

Group Assignment

Sustainable Design?

The assignment is to be undertaken in groups of three to five. Technically speaking there are many ways to build cities and/or buildings that are energy efficient, or that are resource efficient. Are these designs sustainable?

One way to judge sustainability is to consider the project in its context. What are its consequences, intended or otherwise? How does it perform according to the three pillars of sustainability?

Find an example of architecture or urban planning, built in the last 10 years, that illustrates a unique solution to the problem of sustainability and analyze it according to the points below.

Results are to be presented in class using powerpoint. The chosen project can come from any field. Economics, sociology, political science, construction and design (architecture, planning, UTOPIA, and beyond) are all acceptable, however the analysis should be connected to the built environment in a direct way.

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Part One - Summary

Describe the topic and summarize with two or three sentences the main points. Use several sources (articles, videos, websites) to confirm the main points of the subject and to show all sides of the issue. **Make an effort to find opposing viewpoints.**

Part Two – Three Pillars (sustainability check)

Show the project from the perspective of the three pillars of sustainability

Report on whether the design fits into all three areas or is biased towards one side or another. Consider its pros and its cons and how it fits into the larger context. **What impact does the project have on its surroundings? On its users?**

Part Three - Impact

What are the consequences of the project on the area and the people who use it? Will the impact increase in the future? Some areas to consider include: what fields it might have an impact on, whether it is a move towards being “less bad”, whether it is scalable, appropriate for many countries or entirely local, etc. **Offer conclusions as to whether it is truly an example of sustainability and innovation, but be careful to support your conclusions with concrete examples**

Presentation

- 1.) 10 minute presentation using powerpoint or similar
- 2.) Essay - summarise information from presentation using no more than 2 pages (4 sides) of A4 paper

Due date

Essays and presentations will be due at the same time.
Groups will present at the beginning at each class starting from May 21. Order of presentations will be random.