, US) September 28, 2013 at 4:46 AM</p>	<p>Great work Vlad! Don't think of it as an imaginary facility though. You never know if someone would take a look at the ideas a few years down the road and decide it to be a good investment. Never put yourself down.</p>

Assignment 8 Programmatic Analysis

Objective: Based on your precedent studies, determine the program of your building.

Structure: Develop Relationship Diagram:

Adjacency Matrix: A chart that provided the space relationship and criteria to the other spaces within the building. The purpose of the matrix is to organize and link different activity areas together.

Criteria Matrix: Attempts to organize the design program requirements in a concise form.

Assignment 8 Programmatic Analysis -Student Work

Figure 11. Adjacency Matrix

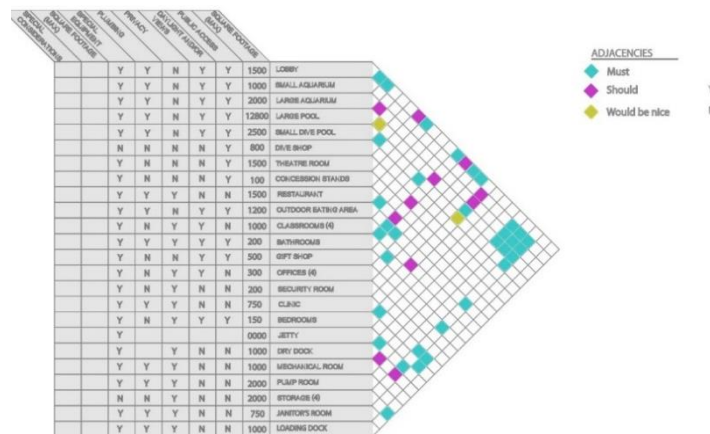
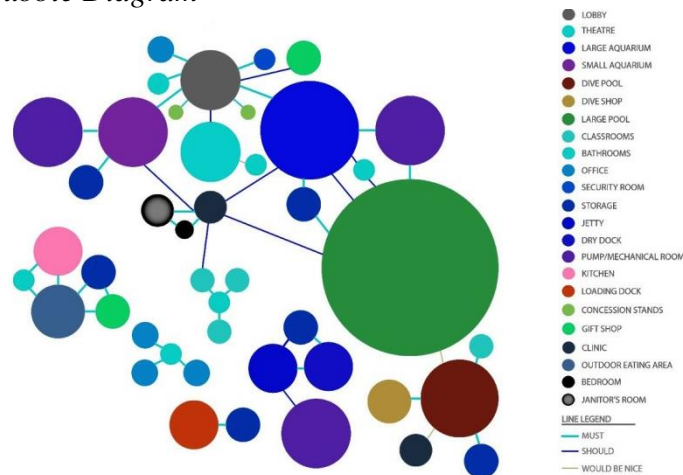





Figure 12. Bubble Diagram



Assignment 8 Programmatic Analysis –Reviews

Figure 13. Comments

ASSIGNMENT 8 - REVIEWS

<p> Carolyn Morin (New York, US) March 9, 2013 at 9:23 PM</p>	<p>Marlon, This diagram is very easy to understand and the colors help it be clear too. It's very helpful to do a checklist like this since it will make your project user friendly. From looking at the adjacencies it seems like a lot of the mechanical spaces need to be near the presentation spaces. Can you come up with a service core and have the presentation spaces that need views and exterior expression along the exterior? Keep up the great work!</p>
<p> Jill Bouratoglou (Professor) March 10, 2013 at 10:38 AM</p>	<p>I hope you found this exercise useful. The part that is missing (the special considerations) will really help you figure out the shapes, proportions of the various spaces. I think there are many opportunities to create a link between the public exhibition spaces and mechanical in section and in plan. Do you have any examples or guidelines for designing the tank displays? This would be important to research.</p>
<p> Anita Wong (California, US) March 18, 2013 at 11:39 PM</p>	<p>I'm a huge fan of these diagrams! i think they are organized clearly and is graphically pleasing! As a further exploration I encourage you to continue to group and organize your bubble diagram by putting different spaces together and analyzing the reactions simply by integrating or pulling programs apart. Then using these programs and putting them on the real site and orienting them to different views and prioritizing them in different ways.</p>

Assignment 10 Concept Collages

Objective: Concept Design

Structure: The Collages should have images that inspire, show different outlines, scales, details and materials.

- One collage based on your impression of the site you have selected (not images of the site)

- One collage based on a word selected for the semester: trendy, impact, dismantle, historic, potential, rustic, renewal, scenic, isolated, flooded or deserted
- One collage based on the program of your project

Assignment 10 Concept Collages - Student Work




Figure 14. Student Work



Assignment 10 Concept Collages - Reviews

Figure 15. Comments

ASSIGNMENT 10 - REVIEWS

<p> Heriberto Velazquez (Student) April 3, 2013 at 12:44 PM</p>	<p>I actually have been working on hybrid models and while creating them, certain aspects popped up that I had no intention of creating. While I do try to have meaning behind everything i create in my models, i try to have that meaning be different to different people who see it.</p> <p>As for the brain in my collage, I used it to represent the "Single Mindset" that the programs in a community center have which is to help and enrich the community around it. Homer Simpson on the other hand, I used him to represent popular followings in a culture which is what I believe Brooklyn is about and Homer Simpson in a way has had a strong impact on the culture of NYC and people who are part of the culture are all connected because of what they like and dislike.</p>
<p> Eugenio Dos Santos (Portugal) April 3, 2013 at 10:44 AM</p>	<p>Earlier i meant to say study models instead of collages *(I see you have been working these themes in your collages)*</p>
<p> Elena Pazardjievska (Macedonia) April 3, 2013 at 5:09 PM</p>	<p>Your collages are too symbolic and too narrative. If you had a cold kind of feeling, the feeling can not be described by a glass of cold water, it is too naive. Also, NYC has a lot of popular culture icons and Homer Simpson is surely not one of them. Please try to use different signs and try to apply deeper philosophy on your project.</p>

Assignment 11 Concept Models

Objective: Concept development

Structure: Concept model should have a 3"x3" base and be constructed from a wide variety of materials.

The material used in creating these models should be chosen based on what it represents in your collages. There will be three different models per collage for a total of three collages and nine models.

Assignment 11 Concept Models - Student Work




Figure 16. Student Work



Assignment 11 Concept Models- Reviews

Figure 17. Comments

ASSIGNMENT 11 - REVIEWS

 St. Metakaos (Australia) October 29, 2013 at 6:48 AM	Your models are very abstract, I really appreciate how you have put concept in motion and made many examples which are very playful. I would encourage you to go even further but not without placing human scale models and plants and trees as part of the composition. Be honest about the number of people and the center of attraction (ie the performance arts program) you will be simulating through your model, as in if there are only a handful of people then also look at what its like with 1000's of people. Make sure your model people are decent so your photography picks up the atmosphere that people bring. Keep zooming between the macro and micro effects of your architecture, great work & well done...
 Paul Adamson (California, US) December 1, 2013 at 5:50 AM	These are quite expressive. and varied. I wonder if you have a preference for either of the formal compositions? The white wedge-shaped model has the most architectural potential, but any might be translated with more or less transformation.
 Candy Soller (Australia) December 1, 2013 at 6:06 PM	I am enjoying the fact that you are being abstract in your emotional interpretation of the site. hold onto it and see if you can reinterpret it in the built form.

Assignment 12 Hybrid Model

Objective: Concept Development

Structure: From your Study Models you will generate a hybrid model that takes the best qualities of your models.

This Hybrid model should come after all revisions by your professors, critics and peers to the initial study models have been completed.

Assignment 12 Hybrid Model - Student Work

Figure 18. *Student Work*




Assignment 12 Hybrid Model – Reviews

Figure 19. *Comments*

ASSIGNMENT 12 - REVIEWS

 **Phanos (Cyprus)**
March 5, 2014 at 4:28 PM

Hi, Pedro! While describing your program collage, one idea that you mention and that I like very much is "breaking the rules and creating your own" - this sounds most appropriate for exhibiting and celebrating a human invention such as the car! In your pictures above I have noticed that the outline of your model is following a rectangular pattern that is very similar (and perhaps confined) to the size and shape of the white piece of paper that you are using as a background. I wonder if this happened coincidentally or if it was the result of arranging your tools and clutch fragments on top of that background? Whatever the case is, make sure that you are actually creating your own rules (if this is what you want to do) and that you are having some fun while doing it.

 **Murph (UK)**
March 11, 2014 at 2:47 AM

Morning Pedro,
Really like how the Hybrid model is developing and its quite an appropriate way of developing your concept at this stage. To develop it further, it would be interesting to keep adding the extra layers required to make this work as architecture, probably starting with the site context, thinking about the interaction of your building with all its edges (the waterfront, public realm, etc), further layering it up with ideas of movement/story/narrative within your building and views, etc.
There is a lot of stuff in there that if you get right will make some great architecture, particularly if you remain true to your concepts and don't let it get watered down as you switch to computer packages (and the often undesirable consequences of rooms becoming square spaces, etc...).
Looking forward to seeing the next stage of development.

Assignment 13 Massing

Objective: Using your conceptual model and develop a massing model that is to the scale of the site

Structure: The scale of the site model is: 1/32" = 1'-0". This model should take into consideration your studies of exterior circulation as well as your concept and development up to date.

It should also approximate the actual size of your development in relationship to the neighboring context.

Assignment 13 Massing- Student Work





Figure 20. Student Work



Assignment 13 Massing - Reviews

Figure 21. Comments

ASSIGNMENT 13 - REVIEWS

 Marlon Cox (Student) April 15, 2013 at 2:39 PM	Strong perspective. I like how the building seems to unfold in front of me in this view. It will definitely draw people in due to curiosity of what is going on behind the buildings. My impression also is that the structure will be massive. It just my opinion based on how it looks to me now.
 David Wu (Student) April 15, 2013 at 3:12 PM	I've a very interesting massing. I'm curious in seeing how the rooms will be like, since there is a gradual slope. I've done a similar project like this and the slope may be a problem for you later on. Good job!
 Heriberto Velazquez (Student) April 15, 2013 at 3:29 PM	The massing of your structure is extremely interesting and eye-catching. I really like how it resembles a wave but also has the outline of your shell in all your views. Great job on making a statement on the site.
 Eldon Ralph (Student) April 15, 2013 at 4:24 PM	Absolutely love the first image of the street level and the building. I think casual sloping of the mass is a very strong and interesting, but its seems to be very large. I'm very curious to see how the building looks at the end of the semester. Keep up the good work!

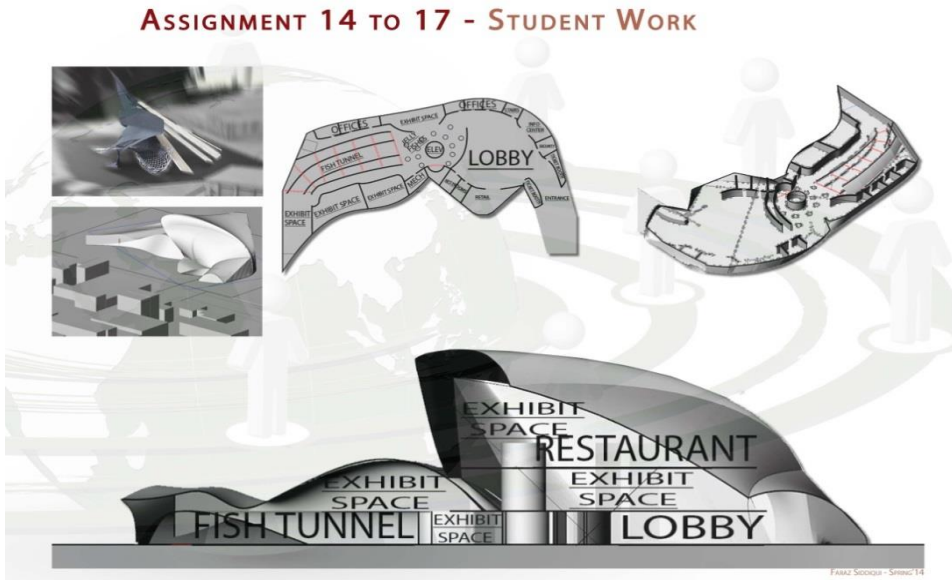
Assignment 14-17 Diagrammatic Studies

Objective: Based on your existing programming and your concept massing study create diagrammatic plans and sections.

Structure: Creating diagrammatic plans and sections that connect the bubble diagrams and the conceptual massing. The massing must be shown in the site in the context of the neighborhood.

Assignment 14-17 Diagrammatic Studies- Student Work



Figure 22. Student Work



Assignment 14-17 Diagrammatic Studies- Reviews

Figure 23. Comments

ASSIGNMENT 14 TO 17 - REVIEWS

<p> Lia Dikigoropoulou (Professor) March 24, 2014 at 12:42 PM</p>	<p>The first thing I checked was flow of spaces. An aquarium is just like a museum. you want it to flow without getting lost. You need to move from one exhibit to the next without asking the question "where do I go from now on?" There should be a connection from the beginning to the end.</p>
<p> Andy Fastman (California, US) March 24, 2014 at 10:06 PM</p>	<p>It is always a big jump from pure collage/parti study to 3-D model without some diagramming and sketching in between. If you are more comfortable in digital evolution (although your physical modeling skills are quite keen), think simpler at first. Block out and extrude volumes to represent your programmatic elements. Play with them in the computer to test arrangements and relationships. Never forget the sectional relationships in addition to the planometric moves.</p> <p>Lia is right, an aquarium is a curated somewhat narrative and completely proscribed path. The HOW (you get there) is as important as the Where (you end up) and all are trumped by the WHY (it matters). Take a step back and look at several aquarium precedents again for their organizational approach. Notable promenades through such spaces are the Boston (New England) Aquarium by Cambridge Seven, the Baltimore (National) Aquarium by I.M.Pei and the Atlanta (Georgia) Aquarium by Peckham Guyton Albers & Viets Inc. and of course, the Monterey Bay Aquarium by Esherick Homsey Dodge & Davis. These all have unique circulatory paths and systems which are worth taking a look at. Also, run downtown and have a fresh look at the Guggenheim. I think the gallery spaces need no introduction.</p>

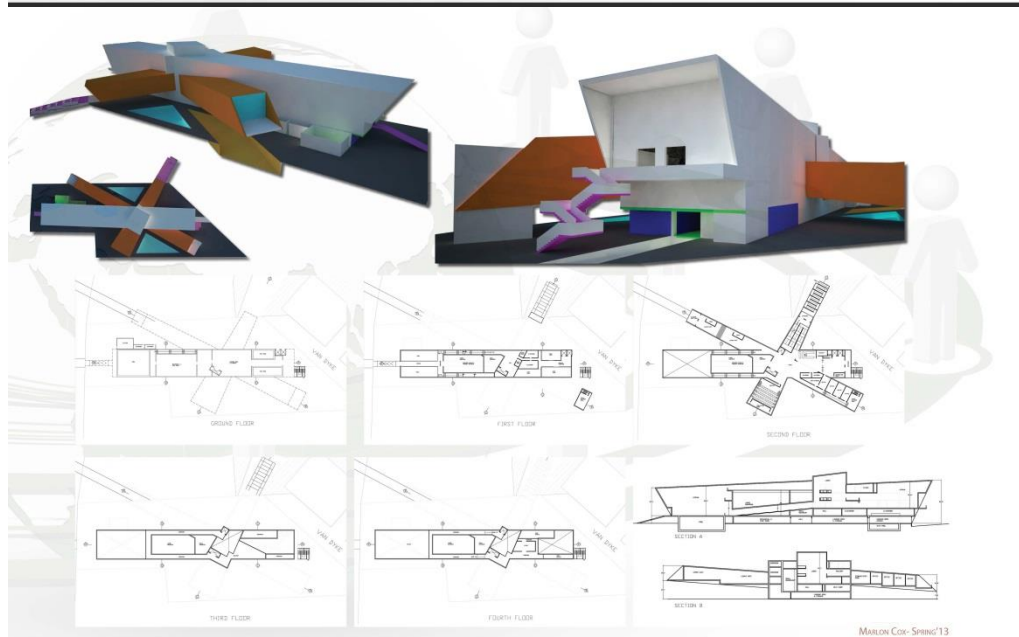
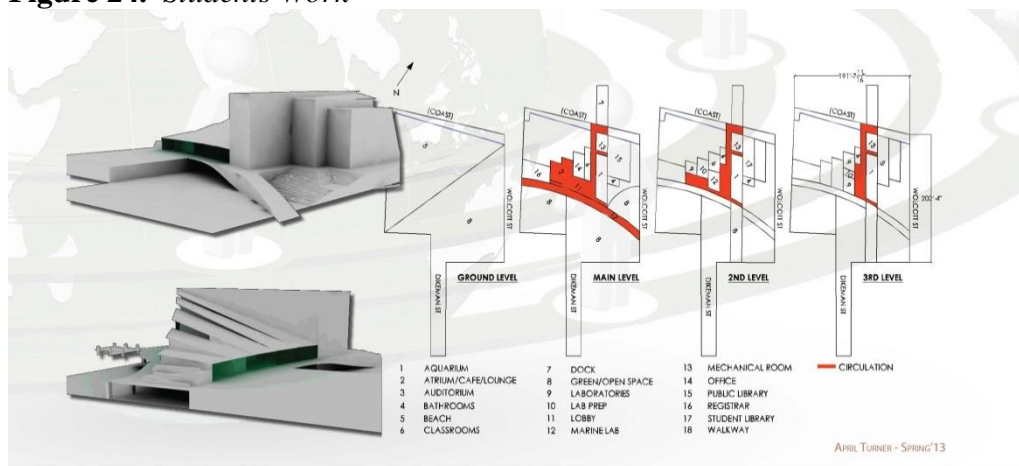
Assignment 18 Refining Plans and Sections

Objectives: Refinement of Massing Studies with a focus on circulation throughout the building

Structure: Refine your plans and sections using volumes as created by your massing, focusing on circulation throughout the building. This should include connections to the outside of the building as well as exterior circulation routes (pedestrian, vehicular drop off/pick up, etc.), ADA mobility requirements & fire egress requirements.

Assignment 18 Refining Plans and Sections- Students Work


Figure 24. Students Work



Assignment 18 Refining Plans and Sections- Reviews

Figure 25. Comments

ASSIGNMENT 18 - REVIEWS


 **Murph (UK)**
May 7, 2013 at 12:05 PM

Hey Marlon,
Think the plans are coming along well and slightly changing the shape of your elements has really helped - I think section A in particular looks really good and explains everything well.

Also like the void thats starting to develop in the centre of your building - have you considered inserting a stairs in this location as it appears people can only go up to levels 3 and 4 by lift (elevator as you guys say!) without going to the very east of your building? You could get some cool stairs bridging across your void so that people can see up/down that space and they travel through your building.

In terms of your entrance along section C and second floor plan, I think you need to introduce some activity as you travel up towards your lobby area. It can be a really dynamic entrance as you travel up towards the node of your building but that obviously doesn't show on plan. This route needs to be part of your journey/experience of your building, not a just winding ramp as your plans suggest. You don't need to significantly alter anything - just give some thought to whats happening there.

Cheers
Murph

 **Marlon Cox (Student)**
May 7, 2013 at 12:31 PM

Well my idea for that circulation on section c was to have the walls that split the ramps up become a sort of collage of pictures or a mural of some sort of aquatic life. That was my idea behind it besides the ADA implications. Thank You.

Assignment 19 Elevations and Fenestration

Objective: Further develop your project with façade studies and elevations studies.

Structure: Your elevations should include any façade treatments as well as materials incorporated, but most importantly it must include the immediate context of your building. Your building is on a predetermined site, not floating amidst infinite space. At this stage you should also explore materials for your building.

Assignment 19 Elevations and Fenestration- Student Work

Figure 26. Students Work



Assignment 19 Elevations and Fenestration- Reviews

Figure 27. Comments

ASSIGNMENT 19 - REVIEWS



Loukia Tsafoulia (New York, US)
November 28, 2013 at 9:33 PM

Hello Valentinov,
This is certainly a far better approach than the triangulated one. The whole ribbon idea respects more the fluidity and organicity of your forms.

It is also interesting how you place these three images together trying to see what you learned in the past and how you are moving forward. Well the very first 'swiss cheese' approach although a bit naive and unresolved as a system still has a very interesting feeling of enclosure and playful understanding of interior vs exterior.

It still seems to me that in your last attempt all of the spaces are EQUAL in terms of experiences. But ask yourself: What are the more intimate, private, mystical enclosed spaces versus the more public ones, both exposed and open to the great views of the site?

I am sure that your program has these experiential dipoles that your skin still does not convey.

Reveal all these particularities: Introversion vs extroversion, public vs private, dark and moist vs open and bright, social vs contemplative, ground vs sky.

The program should inform your skin and vice versa your skin should help the program. Develop your proposed skin in such a way that hierarchize spaces a bit more rigorously.

You are getting there!!!

Lia Dikigoropoulou (Professor)
November 28, 2013 at 11:24 AM

I totally agree with Loukia. What is private and what is public, should dictate the opacity or transparency of your spaces. Love the progress. I am so happy you did not just stick with one solution, and you are constantly exploring. Happy Thanksgiving!

Andy Fastman (California, US)
November 28, 2013 at 5:28 PM

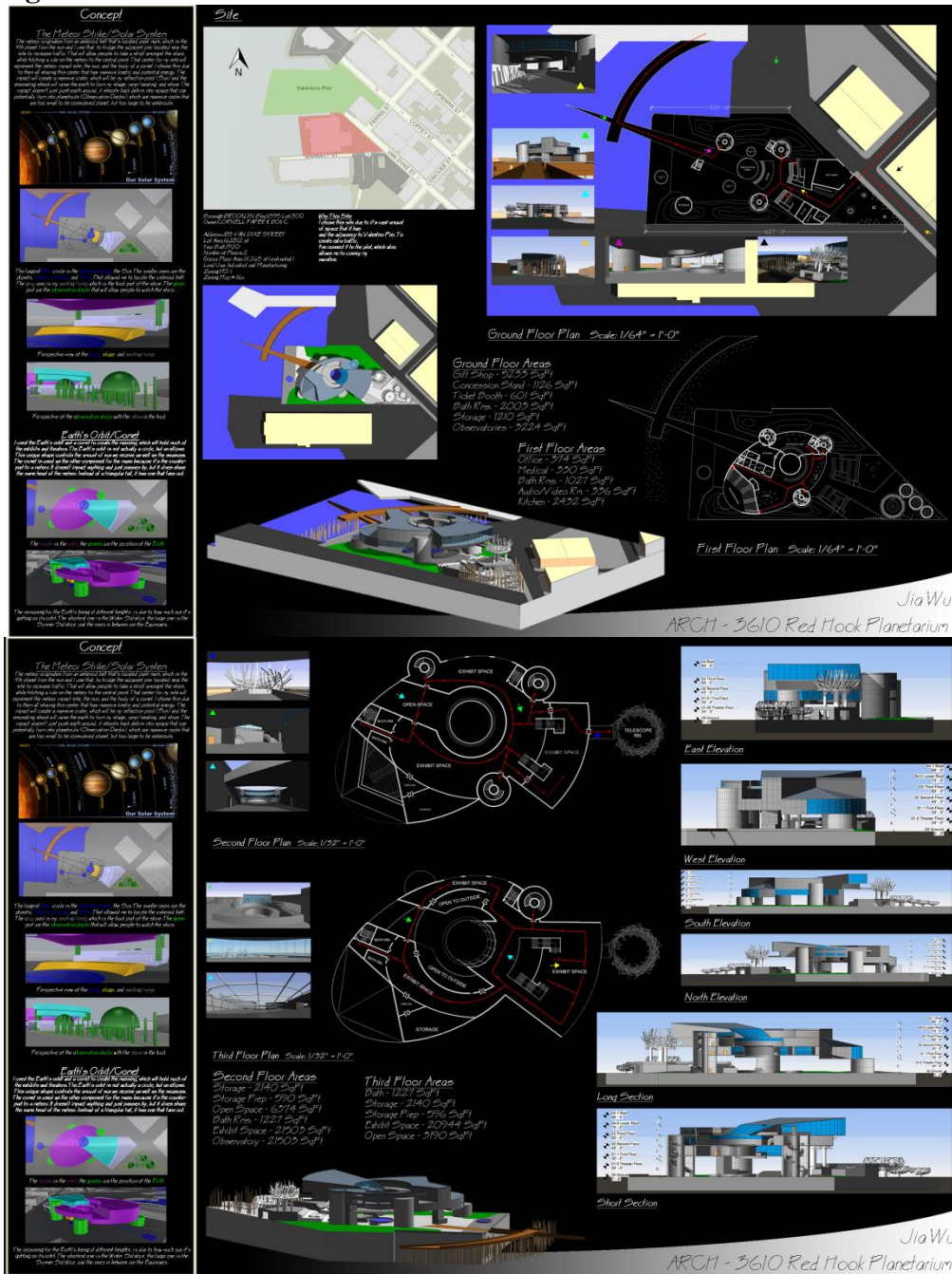
This investigation is compelling. The direction is far better. Although the perforations are not yet there, something is starting to gel better than the fractured glass skin.

The ground interface is not there at all. Go back through your previous iterations and look at which ground strategies were more successful. For arguments sake, look at the post Katrina proposals for hurricane-proof residential dwellings. Several architects participated...and Brad Pitt was involved (happy googling). There were some incredible grade interface solutions to allow water to drain. Also look at the horribly cliché resorts on stilts in Tahiti and Bora Bora. Although the architecture is unremarkable, there is a quality to a hovering mass over water that you could learn from.

Assignment 20 Final Design

At the end of the semester, the students present their blog to the jury. Everything they have been working on has been recorded and presented.

Figure 28. Students Work



Assessment Request

At the end of the semester a thank you note is sent to all the on-line reviewers with request for feedback.

Figure 29. Feedback Request

ASSESSMENT - REQUEST



Lia Dikigoropoulou
prof.liamd@gmail.com
Jan 23rd 2013

Hello All,

Last semester, you volunteered to be on-line reviewers for my theoretical design class. I know it was not perfect. It was actually a struggle to convince students to post on their blogs. But despite of that, your comments and input were greatly appreciated. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!

The next semester is going to start again Jan 28, 2013, and I would like to try this again. The class has changed a bit, and it is no longer an elective. It is a required class, and we have 15 students signed up. The class is called Advance design and the students are in their sixth semester.

If you are willing to commit virtually again for this coming semester I will forward you the new syllabus and more information about the course. Just let me know so I can start the process. If you would like more than one student let me know.



Also if you have any comments or suggestions on how to improve the course and or the process feel free to let me know.

We are here to learn and improve and make it a better global learning experience for our students.

Assessment Responses

Figure 30. Responses

ASSESSMENT - RESPONSES

 <p>Kristen Van Haeren kristenvh@hotmail.ca (British Columbia, Canada) Jan 23</p>	<p>Hi Lia,</p> <p>Last semester was a wonderful experience to see student work. I would love to participate again. Only improvements I can think of is if there is more background reasoning from the student for their designs. Sometimes it seemed that they jumped from one stage to another. I would also like to see more student process or sketching work or even small written concepts/blurbs. Having the students creatively express their thoughts and projects through a variety of mediums I think can help us as reviewers understand their projects, and them as students to focus their intentions. Looking forward to another semester.</p> <p>Thanks again, Kristen</p>
 <p>Andrew Neal David Fastman, AIA LEED A.P. BD+C (California, United States) Jan 24</p>	<p>Lia-</p> <p>I'd love to do it again. I could probably handle more than one if you need. As I have a bit more time, I'll throw a couple of suggestions at you based on my experience last semester, or I can review the syllabus and comment globally. Also, I realize that I pushed Jessica pretty hard last semester. I did my best to keep it completely constructive. I am hoping that the level of commentary was up to your expectations.</p> <p>Andy</p>

Conclusion

Teaching is not only creating and developing new courses, but also implementing new ideas in the classroom. We are always exploring different ways to engage and inspire our students. Using blogs in this studio has allowed our students to be connected with professionals. They have created a symbiotic relationship, sharing ideas and criticism while allowing the student project to develop much further. This process benefits not only the student, but also the professional that can mentor future architects and teach from their desk, while working in the field. This process keeps the comments and development of the projects relative to what is being done in the field.

This is a unique and innovative way of connecting a design studio with professionals from all over the world and give exposure to our students to an alternative thought process.

References

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