Assignment 4: Data Art Project

Title:

Toronto Dreamscape: Construction & Destruction

Group Members:

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Design Statement:

For this Data Art Project, we chose to represent the construction and destruction of buildings in Toronto which we achieved by making use of the information available on urbantoronto.ca and the toronto.ca websites. Our first step included scraping these websites by using Python. With the aid of Beautifulsoup and Selenium, we were able to get the details we needed such as the years the buildings were either constructed or destroyed. We were able to use the addresses to retrieve the respective latitudes and longitudes of the demolished buildings and the buildings being constructed though geopy and Nominatim.
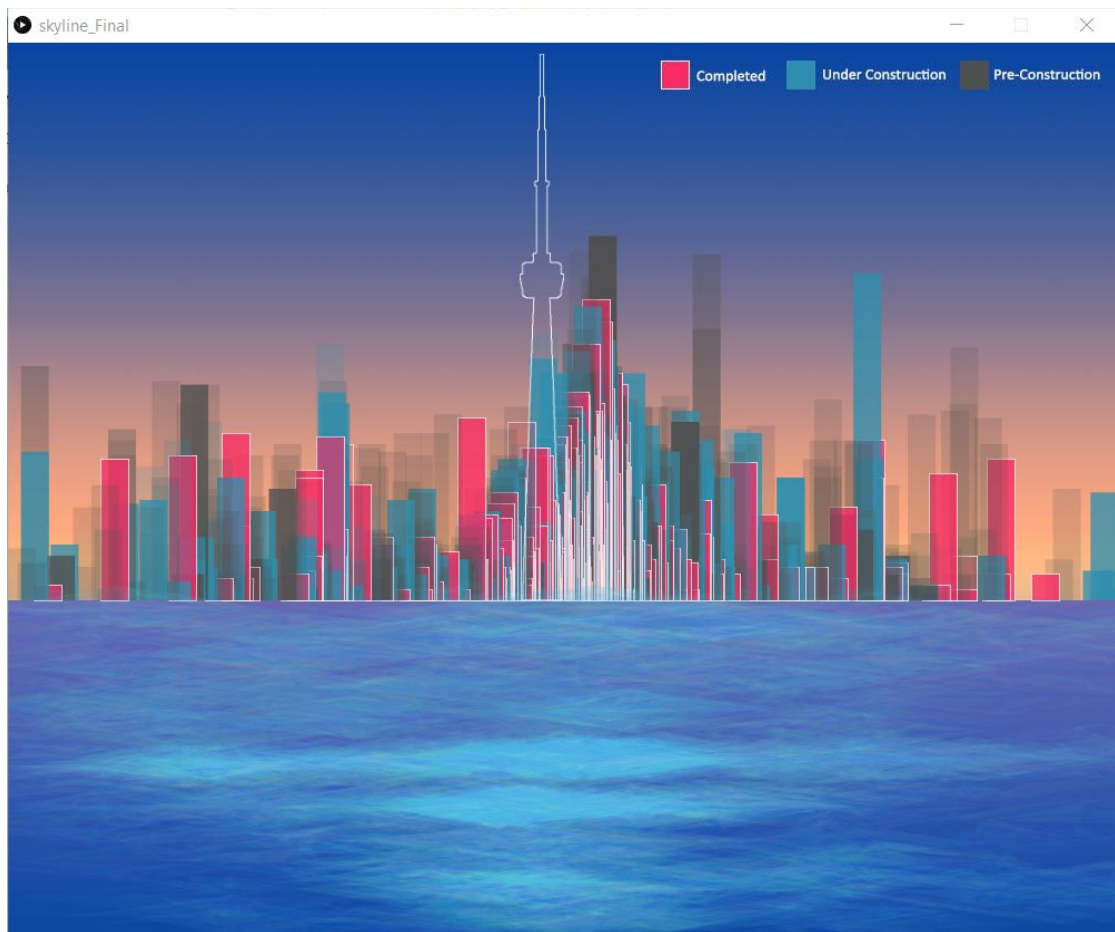

Figure 1: The final appearance on Processing

The rectangles represent the buildings present and future buildings while the lake is based on the demolition data (see Figure 1). The shapes with an outline represent the already completed buildings which make them align with the CN Tower. Those with a grayscale colour are buildings with the status "pre-construction". The assigned colours are based on the status of the building i.e. under construction, pre-construction, or completed. The alpha values of the shapes are based on the years of completion which we achieved by mapping the values and height is mapped relatively to the CN Tower. The movement of the lake, combining the colour schemes between white and mainly blue, is based on the "demolition" data. The brief animation relies on the longitude of the buildings and the dates the demolitions were completed. The blue lake itself is consisted of multiple warped star shapes, stretching and bending the coordinates of the vertex for further visual effects.

Our final vision was different compared to our original ideas from the proposal, as we initially planned to make use of Unfolding Map. Part of our motivation stemmed from the overzealous presence of construction in the city and rapidly changing skyline. The idea of "what could the city look like in the future" played a role in our process. Later on, we chose to implement the demolition aspect to show some contrasting information.

References

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