GEOGRAPHY



CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT SECTION 5.0

Architectural Curriculu Course Outline	n	GEOGRAPHY	Kurt Dietrich SK85ON23
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	IND	PEX:	
			Page:
		Abstract	3
		Preamble	3
	Ш.	Component Initiative	4
	V.	Component Course Materials	5
	V.	Instructional Strategy	6
	Л.	Student Activities	6
\mathbb{R}	1 1.	Assessment Method	7
/∖ v	II.	Common Essential Learnings	8
	X. 1-A.0	Environment	9
CAVISE	X.	Materials and Resources	9
	KI.	Course Text	
		Introduction	11
	1.0	Five Modes of Understanding	13
	2.0		19
	3.0	Orientation	24
	4.0	Solar Orientation	27
	5.0	Wind & Water Elements	32
ENTCOIO	6.0	Urban Design	41
	0.0	City Planning Models	41
5 NAM		HAE ARE WERE WERE AND A STREET AND A	I NEW I II .
	滅灭	Energy and Environmental Design	46
	//// ``	Civic Environmental Design	50
深利/// 1 // 開始時期 181 第2 6 /	0.	New Text Definitions	59
彩 // / 〒 / // 脇湖郡長 約 10 10	II .	Appendix 'A': List of Illustrations	60
	IV.	Appendix 'B': Bibliography	63
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GEOGRAPHY

ABSTRACT: ANGVLATIO ZOPHORI AC CORO DE E NE TIMPANI ABSTRACT: ANGVLATIOR INCLINATIONS OF COLUMN PRE

The site of a structure plays as important a role as the actual design. Siting involves the contextual aspect of architectural design, bringing with it elements of time, cosmic aesthetic, special enclosure, and natural forces that contribute to the final product.

The study of geography bears the influence of place upon successful resolution within architectural design.

PREAMBLE:

The manner through which architectural design responds to its "place" will either enhance or destabilize the solution with regard to our perceptions.

Contextuality, orientation, response to land forms, as well as technical aspects of construction will provide for a positive overall experience felt by the users of a completed design.

The design ideology or theory base of the architect has a very strong role in the manner that a design responds to its site and natural elements. Responses that control or alter site have been implemented throughout the history of architectural design, most recently in the cases of Modernism and Eclecticism theories. Architectural responses that meld with the geography and landscape are also finding place in the mainstream design theories, using the site to enhance and augment the personal experience.

The potential impact and influences of the environment (rural or urban), combined with the forces of nature and the existing landscape (terrain and soil type), create the earthly response that the design solution will promote.

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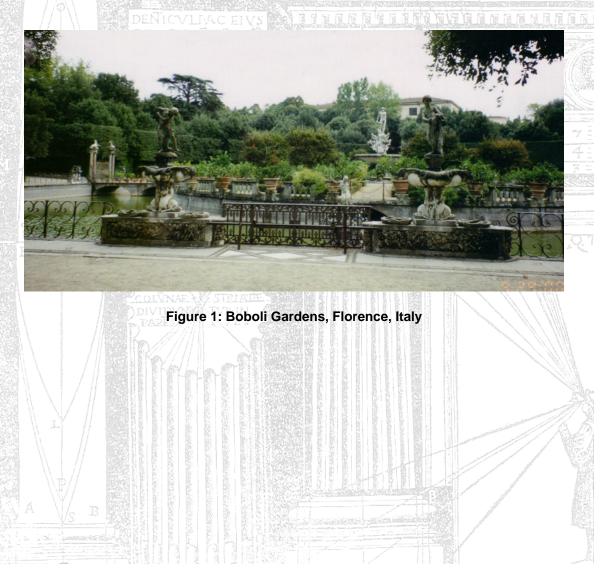
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COMPONENT INITIATIVE:

The goal of this section is to provide the means through which students can gain a better understanding of the geographical influences affecting an architectural design process.

This section covers the earth form typology as well as aspects of natural forces noting their potential impact on the design.

Urban planning criteria contribute a large amount of this section's curriculum. The goal here is to educate the students relative to design parameters and influences outside of the immediate design site, bringing in the theoretical concepts that align with architectural design concepts within a successful solution.



COMPONENT COURSE MATERIALS:

The component course materials for this section reflect the diverse nature of the intended curriculum. The essence of siting a building has as much to do with the actual site as it does with the esoteric aspects of the natural environment. The manner by which we move through and around our environment is controlled by the aspects of geography/geology in the way that the natural environment has been either altered or enhanced by the presence of the design solution.

The materials within this section delve into two main elements of geography – the technical aspects and the atmospheric/intangible aspects. Technical aspects were noted within the original proposal brief to include land forms/topography, soil types, orientation, and wind & water elements. These items are reviewed as individual aspects of design as well as a group of elements which interplay relative to the design solution.

The atmospheric elements are those intangibles which provide a hidden influence on the design solution. Theoretical constructs such as time, place, and cosmic influences comprise these elements. The elements are also made up of land usage (our impact on the environment), contextuality, relationship to the street or traffic, and relationship of the site area to the building itself.

In this manner, we will be able to see the means by which architectural design solutions successfully fit within the geographical context.



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INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGY: IAR Direct Instruction CONFIGURATIO Lecture series with written material handouts. Slide/visual presentation of site types, influences, and solutions. Indirect Instruction Lectures by visiting professionals. Field trips to geographic locations. Independent Study Student research on siting locations. 5 Student study on natural forces related to site design. Interactive Instruction Lab studies of soil types, consistencies, and reactions. Lab studies on influence of natural forces (wind tunnel and rain-screen testing). **STUDENT ACTIVITIES:** Oral Presentation on geographical studies. Presentation on researched contextual solutions. Class discussion on geographical influences. Visual Site study designs and illustrations. Ê Graphics related to context and topography. Kinesthetic Lab work relative to land materials. Field tours and site trips. Written Report preparation on site studies and existing geographical analyses.

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Course Outline	GEOGRAPHY	SK85ON23
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	natural forces, soil types.	
	ssions.	
	sions on contextual studies.	
Performance Assess	sments	
 Participation in c 	lass discussion.	
 Participation in s 	ite tours.	
 Group project in 	teraction.	
Personal Assessment	n <u>ts</u>	C .
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	eness of scope of environmer	nt within urban and rura
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	Figure 2: Los Angeles, USA (1920)	

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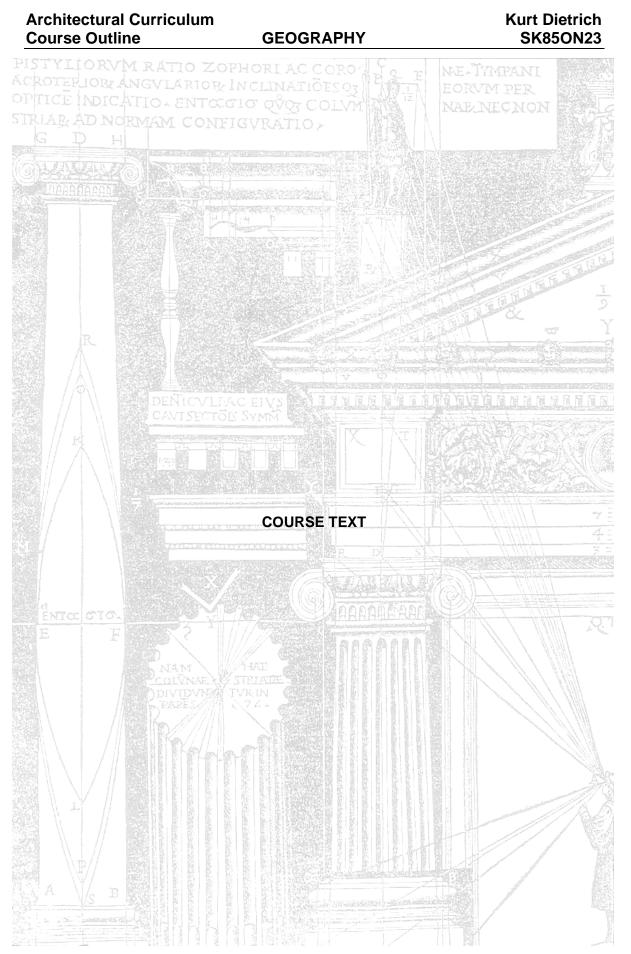
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COMMON ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS: LAR Communication CONFIGURATIO New terminology and definitions. ₽. Communication techniques relative to environmental influences. 1. Z.S. Creative and Critical Thinking Understanding the environment as a technical element as well as a theoretical influence on design. Ability to analyze environmental factors relative to potential design solutions. Independent Learning Research and written analyses. Independent study of established applications. s, Numeracy Site surveying technology, including application of mathematics for topography analysis. ŝ. Mathematical analysis of solar and wind influences on design solutions. Technological Literacy Understanding of soil types, materials, and methods of technical solutions (combined with science of buildings curriculum). Understanding of urban design concepts relative to land efficiency and urban planning. Personal Social Values and Skills Group project activities. Response to environmental variables and emotional aspects of site design.

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ENV	IRONMENT:	COLO OVOZ COLVM ZNA T	NAL NECNON
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30	 Visual access for 	lecture and presentation.	
9)da	 Open area for lab 	o demonstrations and student act	tivities.
	Physical Setting		
	 Classroom setting 	g / lecture style for direct instruct	tion.
	 Lab setting for stu 	udent interaction during modeling	g and testing stages.
	 Exterior land form 	ns for interactive instruction.	A Line of the second
	Flexible Student Grou	<u>upings</u>	
	 Student grouping solutions. 	gs for research assignments into	o land forms and contextua
	 Student grouping 	s for lab research and testing ac	tivities.
	Extensions Beyond C	lassroom Setting	
	 Exterior analysis 	of natural settings and forces a	cting in and around building
	solutions.		INSPACE AND
	 Contextual design 	n studies of existing developmen	nts.
	Community Experience	ces	
	 Site trips to devel 	loped areas to review and analyz	ze solutions.
	 Site trips to unde 	r-developed or natural landscape	e area to analyze forces and
	materials in situ.		
MAT	TERIALS / RESOURCES	S REQUIRED:	
1	In-Room Supplies	MANNANN	
	 Audio-visual reso 	ources.	
	 Lab equipment for 	or testing (wind, moisture).	
	 Soil samples for t 	testing.	
	 Research station 	s for independent and group wor	rk.
	External Supplies		
	 Access to site are 	eas, both developed and pristine	, for student study.
	 Access to land feedback 	orm variations within the local e	environment (valleys, plains
	lakes).		



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The influence of geography/geology is developed in two streams within this section. The original proposal summary noted key points of influence relative to land and environment, including:

1. Land Forms / Topography: A review of local site types (woodland, river, lake, prairie), and the effect upon potential design solutions.



Figure 3: Great Smokey Mountains National Park, North Carolina, USA

2. Soil Types: Influence on design solution of various soil conditions (structural in nature). Influence on design solution relative to the contextual nature of the proposed site (mountainous, bedrock, topsoil).

3. Orientation (Views/Vistas): The use of orientation as a principle for design resolution. Views to take advantage of natural vistas, building orientation and integration of exterior elements with a design solution.

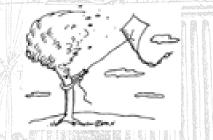


Figure 4: Landscaping and Climate

4. Wind and Water Elements: Wind elements related to orientation and topography. The use of wind to facilitate building systems. Design of building forms to respect wind patterns and climatic affects of the science area.

The overall curriculum of this section has been augmented through the inclusion

of urban planning criteria relative to building and city planning. This inclusion has been completed in an effort to fully encompass the natural and contextual elements that influence potential design solutions. Urban planning design criteria that has been incorporated into the curriculum includes:

1. Urban Development: Study of city planning, growth, and usage relative to the environment.

2. Site / Building Layout: orientation aspects that relate to solar efficiency and energy conservation.

3. Landscaping: influences of landscaping relative to soil conditions and natural forces, as well as individual use of the site.

4. Transportation: cost-effective and energy conservation techniques relative to urban design criteria.



Figure 5: Jasper, Alberta (2003)

The societal value of a building is calculated with regard to the architectural design. The architectural design incorporates the technical aspects of construction but also the sociological concepts of social setting, site development, location, and responsiveness to the environment. There is an inherent link between the structure and its site that can be viewed as distinct, though site contributes to the potential success of a design.

The basic elements in the relationship between building and site are noted in the 'Introduction' as natural elements consisting of:

- land forms / topography;
- soil types;
- orientation; and
- wind and water elements.

Land Forms

Land forms allow for the true creativity of architectural design. Design is, in one respect, replication of land forms through the analogy of house to cave. Architectural design encloses the existing space present on the land form, in a manner suitable to the intended use. Architectural design does not create new space; it merely adjusts the space that previously existed by enclosing it.

This explanation appears rather far-reaching and theoretical. It does, however, relate directly to the aspect of architectural design that deals with creation of structures within our given world.

The essence of land form analysis doesn't stop at the ground level. It encompasses the entire experience of a site location relative to the architect, client, and potential occupant of the design. The encompassing explanation of elements stated by Christian Norberg-Schulz is contained in the text "Genus Loci – Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture".

1.0 Five Modes of Understanding

C. Norberg-Schulz notes that our environment consists of individual elements, each created with its own place. Place is the total of all visible and tangible elements (materials, shape, texture, colour, size) that determine the environmental character. The structure of "place" incorporates the three-dimensional organization of space which has an atmosphere denoted by the characteristic properties of all elements combined.

This theory relative to land forms takes on a different dimension since it is removed from our known physical realities of site, soil, sun, and natural forces. The concept of resolving architectural design relative to land forms does involve the nature of this theory in order to aesthetically as well as technically resolve a design problem.



Figure 6: Stonehenge, Salisbury Plain, England

The phenomenon of place requires an understanding of the human existence between heaven and earth. To be able to understand involves knowledge of the experience of meaning within our environment. This knowledge of experience of meaning is specific to each culture/society as is reviewed in Section 4.0, Sociology and Architecture. Meaning within any given culture relative to the specific land elements can be traced to its belief system that incorporates elements of the five modes of understanding. The five modes (methods or concepts) of understanding proposed in Genus Loci include:

(1) <u>Thing</u>: relates to the tangible collection of site elements (rocks, soil, vegetation) and creates the understanding of this collection as an entity unto itself – Stonehenge is an entity made up of the elements of its location and structure, thereby classified as a "thing' in this definition. Meaningful places, collections of things, make the life of the coherent civilization possible.

(2) <u>Order</u>: Order consists of the heavenly influence (a cosmic influence) related to the local geographic structure. The relationship of the cosmic to the concrete (land forms) creates an accepted structure of the "place"; a union of earth and sky (cosmos) to define an order.

(3) <u>Character</u>: relates to the definition of natural elements, relating them to human traits. This aspect is commonly referred to as assigning characteristics to inanimate objects. The assignment of human characteristics to natural elements creates an understanding of the land form and location.

(4) Light: Light is symbolic within our civilization as being a positive element, source of inspiration, and related to the heavens through the religious overtones applied to the presence of light. An understanding of the forces and nature of light relative to the land forms (duration, intensity, clarity) will provide for a more resolved design solution. Light is, however, temporary as it changes throughout the day and over the seasons. It is inherently connected with the rhythms of nature through the seasons.

(5) <u>Time</u>: Time incorporates the rhythm of our existence as we move in and around our chosen spaces. The element of time, like that of light, is in a constant state of movement, always changing but never repeating. These two latter elements clearly reflect the existence of civilization on earth, though the presence of the land (earth) remains a constant.

These five modes of understanding are essential to facilitate a full understanding

of the land forms present in an architectural design solution. These five modes relate to the original theory of dwelling between earth and sky through the classification as follows:

- Earthly aspects are characterized by the elements found in the modes of 'Thing' and 'Character'. These modes relate to the physical aspects of land forms and natural elements.
- Heavenly (sky) aspects are characterized by the elements found in the modes of 'Order' and 'Light'. These modes relate to the cosmic influences felt upon a particular site area or region.
 - 'Time' is the mode assigned to neither heaven nor earth since time is both ever-changing (as the heavens) and constant in its progress (the constant relating to earth). Time is also that element that is assigned to the specific period of civilization relative to the architectural practices.



Figure 7: G. Pompidou Centre, Paris, France (1973)

Section 1.0 – Architectural History of Western Civilization illustrates the changes in design over time within a given geographical region. Neither the earthly nor the heavenly aspects of the land forms within a given region have changed, yet architectural design has progressed over time.

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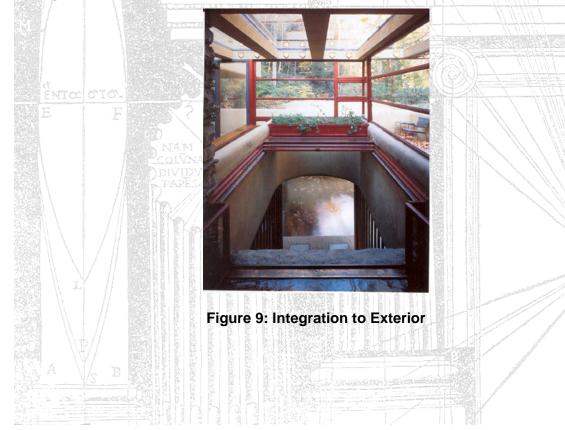
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The combinations and influences of these modes relative to place have been essential in the architectural design of those works considered as achievements.



Figure 8: Fallingwater, Racine, Wisconsin (1936)

Frank Lloyd Wright's design solution for Falling Water (Racine, Wisconsin) is a prime example of place with considerations to all the influential factors of land definitions noted. The structure rests as a part of the landscape yet distinct, as well as provides integration between the interior and exterior.



GEOGRAPHY

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Though a full descriptive analysis of major works exceeds the nature of this curriculum, other examples can be found in every location of design:

 Swiss houses nestled into the hillside reflect the cultural values and spirit of their time as well as integrate with their place



Figure 10: Lac Biernsee, Interlaken, Switzerland

The work of Douglas Cardinal, as seen in both the Museum of Civilization (Ottawa) and the First Nations University of Canada (Regina), reflects his philosophy of nature, culture and form relative to architecture design. This philosophy stems from his ancestral relationship with earth, sky, and natural forces to create an architectural resolution symbolic of our landscapes.



Figure 11: Museum of Civilization, Ottawa, Ontario

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These are merely three examples of geographic/geological influences (site) on the process of architectural design. The five criteria noted in the relationship between cosmic, physical, and temporal realities will exist in some form in every architectural resolution. It is through varied interplay of these elements, given the changing nature of different landscapes, time, spatial qualities, and cultural influences that architectural design theory will find new ways to resolve the challenges posed.



Figure 12: Tuscany Landscape, Florence, Italy

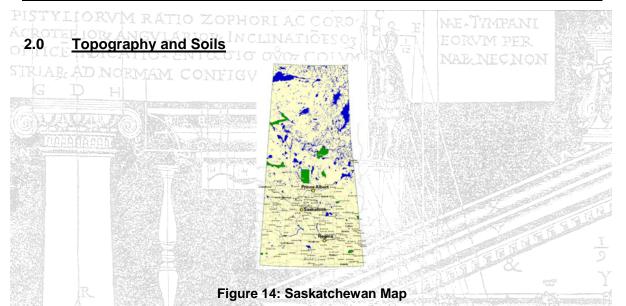
Geography/geology is combined with all other elements of the curriculum to produce the architectural resolutions for each design problem. Landscapes may bear similarities in scope and texture, yet are completely different in their resolution of architectural design due to the other influences.



Figure 13: Lumsden, Saskatchewan

GEOGRAPHY

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The topography (land slopes) of any given site bears an influence on the architectural solution as well. Saskatchewan, as an entity, is considered flat when in fact over half of the province's land area is lakes and forest. The City of Prince Albert, considered to be Northern Saskatchewan, is actually near the geographical centre of the province. The southern half of the province as a whole is far from flat, as is indicated by visible land forms photographed in winter. The solutions for prairie architecture remain as varied as the landscape and every specific location which creates its own definition of "Place".



Soil Types

Soil types bear a great deal of influence on the structural nature of the architectural design, being more technical in nature. The various structural systems (foundations specifically) are reviewed in Section 2.0 - Science of Buildings.

The ways in which soil type and consistency will influence the intended design solution stem from the structural stability (determining potential building height and mass) as well as the aesthetic resolution. The soil type forms the basis of the landscape, presenting opportunities for design resolution either in keeping or in contrast with the existing environment. This item is closely linked to the aforementioned land forms and definition of place.

Landforms created through the soil definition can be classified according to the topography and the impact of moisture on the surface and sub-surface conditions. A brief summary of landform classifications includes:

- <u>Flood Plain</u>: The lowest land area relative to water accumulation. This area would be subject to flooding easily. These areas are typically restricted to little or no development.
- (2) <u>Alluvial Fan Area</u>: This land area is immediately adjacent the flood plain zone. This area is often subject to heavy moisture concentration as the bulk of draining water (heading for the flood plan) drains over it. Erosion is heavy on the soil surface. The depth of moisture penetration is often extreme. These areas are typically limited to select development types only.
- (3) <u>Uplands</u>: This land area is above the Alluvial Fan zone, shedding moisture easily. Depending on the soil type, development is often permitted in these areas. The control of runoff is a serious consideration within developed zones.

21

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(4) <u>Low Uplands</u>: This land area comprises the depressions found within the Upland zones. Development is controlled in these areas due to the presence of runoff that can quickly accumulate, making the soil soft and undesirable.

- (5) <u>Hillside</u>: Hillside areas drain well, although they are often subject to deep erosion, causing instability in the soil surface. These areas may be subject to slippage depending on the season and precipitation levels. Development is controlled in these areas due to the erosion and slippage concerns.
- (6) <u>Ridge and Highlands</u>: These areas generally provide well-drained soil conditions with low erosion concerns. These areas are considered the best building sites available.

Soil Erosion:

Erosion of the soil and sub-surface caused by water runoff is a critical concern due to the deterioration that can be created. As the topsoil is eliminated, water absorption is increased in the sub-soils which may affect swelling and damage to the foundations. (Refer to Section 2.0, Science of Buildings). Wind erosion is a concern on open prairie landscapes but not considered critical in the urban areas.



Figure 16: Raindrop Impact on Soil

Water erosion removes soil by mixing with the materials as the rain strikes, creating a light density mud mix. These soil elements are then transported through the runoff to the lowest available land point.

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Erosion of the soil and sub-surface elements is increased depending on the land slopes (topography) and consistency of the soil. Newly placed soil in construction/development areas is particularly sensitive to erosion as there has been little compaction of the soil, keeping it loose and subject to run-off. The topography slopes can be categorized as:

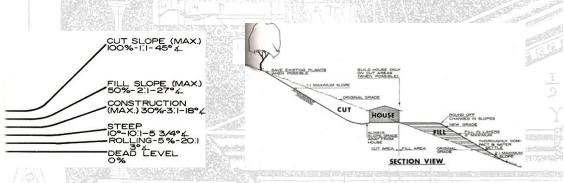


Figure 17: Slope types and fill in developments

Four types of runoff erosion may occur on site, depending on the precipitation intensity and density of the soil types. The erosion types are:

- (1) <u>Sheet Erosion</u> removes the entire soft top level of soil in one wash-off.
- (2) <u>Rill (Trough) Erosion</u> removes soft pockets in the soil and subsoil, creating pockets and creases down the slopes.
- (3) <u>Gully Erosion</u> rill erosion that has increased in size and scope to carve out a large slash through the hillside.
- (4) <u>Slip Erosion</u> the most catastrophic type of erosion. Water penetration accumulates in the soft subsoil layer, creating a massive single movement of soil. This type represents the "mud slides" that remove the sides from hills and slopes in a single effort. The power of this slide type may be extreme, causing great damage.

Figure 18: Sheet Erosion after Excavation

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Erosion and control techniques are frequently used to minimize the overall impact of surface water. Landscaping elements are the simplest means to control erosion by their actions above and below the soil surface.



Figure 19: Landscape Slope Elements

Landscaping provides control by:

- breaking the velocity of water down as the leaves and branches act as canopies and diffusers;
- solidifying the subsoil through their root systems; and
- dead leaves and plant parts mix with the topsoil, loosening it and creating capacity for increased absorption, thus minimizing the runoff.

Other methods of erosion control include retaining walls, erosion bars and runoff control methods through culverts and storm channel drains.



Figure 20: Hillside Retaining Wall System

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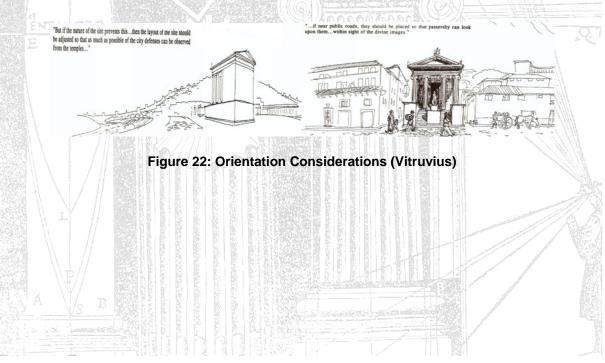
CROTEFICINATIO ZOPHORI AC CORO E E ME TYMPANI 3.0 - Orientation

Orientation of a design solution references the key or critical direction that the building is to face. In some cases, such as urban infill or downtown redevelopment, the choices to vary the orientation of the building's main façade are limited. It is possible to use orientation of building elements (doors, windows, balconies, roof slopes) to enhance the design and provide a means of environmental control.

"... if there is no impediment... both the temple and the cult statue should face toward the Western regions of the heavens, so that [offerers/sacrificers] will see the image within the temple beneath the Eastern regions of the heavens ... while the images themselves will seem to look from the East upon the supplicants."

Figure 21: Roman Orientation

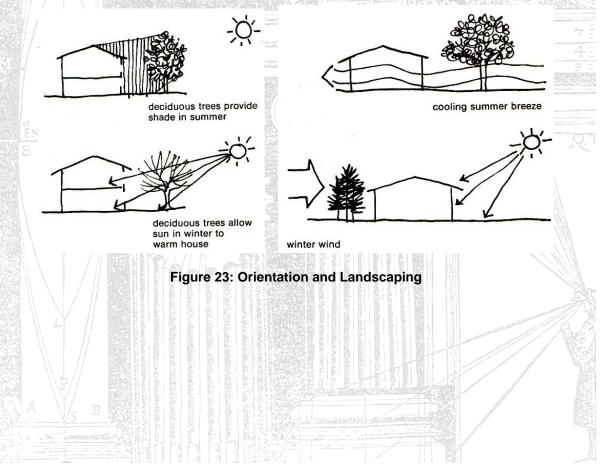
The basic orientation desired for most structures is south to take advantage of our climatic exposure to the sun. There is no clear, black-and-white solution to orientation due to the many factors that interact in determining the site design aspects.



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The examples noted below illustrate the complexity of our climatic southern exposure:

- Solar exposure in the winter months assists in lowering the mechanical heating load.
 - Solar exposure in the summer months may increase the mechanical cooling load.
 - Southern exposure will expose the structure to the cooler summer winds, but the design must reflect this opportunity to incorporate the wind pattern into the site areas.
 - Landscaping may be installed in the form of deciduous trees to provide summer shade (lessening the solar impact).
 - Deciduous trees lose their leaves in winter, thereby allowing full solar access to the structure.
 - Landscaping may, however, serve as a windbreak relative to the intended capturing of summer breezes. This landscaping (trees and potential ground cover) will require careful design considerations in order to allow summer winds through or around while still providing the intended shade element.



GEOGRAPHY

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The relationship of architectural design to site concepts (orientation, wind, water) is clearly a complex problem that requires as much consideration as the design elements themselves. The examples noted herein are merely a cursory review of some considerations present in orientation. These considerations may be discarded in the case of a client who wishes to paint canvases in a studio providing nothing but the soft natural light of the northern side. This one contradiction would then provide its own set of orientation and siting considerations, from a different point of view than illustrated earlier.

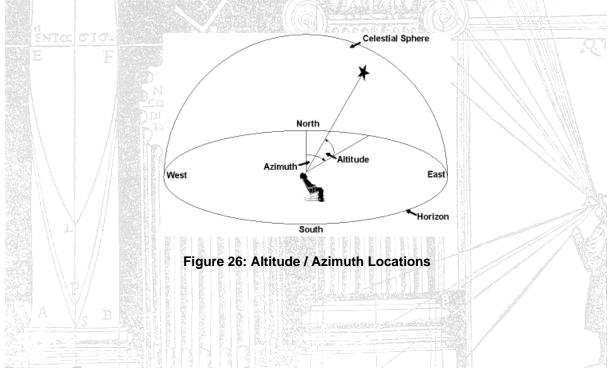


Figure 24: Place des Vosges, Paris, France

Orientation plays a role in siting the intended design when considering the additional activities or site elements to be included in the design solution. The architectural design process must step away from the immediate building to consider the land area and actions involved. This process includes parking, mass-transportation, pedestrian access, landscaping, site features, and the potential adjacent structures (existing or proposed). The elements discussed with respect to orientation carry significant impact on all of the site elements, individually and as a component of the overall design solution.

Figure 25: Solar Skyspace / Travel Considerations

Solar orientation refers to the altitude and azimuth of the sun during the seasons. The altitude angle is the angle above the horizon line immediately below the sun's position. The azimuth angle is the sun's position horizontally, measured clockwise from north, as it travels from east to west. These two angles combine to provide the exact location of the sun, allowing a response within the architectural design process to take advantage or counteract the solar influence.



28

GEOGRAPHY

Kurt Dietrich SK85ON23

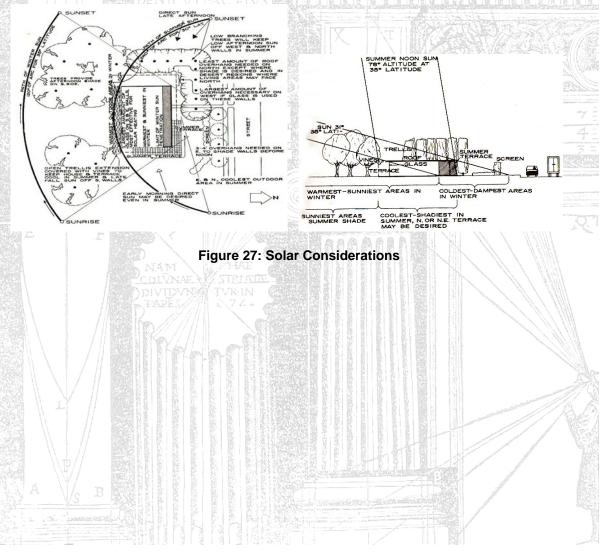
The contextual data for Regina provides us with the following readings: 1) Summer solstice: the longest day of the year, with the highest solar angles. Sunrise: Alt: 1.2° Az: 52.6° Time: 3:00 a.m. Alt: 1.3° Sunset: Az: 307.3° Time: 19:10 p.m. Peak height: Alt: 62.9° Az: 179.8° Time: 11:00 a.m. Winter solstice: the shortest day of the year with the lowest solar angles. 2) Alt: 0.1° Sunrise: . Az: 128.0° Time: 7:00 a.m. Sunset: Alt: 2.7° Az: 227.4° Time: 14:30 p.m. Alt: 16.1° Peak height: Az: 180.8° Time: 11:00 a.m. OREEN COLOUR LINES RE TO THE SUMMER SOLSTIC ED COLOUR LINES REFER TO AST 11:30 AM 11:00 A 4.00 PM 7:00 PM SOUTH SOLAR ALTITUDE ABOVE THE LANDSURFACE TRAVEL (AZIMUTH) ACROSS THE REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA (LONGTITUDE 104d-38m, LATITUDE 50d-30m)

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By this simple comparison, we can establish that for Regina, the sun is approximately 46.8 degrees lower in altitude, travels approximately 155° less across the horizon, and shines approximately 8.5 less hours at winter solstice than summer solstice. All other solar angles and paths of travel occur between these two extremes.

Orientation of site elements and structure must take into account these influences during the seasons in order to respond to the natural solar force present. Orientation is also crucial with regard to the items reviewed within Section 2.0, Science of Buildings. The temperature extremes and exposure of building materials has a major influence on how the structure moves with regard to thermal properties of the materials. Solar and wind orientation have an effect on the occupancy of the design as well as the intended lifespan of the building's components. The materials discussion was completed within Section 2.0 and may be reviewed relative to geographic orientation.



GEOGRAPHY

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Orientation also plays a role in the appearance of the design from both the exterior and interior. The approach to the structure, views presented, and means of exposure will influence the experience of the user. The interior views will have an equal influence on the occupants of the facility, on an ongoing basis throughout their time there.



Figure 28: Scarth Street Dining

Architectural design cannot exist in a vacuum, sealed away from the influences of site elements (orientation, natural forces). A critical element that is considered during the design process is the potential exposure of both spaces (interior and exterior) as they relate to each other. Architectural design is required to go beyond the immediate confines of the structure to include the site elements, views available from within, and appearance from the exterior. A properly resolved design solution provides for each aspect to the best of the available opportunities.

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This design requirement takes into consideration the space (site) around that which is enclosed (building) in order to meld building to site. It is the process of sharing, to bring the exterior in while extending the interior out. In some cases, this process may require modifications at the ground floor level in order to eliminate the building's affect (presence on the site). This design resolution creates a compromise of available floor space with the positive result of integration with the site.

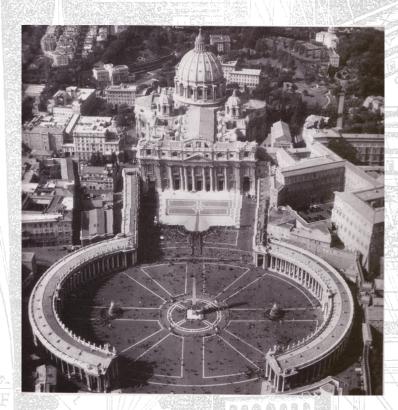


Figure 29: St. Peter's Square, Rome, Italy

The use of site orientation and exterior enclosure is evident in courtyards and plazas within the urban environment, dating back to the Roman period when the approach to a structure was a prime consideration. St. Peter's Square in Rome (completed during the Renaissance/Baroque periods), illustrates the example of enclosing a site to enhance the overall experience of the design of St. Peter's itself.

32

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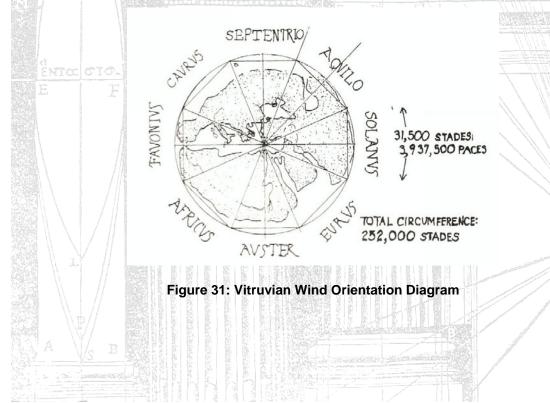
5.0 Wind & Water Elements

Wind elements are an important part of architectural design. Our climate, especially in Saskatchewan, features an abundance of wind currents throughout all of the seasons.



Figure 30: Prairie Landscape

The 'Science of Buildings' curriculum noted the powerful influences that wind can have on the built environment. Pressures caused by thrust or negative suction can effectively pull a structure apart. Designing for wind carries the structural concern at its base point in the process. Wind considerations were prevalent even during the time of Vitruvius as indicated by his chart of wind orientations.



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Designing for wind effects must consider the major directional sources for each of the seasonal wind patterns. Our climatic atmosphere provides winter winds (cold and dry) affecting structures from the northwest direction. Summer winds (cooling and moist) generally approach from the southeast, directionally opposite to the winter wind patterns. The opportunities to capitalize on these wind patterns are such that they can provide a cooling element to serve the building function through the summer months, while an effective means to block or deflect the winter winds from the structure's entry points must be designed. In essence, the design may wish to allow summer winds and block winter winds.

evergreens and ridge provide winter wind break, slope faces southeast deciduous trees provide shade, allow free flow of summer breeze

Figure 32: Wind Orientation

New design technologies are creating ways to use the natural wind patterns to assist in air movement throughout a structure, thereby lowering energy usage of the mechanical ventilation system. This technology stems from the basic idea that if you are hot, open the window; if cold, close it. Operable windows won't provide the desired breeze (cooling effect) if their orientation is on the negative side of the wind pattern. This act may in fact draw air through the interior area, bringing odours and moisture to exit out the open window. Operable windows are also quite limited in vertical range (highrise developments) due to the atmospheric pressures present both inside and outside a building shell.

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The new technology uses the established wind patterns to create negative pressures at the top of a building, which are offset by positive pressures at the base. In this fashion, the wind element acts as a natural ventilation system; entering at the base, moving air vertically through the building (in a controllable fashion), and exiting as exhaust at the top. This new technology requires a respect of the existing site wind patterns in order to achieve its goal of using wind to lower the mechanical requirements.

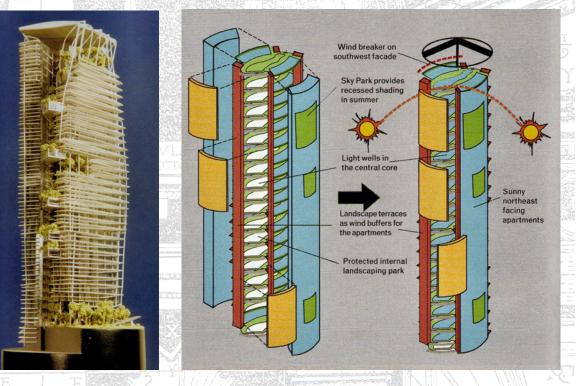


Figure 33: Eco-Tower, London, England (T.R. Hamzah & Yeang Architects)

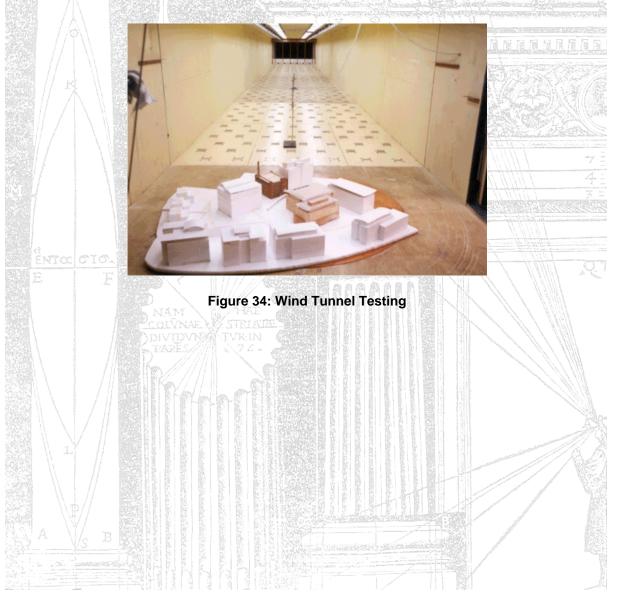
Eco-Tower has two major openings, one at the north façade and another at the south façade, allowing wind to enter into internal passageways and lobbies either to vent and cool these spaces or to provide cross-ventilation to the apartment units. These have shutters at the façade openings, which can open and shut at varying levels of closure depending on the weather and building operations. Key components of "passive-mode" energy savings come from wind-induced ventilation, daylighting in the summer and solar heating in the winter.

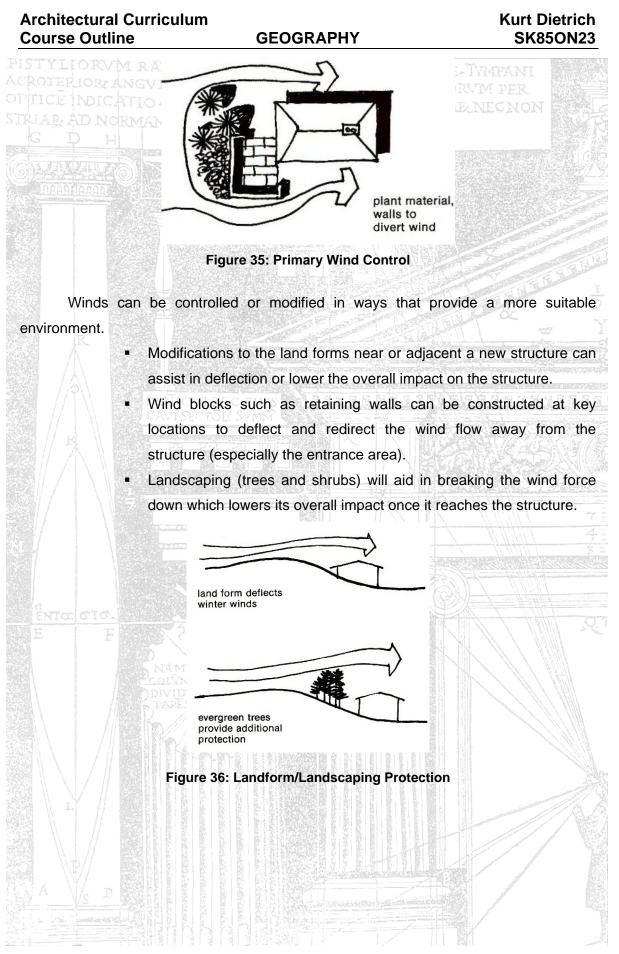
Architecture Magazine, Dec 2002, P. 53

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Respecting wind patterns is a basic requirement of architectural design. New structures or major renovations to the exterior of existing ones within the downtown cores of cities are subjected to wind tunnel testing. This testing is completed to monitor the overall affect that the intended design will have on the wind patterns at the pedestrian level. Too much change in the patterns may create wind tunnels, resulting in an uncomfortable atmosphere which discourages pedestrians in that area. A lack of pedestrians results in the eminent closure of retail and food service establishments that depend on these walk-in clients. Closure of business activities often results in a domino affect, eventually leading to a wasteland state of the wind tunnel area. This analogy may seem a little to the extreme, however it does illustrate low the affects of wind can change the social fabric of certain areas.



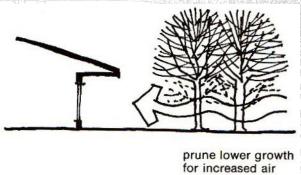


summer months.

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These examples speak towards resolution of the undesirable wind's presence related to the building's site. Equal and opposite affects can be achieved in using each of these elements to enhance and redirect cooling winds into the structure during the



circulation

Figure 37: Cooling Effects (Summer Winds)

It is possible within the process of architectural design to incorporate wind elements that serve the best interests of the intended solution while excluding those elements that may cause undue stress and discomfort for the intended users.

The manipulation of wind elements is only one component of the site aspects that must be considered during the architectural design process.

Water elements related to urban design carry an aesthetic consideration but they focus mainly on storm water retention. Storm water refers to both winter run-off and rainwater. As our cities expand, the current infrastructure becomes too small to handle additional flow of water during peak periods. It may not seem like a great amount of rain may have fallen during a rainstorm (perhaps only 12 mm), but that amount when collected from an entire subdivision can cause flooding and spills.

The current practice of urban design is to incorporate retention ponds into the urban layout (suburban in some cases) to collect and retain this water until such time as it can be siphoned off through controlled drainage or evaporation occurs.

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New areas (Lakewood and Lakeridge) are being designed to incorporate the water retention area as an aerated lake, contributing a public, social use as well as a functional, operational aspect. This technique has proven effective in areas of the City of Calgary (Lake Buenavista, Lake Midnapore, Lake Sundance) where the lakes include beaches, boating, and fishing; all located within the urban setting.



Figure 38: Lakeridge Subdivision, Regina, Sask.

Water elements are also used in building designs on both the interior and exterior for functional and aesthetic purposes. Moving or aerated water provides background noise (termed "white noise") within public spaces. White noise is a means to deflect auditory perception, masking conversations between adjacent groups and removing the emptiness often felt within large public spaces. Water elements also contribute to the humidification (airborne moisture) of public spaces, alleviating the dry climate experienced, particularly in Saskatchewan.



Figure 39: Queen Elizabeth Court, City Hall, Regina

Water elements can be included into architectural designs in several ways, such as:

- <u>Stillwater ponds</u>: reflective pools with only minimal surface disruption. These items are used primarily within zones of contemplation or public seating.
- Fountains: create both noise and movement. The interplay of water and light create a distinct atmosphere when used in the proper context. Fountains are used on both exterior and interior applications to augment spatial gualities.
- <u>Waterfalls</u>: can be used in lieu of the fountain in situations that place the water source away within the space. Waterfalls provide similar effects with noise and lighting as a fountain.



Figure 40: Exterior Fountain, SPC, Regina

The proposed use, placement, and design of the water element are crucial to the success within the space. Noise qualities must be considered in order to properly select and design the water feature. It is possible to adjust the noise component based on the type of water element selected.

Water is an essential component of the human existence. The most prevalent aspect of water included in the design is that water must be kept in motion to prevent stagnation. The same philosophy can be stated with regard to the human existence.

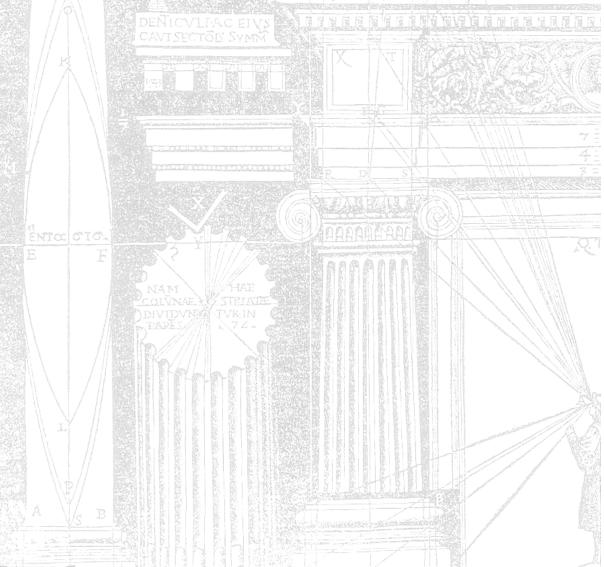
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Water can also be an effective destructive force related to structures and landscaping. Our climate features water (moisture) in all its forms (fog, rain, show, ice), each of which must be carefully considered during the design process.

The process of handling and manipulating rainwater, snow and ice is a design element that can contribute to either the success of the design or its failure.

Features for water management can play a role in the aesthetic of the design or the design may in fact hide or remove these features from the end product. In both cases, a rational design decision must be reached as to the nature of the resolution. This decision will then carry forward as one of the many design choices made within the process.



6.0 URBAN DESIGN

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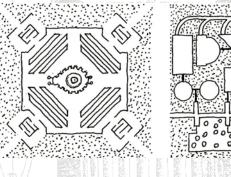
The other side of geographical analysis relevant to the curriculum involves the study of urban design.

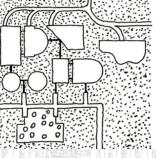
Civilizations have settled in constructed environments since 6,000 BC as noted in Section 1.0, Architectural History of Western Civilization. The design, growth and evolution of these settlements has taken on a character unique to the order of the time. Social roles, spatial qualities and societal structure all play a part in the analysis of the urban environment, yet we are all too often willing to accept the growth of our cities unchallenged. This willingness to abide by the social will, allowing for growth unchecked and ad-hoc, has led our society to the point of excessiveness in land and energy use.

To allow for growth outward of our civic centres also allows for deterioration of the centres themselves. This condition is evident within the City of Regina as well a other major centres across Canada an the United States. This condition is also felt in Western European centres but not to the degree that it has proliferated locally.

City Planning Models

City planning has evolved through history in much the same fashion as architectural design, albeit along a parallel, sometimes winding path. Kevin Lynch wrote in "Good City Form" (1981), that there are essentially three categories (normative models) of city planning.





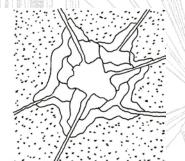
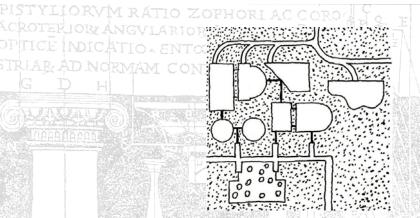


Figure 41: Three City Planning Models

Architectural Curriculum **Kurt Dietrich Course Outline GEOGRAPHY SK85ON23** 0 (1)The Cosmic Model: otherwise termed the "Holy City" type. This model plans the civic environment as an interpretation of the universe and prevailing belief system (the gods). It is laid out as articulated expression of power as seen in the idealistic plans of the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Characteristic design features include: the monumental axis, the enclosure of the environment complete with gates at the entries, dominant landmarks, reliance on a regular grid layout, and spatial organization by social hierarchy. Figure 42: Palmanova, Italy (1593)

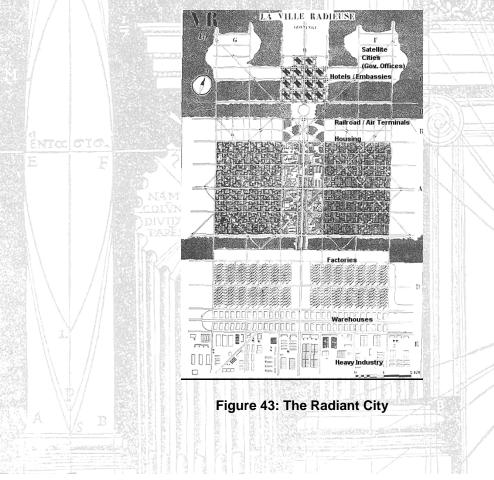
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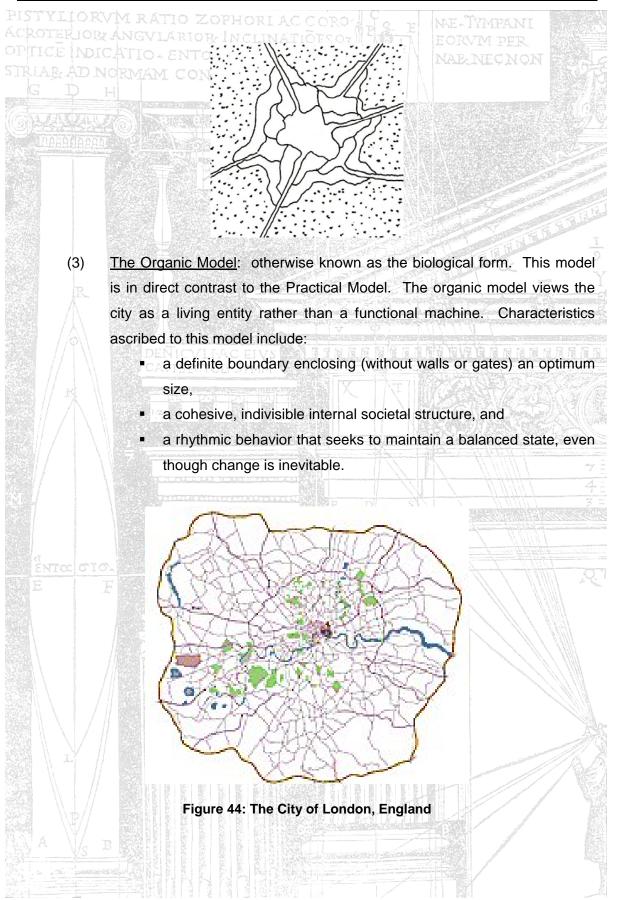
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(2) <u>The Practical Model</u>: otherwise referred to as "the city as a machine". This model is factual, functional, and analytical. Magic or beliefs play no part in its formation. The design features identified are characteristic of those found in factory towns, colonial settlements, speculative grid towns of the United States, and Le Corbusier's theoretical 'Radiant City' plan. The city in this model is "made up of small, autonomous, undifferentiated parts, linked up to a great machine which in contrast has clearly differentiated functions and motions".



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These models provide merely the basis for urban review. In practicality, all cities contain some components of each model, though one model may take precedence. In every case (cosmic, functional, or organic), our cities will be faced with periods of upheaval due to philosophical change (cosmic), functional breakdown (practical), or urban blight/disease (organic). These crisis periods are the points of departure in city planning where new theory or concepts are implemented to correct the growth or imbalance in the civic system.



Figure 45: Karlsruhe, Germany (1715)

The social concepts of spatial order related to the specific culture are present in all schemes, depending on the time they originated. These social concepts corresponded with the cultural hierarchy, centering wealth and power within the city with agrarian, rural existence on or outside the borders. The early plans derived by the hierarchy structure were fortified by the presence of the leader (King) at the centre, the location where all would gather during times of siege or distress.

Energy and Environmental Design:

The industrial revolution created a major upheaval in the mobility of the urban classes. Prior to this period, urban excursions were limited to the rich escaping the city for villas or estates for a brief respite. Industrialization laid the groundwork for grid planning; simple, effective use of the landscape to suit housing and urban demands of the new urban dwellers (the industrial workers).

Transportation systems (trains and vehicles) further pushed the urban environment by allowing for daily travel to work, accessing cheaper land for development, and increasing the overall urban footprint. This trend continues to date with the sprawl of suburbs, a nickname given to developments outside the original urban core, thus creating sub-urban developments.

This overview of civic development is an intensely abbreviated summary of the growth in civic environments. A total assessment of civic growth must consider the historical, social, cultural, lifestyle, education, and labour force of each location relative to its origins and growth. Numerous texts and studies have been completed relative to the city, too many to detail in this text. The underlying concept that we wish to explore is the current trends at play in our civic environments relative to architectural design and urban planning.

The existing sprawl of our cities creates a reliance on transportation for almost every aspect of our daily lives. Work locations, shopping, schools, recreation, and even places of worship are far-flung and removed from the residential locations. Low density residential development makes mass transportation methods too costly to prove effective, thus the reliance on the personal vehicle. The reliance on personal vehicles generates associated concerns of increased pollution, energy usage, loss of green space as roads chew up the landscape, and environmental decay.

47

GEOGRAPHY

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Energy consumption and conservation are critical issues that we face today with regard to architectural and urban design. The issue of energy consumption arises from the fact that over 35% of end-use energy is used in our buildings. Over 2/3 of this amount is used on heating our spaces. Buildings themselves through utility usage, construction and materials, and generated waste, account for up to 40% of the energy use in our society.¹



Figure 46: North-West Regina

Energy consumption within the built environment (residential, commercial, institutional) is affected by many factors relative to the equipment (age and efficiency) and the manner by which these buildings are maintained. Energy consumption is directly affected by architectural design in many individual and combined ways, including:

- overall building form,
- building type and occupancy,
- density of buildings on land area,
- internal building layout,
- individual building components (insulation, air barrier, etc.) and the method of construction,
- site orientation (as discussed previously), and
- landscaping elements.

¹ Planning Land to Conserve Energy, P. 5

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Architectural design can alleviate many of the consumption factors through thoughtful consideration of the issues and an honest response in the final design. The definition of 'Honesty' refers back to the theoretical position of the architect as discussed in the introductory chapter of Section 3.0, Art in Architecture.

Several opportunities to provide a suitable response to energy consumption challenges are noted below. These suggestions are merely items to consider while the overall process of architectural design is underway. These suggestions will not necessarily be applicable in every instance, and compromises will be generated depending on the site specific, programmatic requirements, and individual mandate of each design challenge.

Opportunities to lessen the overall amount of energy consumed by commercial and institutional buildings may be generated by:

- (1) <u>Site Selection</u>:
 - Select sites that allow the maximum exposure to the sun (solar access) for the building area.
 - Attempt to locate a site near major traffic generators and mass transit opportunities in order to lower the requirement for vehicle usage.
 - Attempt to locate a site that provides access to mass transit routes (lowering the personal vehicle waste).
 - Re-use or reclaim sites within the developed urban areas to make the best use of the existing infrastructure (roads, sewer, water).
 - Design the site to maximize the potential for the south yard, placing the design solution north of the mid-way point.
 - Preserve or plant landscaping that provides shelter yet allows solar access during the cool seasons. (Coniferous trees on north and west, deciduous trees on south and east).
 - Respect the existing site drainage patterns (landscaping will assist in topsoil retention).

Reduce scattered land usage.

×.

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(2) <u>Building Design Environment</u>:

- Incorporate solar considerations in the design to allow for full solar access during the cool seasons and shaded solar responses during the hot seasons.
- Site the design to make use of summer winds for cooling while protecting the design from the cold winter wind patterns.
 - Site the design solution to minimize vehicle travel within the site for occupants as well as utility and services such as garbage collection, service vehicles, courier and storage areas.
 - Use landscaping to enhance the functions of solar and climatic influences, and to prevent premature soil erosion.



Figure 47: Scarth Street, Regina, Sask.

(3) <u>Building Design Elements</u>:

- Maximize south face for solar gain.
- Protect north/northwest face from winter winds and snow accumulation.
- Incorporate air-lock entrance features to minimize heat loss.
- Use enhanced glazing systems to enhance the gain and protection aspects of the south and north faces.
- Incorporate mass elements that can absorb and radiate heat through the day (masonry, stone, concrete).
- Ensure construction provides an "air-tight" enclosure.
- Coordinate energy-efficient systems designs with mechanical and electrical engineers.
- Provide a compact layout through clear resolution of required spaces.

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Energy consumption and conservation related to urban design is another critical issue to consider. Transportation systems use over 25% of the total energy consumption expended. Over half of this energy is used up through automobile usage, with at least one-third of this consumption related to urban transportation movement alone. Statistics related to urban transportation indicate that 90% of automobile energy use is expended moving people, while only 10% is used to move goods.² There may seem to be a lot of trucks moving about the city but they account for a very small percentage of the expended energy. It is the configurations of our cities that have necessitated a major portion of the required urban travel. Societal and cultural influences carry some weight in this issue since we are known as a "vehicular society", however this influence is not as easily addressed as the civic layout consideration.

Civic Environmental Design:

Civic growth as illustrated earlier in this section can be categorized as one of cosmic, practical, or organic. Our current civic environments are typically a combination of practical and organic, with the occasional cosmic influence. This cosmic influence is minimal and sporadic, not considered further in our analysis.



Figure 48: Regina, Saskatchewan

The Practical Model is found in the gridiron, rectilinear street patterns of the centre urban areas. The Organic Model is found in the curved, cluster-type developments of the outlying expansion areas. An interesting note is that the practical system was the original system, laid out in typical fashion of its time when mankind enforced its principles on the landscape, almost regardless of the terrain.

² Planning Land to Conserve Energy, P. 6

GEOGRAPHY

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The practical (gridiron) system represents the early days of civic planning. Streets are planned at right angles and could be extended indefinitely over the landscape. This system type was easy and efficient to establish on almost any terrain. Utility installation was easy as well as the street numbering system. The rectangular blocks were easy to subdivide into development parcels. The entire system seems to have a lot of positive aspects, however the inherent flaws surfaced during the actual usage.



Figure 49: City of Regina Downtown District

Flaws in this system include the fact that the layout does not adapt well to irregular topography without land surface relocation. This system type also makes travel to a diagonal point difficult. Any street in this system may be considered a heavy traffic route which then requires increased artificial controls in terms of lights, signage, blockage, and one-way use. The implementation of controls within a street layout can cause slow-downs in traffic flow, which will increase the time a vehicle is on the road running, resulting in a subsequent waste of energy. There is a domino effect present whenever controls or regulations are instituted within our urban development, especially where energy consumption is concerned.

The organic (cluster) system represents the more recent trend in urban design. Streets are varied in width, depending on their designed usage according to the intended traffic flow. Street types were categorized as:

- <u>Arterial streets</u> fast moving traffic designed for peak flow; the main roads (Albert Street, Victoria Avenue, downtown). Widths vary from 80 feet to 120 feet.
- (2) <u>Collector streets</u> moderate traffic speeds for varying flow. These streets are intended to serve as the link between minor streets and arterial streets (such as Hillsdale Street). Widths are 60 feet to 80 feet.
- (3) <u>Minor streets</u> residential entry roads that link the marginal streets to collectors. Minor streets are a part of the residential or commercial zone, being developed for use. These streets carry minimal to moderate traffic at low speeds within the intended zone. Widths are 50 feet to 60 feet.
- (4) <u>Marginal access streets</u> minor streets that are parallel or adjacent to the arterial or collector streets. These streets provide access to immediate properties only, linking onto the minor streets for urban access. Widths are ± 40 feet.
- (5) <u>Alleys / Laneways</u> these are the back access roads seen mostly in older development areas. Current urban planning techniques include an easement between properties at the back. Newer developments have eliminated this access road entirely.

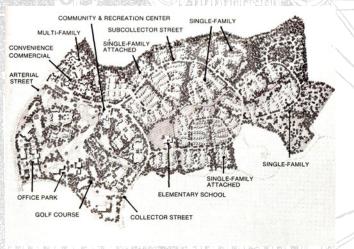


Figure 50: Organic Subdivision Layout

Organic planning strategies have to come up with fixed boundaries to the development since growth in a controlled manner cannot be extended like the gridiron system can. The presence of these boundaries limits development to a fixed area. Positive aspects of organic (cluster) developments include:

- Grouping of development units allows for potential increase in socialization. (Refer to Section 5.0, Sociology and Architecture).
 - Grouping of developments allows for unused land areas to serve common uses (urban or residential parks, green spaces, etc.).
 - Density of building development remains consistent with practical (gridiron) system. Additional open area is created without losing any developed lands.
 - Development costs may be lower for utility installation and servicing.
 - Natural drainage systems can be implemented much easier than in the practical system. The organic model can use the existing topography as the initial indicator of the future layout.



Figure 51: Cluster Groupings

- Road systems can be narrowed to specifically suit the intended use. Since the border is fixed (unlike unlimited expansion opportunity of practical system), the potential for increased travel volume is minimal. Narrowing roads reduces the overall land usage, resulting in less development costs and future servicing. Less asphalt area also means more area of the natural topography can remain for drainage and green space.
- Orientation of the individual development sites is more varied than in the practical system. This opportunity provides more flexibility for the potential design solutions on each development site.

Open areas within the organic (cluster) development may be used for storm water retention ponds, thereby reducing the demands on existing systems.

GEOGRAPHY

Flaws in the organic (cluster) model are present in several societal and developmental areas. These flaws include:

- Scope of the available development must be fixed at the outset, with no room for growth.
- Road sizes (widths and traffic volumes) are predetermined so a resulting change in population density (apartment, business block) will impact on traffic without possible resolution except traffic control systems.
 - Orientation while traveling in the development can often be confusing as the roads may be running in multiple directions during travel.
 - Building identification is not as easy as seen in the practical model.
 - Travel is often less although accessing diagonal points may require circulating around the development.

The use of the organic (cluster) urban form is a recent concept in terms of civic urban planning. Historically, urban planning followed the example of the railroad line, laid out in a straight line for maximum efficiency. The prairie landscape was also parceled out in sections; a rectilinear concept imposing a structured order on the landscape. Towns that had opportunity and adjacent examples of natural landscape forms featuring organic layouts remained true to the practical grid system in their planning.



(4)

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The two methods of urban planning strategies can be used together, recognizing the positive and negative influences they both bring to the civic environment. The main concept of urban design in this regard is to provide energy-efficient planning that makes the best use of available land while providing increased opportunities for architectural design strategies.

Civic development strategies are governed by each municipality. These governing bodies have to consider the city as a whole, as well as each individual area, when developing a master plan for growth and development. In order to provide for an environmentally and user-friendly development, civic planning should consider:

- (1) <u>Concentration</u>: Encourage physically concentrated developments for quick, easy access to a wide range of activities from the functional (work, shopping) to recreational. Concentration techniques will also increase the opportunity to develop mass transit strategies, lessening the use of vehicle travel and thereby lowering energy use.
- (2) <u>Variety</u>: Allow for development of commercial (business, retail), institutional (schools and churches), as well as residential areas within each development zone. The requirement to travel is lowered if the services desired are easily within reach.
- (3) <u>Mixed Use Activities</u>: Allow for combinations of live, work, social and institution environments within each development. A mixed-use area provides more opportunity for variety and promotes greater concentration.



Figure 53: Carducci & Associates Mixed-Use Proposal

<u>Pedestrian Environment</u>: There must be opportunities and direct pathways for pedestrians to promote bicycle and walking modes of travel, as opposed to constantly driving around. A pedestrian environment would require careful design in order to provide sun and wind compensation. This category is difficult to promote within our local climate.

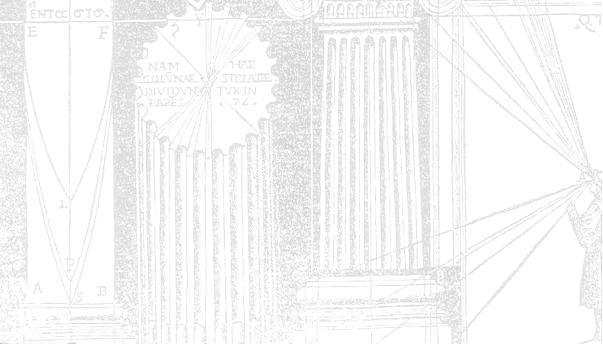
GEOGRAPHY

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(5) <u>Orientation</u>: Like Section 5.0, Sociology and Architecture, urban developments need some form of orientation to gain a sense of your location. This consideration can be satisfied through the use of civic or local landmarks and clearly identified pathways. This category relates to the orientation and way-finding chapters of Section 5.0.

(6) <u>Identity</u>: Each development district requires an identity to create a distinction from surrounding areas. Identity would be in the form of an image or character style of the area, similar to the reference identity of the Cathedral area in Regina, using a landmark as the identifier. Identity allows the inhabitants to be a part of the larger development group, which in turn provides a sense of belonging. Territory theory stems from the sense of belonging and being a part of a larger group. These elements, as discussed relative to architectural design in Section 5.0, also relate to urban design and planning on a larger scale.

Civic development strategies will provide for urban environments that are both energy efficient and effective in their use. An efficient, well-used urban area is a vibrant one, able to withstand changes over time and nature as the city grows. An area or district that does not resolve these issues will stagnate and eventually deteriorate, possibly to the point where only massive redevelopment will restore it to a usable state.



GEOGRAPHY

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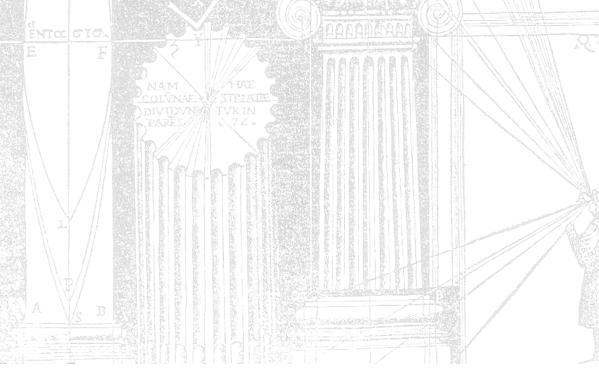
Criteria for development of an energy-efficient development area include:

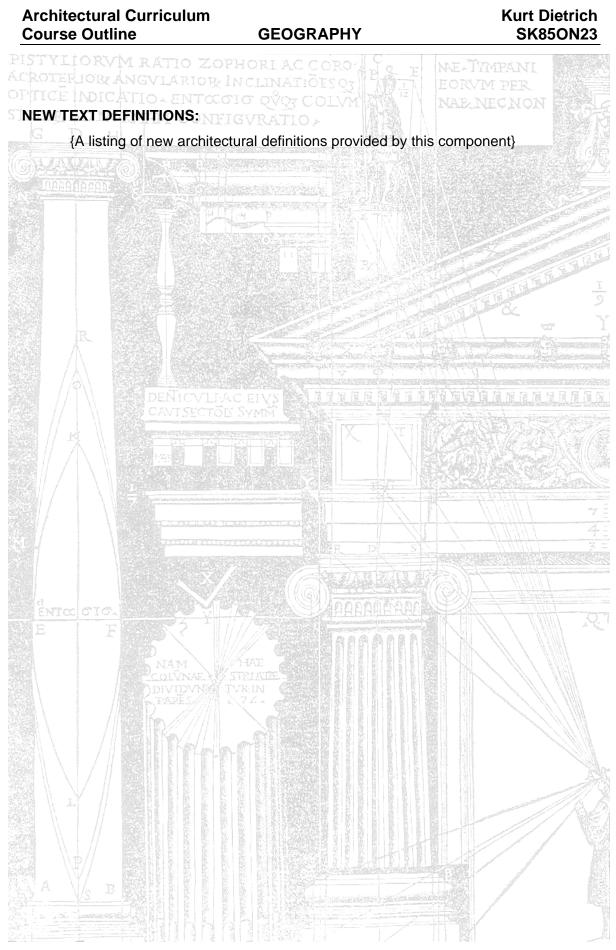
- Compact land use area creating the least possible spread on the topography.
- Minimal urban sprawl, strip mall, or pod development or under-utilized land.
- Strong controls on infill properties and new developments.

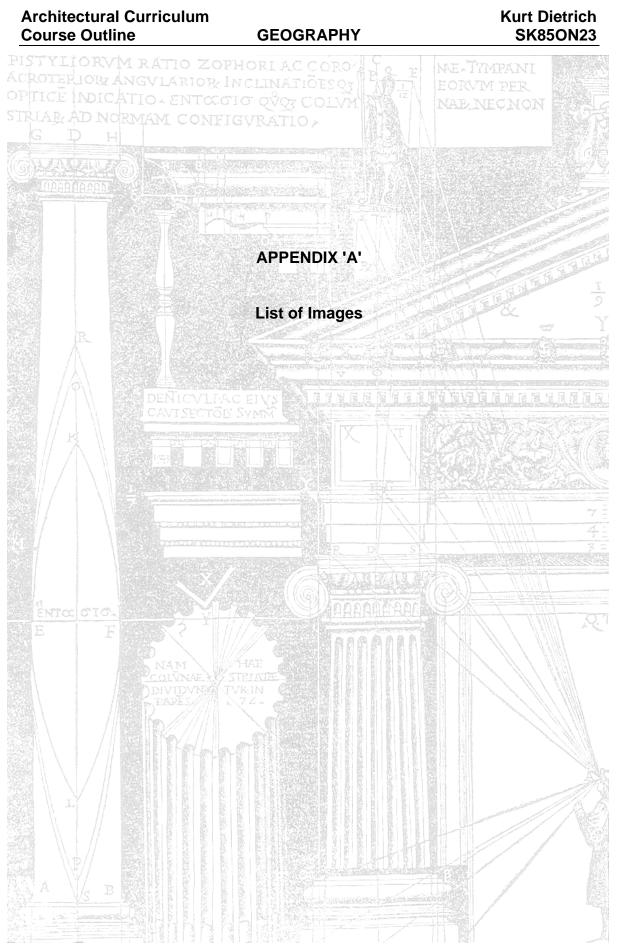
Closely developed for places of live, work, shopping, recreation, and personal service (schools, churches).

- Well-developed mass transit system to promote its use over the automobile.
- Pedestrian and bicycle friendly.
- Varied in building type and form to allow a multitude of choices and opportunities to age in place.
- Structures designed to suit solar and climatic conditions.
- Green spaces are integrated throughout the community.
- Natural drainage is utilized with minimal impact on topography of the original area.

These criteria cannot likely be applied universally over existing areas in the city. The concepts noted should be considered as our urban environment grows outward and changes within, in an effort to improve the civic structure and associated lifestyles that we can choose to live.







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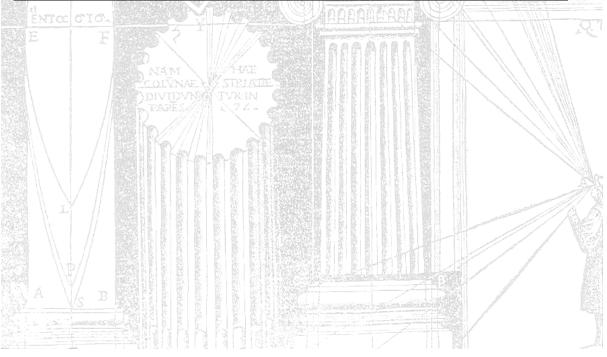
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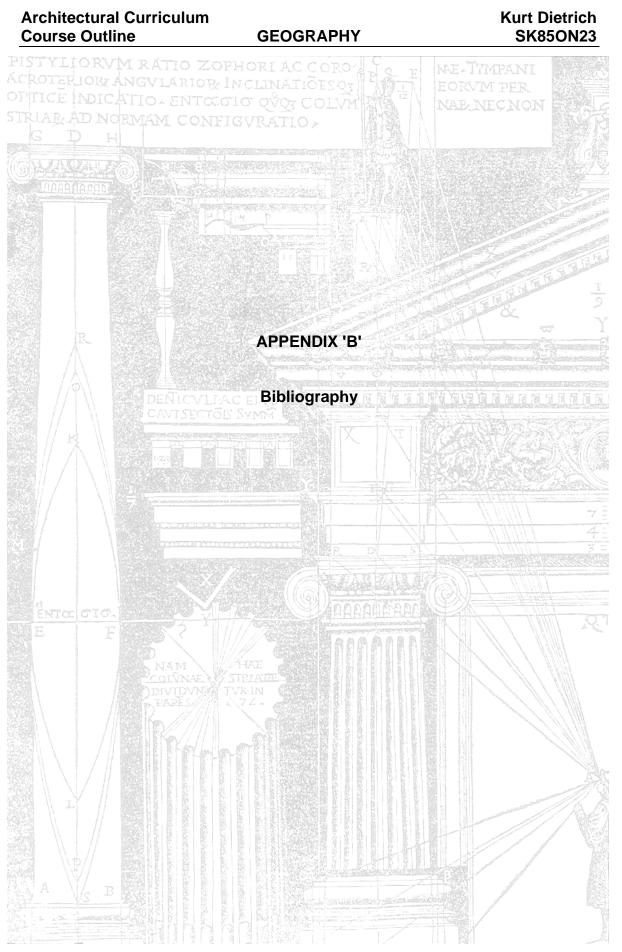
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Refere	ence tage	NGVLARIOR INCLINATIOES OF	EORVIM E			
		PIIO SNTCOIG OVO COLVMP	NAR NEC	NON ES		
G	D H					
NA TA	B	Buildings that Changed the World				
9/2852 anon	C :	Cost Effective Site Planning				
	D :	Architecture: From Pre-History to Post-Modernism				
	т :	The City Shaped				
		Urban Planning and Design (ritoria	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE OWNER		
			A CARLES AND A CAR	States S.S.		
V ;		Vitruvius: 10 books on Architecture				
				<u>k</u>		
Number	r 🔼 Nam	e	Reference	Page		
Cover	City o	of Regina	A			
1 /		li Gardens, Florence, Italy	A			
2	Los A	Angeles Development		12		
3		t Smokey Mountains, North Carolina	Internet Image	66570		
4		scaping and Climate	Internet Image			
5		er, Alberta	A			
6		ehenge, Salisbury Plain, England	B	10		
7		ompidou Centre, Paris	В	Reine Generation		
8		nann House, Racine, Wisconsin (Fallingwater)	B	159		
9		nann House, Racine, Wisconsin (Fallingwater)	B	159		
10		Biernsee, Interlaken, Switzerland	SI A			
11	Muse	eum of Civilization				
12		an Landscape, Florence, Italy) () (<u>4</u> -7		
13 NTC	10101	Saskatchewan	A GABBERTAR			
14	1 1	atchewan Map	www.gov.sk.ca			
15	1 1	n-West Saskatchewan Topography		NUT / /		
16			Internet Image			
17	- 1 <i>FR</i>	Types	U	113		
18		t Erosion	A	<u> </u>		
19		scape Slope Elements	A			
20 21		de Retaining Wall	AV	230		
21 22		an Orientation tation Considerations	V	230		
22 23		tation and Landscaping	v C	41		
23 24		e des Vosges, Paris, France	A			
24 25		Skyspace	A U	123		
í \\		de / Azimuth Locations	Internet Image	120		
26		na Altitude / Azimuth Diagrams	Author			
20 27	1/ 0	Considerations	U	121		

GEOGRAPHY

Kurt Dietrich SK85ON23

29	St. Peter's Square, Rome INCLINATIONS OF	PORTA PORTA	343	
301CE	ND Prairie Landscape TOCOLO OVO2 COLO	ALL TO MALE NECH	AP NECNON	
31 A.R.	AD Vitruvian Wind Diagram FIG VRATIO	V	166	
32	Wind Orientation	c	46	
33	Eco-Tower, Architecture Magazine	Dec. 2002 Edition	53	
34	Wind Tunnel Testing	Internet Image		
35	Primary Wind Control	С	47	
36	Landform and Landscaping	C	41	
37	Cooling Effects	С	47	
38	Lakeridge Subdivision, Regina, Sask.	Α	and the second second	
39	Queen Elizabeth Court, Regina, Sask	A	1997 - P. S. S.	
40	Exterior Fountain, Sask. Power Corporation, Regina	A	The second second	
41	Three City Planning Models	States The Real Production	15	
42	Palmanova, Italy	T	19	
43	The Radiant City (Modified Image)	Internet Image	ter a	
44	The City of London	D. Brown	contraction of	
45	Karlsruhe, Germany		188	
46	North-West Regina	A	and a state of the second s	
47	Scarth Street, Regina	A		
48	Regina City Map	www.regina.ca		
49	City of Regina Downtown Satellite Image	www.maps.google.ca		
50	Organic Subdivision	C	107	
51	Cluster Groupings	C	55	
52	Rural Saskatchewan		<u></u>	
53	Mixed Use Development Character Sketch	Internet Image	\\\\	





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