

Quantanomo Bay

Concept Development / Research Agenda

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Summary of Overall Intentions:

The overall objective for the rest of the semester is to develop a design proposal that confronts and addresses some issue or problem which is unique to Quantanomo Bay and those that inhabit the base. This proposal, which must be compelling and provocative, may take on physical, environmental, political, social or other issues. The end project must have a “built” component to it, but may also include larger landscape and ecological conditions. The project must include at least 2,000 SF of “shelter.”

The next week of work is critical in determining the success of your project. Your goals for this week are as follows:

1) Determine which issues or problems you wish to address.

Based on the preliminary research that we have conducted as a group over the past week, you are to consider what are the important issues that you believe need to be addressed. There are no limits to the types of problems and issues you may wish to address. Ideally, they have some significance as regards the life of the people that inhabit the island, as well as commenting on larger geo-political, and ethical issues. In other words, try to avoid trivial issues.

For instance, you may determine that there is a greater need for social / relaxation spaces for the guards to help relieve the guards from the stress of guarding detainees. This determination would result from your analysis of the program elements that you determined were on the site, and research documenting that guards assigned to this type of assignment are especially susceptible to stress disorders for instance.

Deliverable: Provide a statement (and diagrams) describing how you decided on the topic of your investigation.

2) Generate Concept / Identify the content of the program

Based on your analysis of a problem(s) or issue(s) associated with the Quantanomo Bay, you are to develop a program. Which types of program elements you decide on including in your program should be driven by a larger concept, or set of intentions.

For instance, in the previous example, you may have decided that swimming, bathing, etc. would be an ideal source of relaxation, and therefore you were going to develop an aquatic recreational center, complete with pools, saunas, steam baths and massage therapies. Your concept would be driven by a deeper understanding of water’s recuperative powers, research into its benefits, and the types of facilities that are best suited for supporting your objectives.

This is a great opportunity for invention, and you are encouraged to think of clever ways in which you can package conventional program elements to create new and exciting environments.

Deliverable: State your concept and intentions and the types of programs that support your objectives. Back them up with research on the program types and their relationship to your concept. Use images, illustrations and diagrams to supplement your proposals. It is also useful to provide examples of precedents that may apply to your particular proposal.

3) Site Selection:

Based on your analysis of problems and issues associated with the base, select an appropriate site. In some cases your site selection may be obvious, or even the source of the problem / issue that you have identified. In other cases, you will have to consider what kinds of criteria will need to be established to determine the viability and appropriateness of the site. This suggests that after you have selected potential sites that you will have to conduct a “mini” site analysis for each site.

For instance, is the site build able, is the access to the site convenient, are the natural conditions (sun, wind, water etc) supportive of your program?

Deliverables:

Using the base maps, circle the potential sites. Analyze each site based on the factors that you think are most important. Present an assessment of the results of your analysis. This can be done through drawings, maps, diagrams, charts etc.

4) Conceptual / Schematic Design

Develop some initial design proposals based on your ideas. These explorations can be very “sketchy” and loose. You can use modeling, graphics, computer collages, or material studies.

Deliverables: Models, collages, sketches etc.

5) Establishing Process / Schedule

Based on completing the above noted steps, assess the most appropriate process for developing the design of your project. Develop a schedule for the rest of the semester, which takes this into consideration. What are the target dates you are setting for yourself for each weekly pin-up? Once you set up this schedule, your reviewers will hold you to it each week.

Deliverable: A statement / description of your proposed process and an accompanying schedule.

Format:

With the exception of item #4, you are encouraged to format all of your work on 11 x 17 sheets or multiples thereof.