Public Spaces | Public Life for North Rainier Town Center
ScanlDesign Master Studio, Winter 2010   [Larch 504/Arch504]
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Assignment 1: Context Analysis
DUE: Monday 11 January

As a first step in our process, we'll work together to document the contextual parameters for our study area in the North Rainier/Mount Baker Station area district. We'll divide into teams to gather and present the essential data to the rest of the group.

Some of the data has been gathered through the GFL's Public Spaces Public Life project , the City of Seattle and GGLO Architects, so some of this analysis assignment will focus on distilling that data and conveying to the rest of the group. Other data will need to be collected or derived from original sources. Each team will research and develop the graphic representation for their content area, incorporating the scale that is appropriate for the topic. (For example, the water team will identify the local watershed, as well as the distant water source(s).)

The boundaries of analysis mapping will be **roughly** (context will be greater):
- Beacon Hill to the west
- Franklin High School/MLK Way to the East
- S. Bayview St. to the north
- S. Byron to the south

    Scale of the mapping should be determined by the entire group.

The graphic representation should be presented on 24 x 36" sheet(s) and Powerpoint slides. Here's a list of potential content for each group's investigation, and as you feel necessary:

A. Physical Pedestrian Environment (Static/slow dynamic):
- Spatial structure/ urban open space system
- Pedestrian Affordances/Quality
- Topography
- Building stock/façade quality for pedestrians
- Historical/cultural/ art
- Climatic comfort, sun/shade, wind, noise

B. Ecological Environment (Dynamic/fluctuating)
- Water: stormwater patterns, sewer patterns (combined or separated, outfalls) watershed(s), water bodies, water source
- Vegetation
- Existing urban wildlife habitat / patterns/species / guilds
- Climate/energy/heat island, including embodied energy?? Carbon sequestration and emissions?
- Potential brownfields/contamination

C. Human Use and Transport Patterns (Dynamic/Flows)
- Existing use by moving and stationary pedestrians
- Demographics
- Circulation and transportation connections: train, light rail, bike, bus, vehicles, pedestrian; destinations; show larger connections and projected numbers
- Waste removal and service circulation

D. Land Use, Zoning and Building Information: Past and Present
- Present zoning and land uses
- Building type/material/age and present use (note any landmarked structures)
- Neighborhood History
- Neighborhood Workshops and plan documents (GGLO/City of Seattle) including connections diagrams
- Contextual Plans (SETS, bike master plans, pedestrian plans, light rail)

Your analyses will be presented to the group on MONDAY, 11 JANUARY.