INTERMEDIATE LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE I

Rutgers Landscape Architecture
Fall 2011
Dr. David Tulloch

11:550: 331 REGIONAL ANALYSIS AND DESIGN
Continuing the tradition: Landscape Architecture has a long tradition of working on an extremely wide range of scales. Olmsted – the father of landscape architecture – worked on landscapes as small as a few hundred square feet and as large as tens of thousands of acres. One of his final projects was the Biltmore Estate (Asheville, NC) where he agreed to design a French-style garden in order to get to design/manage the other 125,000+ acres of forestland on the estate. Think about his Emerald Necklace for Boston, which stretched for miles. One of his protégés, Warren Manning, tried to use overlays as the basis for a National master plan. Olmsted established projects like these as an important part of the profession. A key to Olmsted’s early rise to prominence was not just his visionary design abilities, but his strong emphasis on the importance of science as a basis of design decisions and respect for the place.

We are going to try to advance that tradition this semester by seeking ways to apply our growing knowledge of land and place to regional design projects. We are going to learn about finding, accessing, and collecting information. Along the way, we are going to encounter problems:

- the science is never complete or perfect and the decisions often have to be made quickly;
- the information is always incomplete and inconsistent;
- the places are complicated;
- the tools we use are not as easy or quick as you might wish; and
- the control we exert over those tools may not be as refined as we wish.
Our goals: Truth and beauty. While good design is always better than poor, your this semester work will be judged on more than just design. You will be expected to:

- Conduct inventories and analyses that draw out the real site;
- Complete projects that display a sense of stewardship in the landscape; and
- Complete designs that demonstrate a clear understanding of the inventory and analysis processes.

In most people’s vocabularies, design means veneer. It’s interior decorating. It’s the fabric of the curtains of the sofa. But to me, nothing could be further from the meaning of design. Design is the fundamental soul of a human-made creation that ends up expressing itself in successive outer layers of the product or service.

- Steve Jobs

Where you stand: As we start the semester, most of you are halfway through your college career. We hope that this marks a change in your studies. We will begin moving away from teaching you classes that will be built on later, and will shift towards classes that build on what you already know. This will be some of both.

That means that we are beginning to place some very high expectations on your performance in class. You need to actually know things now from:

- 2 studios
- Fundamentals of Environmental Planning
- Fundamentals of Environmental Geomatics
- Graphics
- English/composition

Your failure to have learned these should not be imposed on the class as a penalty. We should not have to review entire semesters’ worth of content and material.
"Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man"

- Stuart Udall

**Semester Project Theme:** The semester will be spent exploring design interventions involving low-energy forms of personal transportation, particularly walking and biking in the center of the Raritan River Basin. First, we will investigate ways that pedestrians and cyclists can better connect with their food environment. We’ll have to learn about different neighborhoods and areas in and near New Brunswick, and then we’ll try to understand how they access food and where they go for physical activity. Our design efforts will look at small and large ways that we can improve pedestrian and bike access to and through these areas in ways that improve healthy activity and healthy eating.

Our second project will expand on the work of the first by investigating larger opportunities for trails and connections throughout Middlesex County and a few of its neighboring towns. With the Raritan River serving as a central defining element for this area, the East Coast Greenway crossing our study site, and the Delaware and Raritan Canal and towpath along one side, we have lots of opportunities to connect to. We will be developing a connectivity vision plan that bridges these gaps and highlights potential connections for the future.

"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope."

- Wendell Berry

**Key dates:**
Thursday September 8 – Monday classes instead
Friday October 14th – Project 1 Presentation
Friday October 21st – Project 2 Kick-off
Monday November 21- Wednesday lecture at 12:35
Wednesday November 23 and Friday November 25 – Class cancelled
Tuesday December 13th – Tentative final public presentation
Friday December 23rd – Final Presentation
Readings:
The required text book for the class is Fritz Steiner’s *The Living Landscape* from Island Press. There will be other readings assigned and you will be expected to show not only that your eyes saw the words on the page but that you really read it and have considered the meanings of the readings.

"What's the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"
- Henry David Thoreau

Ownership of design work:
The Rutgers Department of Landscape Architecture maintains a permanent archive of student work. While you will retain authorship and intellectual property rights, all completed and submitted assignments belong to the department with full permission for the department to publish and publicize the work.

Memory cannot retain everything; if it could, we would be overwhelmed with data. Memory is the result of a process of selection and of organizing what is selected so that it is within reach in expectable situations. There must also be some random accumulations to enable us to discover unexpected relationships. But serendipity is possible only when recollection is essentially holding fast to what is meaningful and a release of what is not.

Kevin Lynch
*What Time Is This Place?*
Assignments and Grades:
This studio will employ a wild variety of techniques for evaluating your work and assimilation of the material. Since we’ve never done this project before, I have to ask you to be flexible as we adjust the schedule and grading to fit both the work and the learning.

These techniques may include (but not be limited to):
- Lab assignments
- Preliminary studio projects
- Final studio projects
- Quizzes and pop quizzes

Because we don’t know how the semester will flow, it is hard to say precisely what the final grade will look like. But, it might end up something like this:

- Participation, labs, assignments, quizzes, pop quizzes: 20%
- First Site Inventory: 10%
- First Analysis: 10%
- Project 1 Final Designs: 15%
- Second Site Inventory: 10%
- Second Analysis: 15%
- Project 2 Final Designs: 20%

And, while I reserve the right to become more generous as the holiday season approaches, you should work under the assumption that our grades conform to the department standards. The department suggests the following guideline for understanding appropriate grading in its courses.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 70</td>
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<td>F+</td>
<td>&lt; 72</td>
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A – Outstanding – This not only means fulfilling the requirements, but impressing and going beyond the initial expectations of the project. The student has demonstrated a superior grasp of the subject matter coupled with a high degree of creative or logical expression, and strong ability to present these ideas in an organized and analytical manner.

B – Very Good – The student has demonstrated a solid grasp of the material with an ability to organize and examine the material in an organized, critical, and constructive manner. The projects and in-class performance reveal a solid understanding of the issues and related theories or literature.

C – Acceptable – The student has shown a moderate ability to grasp concepts and theories for the class, producing work that, while basically adequate, is not in any way exceptional. This performance in class display a basic familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques.
D – Unacceptable – The work demonstrates a minimal understanding of the fundamental nature of the material or the assignment with a performance that does not adequately examine the course material critically or constructively. Students cannot graduate from the Landscape Architecture program with 2 D’s in required 550 classes.

F – Failure – The student has demonstrated a lack of understanding or familiarity with course concepts and materials. Their performance has been inadequate. Failure is often the result of limited effort and poor attendance which may indicate that the student is not in the proper field of study.

Grading Groups:
Very little regional design work is performed by individuals in the professional realm. Instead, the work in this field is often advanced by teams of professionals, multi-disciplinary groups and cooperating agencies and NGOs. Grades in this class will require you to master teamwork and demonstrate the ability to deal with the inherent nature of collaborative efforts. Ultimately grades are assigned to each student, and you should anticipate that any initial group grades may be adjusted for the individuals involved but may also reward or penalize the entire team for the successes and failures of the entire team.

"What if you were to think of a place not as a still, fixed point in time, but rather as a moving, fluid site?"

— Maya Lin

I am pessimistic about the human race because it is too ingenious for its own good. Our approach to nature is to beat it into submission. We would stand a better chance of survival if we accommodated ourselves to this planet and viewed it appreciatively instead of skeptically and dictatorially.

- E. B. White

Staying in Touch: Communication and flow of information will be important all semester. The best way to reach Dr. Tulloch is by email: dtulloch@crssa.rutgers.edu But feel free to stop by his new office at Blake Hall 220 or ENR 133 to share progress or seek help. The class webpage will slowly emerge at: http://jrstudio.rutgers.edu/

Other class notes and thoughts will be posted on the Places and Spaces blog:
Blog posts about the trails are at: http://epd372.blogspot.com/search/label/trails

Readings will be left in the Department Office with the other reserved books from LA classes or in a Readings folder in the class directory.
"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."
- Frank Lloyd Wright

**Attendance:**
Studio attendance is mandatory. The Department of Landscape Architecture requires attendance in all of its classes. The individual student’s development as a landscape architect is largely dependent upon two aspects of education. First is the exposure to and assimilation of a body of information which relates to the field. Second is the application of this knowledge through studio projects and problem-solving skills developed through critiques, reviews and interactions during each project.

The Rutgers Landscape Architecture curriculum is designed to develop both areas. Attendance and participation in all lectures and studios are essential if the student is to achieve his/her maximum potential. Unless a more strict policy is in place by the individual instructor, more than three unexcused absences will result in a step reduction in your semester grade. Each additional three absences will result in another step reduction. Since the common lecture is part of the studio, missing that would count as an additional absence.

A minimum level of participation is defined as being in attendance for the entire duration of a class session. It is the student’s responsibility to be in attendance at all required classes and all personal plans should be made in accordance with the schedule. Students on academic probation have **NO ALLOWABLE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES.**

Your attendance at juries or special seminars scheduled in your design course is mandatory for the entire duration of the session.

Tardiness is absence. If class starts at 12:35, it does **not** mean that 12:45 is close enough. Since Common Lecture is part of studio, we meet 4 times a week – that means that skipping a week of school is sufficient cause for lowering a grade. Rutgers does **not** count extended family vacations, work (which pays for school), lunch, or the Tuesday before Thanksgiving as excused absences. If you have questions about the policy, please refer to the online handbook: [http://landarch.rutgers.edu/current_students/policies_st.html](http://landarch.rutgers.edu/current_students/policies_st.html)

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You can’t just ask customers what they want and then try to give that to them. By the time you get it built, they’ll want something new.

- Steve Jobs
Academic Integrity Policy and Copyright:

Rutgers has an academic integrity policy that emphasizes the importance of staying beyond reproach. You should never take inappropriate credit for the work of others, either your classmates, roommates, siblings, famous authors or obscure Internet sources. A huge percentage of academic integrity cases could simply be resolved by giving credit to the source of the data, idea or wording. (That is why quotation marks are so valuable)

Since some of the work in this class will almost certainly end up being published online or in print, your personal reputation and that of the program both depend on giving proper credit for the basis of any work. They also depend on not using photos, data, or other materials for which you do not have permission. Use of copyrighted materials on a publicly posted publication, without permission, is both a violation of the class rules and violation Federal and International law. Any project that is turned in that uses photography or images from outside sources without giving credit will be penalized.

If you ever have any question about whether something requires credit, please check with me. Once you turn in a problematic assignment, it can be very hard to undo the damage.

"In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy."

- Nature Conservancy’s John Sawhill
"We end, I think, at what might be called the standard paradox of the 20th century: our tools are better than we are, and grow faster than we do. They suffice to crack the atom, to command the tides. But they do not suffice for the oldest task in human history: to live on a piece of land without spoiling it."

- Aldo Leopold

Use of Facilities

Studio cannot be taught without reliable facilities. But your use of the facilities is dependent upon responsible use with particular regard to the clearly established rules about their use as specified in the student handbook:


These rules cover access to studio and vandalism, table assignments, personalization of work space, smoking and drinking, use of the lockers, access to the reference collection, and basic rules governing the use of the computer lab. Failure to observe rules may result in loss of access.

Equipment

The student handbook also includes a section governing the use of equipment:


This section includes rules specifying use department equipment including of projection equipment, department cameras, and drafting equipment.

Work Becomes Department Property

Submitted drawings, models, photographs, or written papers for any project assigned in Landscape Architecture courses are considered the property of the Department and may be retained in its archives for exhibition and accreditation purposes.

All projects will be graded and returned to the student at a location designated by the instructor. Should your drawings be retained by the Department, you will be given the opportunity to obtain a print or photographic record of your work. Department files are OFF LIMITS to students.
"Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children."
- Kenyan Proverb

**Studio Expectations:** Studio time is very limited, so you are expected to be here for the whole thing unless we are working in the field or doing library work, etc.

**Keeping Up is Key.** As we teach you new skills/techniques, we expect you to know them and be able to use them. A GIS lab today might lead to a GIS project on Friday. If you fall behind, you will drag down others.

**Be Prepared.** Bring your laptop and have your drawing equipment at the ready. I like surprise drawing or rapid research projects.

**Time is precious.** When we suggest that your team should look into something, we don’t mean that you should wait a few weeks until we tell you who to call. We mean that you should immediately send emails, make calls, drive to that county’s library, or ask us exactly who to contact.

**Time is precious.** In order to squeeze in as much information about regional analysis and design as possible, we are going to move fast. That means that when we go TOO fast, you have to be willing to let us know, and you sometimes you may have to be willing to do a little extra work to keep up.

**Stay until the end!** 10 minutes before studio ends is a great time for wrap up or reassessment…unless you’ve already left. In which case it is a great time for the world’s easiest pop-quiz.

**Reviews are Special.** As new design students, just getting something done in time for a review was a challenge. You probably faced the review with dread and hoped no one caught (or mentioned) all of your shortcuts and problems. Now, as more advanced design students, we want to encourage you to look forward to design reviews and pin-ups. These are unique opportunities for you to grow as a designer, and you should really work towards them as a moment of triumph. We encourage you to come in with work that you simply can’t imagine improving on. Think to yourself, “I dare you to find something wrong with this design.” And then savor the moment when the critics point out things that you didn’t think of. Don’t bother saying, “But, they told us that wasn’t part of the problem” or “We haven’t covered that yet.” Just spend every minute of the review trying to learn as much as you can about what you didn’t see before and milk any visitors for every ounce of information and advice.

**Deadlines Matter.** We want you to learn about how to make good decisions when time is limited. So, we are strictly enforcing deadlines. Late projects and assignments will be docked, generally 10%, when turned in late.
Plan Ahead. The official final exam period for the class is 8-11 on Friday, December 23rd. You should keep that time open for a final review unless/until we arrange otherwise.