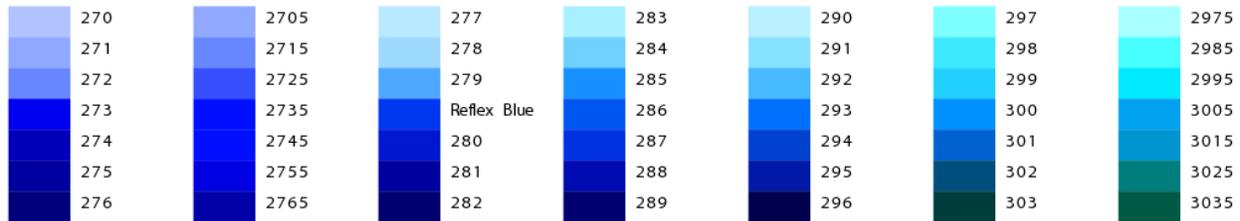


COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN STUDIO



Probe 1

Public Declaration of Design Thesis

Deliverables

Below are the expectations for your Public Declaration of Comprehensive Design Studio Topic. In essence, you must clearly describe your selected topic / problem / proposal, which should represent a hypothesis, as well as visually illustrate your preliminary design research.

A project title.

A one-page written thesis declaration. This statement should begin with one declarative sentence that advances your project argument / design topic. Be clear about the proposition, your hypothesis and point of departure, your proposed methodology, and how the discipline of landscape architecture is the appropriate one with which to address the problem you have identified. Remember, within a traditional Hegelian thesis / dialectic process, you can put forth a hypothesis without proof! Given the structure of design research, however, you should propose a design research methodology to examine the hypothesis.

Provide an annotated bibliography of your research sources. Be comprehensive and do not rely on only a few sources or websites. Include individuals and/or organizations that you might interview and archives that you might visit.

8.5x11 hard copy; also email me a digital copy.

A proposed site. This is a proposal. Begin with a site proposal that is broad in scale, and also indicate several areas in which you zoom to a closer scale. Be sure to represent the site at multiple scales and with both photographic (perspectival / on the ground) and aerial imagery. Be prepared to explain your rationale for *why* you have chosen this site and how the site supports your thesis declaration. You may consider proposing more than one site.

Preliminary design research. Include here case studies and drawn analyses. Analysis should always be a strategic design problem—how do you take information and data and make it your own? Present drawings, maps, research, analyses, visual images that inspire your thinking, etc. Although some of these may be drawn from images produced by others (cite your sources), these should generally be annotated or your own work (not just downloaded or scanned maps / charts / data).

Preliminary design methodology. How do you intend to carry out the proposed research and design investigations? What are the methods you will use?

Assigned date

Monday December 15

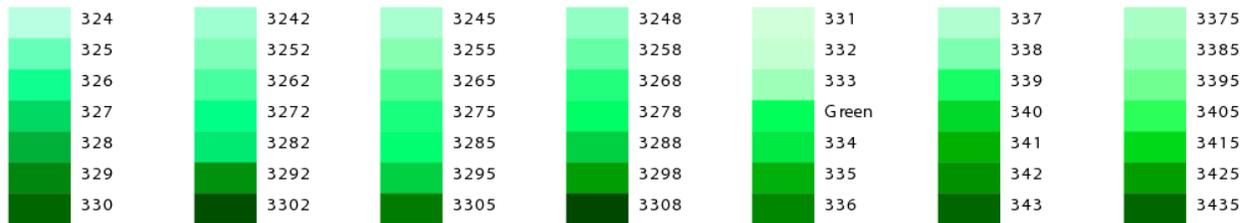
Due date

Thursday January 29

Public Declaration / Pin-up and discussion with guests
 PechaKucha presentation, location TBD, 2.00pm-6.00pm

Guests: Michael Luegering, Gena Wirth, TBD

COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN STUDIO



Probe 2

Interim Thesis Pin-up

Deliverables

Below are the expectations for the Interim Thesis Pin-up.

In essence, you must present the three-dimensional, topographic conditions of your site at a defined scale, as well as identify the physical and ecological opportunities and constraints offered by the site's topography and history. Other relevant case studies must be identified and analyzed.

You must also demonstrate a conceptual topological design strategy or technique.

A project title and a revised, one-page written thesis declaration. This revision of your thesis statement should begin with one declarative sentence that advances your project argument / design topic. Again, address the proposition, hypothesis, methodology, and relevant landscape architectural strategies to be implemented. Also describe clearly the logic of the site selection. In addition to this one page declaration, include your revised bibliography and sources.

8.5x11 hard copy; also email a digital copy.

A three-dimensional topographic model of the site at a defined scale. You must indicate why you have chosen this site and scale, and how the site selection supports the thesis declaration. This model should be large. It will likely be a topographic contour model; scale and scope will be determined on an individual basis. The model should allow you to imagine possibilities and visualize constraints. We will focus on the generation of contours from digital elevation models (DEMs) in the GIS seminar, and how to export contours to AutoCAD in order to make a laser-cut contour model.

Plans of your selected site at multiple scales and two measured sections through the site.

Represent the selected site at multiple scales. Use aerial (photographic) and mapped (drawn) data. Draw a minimum of two strategically selected, measured sections through the site.

Analysis of the historic land use of the site. You must place the site within a historic continuum, by identifying the local and regional history of the selected site over an extended period of time. What were the key transformative events / activities / impacts on the site that are relevant to your thesis?

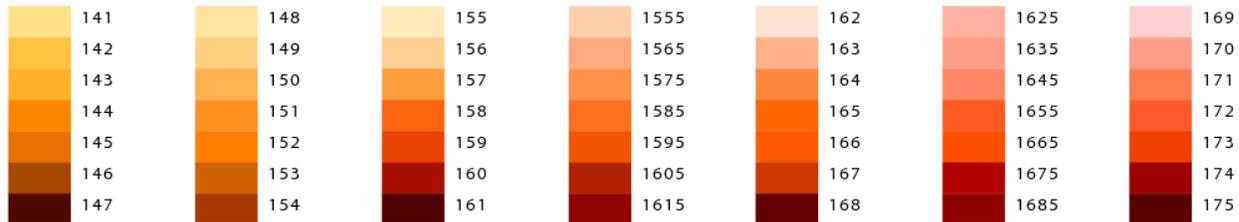
Analysis of three case studies which address similar problems or strategies. Define why each of these case studies is relevant to your thesis. The selected case studies may be from any period and need not be contemporary – you might be drawn by a strategic mode of intervention, a similar land use or abuse, a shared topographic condition, or a programmatic or sociological similarity. Create a drawing for each of these case studies.

Topological landscape design strategy.

You must also demonstrate, through the use of simple physical models, a conceptual topological design strategy which you hope to develop. This three-dimensional strategy may be completely abstract and scale-less. It may be a method or technique, but it should examine making space and transforming surface. Examples: folding, pleating, poldering, excavating, wrapping, extracting, extruding, snaking, stretching.

Assigned date	Monday February 02	
GIS Session	Thursday February 05	with Michael Tantala, Architecture Library 2.00pm-6.00pm The session will focus on generating contours from DEMs
Due date	Wednesday February 18	Interim Thesis Pin-up GROUP 1 / Pin-up and discussion 3 rd floor Gallery, 2.00pm-6.00pm (Yavas, Valencia, Thomson, Siew, Sands, Salembier, Rios, Nelson) Guest Critics: TBD
	Thursday February 19	Interim Thesis Pin-up GROUP 2 / Pin-up and discussion 3 rd floor Gallery, 2.00pm-6.00pm (Myhr, Millea, Lenat, Johnson, Gerchick, Drexler, Dai, Cui) Guest Critics: TBD

COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN STUDIO



Probe 3

Midterm Thesis Review

Deliverables

Below are the expectations for the Midterm Thesis Review.

In essence, you must present the three-dimensional, topographic conditions of your site at a defined scale, *transformed*. These site transformations must support a proposed program. The program should operate on multiple levels and scales. You must also demonstrate a conceptual topological design strategy or technique, and implement this strategy within your site in a manner responsive to the program.

A project title and a revised, one-page written thesis declaration. Sound familiar? This third revision of your thesis statement should incorporate the transformations that you have made regarding the initial proposition. Again, begin with one declarative sentence that advances your project argument / design topic. Revise your bibliography and sources.
8.5x11 hard copy; also email us a digital copy.

A proposed program statement. What does the site *do*, given your proposed programmatic transformation? Who uses the site? How does the site operate within its context and at which scale(s) does your program manifest itself? What are the processes and events supported by the site? How does the landscape operate to support relationships, systems, ecologies, communities? Consider the program as developing along a temporal continuum.

Brief analysis of one or two case studies which address similar programmatic (not site) strategies. The selected case studies may be from any period and need not be contemporary. They also need not be “best practices” – they could be, in your opinion, dismal failures.

A three-dimensional topographic model (or series of detail models) of the site at a defined scale, physically transformed from its existing condition. This means that you must physically *change* something about the site. This intervention should be both strategic and specific, and should support your program. How does the transformation of the ground / surface act responsively to your programmatic intentions? A series of study models of details may reflect particular elements of your program.

Measured plans and sections of your site at multiple scales. These may be details of the site; consider these drawings as analytic studies of your program’s implementation into / emergence from the site. Consider collage-ing site photographs or aerial imagery into these drawings. Draw a minimum of two plans / four sections, each strategically selected.

Complete representation of your site, its context, and related analyses.

This is just a simple reminder that you may have guest critics at the midterm review who are not familiar with your project. Fully represent your site and its context at various scales. Be sure to pin up earlier drawings which are relevant. Be clear and specific about the issues addressed by your thesis.

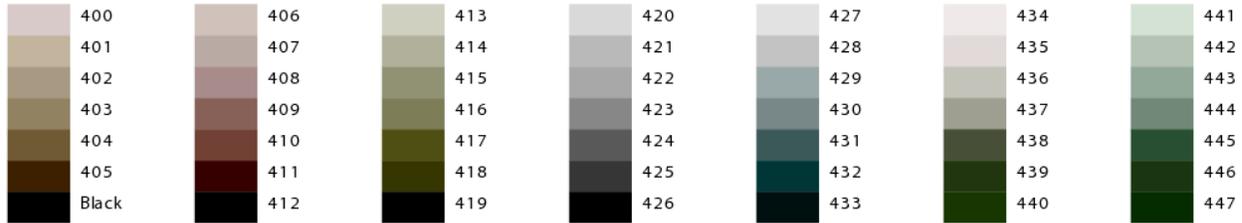
Assigned date Friday February 21

Thesis Round Table Monday March 2 TBD
Library Conference Room, 4.00pm-6.00pm

Due date Thursday March 12 Midterm Thesis Review / Pin-up and discussion with guests
3rd floor Gallery, 1.00pm-6.00pm

Guests:
TBD

COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN STUDIO



Probe 4

Satellite Imagery / Postcards from the Front

"In Bergsonian terms, the real object is reflected in a mirror-image as in the virtual object which, from its side and simultaneously, envelops or reflects the real: there is a 'coalescence' between the two. There is a formation of an image with two sides, actual and virtual. It is as if an image in a mirror, a photo or a postcard came to life, assumed independence and passed into the actual, even if this meant that the actual image returned into the mirror and resumed its place in the postcard or photo, following a double movement of liberation and capture."

Gilles Deleuze, *Cinema 2: The Time-Image*, 1985

SATELLITE IMAGERY

Create four satellite images of your site, each laser-printed on high quality 11x17 paper. Consider historic and/or contemporary, drawing from examples produced by NOAA, LandSat, and other fantastic ways of looking at the planet from space. Manipulate bandwidths, bring in external databases, etc. Can you represent change? Use lessons drawing from the GIS / Imagery session. NOTE: Google screen shots are no longer acceptable!

POSTCARDS

Create four postcards. These images should be landscape format. They may be digitally produced, hand drawn or painted, or literally made with a cut and paste technique. Consider these to be projected visions of your final thesis project, perhaps sent by future visitors to the site. Imagine and envision the following three perspectival or oblique scenes:

1. An eye-level view outward to your transformed landscape from an interior / enclosure of one of your design elements or topographic landscape conditions.
2. A view from beyond the immediate scope of your site, including your design elements but also how these merge into the existing landscape conditions.
3. A view of your transformed landscape from above – aerial or oblique.
4. A detailed view of any element of your project – you decide.

You may collage drawings, photographs, clipped images / textures, etc. You might want to research existing historic or contemporary postcards of your site (or similar sites), if any exist. Start big, but reduce the final image to 6" wide x 4" high. Make sure the image is legible at this scale. PRINT these as borderless postcards on glossy 4x6 photo paper (Kinko's FedEx or a pharmacy with a USB photo printer station).

Assigned date

Thursday March 12

GIS Imagery Seminar

Thursday March 19

with Michael Tantala and your own Eli Sands
 Library Electronic Classroom, 2.00pm-6.00pm
 IMAGERY Pin-up and discussion
 Location TBD, 4.00pm-6.00pm

Due dates

Monday March 23

Thursday April 2

Pin-up and discussion with a surprise guest
 Location TBD, 2.00pm-4.00pm

COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN STUDIO



Probe 5

Science Fair Thesis Review

Deliverables

Below are the expectations for the Science Fair Thesis Review.

The Science Fair Thesis Review may be considered a kind of dress rehearsal for your final review presentation on Thursday May 14. Focus on communicating your thesis clearly and obtaining acupunctural, highly specific feedback on your project from the various guest critics. The site, program, and your design implementation must be clear and comprehensible at multiple scales. Focus also on **representation**. How do you create or invent an appropriate representational technique, in both two- and three-dimensional media, that supports the thesis?

A project TITLE and a two-paragraph thesis declaration and program statement. This succinct revision of your thesis statement should be posted next to your work at the Science Fair so that critics can quickly read about your work and intentions. Begin, as always, with one declarative sentence that advances your thesis argument. Note how the program has supported the transformation of the site and its systems / ecologies.

8.5x11 hard copy ON WALL; also email a digital copy and your title.

Complete representation of your conceptual thesis, your site, its context and issues, and related analyses.

Fully represent your site and analyses at various scales.

Complete representation of your transformed site and your design thesis.

Present the developed design of your project, its details, and your programmatic strategy through the use of the representational tools of abstraction: plans, sections, perspectives or other three dimensional views (such as postcards), sketches, site context, and topographic and detail models at multiple scales. Consider inventing new representational techniques. Be aware of all scales.

An experimental, performative model. In the spirit of science fairs everywhere, make something that actively (or interactively) tests your hypothesis, yet allows for an open-ended interpretation. Materiality is your choice, but consider dry ice, water, candy, agar plates, magnets, test tubes, pins, wax, ~~wood~~ dolls, etc. This object / thing should pique the curiosity of our guests. When they come up to you and say, "What is that?" be prepared with an answer (or answers).

Assigned date

Thursday April 02

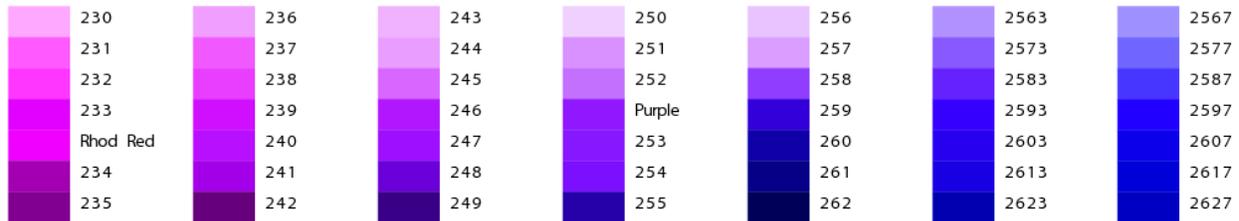
Due date

Thursday April 23

Science Fair Thesis Review
Pin-up and individual discussion with guests
3rd floor Atrium Gallery East, 2.00pm-6.00pm

NOTE: Due to space limitations, each student will be allotted an equivalent linear dimension of wall surface on which to present his/her work. Compress and be succinct!

COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN STUDIO



Probe 6

Thesis Final Review and Final Thesis Documentation

Deliverables

Below are the expectations for the Thesis Final Review. See next page for details on Final Thesis Documentation (Thesis Portfolio) and the End-of-Year Commencement Exhibition.

A project TITLE and a two-paragraph thesis declaration and program statement.

Include one declarative sentence that advances your thesis argument. Note how the program and your design have supported the thesis argument through the transformation of the site and its systems / ecologies. Approximately 250 words.

8.5x11 hard copy ON WALL; also email us a digital copy.

Complete representation of your conceptual thesis, your site, its context and issues, and related analyses.

Fully represent your site and site analyses at various scales. This includes photos.

Complete representation of your transformed site and your design thesis.

Present the developed design of your project, its details, and your programmatic strategy through the use of the representational tools of abstraction: plans, sections, perspectives or other three dimensional views (such as postcards), sketches, site context, and topographic models and detail models at multiple scales. Consider inventing new representational techniques. Be aware of all scales.

REVIEW the deliverables from the previous handouts!! Is your work incomplete?

Assigned date

Friday April 24

Due date

Thursday May 14

THESIS FINAL REVIEW

First Floor East and North Walls, 12.00pm-6.00pm

Guest critics: Nette Compton, Denise Hoffman Brandt, Peter Gisolfi, and MORE TBD...

NOTE: We will pin up in two groups of 8 students each, with a break in the middle of the review to re-pin. You will be provided with a pin-up order.

Thesis Portfolio DUE Exit Interviews

Thursday May 21

EXIT INTERVIEWS, 1.00pm-5.00pm Room 2M 24A
 Approx. 15 min each; sign-up sheet will be posted.

Final Thesis Documentation / Thesis Portfolio

Deliverables

Final Thesis Documentation / Thesis Portfolio is due on Thursday May 21 at 1.00pm.
Below are the expectations for the Final Thesis Documentation:

FINAL THESIS DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

All graduate students shall provide **two** 8-1/2" x 11" hard copies (both UNBOUND – we will do the binding, which will be along the 11" side) of their final Comprehensive Design Studio project documentation, incorporating all visual materials/drawings and photographs of models, as well as explanatory text and captions, to their adviser. The material must also be submitted digitally on a CD. Place all materials in one folder or box. Students should retain a third hard copy and digital copies of this documentation for their own records.

Project documentation should consist of the following:

1. Title page: Title of the project, your name, name of the advisor, the statement "Submitted in partial fulfillment of the degree Master of Landscape Architecture, City College of New York," and the date of graduation (May 2015)
2. Abstract: A short description of approximately 250-400 words describing your project, methodology, and conclusions.
3. Table of contents: All sections of your document (after the table of contents) should be listed in order with page numbers.
4. Text: Include all properly formatted endnotes, captions and illustration credits. Refer to the *Chicago Manual of Style*.
5. Bibliography: Use proper format for ALL sources; list alphabetically by author. Again refer to the *Chicago Manual of Style*.
6. Visual documentation: All images / drawings / model photos must be incorporated into the text or presented on separate pages. All images should be properly labeled whether in the text or separately, and image reference numbers in text must correlate accurately to the images.

All of the above documents must be burned to CD-ROM. Provide both MS-Word documents of text as well as a PDF of the final drawings and documents. If you do the layout in InDesign, include both a final PDF and the packaged InDesign file with all linked fonts and images. ALSO include all images as both high-resolution TIFF / JPEG or AI / EPS / PDF format.

Use one side of the page only and number all pages. Page size should be 8.5" x 11". Always allow at least a 3/4" margin on the binding edge. Binding will be along the 11" edge, but you may select landscape or portrait format. The document should be printed on high quality paper and should be comprised of clear, clean, high-quality images.

End-of-Year Commencement Exhibition

Part of the Commencement celebration includes an **exhibit of student work**, particularly important as you'll likely have friends and family visiting on May 29 who would enjoy seeing your work. For fairness and elegance, everyone will be allotted a 30" linear width of wall. We would like each of you to **lay out and plot a 30"x60" panel** for your exhibition. **Please keep it simple**, using just 2-4 of your best, big images, minimal text, and your name and the title of your thesis at the bottom of the sheet. This is an exhibition, not a final review, so keep it very simple and clean! Coordinate the font and size of the name/title template with your colleagues so that the panels look good together. You will need to trim 36" wide plotter paper to this 30" width, but this means that you can plot some of your most gorgeous images full bleed if you like. The show must be hung by May 27 or May 28. **All 30"x60" panels should be plotted by Wednesday May 27. SUBMIT THE FINAL PRINT-READY PDF** for archiving! We will have a DropBox set up for these files, or you may include it with your thesis documentation.