

# Arch 453/Larc 453 Planning and Design Studio

Department of Architecture + Interior Design and Department of Landscape Architecture  
University of Idaho Fall 2013 Church/Austin

## Site and Context - Inventory and Analysis

Provide background information on the environment in which you plan to design. Information to include:

### Physical:

Climate (including solar and wind potential), topography, geology, soils, vegetation, seismic activity, etc.

### Social/ Cultural/Economic:

Include demographic information of existing residents. What is unique about this place? Why do people choose to live on campus? Do particular buildings, open spaces, or streets hold particular meaning? What are the strengths of the site (physical, social)? Does the site have unmet potential? What are the issues and challenges of the site and adjacent areas? How might planning, streetscape design, and architectural and landscape design enhance what is there? Are there particular facilities that the residents and users need? Note any viable businesses near the site.

### Campus analysis:

Diagram edges, landmarks, nodes, districts, and paths according to Kevin Lynch in *Image of the City*. How does the site interconnect to other sites or the community? What are the most significant transportation links (by car, public transit, bike, on foot)? Are there significant view corridors to water, mountains, or other landmarks?

### Site analysis:

Identify pedestrian circulation and open spaces within and adjacent to your site.

Map vehicular circulation (including transit) and parking within and adjacent to your site.

Streetscape elements such as seating, landscape, trashcans, transit stops, signage, lighting, paving materials.

Measure and draw sidewalk/street sections along primary streets or pedestrian ways (see *Great Streets* by Allan Jacobs).

Topography/soils/vegetation.

Drainage (swales, ditches, wetlands, stormsewers etc.)

Solar/wind opportunities

Existing buildings on and near your site-Use? Materials? Condition? Size and massing? Age & history?

Significance?

Views to and from your site.

Unique attributes.

Location of existing utilities on-site and nearby.

### Multi-function

Why is this an appropriate site for what you intend to design? What are the particular opportunities and challenges of this site?

Where are there opportunities for multiple uses (urban biodiversity enhancement, food production, recreation, education, water treatment, etc.)?

What adverse impacts would occur as the result of development? What impacts would be difficult or impossible to mitigate on-site or replace off-site in the short and long term. Are there ecological corridors to habitat patches off-site or on-site?

Spend time at and around your site, observing at different times of day. Observe people. Sketch. Take notes or use a voice recorder to document your thoughts while at the site. Use a plan drawing or aerial photo as a base to create a graphic inventory and analysis. Check what you see against plan information. Annotate your plan to show corrections and map trees, habitat areas and other elements. Get everything you need to build a model of your area (as it is now) in 3-D.

Draw a plan (1"=30'?) showing site analysis graphically.

### Take photos:

Toward adjacent buildings noting materials and details

Toward the site, a series of shots in elevation

Elevation photos along primary streets.

Measure a few building widths where you take elevation photos (to scale the photos).

Diagonal photos toward your site (into which you can insert your digital renderings).

Photos showing significant views *from* your site.

Identify and photograph significant buildings, signs, trees, murals, water features, etc.

Begin to envision what your area could be. Consider redesigning the streetscape. Imagine the interaction of transportation, architecture and landscape elements. Consider the interaction between the built and natural environment for optimal relationships.