

Blue Urbanism: Inviting Urban Play on Seattle's North Waterfront

Scan I Design Master Studio, Autumn 2014 [Larch 501/Arch504]

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ASSIGNMENT 1: Analysis

PRESENTATION DUE: Monday September 29

POSTER / PRINTED BOOK PAGES DUE: Wednesday October 1, beginning of class

Waterfronts are dynamic urban spaces comprised of layers of complex and interactive systems. These systems shape the way that species, including humans, interact with and thrive in their environment. As a first step in our process, you will work together to document the contextual systems in place in our study area along **Seattle's North Waterfront**. Through this process you will develop expertise in a certain system that will enable you and your colleagues to act as **consultants** to each other over the term.

For this exercise, you will work in a team of 4 people that will hold expertise on the **existing and planned assets, challenges and opportunities** of a particular system that influences the north waterfront. Your team will graphically represent your interpretation of these systems in both a digital presentation (powerpoint or PDF) and on a poster using maps and infographics, intended to inform future possibilities by assembling data to fit an inspiring theoretical framework of your choosing. Much of the data you will need has already been gathered, either through the WAGDA database or through the existing planning efforts underway on the waterfront. The poster will use the book page template that we will use through out the term.

The boundaries of the study area are roughly (context will be greater):

- **Elliott Bay to the west (including the bay)**
- **Western Avenue to the east**
- **Piers 62/63 to the south**
- **The Olympic Sculpture Park to the north**

Imagine yourself as an anthropologist or wildlife biologist examining the site area as it pertains to a species or ecosystem. Choose one of the below systems for your consultancy group to examine using this lens. You might want to picture yourself as an individual species or member of the public and think about how your system affects one's everyday or occasional life. Think also how this system shapes the form and processes enacting on the waterfront as a whole. Keep in mind that the theme of the studio is **Inviting Urban Play**, so try not to simply compile factual data, but rather imagine how this system enables a species to thrive to a level of wellbeing beyond mere survival. Consider what is **existing, planned and possible**. Work as a group to form a cohesive theoretical framework. Note also that we will conduct traditional site-scale analyses later in the quarter, so allow your consultancy group to blur boundaries and be creative. Research areas to include for the distinct systems are:

1. **Shelter** (i.e. land and water uses, gathering spaces, habitat for human and non human species, existing and planned facilities...)
2. **Sensory** (climate (wind, temperature, solar, light) views, noise, physical activities)
3. **Water** (i.e. storm/waste/drinking water, stormwater basins and outfalls, aquatic conditions, tides, sea wall design, salmon and other aquatic species' needs...)
4. **Mobility** (i.e. pedestrian and bike; boat; movement through the space for all species, travel corridors, upland connections and obstacles, water connections, planned roadway changes, vehicular volumes, required access, transit connections...)
5. **Community & Culture** (i.e. programmed and incidental interactions between and within species, user surveys, public preferences, stakeholder groups, demographics, art plan, community spaces, identity)
6. **Temporal** (i.e. original conditions, history, seasons, day/night, migrations, special events, future climate change conditions and scenarios...)
7. **Ecology**: (i.e. topography, bathymetry, geology, soil, vegetation, fauna, flyways, carbon sequestration/emissions, brownfields...)
8. **Sustenance** (i.e. food systems, economy, commerce; revenue; local/regional/global, economic flows; employment...)

Presentation Requirements

You will present your graphical analysis using **Powerpoint, Prezi or PDF** and the **book pages printed at final book page size**.