

CORVALLIS: Urban Site Analysis

Good design is more than a shot in the dark. Research, especially site research, can make the difference between a design that is flawed or barely adequate and one that is successful.

Site research and analysis can be all-consuming. It's easy to fill the entire term just gathering data. The aim of this part of the studio is to help you discover how to conduct quick, focussed, useful site research, analyzed in ways that will inform your design. In a nutshell, you will learn about:

- **Pre-planning:** establishing target subjects and methodologies that don't tax your time budget yet still provide the information that you need.
- **Gathering information:** collecting the data accurately.
- **Filtering:** separating the useful from the useless, perhaps returning for more data
- **Analyzing:** what lessons can be learned from the data? Can it inform the design?
- **Presenting:** how do you communicate what you have learned to the rest of the team?

Lessons to be learned

- Methods for all aspects of site analysis.
- Appropriateness of different scales of inquiry for different types of data.
- Presentation techniques for research findings.
- Application of research in the design process.
- Working as a team, coordinating with other, parallel teams.

Specific tasks for our studio:

Block study: Field measurements of the block of 3rd from Adams to Jefferson from which we will generate drawings and model (everyone).

Street study: Speed, space, and symbol. Using video and other techniques, half of the studio will document the experience of the five blocks of the street from different user perspectives and at different speeds.

District study: Natural and human systems. Half of the studio will identify and analyze the natural systems most important to our work, and how they interact with the built environment in the 10 block by 10 block (approx.) area of downtown.

Due dates:

See the schedule in the syllabus, but major milestones include:

Block drawings done on October 8,

Street model completed before October 13, and

Street and district studies will be reviewed on October 13.

What we need to do on 9/29:

TASKS FOR FIELD RESEARCH 10/1 IN CORVALLIS

Block study

Building research assignments (8?): measurers, recorders for interior plans, elevations, materials, structures, etc.

Site features assignments: curbs, curb cuts, trees, shrubs, planters, site furnishings, etc.

Street study

Pre-plan methodology, assign tasks, identify equipment, establish schedule

District study

Pre-plan methodology, assign tasks, identify equipment, establish schedule.

JOBS

- Webmaster
- Treasurer/studio manager
- Librarian
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Rep (meet w/ Alice Grucza)
- History rep (meet w/ Jim Howland)
- Planning rep (meet w/ Steve Lindsey)
- Business Association Rep (meet w/ Joan Wessel)
- Photographer (film)
- Photographer (digital)
- Model rep
- Drawing rep
- Delineation rep
- Block field measurement Captain
- Street Analysis Captain
- District Analysis Captain

EXAMPLE DATA COLLECTION STRATEGIZING: TREE CANOPY.

Methodology: Tree canopy width can be measured on site or from air photos. Site measurements are usually less precise, but the type of tree (species, genus, or family) can be determined only on site. Air photos are quicker to work with than site measurements. Do you need species information? What would be the most expedient way to gather the information needed (not more, not less)? I would recommend that you measure canopy from air photos and determine whether broadleaf or conifer on site.

Materials and equipment:

air photos

pruners?

tape measure to determine circumference at breast height (is that needed)?

Blank data sheets to be filled in for each tree? There may be hundreds of trees in the 10 block by 10 block study area. Is it useful to gather individual tree data?

FRED'S CONTACT INFORMATION

course-related e-mail: ftepf@gladstone.uoregon.edu

personal web site: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ftepf/>

campus mail: University Planning (fastest) or box in AAA office

campus phone: 346.5564 - bear in mind that I get a lot of voice mail, so response may be slow