Comprehensive Project Letters to Students

Vol No. 3 - Nov. 1998
from Jerry

10/25/1998

<u>C</u>,

Here are some broad answers in response to your broad questions.

Yes, you're heading in the right direction for a proposal. I recommend a format more oriented to that of a report.

For example, I think it is helpful if you start off with a summary of your project, what it is and where it is and what you intend to accomplish, using your diagrams to strengthen your explanation, show location, context and key relationships. Then when you talk about Goose Hollow and the like, the reader is able to locate and size it in relation to what you're saying. They also know more about your point of view and therefore what to expect and how to use the information that follows.

Then build some good background (a good story) that tells how we got to where we are with 405, the present situation, the new possibilities, its issues, parts and subparts including your focus on the new park and the tunnel that it makes, the people involved...

Then, but you get the idea. Now more specific issues related to the park. Park program. Circulation. Parking. Recreation. Air Quality. The experience below. Planting on a deck. The most complete discussion from the general to the specific related to your park will be the best springboard for designing the physical/spatial place. Here's where more detail is wanted and needs to grow. You'll need to be as specific as possible about who (and how many? Tens? Thousands? Both?) you're designing for, what they want and need, the activities that take place in the park, what is required to make that happen, the physical spaces and facilities, the intended mood, spirit, atmosphere and other general qualities of the park etc. You're already doing this and just need to keep going. The Vivid Presence exercise should help to bring this more into focus as will the Goal Array coming up after mids.

Good start. More. More.

Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>C. C.</u>

Title: <u>Bridging Interstate 405</u>

Comments:
<u>C</u>:
 If I were to write the abstract that is needed at the beginning of your report I would say… that it is about providing a bridge park over I 405, between Salmon and Jefferson in downtown Portland; that it's purpose is to reconnect the Goose Hollow neighborhood area to the downtown; to provide for passive and active urban recreation for surrounding residents; to create an attractive passageway across the freeway and a civic connector between other key areas such as Lincoln School and the Park Blocks; to provide structured parking under the park lid; to process and provide clean air and water; to ensure a pleasant and safe tunnel experience; and also that it is part of a larger bridging plan to reclaim land over the I 405 freeway for urban uses. Or something like that – and also what products I planned to produce.

Your photographs and map diagrams help locate the project, especially the photographs, but I would also like to see a diagram of the entire lid system, even if you have to make it up. Your park looks a bit isolated and lonely right now. Where are its friends? Also you need a plan diagram at a closer scale that has more detail, perhaps one that takes up a whole page or a page fold out. It would be good to be able to see the built up edge relations (and potential land use changes) that you'll have to deal with- see where people come from and where they go… This could be the base for your schematic to come, before and after, as it were.

I'd like to see you a bit more courageous development in your possible park layout diagram. You mention things in your narrative that could show up here, such as circulation through the park, sitting areas, lawn areas… Will there be toilets? Stairs and ramps down to the parking? Fountains that play with and clean the water? Air filter sculptures? Other artwork in the park? Major trees planted over the parking structure? Other architectural elements providing indoor space? How about a less vague list of the activities you'll provide for and their spatial needs. How about trying to provide a more complete park program? What kinds of planting do you envision? Materials? Public furniture? Signage? Lighting? Information? The circulation issues related to getting in and out of the parking structure are missing. You need a section that looks generally at the vertical space you have to work with and checks out the amount of space you'll need for the structured parking and enough planting soil to build a park. One of the early parks on a parking garage ca. 1964 was Constitution Plaza in downtown Hartford by the Sasaki office. There are now many precedents to learn from.

Your work this term is terrific and this will be an excellent comp.

Thanks and good luck with all this.

Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>A. G.</u>

Title: <u>"Skater Approved"</u>

Comments:
<u>A</u>:
I think you're right. This is a very good project for you. It has an especially interesting, worthy and skillful group of users for a client. It combines sculptural, social and technical challenges that you are interested in all in one complex whole. Your title is especially good. Skater Approved sets out your point of view sharply.

I also like the idea of proposing a skate park system for Eugene. Having a main skater central, so to speak, and ten out-lying neighborhood places has the feel of a socially supported activity, one that is both local and central, rather than isolated somewhere out of sight. The W/ J site too is I think as potentially interesting and successful as the Burnside project in Portland.

It will be helpful I think to pin down your ten sites as quickly as possible and set out, at least preliminarily, what their special focus or skate park qualities are planned to be. Perhaps it would be useful to draw up a list of the ten identifying specialties you'd like to pursue and then find the best available place match. Clay models sounds like the right medium. I imagine a set of smaller models and the mother model. I imagine you bringing them to life through photography, perhaps superimposing skaters over the images with PhotoShop.

In your opening scales diagram, Number 4 should probably be your skate park system.

The skate park process looks fine. Hope you can get some good skater feedback. I know I'm no expert.

The main part that's missing here I think is the information related to the W/J location. Put together materials (both site and programmatic) now that will allow you to respond to my request in Problem 6 this term (coming soon) for an end of term schematic. A schematic for the central site would be fine, but if you can do simple preliminary schematics for the whole system that would be terrific. Start thinking of some ways to bring the action and the skill of this activity vividly into your presentations. Your photographs are very good, very clear and helpful. You've laid out the work that needs to be done well. Now, try to set aside some time regularly for this project so that it can grow – maybe even SKATE.

I think you've got a good one here, Art.   I'd like to see you take this to a level of accomplishment I know you have in you and round out your experience in the department with a great personal success. Let me know how I can help.

Thanks, Jerry

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>A. R.</u>

Title: <u>**Plans for the City of Monroe, Oregon Revitalization**</u>

Comments:
<u>A</u>: Well, I admit it. You drew me in like a moth to the flame. Your description of the present situation is especially good and you write clearly and well. I think your insight into the mis-match: "the steps they are currently discussing to take are too small to end in the result they want to achieve," is a very important observation. Ditto a strategic integration of the town's physical and cultural features and the need to translate any proposals this time into action plans and processes. Then I read that a proposed project description would follow a snapshot of Monroe. And then I came to VIII. I hadn't been expecting nothing!

Chicken!

Having made a good evaluation of the problems, opportunities, linkages, synergies etc. why are you so hesitant to outline a short-term/long-term environmental prescription for the town? Environmental doctors diagnose and then they prescribe – unless they're named A.? Why not let yourself go and just lay it all out for them. List all the work you think needs doing in Monroe proper with respect to the landscape architectural services the town needs. What if they called you in to look them over and give them a proposal listing of what you thought they needed and how much it would cost to have you do the work? You've done this before or certainly been around it. It's also something I know you'd like to do professionally when you graduate. Just because you identify things that need doing doesn't mean you have to do them all or that they can afford everything right away. Short-term/long-term.

I did this for Springfield in 1985 and will be talking about it on Wednesday at 11 in the lab.

One of the things that came up in your 4/594 mid-term the other day that would seem to be both a linkage and a synergy is the possibility of Applegate Trail development through town. It links heritage and tourism in the region and has the capacity to draw in state resources to help subsidize changes in the downtown. I'm surprised you don't mention it.

I like the fact that you're aware of and have included your own biases – or better – point of view in the report. I'd be curious how you think the "new urbanism" applies.

Somebody needs to try and organize the town's hopes. Why not you?

Get on this would you.

Thanks,
Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>C. C.</u>

Title: <u>**A Garden Center for art, ecology and community in the *Errol Heights* Neighbor hood, Portland**</u>

Comments:
<u>C</u>: Your project, as I understand it, is to develop a general green spaces proposal for the Errol Heights Neighborhood and a Garden Center on the ten acre site presently used by Operation Greenthumb. The Garden Center project will include headquarter facilities for the Portland Community Garden's Program, educational facilities for Portland Community College, a regional gardening center used by the City Parks Bureau, gardening organizations, farmers and nurseries, and some in-fill housing (or whatever). The property will be developed as an "urban garden habitat," a working garden and orchard with a rich array of beautiful landscapes intended to feed, delight and inform. Environmental education is the programmatic theme that unites the users and places of the Garden Center and ties it into Errol Heights Park, its nearby companion. The Garden Center will depend on and be also be a demonstration center for appropriate technologies.

Next I'd add what you're going provide. An 11" x 17" educational and promotional booklet that describes the project, users, programs and their needs, a site plan for the ten acre site, and more specific plans and illustrations for the gardens. And/Or....

I think you need this form of project summary or abstract up front. I just pulled it out of your very useful, informative and enjoyable narrative. I probably didn't get it quite right. Once you've set the stage you can provide the background and diagrams that explain the circumstance and elaborate on your program.

Your outline is fine. Your work is right on target. Now you need to employ the strategies of naming and numbers. List all the elements you want to include on your sight plan and size them. Until you do this you won't have a clue about how big things are, how many you have or where things go. Cut them out, including square footage for new building space you need and try to arrange these cutouts in some ideal fashion including very general thoughts about circulation. Turn this into a first attempt at a diagrammatic program that you can show and write about. Don't worry about this being a design. It's just a preliminary way to measure things in order to develop your program. Try to fit it on the site. You can then take some of the key garden areas you want to work with and attempt to describe them in more detail. Try to give yourself more than just a name for each area. Work on the parts that are the most important to you first and make this program as complete as possible. Gather some garden and other images that capture some of the qualities you'd like to be in your center.

Put a map diagram – a cognitive map – of the existing site into your narrative so that the reader can understand where everything is easily.

Enlarge the plan of the Greenthumb site and name and diagram what's there. Discuss the site and evaluate it from the point of view of its ability to contribute to your vision of the place. What's important, perhaps sacred? Historic? Not useful? What vegetation on the site will be important to the project, need to be removed etc. I'm just trying to rev up your engine. It's coming along fine, but jump on it now. Jump! Jump!

Ciao, Jerry

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>G. W.</u>

Title: <u>Open Space Learning</u>

Comments:

<u>G</u>:

I admit I'm having trouble understanding your project from what you've given me. I know its meant to be an outdoor environmental education learning area in Tuscon, Arizona, but the site itself doesn't show up on any of the maps so that I can understand it. Why no marks on them to show where things are? Why no larger site scale drawing showing the structure of the place? Besides, as I noted on your narrative, put the map diagrams in the place where they visually explain what you're talking about. Where are the cognitive maps that you were supposed to have done for Problem 2. ? Where is the diagnosis and evaluation of the site from the point of view of its ability to support your program? I see "them" doing this sort of thing on the Barraza-Aviation Parkway map with balloons and arrows pointing at some of the changes that are being proposed.

I've asked you to start out with a summary or abstract of your project. Your first paragraph almost does that. Try to build a whole sense of what your project is and what you intend to do and then go on to a discussion of the issues surrounding outdoor environmental education and in particular the ones you'll be trying to resolve on this site. You need to follow a good outline in this report, use sub-headings and better organize the material.

You've found good educational and philosophical materials to guide your work. Summarize this material and extract some useful principles and inspiration from it and then build an environmental curriculum for your site. Relate your educational goals to the places and settings you'll need to develop on the site to make things work. Collect and show some good examples and precedents for what you're trying to accomplish.

This project desperately needs development in the area that connects the kinds of habitats or ecosystems that you can and intend to develop on this site and the environmental education program they're intended to support. An environmental education project links environments to educational programs. Those programs need to be developed at a much more refined level in your goal arrays. Yes, they also need to be safe. If they're not you'll end up broke and/or in jail.

Dip down beneath the very general now and give me a site program and place understanding that will make it possible for you to do a good preliminary schematic of this project in the next few weeks (Problem 6). Get on this now. And come see me if you need more explanation about these comments.

Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>**J. A.**</u>

Title: <u>**West University Redevelopment Plan: Proposals for the 13th Avenue District**</u>

Comments:
<u>J</u>:
I very much enjoyed reading your report and thought the sketch, maps, diagrams and photos were terrific. The main study area as you define it, however, doesn't include the new structured parking you are proposing and probably should. Getting to it and leaving by car, connecting to the avenue on foot and the way it fits into the increase in building height and density - as you point out – all important. So you should expand your area to include the blocks that create the in-between world we call 13th Ave. You probably know that the university has been holding this parking space in reserve as a new site for a classroom building which would need to have its share of structured parking built-in since there is no where else to put it in this busy district. Perhaps a new mixed use complex of classrooms, street level businesses and parking would work out. You might talk to Chris Ramey, our campus planner (in the Physical Plant) to learn more about the university's plans for the site.

I liked your evaluation of the street: the space *is* sliced up like baloney and could be made more support-ive of pedestrian activities in another configuration. The entrance to campus could be more important that it is. This has been a long-term elusive problem, often studied and never very well done. Larry Gilbert's portals and bollards, perhaps because of their simplicity, are one of the better attempts. The part I like best is the area in front of the Chiles Center with its pear trees and the brick part of the south gate that you can sit on behind the flower stand. I like the food and flower stands, frogs and the like. You are clear about your point of view. Remove the cars in order to be able to expand the pedestrian environment. Have you seen Donald Appleyard's book on Streets? It's not in your bibliography. How does Appleyard study them?

I liked your map of existing businesses. Why not add to this a map of all the things, places, conditions… that make important contributions to the street environment. You write about some of them, the terrace at Taylor's, the arcade at the Bookstore and the new one at Starbucks, but you don't talk about the bus stop, the… Why not do a map inventory of all the things you want to acknowledge and build on as well as all the things you want to fix. My guess is that a variety of space and pedestrian place settings and the way these are mixed along both sides of the street will be necessary. Understanding, not losing, and building on this complexity will be important.

You don't mention information, and streets are full of information: signs, windows, symbols, ads... You don't mention time of day use very much or at least haven't shown much yet. Perhaps some existing 24 hour activity evaluations and some goals for street activities and hours of use would be helpful? What's the rhythm and the pulse of this place? I wonder how much seating along the street presently exists and whether it would make sense to try to double it? Triple it? I wonder how much of the space is adaptable and flexible in its use and whether this will be important.

You've made a good start and I'm impressed. Press this as far as you can this term and it will be a wonderful comp experience for you and everyone else.
Thanks,

Jerry

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Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: **J. B.**

Title: **Re.vive(ing) the Ranch**

Comments:
<u>J</u>: Your front-piece is an especially good overall summary of your project. It is clear, succinct, interesting and pleasant to look at. It also conveys the integrative perspective we've discussed that I think profoundly ties the people to one another and to the land.

You write well, Janet. The regional and community context sections are well done. I liked the way you provided a speculative summary of the connections of Clam Beach Ranch to the larger community. Did you say why it was called Clam Beach Ranch - an unusual name for a ranch? Perhaps I missed it. Maybe Uncle Ed found a clam that migrated up the bluff from the ocean below.

When you get to the Place Itself and start talking about the ranch, the farmhouse, milking barn, windbreak et al, I hunger for a good map. I'd like to be able to visually understand the 80 acres with the 20 acre wetland, how these relate to the existing fields, creek and pond. Why no maps or map-diagrams here? You provide a diagnosis of sorts, but you don't locate it or then turn around and say what needs doing except in a very general way. I like the short term-long term program framework, but would like to see you try to be more explicit about the work to be done in each timeframe. Try to get beyond the first level of naming.

For example at the most intimate scale, I know you intend to provide an enclosed outdoor garden space that will serve the needs of family activities, an autistic boy and his active older brother as well as some community events. This is a good start. What more specifically about this place? Can you translate needs and activities into spatial terms? Set out some tentative sizes and relationships? You need visual materials – maps and diagrams - that allow you to focus in on the area you're talking about, evaluate it and then serve as a base for your schematic proposal. I know there is a movement system on the ranch of roads and paths and walks. I walked to the pond in your vivid presence. Connections between the house, garden and pond? To the fields? Etc.

At the scale of the ranch, you provide a loose symbolic schematic of some new field and crop possibilities. But I don't feel I know enough about the 80 acres yet to give you any feedback. You need a series of analytical ranch maps that lead up to this and help everyone, including and perhaps especially your relatives, understand why your proposal makes such good sense.

Round up the usual tools; expand your analysis; build a more specific short and long-term program.

And rejoice. This is coming along really well.

Thanks,   Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>J. L.</u>

Title: <u>University of Oregon Erb Memorial Union Child Care and Development Centers:
Designing for the Child</u>

Comments:
<u>J</u>:
This is a very clear, well-organized, well-written and well-illustrated report. Your point of view is sharp.
Your commitment is apparent and the tone of your narrative seems genuine and authentic. I especially
like your colorful plan diagrams of the three sites. You make their structure very understandable,
something I appreciate, and I imagine your "clients" will like them and find them useful as well. Maybe
they become axons for your meetings so that everyone can visualize the space? I liked the fact that you
already have a project strategy and a process diagram that explains it simply.

Having said all that, I want to also record my concerns and provide some suggestions for development. I
think I'd alter the process a bit since I think you'll get less from your questionnaire and your client
meetings than you need unless you set them up better for success. I find the same thing is true with
respect to evaluating what needs to be done as you point out as the flaws of ad hoc voluntary building. I
think it needs more evaluational skill than most people possess, which is of course why they hire us. If
you will provide an evaluation of the places yourself, others will have a much more sophisticated base to
respond to, add to and disagree with – and you will have accomplished the conversation and participa-
tion you want and need. The children will have wonderful ideas, and make spectacular contributions,
but it's easier for them too if there are things to respond to.

So I'd add three things to your process chart. 1. Your own professional evaluations of the three sites,
using whatever available guidance you can gather from all the books and articles on daycare play – plus
your own experience as a parent and former kid. 2. Written evaluations by the daycare coordinator and/
or the key people who staff these three sites. Perhaps you can interview them on site and translate their
experience into a visual format to be used in your meetings with parents. 3. The materials you produce
and use in your meetings. I'd collect as many images of desirable places, activities, settings… as I could
find, xerox key articles for group homework and discussion, import as much useful information and
stimulation as possible into the conversation.

Recipe is a nice metaphor. What do you think the key ingredients will be? Are you finding good prece-
dents for this type of place and good books on play to build up your fund of mental models to think
through?

Perhaps you need to videotape these areas in use. Or find some other way to capture some of the activity
that characterizes their use and brings them to life.

Perhaps you need to treat this process as an important product of your work and find a way to present it
as a central aspect of your work. Perhaps you can take some of the images from slides and video and
change them before our very eyes into the things that needed to become – and voila' – got better and
better.

This is an excellent project Jarrod. Now let's take it to the next level.

Thanks, Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>K. O.</u>

Title: <u>Surrounded By Sea, Surrounded By Mountains, Surrounded By Life: The Kakaako Waterfront District</u>

Comments:
<u>K:</u>
If I were to try to write a project summary from your report it would go something like this: You intend to create a general landscape development plan for the Kakaako Waterfront District, uniting it to the downtown on the west, Waikiki on the east and a new Kakaako mixed-use and medium density housing district to the north across Ala Moana Blvd. And you also intend to provide some conceptual urban design guidelines for the new housing district that enable connections from the sea to the mountains, visually, physically and spiritually. You intend to create a Waterfront District that is a cultural and social focal point for Hawaii by relocating the Bishop Museum, the Hono-lulu Aquarium, and planetarium, and building a new Children's Discovery Center along with…and uniting these facilities with an already active fisherman's wharf.   I think this is good as far as it goes, but it doesn't get beyond very general scales and down into the waterfront district itself. And since the district is quite a large area, full of many parts, projects and relationships as you define it, I have no real idea how you intend to make this work more focused and site specific.

I think it would be a good idea to take a look at Portland's urban design guidelines for its Waterfront District. It does a nice job of setting out a conceptual plan for a large area in both written and graphic form. Several students last year who said they were doing the Portland Waterfront District pretty much just turned in a summary of this material as though that outlined their preparation. It took a while to convince them to prepare just as thoroughly at the next level down which is project scale. Will you for example focus on the new Children's Discovery Center and its waterfront connections? Or something else? If you'll choose now, you'll find it possible to do the rest of the written and graphic preparation that is needed. All your goals right now are district and inter-district level goals. The map diagrams of the Waterfront District itself are tiny, about an inch by a half an inch. The internal structure of this large area as called for in the earlier image map exercise is missing. There is some verbal diagnosis of the area in your narrative but none that is visually accessible. You are not firm enough yet about the elements you plan to include. Listen to your title. It is as general sounding as The Oregon Coast. What about it?

I think you told me that there was already a Waterfront District plan that some firm had done??? If so, why not show it, discuss it and evaluate it right now so that you can make your own version this term as a context for more focused work. If I were you right now, I'd create a conceptual master plan sketch of the Waterfront District out of programmatic elements I believed necessary to achieve its broad goals, using all the background materials and other proposals for the area I could lay my hands on as a guide. (I worry that you think you're going to do that next term!) Then I'd pick a key area in the district and zoom in for more specific evaluation and programming. Ask yourself, what will I need to be able to draw a schematic design proposal for this area of the district. What information will be required to draw a plan diagram that makes my goals spatially, relationally and physically specific? Of course you'll want to go back and do more work at the larger scales as you get further into the project and work back and forth. But if you don't get more specific quickly I'm going to have to send the HOVER craft out to rescue you.

You've turned in a handsome report. You write clearly and well. The photographs are very pleasing and helpful. You didn't put a project summary up front as I had asked and you are still relying on vivid present mode rather than turning it into a clearer intentional statement at the relevant scales.

You need to get on this now.

And good luck,   Jerry

LA 490 Comp Prep
Nov. 98
Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>L. H.</u>

Title: <u>A Master Plan of a Sacred Campus in 2015</u>

Comments:
<u>L</u>: It's a pleasure to see you digging deeper and deeper into this project. This is the kind of interest and passion that will result in real satisfaction for you this year. My main concern right now is to just to get you to do a little more organizing of your project in the way you hold it in your mind and present it to others. This will become more and more useful as you are asked in one venue or another what your project is and what you are proposing. The prep report is good practice for this.

First of all I've asked you to provide a project summary or abstract (a paragraph or two) of your work up front. For this I'd probably say you were working on a Master Landscape Plan update – the last one having been done in 1991 – for the 19.5 acre Multnomah Bible College in Portland. The recent construction of a new library, gymnasium and dormitory, and plans for the expansion of the student center, graduate school, music building, auditorium and swimming pool over the next ten years have made it important to update the landscape planning for an evolving campus.

Your work will include: why not use an outline as a structure for your report. Here's my attempt. I'm sure you can do better with your knowledge.

A Master Landscape Plan will include proposals for:
1.   Main and East Campus Areas & Sub-Areas (probably time to break the campus down into its sub-areas and name them so as to be able to create conceptions of wholeness out of what have become building related leftovers)
            Central Quad (Administration and Library area)
                  The Student Center Area
            East Green (Music School area)
                  The Meditation and Moss Gardens
            The Campus Edge
                  Gleason Street (other streets?)
                  Montavilla Park (other edges where the campus connects?)
                  (The campus needs a cognitive map of its parts and systems and someone to willing to begin naming them and then using the reference system to help them to become identifiable wholes. It could be you.)
2.   Entrances and Circulation
            Walkways – name them
            Parking areas
            Mass transportation connections – bus stops
            Bicycles on campus
      3.   A Campus Master Planting Program
            Existing and proposed tree plantings
            Shrub and groundcover plantings
            Sacred and symbolic plantings
            Bio-swales
      4.   Campus Information & Signage
Anyway, you get the idea. Keep working on this and it will be a terrific project.
Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>M. C.</u>

Title: <u>Celilo Falls: Restoring a Way of Life</u>

Comments:
<u>M</u>:
You'll notice that I have extended your title a bit to reflect what I understand to be your point of view about Celilo Falls. Celilo Falls is the name of a place but doesn't in itself offer any interpretive insight. Of course you can choose your own title. My point is that you can use the title to begin an alignment of your audience's attention – begin to reveal, as it were, the axes of your interests and intentions.

This is a very thoughtful, insightful, useful and moving report. You characterize the present physical and cultural situation and provide some very useful map diagrams. I loved your photographs and descriptions of the people. I imagine you making a slide series of these with different thematic emphases to use in the narrative of your final presentation.

I was struck by your thought that the endangered species here were the Wy-am people. We are more apt today to focus on salmon in an isolated way, missing the broader linkage and ethical conception of people, land and life.

The abstract and goals need work I think, but you've made a good start. I think you are proposing far more than restoring land to the Wy-am, especially when that is taken in a limited Western European sense. To restore the Wy-am way of life at Celilo Falls is your main goal. This will entail hydraulic changes to the river and its dam system in the gorge, replacing 1930's single purpose technology with that of the 90's; Restoration of the falls and native village site; Access to upland territory; Realignments and relocations of the railroad and highway corridors through the area; and a strategy for cultural interchange (tourism) that honors and protects - while also helping to partially finance the understanding and restoration of Wy-am culture.

We'll be working on goals in the next few weeks. You can then reflect your "goalwork" back into your abstract – your 5¢ worth, so to speak. A useful summary paragraph will probably also want to include something about the products you intend to produce.

The hydrological model you are considering could become too detailed and too demanding of your time, so I'd think about less labor intensive alternatives and a bit more about the products you'll need to study and propose environmental changes at Celilo Falls.

I'm very impressed with your work this term. Keep it up and this will turn into an excellent comp experience for you.

Good luck with all this.

Jerry

LA 490 Comp Prep
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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name:　　　　　　　　**M. W.**

Title:　　　　　　　　**Bringing a Community Together: The Eugene Riverwalk**

Comments:
M:
Your introduction describes the importance of water through urban areas – it's not always magic and serene, however – refers us to good examples in other cities and points out the need to develop a riverwalk along the Willamette in Eugene. It's to be a brick walk, separate from the bike path, closer to the river lined with native and other plantings and have places to sit, gather, meet and enjoy the many changes in the river.   It runs from the campus, including the Millrace area, all the way to Valley River Center. This all seems just fine. It will connect to the downtown, include fountains, sculpture and other art as well as a small amphitheater. We already have a large amphitheater, the Cuthbert, in Alton Baker Park.

I'm glad you found the questions useful. I've set them out as a guide for some of the content of your narrative, but I think a report shouldn't use them quite so literally. You've really repeated a lot of what you've already written. Why not just use them as a guide for checking what you've included in your introduction and try to expand on each of the areas a bit. Fill out the model as an exercise – you'll notice that you give the same answer, or nearly the same answer, over and over – but then draw from it to write your report narrative. Instead of responding to So Where Does This Take Place? with one sentence, use your cognitive maps to diagram out the area between the campus and the downtown and describe each area the walkway will travel through. The general map you include is so small that it doesn't allow you to name any of the sub-areas or show much about them. It is probably better to use as a key to the set of larger scale maps that cover each section of the river walk. You've got several 100 scale air photos but will need a whole series. Evaluate each of these areas for their ability to help you achieve your goals and try to be more explicit in each area about what needs doing or what its potential is.

Then provide another map of your area of focus as I requested in our second assignment about image maps – map diagrams – cognitive maps - at project scale. Evaluate this area too and say what needs to be done. Your report's answer to what needs doing just repeats what you already said at the most general scale: Eugene needs a path by the river. Get down into the project more specifically and give us some new useful information and guidance. The questions are intended to travel with you as you change scales and become more focused in your work. If you ask them over and over and keep getting the same answers, you probably haven't changed scales or learned anything.

The fan model is the same. Use it but keep it out of your report. Yes, I agree, a riverwalk could greatly enhance the overall look of the river – city edge and provide a wide variety of wonderful kinds of river experience for the citizens of Eugene.

Your photographs of information boards, fountains, plants and other material all are very helpful. You might want to add other kinds of furniture – benches, lights, trash cans, signs, safety buttons etc. to your collection. I think you should also build some good background about the natural history of the river, its terraces, vegetation etc. Develop everything more thoroughly and everything will fall into place.

Thanks, Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: **N. B.**

Title: **Murray Scholls Town Center**

Comments:
N:
Your project, as I understand it, is to develop a town center and mixed-use housing and commercial development around Summer Lake as set forth in the Murray Scholls Town Center Master Plan. I know that you've been particularly interested in exploring the possibility of terraced housing and this looks like a very interesting site to do it on.

The relationship between the increasing intensity of development and the water system will also be an important element of your project. I understand your three principles, livability, economic sustainability, and environmental sensitivity: principles are really in terms of my goal array very general goals such as the one about education I explained in my lecture last Monday. You use the term issues, but rarely say what they are. If for example the issue is overly heavy traffic congestion on surrounding arterials, the goal could be to minimize traffic on arterials, and one of your objectives could be to provide more connections throughout the town center as a way of distributing traffic. You say Summer Lake and Summer Creek have issues, but you don't say what these are. If you will state the issues, you'll find that "Goals are Easy." All the do is restate the issue in terms that declare an intention to do something about the problem.

I admit to having had some trouble understanding where and what constitutes the town center. After reading a few pages, especially about roads and areas I'm not familiar with, I got very hungry for a map and wet paging through your proposal. That's a very nice water map. The other concept map didn't answer my question. Is the town center just around the lake, or is it the lake and the commercial center, or…? Your report says that Progress Quarry is a part of the town center. How much of the surrounding area is included?

An important project strategy, especially with respect to economic sustainability, will be number. A developer will typically take the total number of available acres and divide them into so many for commercial, including offices, housing at each desired density, recreation, parking, roads and walks etc. You should do this now as a part of your basic program? You should also do a simple land use diagram which sets out your understanding of some of the desirable land use relationships the site presents. You need to face such things as parking requirements for commercial and higher density land early so as not to be surprised later.

If you do this, certain new things emerge. When I start mentally puting housing around the lake I notice that one of the important areas of the project will be the lake edge. I start thinking about how public or private I'd like that edge to be and how to bring it up from the lake through the housing. Follow such things through a bit and you will find that a reasonable goal for your project, along with the master land use plan, would be the public structure for the Town Center and a water system / recreation plan. Car movement, entrances, connections and storage as well as people connections will also be important. And so on. You've stayed at too general a scale and need to move into and program the next level in order to progress on Progress Quarry. Get on it.

Good start!   Thanks, Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: R. R.

Title: The Wilt Homestead

Comments:
R:
First of all, start your report by summarizing it briefly. You will be providing a site development plan,
planting plan and construction details for the Roger Wilt property on the Wilt Homestead. This will
include a new separate, entry to Roger's house, a fence between Roger's and his parent's home, a new
walkway, stair and ramp around the home a patio and seat wall, and plantings in three areas: to help
screen the house from Highway 99, new planting all around the house, and wetland planting toward the
rear of the property. You've made this clear in your writings and presentations of the project. Now
practice providing a summary that is thorough, short, clear and to the point.

I don't think I know where along Highway 99 this is. North of Junction City? Who has jurisdiction over
whether you can put in another entry? Go now and find out if it's possible. Perhaps you can just call.
Tell them you're a student doing a school project and just want to know if what your "client" wants is
legal.

You need a good measured site plan of the Wilt Homestead – all three homes at 100 or 200 scale and
Roger's property at 20 and 1/8. You need to have some basic topography, even if you have to guess.
Perhaps you can do a little simple site surveying or get some help from your friends. You need to put the
Oaks (especially if you intend to drive through them), other major vegetation, and hills and swales on
your plan accurately. An air photo would be best for doing an overall site plan, showing the parents and
uncles homes on either side, the road, and the major vegetation such as the Oak grove. You can have
preliminary drawings and ideas for all the areas you're working with this term and do development and
working drawings in the studio. But you can't really do much more without some good base drawings
that pin down existing conditions. You should plan to do a schematic plan at 1/8" for your final prep
project this term.

At his stage of your prep you need to switch from saying you need to do some plant research and do it.
Get out the materials you need to make a first proposal. Make some plant lists of good prospects for the
project. Collect some nursery catalogs and other information. Visit some of the local nurseries. Collect
some more images that help you capture what you'd like to create.

List the drawings and details you think you'll need and then show it to me and I'll tell you what I think's
missing or needed.

Your goals and objectives are fine. Just think of them as beinng progressively more specific. Goal:
develop and enhance the landscape of the Roger Wilt homestead. Objective: Create a separate entrance.
Design Objective: Put a new gravel driveway through the Oak grove. The new entrance is one important
element of the enhancement. It can be more specifically discussed in terms of location, size and mate-
rial. Your project doesn't have a huge range of scales in it, but it has its smaller and smaller parts within
parts. Goals and objective language just helps you organize your mind a bit.

Why don't you just get on with this work now, get your base materials together and see how far you can
go by end of term.   Thanks, Jerry

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>R. S.</u>

Title: <u>Scapoose Sand and Gravel: A Landscape Transformation</u>

Comments:

<u>R</u>: Yes, I see it, Scapoose Sanctuary, a sand and gravel pit restoration of water quality and wildlife habitat (a la Sauvie Island) along with some well-placed human modest habitation in relation to the town. Part of the sanctuary is to be designated park for recreational uses, and there are also educational and interpretive trails throughout. Say something general like this about your project up front and then go on to tell your tale. You need a project summary that also says what you intend to produce.

I like the conceptual diagram you provide although I wonder if you really mean that the community development part is a divider between the nature reserve and the pond. I had imagined a less intense pond edge development and more connection of pond to sanctuary and pond as sanctuary?

Two maps would be helpful here. 1. An existing land use diagram of the area because you'll be making a proposed land use plan. 2. A map showing the extent of the property you intend to include and designate as housing, reserve, park etc.

I'd try to add more specificity to these land use parts too and flush out a program. It just takes courage. So many homes or so much acreage for housing (how many will the area take and still have the quality you want?); a park of some number of acres; a pond-side dock and boat launch; a fishing pier; a nature trail system with bird-watching platforms in the reconstructed wetlands and marshes; access roads and public paths. Your turn.

It would be helpful to have some pond restoration material to guide your work. This usually means re-grading and reshaping pit edges and a replanting process for the return of functioning ecosystems. If you are having trouble locating such materials, why not ask Rob and Bart for advice. There have been enough similar projects over the past ten years or so that you should be able to proceed knowledgeably. Robin Lee did a master's project on sand and gravel pit restoration 15 years ago that should be in the library. But there is much more recent material.

Your drawings and diagrams are very clear and helpful. Having Sauvie Island as a source of examples and as an ideal seems just right. Based on what you've given me, I wonder about the town-pit relationship. I guess if I grew up there I'd know how close the town was to the pit. I thought I remembered from your earlier image maps that it was just to the north and quite close? My interest in this has to do with you producing a simple relational land use proposal which puts the park and residential aspects of the project closer to the town and the sanctuary further away. Why not make something preliminary like this and use it to talk about your general intent?

This is a very fine project, probably a little under developed at this point with respect to some of the key parts and activities you'll be working with. Focus on the work NOW and it has the potential to be terrific.

Thanks,
Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>S. B.</u>

Title: <u>Revitalizing the Stephens Creek Watershed: New
                  Visions for Urban Flows and Functions</u>

Comments:
<u>S</u>:
This is a wonderful proposal, richly conceived, generous-minded, inspiring, full of good opportunities to fulfill your hopes and goals, and already teaming with possibilities for important work in key areas and places.

I love your opening soliloquy: as a student of landscape architecture I too want to integrate the social and ecological dimensions of community. Perhaps this is the real definition of community health and an ethical imperative for landscape architects. But I especially agree with your insight: "The way that a problem is approached and translated prescripts the recommendations that eventually get made." The concepts and language we think through filters and directs our thought, subtly gate-keeping our ideas, desires and feelings. That is why I think you are right on track when you to set out to "take a holistic approach that values people and place (together), respecting the needs of both in order to create a proposal that is adaptable, just and visionary." And it is also why I think you are on a more dualistic and divisive track when you talk in terms of social and ecological systems, or human and natural systems. It sets concepts up as separates that then need constructed interfaces and connections. I like it better when you use your place examples integratively to demonstrate and draw out all the many interwoven possibilities of water health in our lives. It is, after all, the watercourse way.

Yes, water is power, but more importantly, water is life.

Your project process or what I'd call a project strategy is terrific. It recognizes that the inventory, what you need to represent and evaluate, is value driven and a function of your overall goals – your intentions. Yes, people also say objectives, but as you now know I've tried to add in a sense of scale in intentional matters – to set up an array from the more general to the specific. It recognizes that the watershed is in process, has a present state which is a constructed understanding, is trending – moving in directions, and is being understood and evaluated by a set of issues. Some of these grow out of a growing awareness of how watersheds work and can work and aren't working, their ecological structure and functions. Some are… You've provided a good beginning discussion of the issues and your hopes.

Breaking the watershed into important sub-parts, sub-basins, and opportunity areas that vivify your discussion and provide more tangible demonstrations of problems and possibilities seems just right to me. I especially appreciate your willingness to lay out – right now - all the things that might or could or need to be done in these areas. This ability to particularize your evaluation and to speculate integratively will set in motion the deeper proposals needed to place your overall vision for the watershed. And I think it needs a guiding vision such as you propose, one that is multi-valued, that sees whole and that can be translated into long range programs and a multitude of examples in the Steven's Creek watershed.

I am very impressed with this. The writing, thinking and graphic material combine to give you a powerful launch.

Thanks for the effort,   Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>S. M.</u>

Title: <u>A Community Setting within a Community</u>

Comments:

S.:
You are proposing to remodel the present King Park, a four block park site between Alberta and Going – does the park have a name? – into a multi-use community park. You need a better name for your project than the above which sounds more general than the National General Corporation. Your process as I understand it is: to evaluate the present park, keeping those places, events, activities, facilities and qualities that are wanted and supported by the school and the surrounding neighborhood; determine which parts need repair; which need remodeling; and which new activities you intend to plan and design for in the four block area. <u>Now you need to do this, and much more specifically than the narrative you provide.</u>

You need better maps, a more thorough evaluation, in which you fearlessly make some decisions, and a proposed program you believe answers school and community needs for the multi-use park. Say what you're keeping and what you're changing so that it will be possible to make a physical proposal in the next few weeks. Name things and say how big and how many and how much. Perhaps you'll have a chance to talk to the community coordinator about your evaluation and proposed program and get some good feedback. If not, your version will need to drive the design.

Your diagrams help me visualize the project context and configuration to some degree but are mostly just too small for you to use, interpret, color, use for diagramming etc.   How about a few photos of some of the key parts of the present park that are fine? Some that need repair? Places you intend to remodel? What precedents have you found that might help you with this work? Are there good examples in Portland to serve as models for some of your new activities? What kind of products are you going to produce to do this work? What will be needed?

Begin your report with an abstract of your project, saying what and where it is, what you'll be doing and what you intend to produce. Then go back and develop some of the background needed to understand the place, including the key issues. Then discuss and show your process. You need to work on the quality of your report writing as you can see by the inky trail of my squiggles and suggestions. Use more graphic and visual materials to make your work easier. Show more: write less. Make up a more formal work program for the park.

Get on this. It's a potentially terrific comp. project and you need to apply your clear and insightful mind to it more thoroughly **now**, and in more detail.

Thanks, now go to an non-neutral corner and good luck in the next round. Ding, ding, ding.

Jerry

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>S. R.</u>

Title: <u>Pleasant Valley: Designing a regional and durable urban landscape</u>

Comments:

S.:
Here are some notes intended to carry on the conversation we've begun about your project, your interests and your reservations.

First of all I want to compliment you on the clarity of your thinking and writing. This is an ambitious project and is obviously meant to help develop core interests you have in the field that stretch far beyond Pleasant Valley.

Your project summary is very helpful: the first paragraph says what the situation is related to urban growth in Portland and how that relates to Pleasant Valley. The second states three goals that at first seem just right, but then after talking to you make me want to restate them.

1. To develop a conceptual plan for Pleasant Valley, a visionary plan for a town of 30,000 that reaches beyond "the new urbanism" and explores the potential for a new kind of garden city. In this conception, the "garden" is not so much a greenbelt as it is an ecologically diverse and healthy countryside and a productive rural landscape not carpeted by low-density suburbs. The "city" is intentionally conceived as a higher density cultural center for urban village life, linked by transportation and communication into a cultural network.

2. To explore precedents, find examples and derive principles to support a garden/city vision that can be translated into a dynamic new town experiment for the greater Portland area. (i.e. a plan with both spatial and temporal dimensions and driven by the multiple points of view that you describe)

3. To rehearse, document and share the garden/city conception (from the general to the tangible with a focus on life at the city center).

Yes, this does imply a critique of the new urbanism. No, it's not market driven – at least not at this time. Yes, it is an experiment, a needed one I think. In your third paragraph, your client, METRO, is no longer your client in quite the same semi-practical sense, but remains a client nonetheless. They desperately need good examples of successful and desirable higher density living beyond the city center. They need to be more able to articulate what it is and what it takes to make such places work.

Portland is somewhat unique in its recent center city accomplishments, and Oregon remains one of those places where new sub-urban thinking is possible.

You've already discovered Ebenezer Howard and I recommended Lewis Mumford. My recent trip to Italy re-ignited my appreciation for the Italian hill-town - Italian landscape relationship, a wonderful model of choice and chance from another culture. Paolo Soleri's archologies are very visionary – some would say fascist – examples from the American Southwest. Some of them are right out of Red Sonja.

An old favorite of mine is Clarence Stein and Henry Wright's *Toward New Towns for America* which describes the Greenbelt Towns of the '30s, Radburn, Chatham Village, Baldwin Hills and the like. Kenny and Cynthia bring this history up to date in their *Yard, Street, Park*. Both of them would be very helpful in pointing you toward other examples on the East and West Coast from the '60s to the '80s which lead you right up to the Calthorp, DPZ-related work going on today. An then there are, of course, other places such as Montreal!

I think the process you've outlined on page 7 still works well with the possible exception of stakeholder considerations. As you leap farther ahead, it doesn't mean you intend to be less considerate of people, just not as immediately accessible to user feedback. You've got to make this work tangible to get any feedback at all, and you can expect considerable skepticism. One economic concern is the amount of public investment needed to set something like this in motion, the difficulty of attracting private capital, and the amount of political change it would require.

As an aside, I generally like Michael Hough's work, but the matter of too little observing and too much designing seems conceptually divisive to me and too narrow a conception of design. Why can't we say that good designing requires profound observation and an ability to integrate many important points of view?

This is certainly a challenge worthy of your abilities. An important remaining task is to scope this work strategically so that you can be a central and satisfying slice through it for your comp without committing the next ten years of your life.

Then there is the matter of a title for this. Hmmmmm.

Ciao,
Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: <u>T. P.</u>

Title: <u>The Lost At Sea Memorial At Yaquina Bay State Park</u>

Comments:
<u>T</u>:
This is a well-conceived project. A more explicit and better understood and better developed connection between the historic Bay Front area and Yaquina Bay State Park which ends in a Lost At Sea Memorial seems just right. The memorial as you say ties back into the life of the community physically, emotionally, metaphorically and economically. It is a place of memory, ritual, great vistas, the destination of a good bayside hike…

I think you're on target when you dig into the history of the area, its folklore, sea tales and the like. A trail built out of the memories and stories of the people of a great estuary and linked to its spectacular physical setting will provide a powerful human experience. Perhaps your trail should "follow the lives" of the people being memorialized at the park to the place that presents their artifacts. In any case, the trail itself needs its metaphoric dimension.

The physical setting for the project needs more attention. You have difficult topography to manage to make this work and a number of tough physical interruptions to overcome. You need better maps of the area your route will cover, and you will need to focus in on sub-areas along this route with greater specificity. Right now your project is a location with a tail, so to speak. The Bay Front location needs better cognitive mapping as a place in itself with at least some preliminary ideas about its role as both trail head and destination (the stone work under foot is a good start), depending on the direction one is taking. The trail itself already has some key places: the plaza and fountain, the plaza with telescopes, the Sitka Spruce gateway into the park. Can you elaborate on this system now and try to deepen your program for each of these places? Can you expand their number to 10? I'm not sure the language of "'Plaza" makes sense here. The telescope area sounds more like an "overlook," or something more sea-related, perhaps a captain's watch or… I think the places that you emphasize and the names and character you give them could be more related to their "story" without getting corny.

Your preliminary sketch ideas of the areas are really helpful devices for building a program. I especially like the Hub Plaza beneath the bridge and the Terminus and climb up the hill. The park experience sketches are also good and suggest a general strategy of trying to provide a sketch experience of the whole trail. I'm not so sure about the guardian stone area. It seems too hemmed in by the wall and the diverging squares of space for the artifacts seem too limited and constricting to symbolize a life. But I really appreciate your willingness to explore possibilities in both written and graphic form. It makes it possible for us – and everyone else involved in the project – to have an exciting design conversation about your work.

This is an outstanding project and I'm really impressed. Now let's take it to the next level.

Thanks,
Jerry

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Jerome Diethelm

Mid-term Report - A Project Critique

Name: **V. M.**

Title: **Steven's Creek Watershed Demonstration Project**

Comments:
V:
This is a very good start, and having had the opportunity to explore it through Sarah's report too, Steven's Creek is starting to make more and more sense to me.

Your project is to integrate greater watershed awareness, restoration and enhancement with urban living in the Steven's Creek watershed.

The issues you describe are related to the present state of a highly urbanized watershed. These include a high-degree of watershed segmentation, interruption and separation as a result of the superimposed grid pattern of blocks and streets and the even larger scale separation by the I-5 corridor that cuts the watershed into upper and lower sectors. (Sounds like a diagram)

The native absorption, runoff and drainage condition has been substantially altered through the covering of the watershed by over 50% - my estimation from your figures – with impervious surfaces. This then requires a storm water management program and an extensive system of channelized, culverted, ditched and piped water. An important issue is the way the dominant settlement pattern hides the fact that it is a watershed by putting water processes out of sight and underground, the way it emphasizes separations over continuities and single purpose technology over multi-purpose solutions to urban living. Car-related and other cultural activities and practices in the watershed continue to create water quality problems. Wildlife areas and other native habitat have been segmented, isolated and diminished. Recreational opportunities are underdeveloped because of the degraded health of the watershed.

Notice that I am trying to use a discussion of issues to set up a general sense of what the overall problem is and what need's doing. You should develop this aspect of your work and apply it to the good range of sub-areas you've chosen. One thing you have probably noticed about goals. They really just restate the issues you identify in intentional terms.

Your goals are to improve human and natural "flows" in the watershed (because of segmentation); Protect and enhance Steven's Creek (no issue stated above); Improve wildlife habitat (you get the idea-in each case, see if you can match an issue to a goal); Improve water quality; Improve stormwater management; Enhance recreational opportunities; Improve increased awareness and stewardship through environmental education. You have identified important goals.

Your project strategy is to set up a program of demonstration programs and projects which set an overall vision in motion and make it tangible in people's lives. Try to articulate both the vision and the projects that make it real in people's lives.

Mostly I think it will help you to write this a little more carefully, paying attention to the language. Criteria means "means for judging." You say criteria when you mean goals and objectives. Your map materials are good. Use them to locate all the places you mention. This is an excellent and ambitious project.
Thanks,
Jerry