Project 2A Site Analysis and Precedent Research

AAE 382
School of Architecture
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
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Spring 2015
MWF 1:00-5:00

Art Museum
Viterbo, Italy
Context and Format of the Assignment

For the first three weeks of this project, students will work in teams to prepare:
• a site analysis including climate and context research
• a precedent study of a contemporary art museum
• design guidelines for designing in Viterbo

Each team has been approached by the client and asked to prepare a conceptual design presentation. The client will use this presentation to determine whether your team or “firm” is right for the project. The information included in the final presentation should be clear, concise, and professional and should exhibit the creative energy and design skill your “firm” might bring to the project if awarded the commission.

The client knows that your team has not designed an art museum of this type before and so would like you to provide this presentation to illustrate your team’s understanding of how this type of facility operates. The client owns the site and would like each team to analyze the potential of the site. Securing the commission requires that you develop the best possible report on the site in a well ordered and graphically appealing manner.

Students may use any software to compose an electronic presentation but should orchestrate the presentation so that the different types of media can be incorporated seamlessly into the presentation. A power point slide show (or similar program) with video and other graphics seamlessly incorporated is considered the baseline.

Teams: There will be three teams of four for this part of the project.

Site Analysis:

The following lists are provided as a stepping off point for your research and presentation efforts. Each team should determine the final content, presentation format, and presentation order.

Teams should consider at a minimum:

• physical character and patterning of adjacent streets and buildings (built context)
• historical fabric and cultural setting
• public access (pedestrian, bike, auto, public transportation)
• service access
• noise
• sun angles and shadows
• prevailing weather patterns
• topography contours and buildable site area

The team presentation should include at a minimum:
• the site at the scale of country, city, neighborhood and block
• consistent and clear site orientation
• presentation quality context drawings including:
  • a figure ground site plan of the neighborhood
  • a site plan at the scale of the site model
  • site sections showing the contour of the site and the adjacent built context
• a set of design guidelines which deal with building materials, massing, height lines, etc., as well as the culture of the place

Teams should utilize Google Earth and Google Street as resources for site information.

**Precedent and Program Study:**

Three projects are assigned to study. The museums are:

• Nasher Sculpture Center (Renzo Piano Building Workshop), Dallas, TX, USA
• Pulitzer Arts Foundation (Tadao Ando) St. Louis, MO USA
• Parrish Art Museum (Herzog & de Meuron), Water Mill, Long Island, NY, USA

The precedents will consist of 3D model studies (in Rhino (preferred) or other software such as Revit) and address the following:

• Extract the parti
• Identify the guiding concept
• Identify sustainable design strategies
• Derive the form through a series of transformations from massing
• The overall 3D model is to consist of:
  • Massing study
  • Exploded 3D of primary plan wall /skin structure and roof systems
  • Column grid and/or structural system
  • 3D perspective section
  • Solar study
  • Diagram of systems, egress, functional zones
  • Wall detail in 3D
  • At least one primary structural assembly in 3D

References to be used in this study include, but are not limited to:

• Satellite views from Google maps, Bing maps, Apple maps, Google Earth
• Site from Google Earth
• Reference sites: Archdaily.com, archello.com, architectureweek.com, archinect.com, dezeen.com, openbuildings.com, ARCHIPLANET.ORG

All references sources are to include appropriate citations in MLA format.
**Context model:**

All teams should collaborate in constructing a professionally crafted context model that can be used by all teams and by each student in the next phase of this project. The final scale of the model will be determined in studio after preliminary site information is collected. The model should be at an architectural or engineering scale that will produce a model no larger than 4' by 4'.

**Presentation Format:**

The final presentation will be made using the electronic screens in the second floor hallway or elsewhere. Teams may use PowerPoint, Movie Maker, Acrobat or other software to present their schemes, Animated sun studies from Sketch-Up, an animated flyaround, and other creative presentation techniques are strongly encouraged, as are three-dimensional diagrams illustrating creative analysis.

Teams must properly credit all materials, including images. Each team, at the time of presentation, must provide a CD or DVD of their presentation.

**A Note on Collaboration:**

It is acceptable for teams to collaborate on the generation of Sketch-up site models, figure grounds, sun angle studies, etc. of the site but each team is responsible for the customization of this material for their own presentation. No team should expect to receive materials produced by another team unless sharing of resources has been agreed to in advance.

The site context model should be complete for the presentation at the end of this phase. All teams are to collaborate on the production of this model. Any team that does not participate will have to produce their own model or accept the consequences of an incomplete submission.

**Schedule:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment distributed</td>
<td>Feb 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site model completed</td>
<td>Feb 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site and Precedent Presentation</td>
<td>March 2</td>
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