

Post-intermediate review (March 11) suggestions:

1. For the final review, there should be a consistent and careful link between the character of the representation materials you use and the character of your project's design. Consider also the character of the Griffintown area. Can you provide an alternative vision to the City of Montreal's and the Devimco developer's artist's renderings depicting a "pleasure" landscape for Griffintown and the Lachine Canal area in what used to be a "working" landscape? Carefully consider every aspect of the drawings you show: the mood of these drawings, the design and placement of the lettering, the composition of your slides or panels (discussed earlier in the term: the idea of preparing panels for your final presentation even though the presentation will be digital using the data projector) the quality of the line work and fills, shading, light, etc.
2. Marcia King has three of my books that can help you with your renderings using ArchiCAD. I am willing to give a tutorial on rendering for anyone who may be interested.
3. Prepare at least one panel summarizing the sustainability features of your project. Be prepared to back up your use of particular technology with statistics. As we discussed during the review, you should know about the comparative advantages and disadvantages, as if you are making a presentation to a client who may need convincing. For example, if you decide to use a heat pump, what is the annual energy consumption required to operate the pump system for this device, compared to electric heat? Oil heat? Natural gas? Coal? Tar sands oil? A chart showing the greenhouse gas contribution of various fossil fuels compared to other heat/energy systems would help. For many projects presented yesterday, the sustainability features were not very prominent. Much more could be done, especially with urban agriculture and light industrial facilities.
4. For many of the urban design proposals presented yesterday, the graphic design (monolithic, solid blocks) does not represent an incremental phased process of development by more than one developer. Please consider showing phasing over time, with different coloured blocks (possibly translucent) representing the distribution / location of amenities and even different types of dwelling arrangements (see *Suburban Transformations*: the Netherlands and the China examples of 3D digital site models with phasing over time). Consider also the way you illuminate your model. You may wish to use a large general brightener light using the internal rendering engine of ArchiCAD, placed just under the ground level. This illuminates through polygons to create a glow effect.
5. Consider different unit sizes, and the implications of collective living arrangements. Le Corbusier was very interested in these possibilities early in his career, even proposing communal kitchens in some of his projects. What are the implications for collective living arrangements in a working landscape? Are there any alternatives to the ubiquitous, private luxury condos proposed for Griffintown? What about the possibility of enticing artists to occupy some large, living/working studio spaces in your building? Exhibition space?
6. Investigate the design of a dwelling unit within your building, showing any special partition arrangements, any special built-in furnishings or equipment, lighting, materials, the relationship between exterior and interior (double skin? Trombe wall? Passive solar? Solar control? Window garden? Semi-private open space or balcony?). Show the furniture arrangement, but ABSTRACTLY (no fussy, small details).
7. Develop the area around your building in more detail. There are many features that can be considered that may help to more thoughtfully link your building to the surrounding area: stairs, ramps, bridges, outbuildings (boat house?), marina, greenhouses, fencing/privacy screens, landscape features, planting, hard surface textures, water features, etc.).
8. The rooftop landscape in many projects has not been well considered. This is another opportunity for expression and amenity, as is evident in the work of Le Corbusier, Gaudi, and others.
9. Study the proposal submitted by Juliette Patterson (link from the course web page).
10. Study contemporary precedents for innovative dwelling unit design in high density housing.