

Present the site with insights from another discipline

Context

Imaging through sketching/drawing has been shown to constitute an important part in the open-ended, explorative cognitive processes of problem solving through the architectural design process. This is because sketching/drawing is a central aspect of the way architects think, and construct/integrate knowledge. Sketching is associated with open-ended inquiry and facilitates the vertical and lateral transformations required in coming up with design solutions: integrating and developing abstraction in concepts, experiences, features, and physical relationships. Indeed, sketching/drawing forms a type of symbolic thought that is adept to dealing with the ambiguity and complexity of design problems. It is through sketching/drawing that the practitioner works with emergent properties of designs, spatial orderings, as well as functional orderings. Sketching/drawing, however, also allows the practitioner to incorporate and develop abstract conceptual knowledge. That is to say, knowledge gained from experience outside the discipline can infiltrate architecture through sketching/drawing. As the design problem becomes more defined, and design relationships become more refined, sketching tends to transform into drawing. Sketching is a critical part of the designing and architectural thinking process, and is the area of our focus.

Sketching, an open-ended form of inquiry, is a primary way of getting to know a site. But exactly what constitutes a site? A site is more than a physical area. It involves an interplay between a physical location, institutional relations, and discursive formations. It involves dynamics between the practitioner, an environment, and a broader context of political, economic, socio-cultural, environmental and other external dimensions. The site of the project constitutes the site of research, of practice, of thinking, of building, of design, of community, etc. The way a site is viewed evokes the multiple disciplinary: we do not understand site within out discipline, but as a spatial-conceptual clustering between disciplines. We gain access to a site through the multiple disciplinary. Thinking about site, through sketching, therefore, is an exercise of disciplinary cross-pollination, and thinking through site remains a variable throughout the design process.

It will be necessary for you to work through the lecture slides around the notions of site, creativity and innovation, problem-solving, the multiple disciplinary, sketching/drawing, design and research, and the design process. Do your own research and reflection around sketching/drawing and intersection with other disciplines in your architectural practice. Do your own research and reflection on the meaning of site within architecture.

Requirement

This project asks of you to explore and interpret your site through sketching and another discipline. Create a multimodal presentation that forms a coherent ensemble between the sketches. Inform an academic audience about your site using a coherent ensemble. I will ask you: "Tell me about your site." Please incorporate work from your design electives, but also make new sketches to enrich this thinking about site.

Criteria for project

You will have many productions ('sketches') available for use as a result of your project development in the design elective, but create and add on to what you have. Focus on and expand on the notion of site.

- Create and curate sketches of your chosen site.
- *Sketching of site* is interpreted widely. This should include hand drawn *literal sketches* of a physical site, but can also include mapping of the site *as sketching*. Sketching here could also involve sketch models, photographs, or collages. Mix things up.
- Some of the sketches you use could incorporate conceptualising for the design solution, but others must look at site relationships outside your design solution.
- The site should be interpreted widely: the physical site, the discursive site, the research process site.
- You could make a sketch of the topography, you could use a found map of the area, you could make a diagram of your design process, you could sketch a detail of the landscape, you could make a diagram of power relationships in the area, you could use a newspaper clipping regarding your site: *both site and sketching are interpreted widely.*

- *No posters are allowed. You need to explore wider forms of curation than posters.*
- Focus on important details and relationships that provide an understanding of your site. Remember, sketches are often employed to look at an area of interest, not the whole.
- You could include photographs and writing in your sketches, or alongside your sketches.
- Do research on other disciplines, as they relate to some of the topics you are working with regarding your research site.
- Relook your site from another discipline (could be sociology, anthropology, biology, etc.) Let this other discipline inform your sketches.
- Speak about your site through the sketches, and through the perspective of your other chosen discipline.

In preparation, you may extract the following information for yourself (this could help you isolate the details that you learn from other disciplines).

- Describe a problem you are facing in design. You can use the creativity matrix to see how a different discipline could assist you in understanding various problems in your design context.
- Describe the problem out of a different point of view.
- What can you learn about the problem out of that discipline.
- Find a solution to your design problem using the learning.
- Reflect on the experience: what did you learn about the site through that discipline?

Technical aspects

- Your sketches can employ any medium you choose.
- A range of sketches of A4, A3 and A2.
- Include photographs of your chosen site.
- Include a written component presented alongside the sketches of the site. This can be a concept definition, etc. but not an essay. Be to the point with the text.
- You can have as many sketches as you like. If you have sketch models of your site, feel free to incorporate them in the presentation.

A 1 to 2 minute presentation in which you speak about your site from the perspective of another discipline. I will ask you: *"Tell me about your site."*

Outcomes / Submission Requirement

- A series of drawings, photographs, and concepts related to site and informed by another different discipline.
- A coherent ensemble that constitutes images, writing and speaking, presented in an "exhibition" / "pin-up." / "crit"

Assessment

The presentation is marked according to the principles of Ethos, Logos, Pathos, and Kairos.

- Create sketches of site with a broader understanding of what site and sketching means.
- Integrate knowledge from another discipline into the sketching of site.
- Be able to speak about site through the lens of another discipline.
- Technical proficiency and sensitivity of sketches.
- Create a coherent ensemble.