

February 3, 2008  
Suggestions for project development  
ARCH 304 Design and Construction II  
Robert Mellin's Group

Based on the last review, I have the following suggestions:

1. Continue site analysis and documentation, sketches, and photography. See the book *LOTEK* (I have a copy of this in my office) for suggestions for photographic documentation. Also, you will need at least some data on present conditions, zoning, building use, open space use, heritage structures, parks, housing density, site usage, the proportion of social housing (if any) to other types of housing, walking/cycling times and distances, circulation, future growth of the area, viewplanes, remediation areas (brownfield sites), etc. The book *L.A. Now* provides exemplary examples of “panel” type collages of statistical information, concept diagrams, and texts, in addition to urban and architectural design proposals. I suggest using this text as an example of what you could achieve in the quality and character of your final presentation slides (you may wish to present each slide as a panel similar to the way projects are presented on each page in *L.A. Now*. Remember, a tangible demonstration of your research is required!
2. Study the impact of housing typology on your conceptual design proposals. For many of the projects presented at the first review, the building proposals were diagrams (this is not a criticism) and these “diagrams” will no doubt change once you have to confront housing typologies. Housing is a fairly modest type of project, usually without major structural acrobatics, and there has to be a degree of economy. However, the overall composition can still be inspiring. At this point, you should select a segment or part of the conceptual design proposal for detailed project development, and begin to think about how the housing units will be arranged.
3. Study and demonstrate in a tangible way the connection your project has with sustainability. This is very important, as indicated in the course outline. There are many ways you can do this. For example, see the 60 Richmond Street East (Toronto) Housing Cooperative project by Teeple Architects Inc. Study the section on page 31 of the *Canadian Architect*, Dec., 2007 issue (awards issue). This should be an important precedent for everyone in the studio.
4. Begin to do animation studies with ArchiCAD. I introduced these techniques in the January 29, 2007 ArchiCAD tutorial. You can make animated sequences of views approximating the procession through your site location (multiple cameras placed along a path), demonstrating viewplanes and also showing sun studies (fixed viewpoint). I suggest including these types of animations in your presentations.
5. **Experiment** with more dynamic techniques for 3D modeling using the computer. Don't be afraid to start to use the computer in a way analogous to “messy” media like pen and pencil or watercolours. Sometimes it takes many lines and/or polygons to “approximate” the character of what you hope to end up with eventually, even though you have not yet done detailed design.