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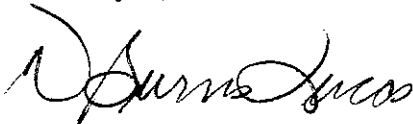
November 12, 1987

Professor Michael Jordan
School of Architecture
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712-1160

Dear Professor Jordan:

The projects submitted were given to undergraduate students, in the 3rd quarter of First Year Design. The two-part condition is critical to the project's success. The intentions are as stated in the objectives of each project statement; an additional success, was unanticipated: the students became highly sensitized to the phenomenon of scale through the translation of setting from 1" = 200'-0" to 1/8" = 1'-0". An interesting aspect of the project was that most students had direct personal experience or southeastern Piedmont-type landforms; and yet they primarily created highly credible landscapes typical of other 'exotic' regions.

Thank you,



Veronica Burns Lucas

PROJECT PART ONE: DESIGN AND THE LANDSCAPE

There is pleasure in the pathless woods
There is rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society where none intrudes,
By the deep sea, and music in its roar;
I love not Man the less, but Nature more
From these our interviews, in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the universe and feel
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.

Byron

OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce the phenomena of natural land forms and space (topography)
2. To learn the basic classifications of landform and earthcover, to understand the implications of their evolution and to analyze them for their compositional qualities
3. To study the effects of topography upon the environmental qualities of a region/site.

PROJECT STATEMENT:

Working within a framed 10" square clay base, you are to create a landscape. Your resources for this design are researched data on topological conditions and your own experience with design principles. The design "elements" you will be working with include the following archetypal landforms and plant cover types:

Elevated landforms

butte
bluff
plain/plateau
hogsback ridge
camelback ridge
dome mountain
block mountain
knoll
folded mountain
dune
terrace
mesa
crest

Depressed landforms

valley
basin
ravine
glen/dale
crater
canyon
swale
saddle
cavern
flood plain

Shoreline forms

cove
beach
bar
delta
embankment
fjord
sea cliff

Water forms

pond
river
lake
stream
waterfall
ocean/sea

Plant cover forms

savanna
desert
steppe
coniferous forest
meadow
deciduous forest

cultivated field
orchard
bog
marsh
hedgework

Using a minimum of one land/water form and plant cover type from each category, you are to compose the elements into a realistic landscape. The scale of your composition will be 1" = 200'-0". Clay (oil based) will be the primary material of construction; other materials may be used to define plant cover texture. The final model is to be monochromatic and should be formed in a base suitable for display.

PROJECT: PART TWO: DESIGN AND THE LAND/PLACE

From these our interviews, in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the universe and feel ...

Byron

OBJECTIVES:

1. To further study the characteristics of natural landforms and the implications of geological and topological systems.
2. To begin to evaluate the qualities of physical landforms and to analyze the cues they suggest regarding man's act of "fitting" within his environment.
3. To explore, through design, some archetypal elements of human-made forms upon the land.

PROJECT STATEMENT:

Working again within a framed (edged) 10" square clay base, you are to further refine your landscape. Study your overall landscape setting for its meaningful physical and aesthetic qualities. Based on what you determine to be the most desirable "place" within your 40,000 s.f. site, select a small site - a squared area, 80' per side - to develop to greater detail. Working at a scale of 1/8" = 1'-0", re-create the topological conditions given this area in your first model. Refine the details of all land, water and plant forms present, and add details that were not visible at the scale of 1" = 20'-0"

Within this more fully developed "natural" site, you are to design and create the following human-made elements:

- PATH..... vehicular and/or pedestrian circulation-way within the new site (consider how the path would approach the new site through the larger context area)
- PLACE..... a flattened, terrace area of a minimum of 400 s.f.; the area(s) may be of any configuration, but must be at least 10'-0" wide to be usable
- BOUNDARY..... a foundation/retaining/enclosing wall that shapes the terrace edge on one to all sides; at its highest dimension the wall (and terrace) must be at least 3 feet higher than the surrounding natural contour
- MEANS OF ASCENT/DESCENT.... a stair or ramp that provides direct vertical access between the terrace and the surrounding grade (may be integral with the path)

The purpose of the human-made elements is to bring one to a defined position within the site, from which to contemplate the environment, and upon which to build a fire and sleep the night.

All human-made constructions must be accomplished by shaping earth materials only. Modelling materials shall be, as before, oil based clay and accessory materials.