

Public Spaces I Public Life for Seattle's Central Waterfront

ScanIDesign Master Studio, Autumn 2010 [Larch 504/Arch503]

Instructors: Nancy Rottle (LA) and Sharon E. Sutton (ARCH)

Teaching Assistant: Merritt Ertel (ARCH)

With Gehl Architects: Bianca Hermansen and Louise Grassov

Workshop: LIFE • SPACE • BUILDING

FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER (2 HOURS AND 20 MINUTES)

Working in your Project 04 teams, you will need:

- A base map of your site/study area
- Tracing paper to cover the base map
- Enough tracings of the base map for each team member
- Markers
- Post-it notes of several colors.

I. LIFE (approximately 30 minutes)

In the first exercise:

1. You should assume the character of **two people** (or groups of people) who would likely use—or who you would like to attract to—your site. These characters might include: mid-aged businessman, mother with three children, homeless teenager, recent immigrant with limited English skills, disabled female, local artist, street vendor, Belltown resident, college student, two lovers, unemployed man, school children on a field trip, vacationing family, Bainbridge couple attending a baseball game, two senior citizen friends, and so forth (5 minutes).
2. Select a Post-it note color for each of your characters. Write the activities each character would likely engage in on the site, one per Post-it note, and place the notes onto the base map where that activity would occur. Also define when this activity will occur: summer/winter – weekday/weekend – day time/night time (10 minutes).
3. Combine your Post-it notes onto one base map, retaining the locations you have indicated (5 minutes).
4. Take off your single-character hats and be other users, including yourself; add, discuss, and refine the content and position of the notes (10 minutes).

II. SPACE (approximately 40 minutes)

In the second exercise:

1. Using your LIFE set of desired uses and locations, develop the spatial and programmatic elements that would support the users and uses you have identified. What facilities (civic buildings, cafes, kiosks, toilets, shelters, amphitheaters, public art, plazas, play areas, seating, sidewalks, streets, pathways, etc.) would you need to include and where would they be located? How many would you need and what size would they be, thinking about seasonal/diurnal changes (15-20 minutes)
2. Draw/diagram your facilities on a tracing paper overlay of the site, and label them. If it helps, you can use Post-it notes before doing the drawing/diagram (15-20 minutes).

III. BUILDING (approximately 40 minutes)

In the third exercise:

1. Check the adjacencies of facilities to make sure the spaces have a good relationship with one another. Adjust as necessary (5-10 minutes).
2. Determine the quality of each facility; note these on the tracing paper (5-10 minutes).
3. Now determine what quality the edges of each facility should have to define and activate the spaces in-between them (5-10 minutes).
4. Draw/diagram these on your tracing paper overlay, and label them (5-10 minutes).
5. Determine what other qualities each facility might have (its height, form, proportion, thickness, color, texture, etc.) (5 minutes).
6. Decide whether other elements are needed to support the active use of the space during different times of the day/night, for different events (think community celebrations, fairs, performances, etc.), and in different seasons. Record these on your base plan (5-10 minutes).
7. If you need to, redraw your overlay with the activities, facilities, and qualities labeled.

IV. PRELIMINARY PROGRAM CONCEPTS (approximately 30 minutes)

Now work together to write a preliminary program for the site. What are the **activities, qualities, and facilities** that you want to see there? This will serve as the beginning for Concept Development, which you will elaborate on for Project 4a, due Monday. You may wish to use Gehl's competition brief for the Carlsberg site to get you started (pp. 39-47), using their categories of "Identity," "City Life," "Urban Form" and "Sustainability" –or you may wish to build on these.