LA 1201

Homework #1

Definition of Landscape as Ideology:

Meinig describes the concept of Landscape as Ideology as the physical appearance of a place or landscape portraying the philosophy and ideologies of the culture or group that surrounds and has direct influence on that landscape. The ideology encompassed by a landscape can be anything ranging from political and governmental ideology, to personal liberties and even power. When seeing a landscape in terms of Ideology, it implies that the certain beliefs imparted on that landscape are very important and that those ideas must be changed before changing the landscape.

If I were looking at Northrop Mall as someone who valued landscape as Ideology:

1. I would pay attention to the fact that there are stairs leading up to the entrance of the buildings of Northrop mall, symbolizing the ideology of higher education as you must rise to enter into the buildings to learn.
2. I would pay attention to the words engraved into the buildings of Northrop mall, particularly the this passage engraved on the façade of Northrop Auditorium:

The University of Minnesota

Founded in the faith that men are ennobled by understanding

Dedicated to the advancement of learning and the search for truth

Devoted to the instruction of youth and the welfare of the state

1. I would ignore the road the road and the light rail trains that pass by as they don’t reflect uniformly with the Ideology of the mall.

Definition of Landscape as Aesthetic:

Meinig describes the concept of Landscape as Aesthetic as the appearance of the landscape in terms of its actual appearance like shapes, colors, balance symmetry providing meaning in an artistic manner. Landscape when seen as aesthetic is in a sense mysterious and is as Meinig said “beyond science”, coming to us when creators of these landscapes try to push the boundary of the known and create new things.

If I were looking at Northrop Mall as someone who valued landscape as Aesthetic:

1. I would look the symmetry of the mall and building. The mall is fairly symmetric down the middle and the buildings themselves are too very symmetric. This may hold some meaning in an artistic sense.
2. I would ignore the function of the landscape, seeing doors stairs as aesthetic elements rather than functionally necessary elements of the building, evaluating their appearance only.
3. I would look at the design cues of the buildings, such as the columns, bricks and molding and evaluate them at an aesthetic level.