

ARCH 304

Urban Design Suggestions

(preparation for the January 28 review)

Robert Mellin's group

When viewing the web page, please refresh your browser so that you obtain the latest information!

I highly recommend reading the pdf files I have linked to the studio web page for the following texts:

Suburban Transformations

L.A. Now

In *Suburban Transformations*, you will encounter an excellent overview of recent urban design theory, even though the book's focus is on suburban areas. There are many helpful techniques and concepts that could be applied to the Griffintown/Lachine Canal area of Montreal. There are also two case studies you should review: one in the Netherlands and the other in China. Pay careful attention to the digital techniques and models, and the idea of representing changes over time (sequential models showing the long-term development of urban and suburban areas). On pages 27-34 of *Suburban Transformations* you will find digital models that represent tangible concepts. I suggest you consider making your own similar digital models to demonstrate any concepts you may propose for your urban design. Other chapters of this book are quite helpful, and I could not show you the entire book. I strongly recommend purchasing this book. The quality of the massing model in the case studies cited above is what you should be aiming for in your presentation. Again, you should put together a fairly bold, innovative concept that may transform the entire area over time, yet it should respect the history of the architecture and urban form in the area.

In the book *L.A. Now*, you will find more concept suggestions for representing housing. You may look at this book in my office. The digital graphic techniques used in the book are lively, with a thoughtful and energetic mix of text, design, and statistical information. In the section on urban housing (116) there are graphic representations of concepts you may find helpful for your project, and you can extend these and develop your own concepts. Consider also *Pattern Language* (Alexander). This is in the library, and there are many patterns that can help you to develop your urban design (hierarchy of open space, positive/negative space, etc.).

Suggestion for your sketchbook: read *Drawing from Life* (Princeton Architectural Press). I have a copy in my office you can review.

RM