

Home Place '96

*Everyone is from somewhere...
Has a place they remember best
An influential environment,
A shaping place.*

*Why do some environments make such a difference?
Why are some so potent?
Is it them or us?*

*Each place is a part of other places and
they in turn
are only parts themselves
of larger wholes and other times...
We call these contexts.*

*Is not a home "a society of rooms?"
What cove along what beach?
What district in what town?
And when?*

*Each place has a remembered order and arrangement
patterns of relative importance
centered in experience.
An unusual kind of structure.*

*Do we not go back and stand in certain places in our mind
And feel the other places gather round?*

*And the things that happened there...
And the people and the light, colors, smells,
I recall your funny hat.
Bright images,
epiphanies;*

*Especially the rituals, ceremonies and events,
The memorable occasions.*

*Each place means something...
something which seems to last,
something fresh with each new time.*

*Do places full of meaning ever empty out?
And how does the meaning come and go?
And where?
And how is it that they mean?*

cont.

*It seems that places co-evolve in time,
Our time and their own,
Frozen in minds and memories,
Yet always moving on.*

Why Home Place?

1. To introduce ourselves to one another on a first-name, first-place basis.
2. to examine our memories of a special place in order to more fully understand our relationships with it.
3. To become more conscious of the ways we remember a place and try to take advantage of this insight as designers.
4. To explore means for graphically recording these memories and insights in order to communicate them to others.
5. To take personal stock of graphic language and visual thinking skills.
6. To raise important questions about the relationships between people and the places of their lives.

Some Questions:

How much of who we are is related to the places we grew up in or lived in for significant periods of time?

How much influence does (did) environment have on us? do we have on it? should we have? What is environment anyway?

Recording your Home Place:

Ideas, the times, special people and “home places” all have played a powerful role in who we are. Briefly describe the significant places that make up your unique odyssey. Make a simple diagram to visually explain your journey.

Look back in your mind and more closely explore a most memorable “home place”. Sort back through the images, sensations and feelings, the experiences stored in mind and body. Try to capture and record your chosen place with quick notes, sketches, squiggles, diagrams, maps, patterns, colors, things...whatever seems helpful and feels comfortable. Generate as much material as rapidly as you can and then go back and to select and improve.

Now take a few pages in your sketch book large enough (9x12 or 11x17) for others to see and develop and arrange your visual materials to help you communicate with the class. **Stay visual.** You can add your verbal explanation in the **15 minutes or so that everyone gets to be famous in class on Fri. Oct. 4 at 3 PM**, room to be announced.