Porous Public Space:
Climate Adaptation through Public Space Design for Capitol Hill, Seattle 2030 District
Scan I Design Master Studio, Autumn 2019 [Larch 501]

PROJECT 01a: District Inventory, Site H20 + Public Space Evaluation + Human Use Observations

DUE, 1a: **PRESENTATION - Monday October 7 (posted to Google drive by noon)**
               PRINTED PAGES and DIGITAL FILE - Wednesday October 9 (posted to Drive by noon; bring print to class)

"The success of our public spaces is closely linked to how they are connected to the city network and where they stand in the hierarchy of the surrounding urban space." – Schulze + Grassov, Parameters for Public Space

Our first effort will be to understand as much as possible about the opportunities and needs of our Capitol Hill Study Area. We are defining the area based upon the Capitol Hill Ecodistrict and their plans for a Public Realm Plan, the 2030 District, and the basin boundaries that drive municipal decisions about stormwater management. The purpose of the inventory and analyses will be to understand the study area's environmental, social and cultural qualities and patterns: to become familiar with the current plans, guidelines and imminent urban design actions; to identify sites/public realm areas with the highest potential to achieve public space and water management goals; and (in 1b, to follow) to ground our knowledge of the district in human use, desires and behaviors. You will combine on-the-ground reconnaissance with archival investigation to uncover the underlying qualities of the district; its current forms, flows and processes; and future predicted conditions and plans. **This project incorporates 1) District-level analyses based upon existing inventories and mapping; 2) assessment of site suitability for hydrological "porous public space" design, and 3) observations of human activity and use (in 1b, to follow).**

District Inventory
For #1, you will divide into teams to assess the qualities of our entire study area, based on topic areas (please see list below.) Your team will graphically represent your analyses in annotated graphic format (maps, diagrams, infographics) in a **presentation to the rest of the class** on Monday, Oct. 7 (ppt, prezi, pdf, etc.). The purpose of the presentation will be to inform your classmates of what you've learned, so the presentation should be informative, memorable and succinct. You may also have questions that you can pose to others, to help fill out or clarify your final submission. Then, **format the final version of your analyses using the same template as we are using for the precedent studies**, due along with the digital file on **Wednesday, Oct. 9.** Your possible areas of research are below; expand and tailor them to your perceived needs of the project.

Site Assessment
For #2, you will participate in a separate team to explore a segment of our study area, to note special characteristics and to evaluate sites for their potential to serve as demonstration designs that integrate water management (stormwater attenuation and/or cleaning, and water cleansing/harvest) with quality public space. Your team should document each potential site with photographs and an evaluation of its suitability based upon:
- Water management potential
- Public space opportunities
- Plans and desires of Capitol Hill stakeholders and residents
- Other information you learn from your classmates conducting the District Inventory.

Human Use Observations
For #3, you will note human use on select sites in the study area. This might take the form of short interviews and/or participation in the "moving" and "staying" activities that are being sponsored by Capitol Hill Housing. More instructions will follow next week. Again, more guidance will follow next week.

1. Ecological, Urban Green, Water Relationships (3)

Pre-development vs. current ecological conditions.
Typologies of habitat and ecological spaces; natural + urban, terrestrial + aquatic
Urban vegetation, Tree canopy.
Spatial connectivity; Local corridors, patches and species.
Species biodiversity
Climate change relationship (impacts/opportunities)
Healthy PNW water cycle + Natural water flows vs. current and predicted urban issues
Stormwater System (combined/CSO) and flows, Waste Water System, Potable Water System
Impact on storm + waste + potable water systems on human health and aquatic systems and resources
Closed loop and detention systems implemented
Community Solar
Opportunities for detention, retention, storage and re-use.

2. Demographics, Social and Economic Conditions, Drivers, Spaces + Public Realm (3)

Neighborhood demographics: Live + Work + Visitors + Stakeholders.
Public realm spaces and typologies
Human use, moving and staying (incorporate class human use studies).
Invitations to encourage public life and social cohesion. Gaps and opportunities.
Public realm amenities: Recreation and Play, Gathering, Art, Food, Nature
Neighborhood destinations, social and cultural institutions. Indoor meeting spaces, activities, retail, work, amenities.
Social Issues and Services
Commercial Businesses, local economics
Proximity, Gravity. Ownership (public vs private)

3. Streets, Mobility and Circulation Flows

Existing conditions and planned systems for bike, pedestrian, auto (incl. counts), transit, freight.
Pedestrian uses and flows (incorporate studio human use counts/analyses)
Street character and facades; Pedestrian environment
Street section typologies and locations
Alleys – qualities, water flow, potentials
Gaps and opportunities in circulation
Connections to larger systems

4. Zoning and Land-use, Existing and in-process Plans. Collect, summarize and synthesize as possible

Current and Planned (HALA, MHA) Housing (include adjacent blocks, district) and height changes on street
Current and Planned Commercial Zoning/Uses
Capitol Hill EcoDistrict, ILFI Living Community Plans
Capitol Hill Design Guidelines, Adjacent Neighborhood Guidelines
15th Ave. East Community Plan, ScanlDesign Studio for 15th Ave. E.
SPU Stormwater: CSO Capital Project and Rainwise Basin?
Seattle Climate Action Plan
Seattle Green Factor
Pike-Pine Corridor
City Habitats, etc.
Building Projects in the pipeline. Check Shaping Seattle: https://www.seattle.gov/dpd/shapingseattle/map.aspx

5. Design Drivers: Deep context, Sensory qualities

Time. History and historical place-narratives.
Historic Preservation
Topography, Slope, Geology, Soil. Urban structure.
Cultural Institutions and Meanings
Views and Viewsheds
Sound/Noise (existing, future)
Emotive qualities; design supporting experiential emotion
Materials, place and time resonance.

6. Physical & Built Environment, Edges

Landmarks, Nodes, Edges; Edge conditions
Topography, Slope, Geology, Soil. Urban structure.
Climate and Microclimate. Sun/shade & wind conditions. Climate impacts on health and comfort. Seasonality.
Street + Sidewalk + Building Sections