

PROJECT ONE: Part A

Connecting Theory and Practice



"Pattern oriented thinking" is the key to the distinction between the technical world we are very comfortable within and working with the complexity of life... what is required is a deep engagement with the larger operating 'essence patterns' of a place to really understand it. When we find alignment of these patterns in the social and 'ecological' realms, and the people feel a resonance to it, you know you're pretty close to getting at those patterns of distinctiveness of place"
Bill Reed

Sustainability Assessment

Project One: Parts A + B combined will be a *Sustainability Assessment* of a local organization and their facility reviewing the 3 E's of sustainability: Environment, Economy and Equity. This project will enable students to work with a real organization and staff through interviews, on-site evaluations, and development of a project profile of the organization's Purpose + Essence along with its sustainability mission, values, and goals in relation to the sustainability metrics of the site context and facility. Project One will be used to inform development of Project Two, a proposal for *Regenerative Design Interventions* to improve sustainability for your *Project*.

Project Structure: Projects One and Two are organized around a set of "DRAFT" Indicators + Measures assembled in (8) Categories (see the Project Workbook Excel file). The Indicators + Measures are considered "DRAFT" because Teams may find that some Indicators + Measures are not salient to their project and they may replace them with others (as long as they have solid rationale for doing so). Also, Teams are to identify additional Indicators + Measures specific to their project as identified in the Project Workbook. You can *loosely* think of the Indicators + Measures as *Patterns*.

Team Structure: Teams may find it valuable to assign individual members to 'champion' specific categories. However, categories are not 'silos' – they influence each other and work will need to be holistically integrated.

Project One: Part A

(Preliminary Due Week 3, September 22: In-class Review + Q&A - 10 Minutes per Project)

Project teams are to perform a cursory assessment and audit of the current facility and / or site and regional and neighborhood influences. The goal is to 'discover' potential pathways for pursuing sustainable and regenerative solutions.

Week 1: Call your Client Advisor immediately to establish a date and time for the interview during week 2. Start your quantitative and qualitative site analysis.

Week 2: Conduct a 90 minute Client Advisor Interview. Prior to the interview familiarize yourself with:

- The client's organization
- The Site
- Project Indicators

Interview Shortlist

Develop a list of questions for the interview. Please be courteous and professional. Limit your interview to 90 minutes unless your Client Advisor(s) voluntarily offer more time. Consider the following issues:

- What are the core organizational mission, values, and goals; organizational emphasis and/or function?
- Does the organization have a Sustainability Policy or Environmental Statement? Do they have any sustainability programs in place?
- What are the organizations Success drivers from the Client Advisor's Perspective?
 - What makes the Organization Successful?
 - What will make this Project Successful?
 - What are they Key Project objectives?
- Gather other relevant issues surrounding the project program and the site and facility

Quantitative and Qualitative Site Analysis Shortlist

(See the Project Workbook for more information)

Use diagrams, photos and drawings as needed to communicate your work. Use aerial photos to document your teams site audit; graphically highlight, indicate and identify the information that is salient to your fundamental site analysis and project indicators at the following scales: *Regional Scale; Neighborhood Scale (Green District); Site Scale; Building Scale; Focused Scale (selected item(s) with big impacts)*. Your analysis should be 'loose' at the larger scales and 'tighten' in accuracy as the scale get smaller.

- See the Project Workbook and the Week Two readings for indicators that will inform your analysis.
- See the Project Workbook (Excel file) for Indicators that need information gathered during the site analysis phase. They are marked with Green.

Complete a *cursor*y Quantitative Site Assessment:

- Sun locations for winter and summer solstice and the equinox
- Prevailing winds for winter and summer
- Average monthly rainfall and general stormwater arrangements (storm drains, ponds, etc)
- General ground cover patterns (sod, native grasses / plantings, trees, woody plantings, paving)
- Available public transit / bicycle and pedestrian routes
- Key views, and vistas
- Key regional influences pertinent to the project Purpose + Essence
 - Examples: Known resources, partnering organizations and regional opportunities.
- Key neighborhood resources and site resources
 - Resources include, but are not limited to essential services such as grocery stores, banks, libraries, schools, drug stores + manufacturing, rail lines, rivers, lakes, government facilities, parks, open space, open lots etc.

Complete a *cursor*y Qualitative site assessment:

- Quality of place and space:
 - What are the neighborhood, site and facility aesthetic and poetic design qualities?
 - Is there access to nature, green space, vegetation, and/or habitat for other species?
- Sensory experiences:
 - Describe the sensory characteristics of the site and the qualities of the surrounding area (color, texture, noise, movement, air quality, access to sunlight, water, etc)
 - Do daylighting, thermal, acoustic and material qualities positively or negatively contribute to the experience?
 - How does the experience of the site and project change over the day and seasons?

Week 3 (Project 1, Part A Due): Complete Project One Part A. See the Project Requirements Shortlist.

Project One, Part A: Requirements Shortlist

Interim Submission Due: Thursday, September 22, 2011

Prepare a PowerPoint presentation using the PPT Template provided for presentation during class. Each Team will have 3-4 minutes to present and 6-7 Minutes of discussion for a total of 10 Minutes to discuss the findings of their research. Please include the following:

Presentation: (2-3) Slide PowerPoint. Use photos, plans, diagrams, graphics and text to convey your findings. Organize and 'number' your slides as outlined below:

- (1) Prepare a *preliminary* set of (7) Project Specific Indicators around the Project Purpose + Essence that help to guide the project (see the Project Workbook and the Week Two Readings regarding Purpose + Essence).
- (2) Provide a simple, descriptive name for your indicators, a clarifying sentence for each, and 4-5 success measures that are representative of the indicators.
- (3) Complete a preliminary Site Analysis (including early findings at the Regional, Green District, Site and Building Scales).

Grading Criteria:

Project One, Part A will be graded pass / fail.. The project will be evaluated accordingly:

- Clarity of the Project Unique Indicators
- Overall quality and thoroughness of Site Analysis
- Craft of the Powerpoint