Case Study Research

Introduction

The semester project is based on two assumptions: first, that papers or projects done for a graduate-level course should be original research, suitable for publication, and second, that individual research should be of value to others in the class so that this research benefits group learning.

The research for your project will consist of the documentation and analysis of two different topics from the lists in your reader. Select one project from the lists of urban elements in your reader; a square, street, building complex, etc. You will research this topic, write a narrative history about it, and develop a series of drawings that both record this place and explain its formal characteristics, concepts, and potentials.

You will be given a diskette that contains a template in Page Maker that will be used for your projects. Also, you have a sample sheet indicating a typical layout using this template. All of your work will be done on the computer so we can print all of this in a common format to be reproduced so that each of you has a copy of each of the case studies.

If you select a building complex, you will need to find the plans and drawings that have been published about this topic and develop a ground floor plan and any other drawings that describe it.

Your description and analysis should be carefully organized and presented on 4, 11” x17” sheets. We will reproduce these in 8 ½ x 11” format later. Please follow the template and the attached sample sheet carefully. All lettering is to be 600-dpi laser printing or better. We will try to publish the final projects in facsimile size so that each of you gets a copy. In order to maintain a consistent page-to-page quality for this book, you need to exactly follow the page layout, the letter style, size and font, and you need to follow the conventions for north arrows, scales, and so on. Please do not improvise on the layout.

Procedure

You will need to develop a comprehensive bibliography about your two topics. In the process of this research, you should make a collection of drawings and illustrations of this place. A good beginning step is to develop an annotated bibliographic essay about the literature that pertains to your topics. A one-page outline and bibliography of your project is due at the 4th week. Pertinent illustrations should also be included with the outline. I will review this material and return it to you. Using this you should develop and write a brief illustrated history of your topics. No final project will be accepted that has not first been presented in this outline form. Be very carefully to record your bibliographic entries thoroughly and carefully. All narrative is to be original, written entirely in your own words as opposed to paraphrasing and the use of extensive quotes. All quoted material is to be properly noted. You must also credit the sources of drawings. Please no photos or reproductions printed from websites (the resolution is not adequate).

Develop a set of drawings—maps, plans and diagrams—which explain the history, growth and organization of your place. How was it founded? How did it grow and how was this growth manifest as particular buildings or characteristics? Can you make drawings that describe the formal order of your city? How did it come to be? What are its features and characteristics? Can you describe with drawings its formal order? What
is the important urban condition surrounding your place or complex and what is its history? We expect you to be the expert on this topic.

A large site plan, probably a figure ground plan that shows your subject in its urban context should be a principle exhibit of your project. You may have to redraw this from other sources to get a suitable plan.