

Hidden Meanings

- Review "How to Dig Into the History of your Neighborhood," by Lauren Vespoli
 - You can decipher stories through the built environment
 - Neighborhoods that developed rapidly will most likely have houses of similar age and design
 - Areas that developed slowly will most likely have a mixed range of home ages and styles
 - A new building that is taller than all of its surroundings may indicate zoning changes
 - You can find more information on the built environment through Sanborn maps, building surveys, postcards, talking to former residents, etc.
- McKeldin Mall has "hidden meanings" and shows the intent of the designers
 - McKeldin Library and the Administration Building are the most important visually because of design intent
 - The rest of the building are covered by trees
 - Walking paths converge at the library
 - Both buildings have higher levels of decoration than the other academic buildings along the Mall
 - The library is at the top of the hill which makes it appear larger
 - Even though the library has seven floors, the windows on the outside make the library appear to be only three stories
 - This manipulation is intentional in order to match the style of neighboring buildings while also being larger in size
 - Design intent shows the importance of admissions and knowledge on the university campus
 - The sundial in the center of the Mall emphasizes the importance of time
 - The fountain is between the two buildings to demonstrate the importance of knowledge flowing between the student's admission to the university and time spent studying
- What aspects of the built environment are a part of design intent?
 - Locations and arrangement of buildings
 - Emphasis on buildings of importance
 - Level of decoration on structures
 - Architectural style
 - Cohesion of architectural elements
 - Specific architectural features (ex. Front porches)

Viewscapes

- Reading Review
 - Miller et al. "Scenic Assessment Methodology for Preserving Scenic Viewsheds of Virginia"
 - Scenic quality is often based on human perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of landforms, water characteristics, and vegetation patterns
 - Dyke et al. 2021 "Viewscapes and Soundscapes"
 - Viewscapes are critical for understanding Chaco Canyon- desire to see and be seen
 - Viewscapes important for long-distance interactions, intervisibility was important for reaching beyond community boundaries and making connections
- Class Discussion
 - Vocabulary
 - View- ability to see or be seen from a particular place
 - Landscape- the visible features of an area of land, its landforms, and how they integrate with natural or human-made features, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal
 - Watershed- the entire area that channels water into a specific body of water or waterway
 - Viewshed- the total geographic area visible from a location (360 degrees)
 - Viewscape- merges aspects of landscape and viewshed, but emphasizes the human connection to the visible part of the landscape. Viewscape is used to characterize what can be seen and how people connect to it.
 - Why are viewscapes important?
 - Viewscape quality is tied to mental health, physical health, and cognitive stimulus
 - Preservation of viewscapes can be important to our collective historical memory
 - Destruction can permanently damage impact the ability to study the roles of visibility and sound in past societies
 - What methods are used to preserve viewsheds/viewscapes?
 - Circle Maps
 - Digital image series
 - Video
 - Viewshed models

Soundscapes

- Reading Review
 - Mattern, Shannon. 2020. "Urban Auscultation; or, Perceiving the Action of the Heart: How we listen to the city is as important as what we are listening for."
 - Listening to the city at the macro scale, we can hear an "ecology of diverse lifeforms and resources and habitats."
 - Listening to the city at the micro scale we hear individual sounds that can seem different, alien, or dangerous to us.
 - Hearing helps us make sense of the urban environment around us and understand it as its own system of many parts.
 - Cities in the past were compared to the human body with sounds that resonate indicating its overall health.
- Class Discussion
 - Rhythmanalysis: a way of mediating urban perception with one's physical presence.
 - Resonance: Deep, full reverberation/echo
 - "Cities historically were compared to organic bodies, and many tools for sounding out the city were developed by first listening to ourselves. The human body is a resonance chamber whose particular sonic qualities can reveal its condition of well-being." -*Urban Auscultation; or, Perceiving the Action of the Heart*

Smellscapes

- Reading Review
 - Dennis Pogue's "Dung Repository" and Historic Trade's "Dung Repository"
 - Reconstruction of George Washington's 1787 Dung Repository at Mount Vernon
 - In a 4 year project, evidence from archaeology and historic documents were used to reconstruct the repository structure.
 - Both the original and reconstruction function to house and mix manure and plant compost to make fertilizer.
 - Kiechle 2016 "Odors at Historic Sites"
 - Re-odor = bringing the smellscapes of the past to historic sites today
 - To do so "requires thinking of historic spaces not only in terms of the rooms and buildings being preserved but also of historic environments . . . and daily practices" (24).

- Many of the odors of the past are not pleasant to us today, but we have to understand how the people who encountered the original smellscape every day would have reacted to and understood the odors.
- Preservationists must look to written, photograph, and material records to uncover the smells of the past.
- Class Discussion
 - Smellscape = everything that can be smelled in a space
 - Smells have meaning in a space.
 - Smell is the sense most closely linked to memory.
 - Odors in the world are not abstract but specific; they do not exist on their own but emanate from specific objects and practices to which the perception of these odors is culturally and historically tied.

Tastescapes and Touchscapes

- Reading Review
 - P. P. Ferguson 2011 “The Senses of Taste”
 - Taste can be a very intimate experience: you are literally consuming what you are sensing.
 - Sense of taste is very personal, but also determined by society.
 - What you were raised eating, what is socially acceptable to eat (and when), what the society you live in deems tasty or not.
 - *Gastronomy*, literally translated from Latin as “laws of the stomach” can be seen as more than food science, how the individual experience of taste connects to social order and social health.
 - Eating is more than the personal pleasure of good food or feeling full, it is also about the pleasurable social experience of sharing the table with others.
 - Both taste and the taster change over time: literally foods change (people are used to different tastes).
- Class Discussion
 - Tastescape = the subjective experience of an environment through the sense of taste
 - Touchscape/hapticscape = the subjective experience of an environment through the sense of touch
 - Forces that shape a tastescape (and how it changes over time):
 - Culture (including emigration and immigration)
 - Access to different types of food/ingredients

- Agriculture (both what is literally possible to grow and what farmers decide to grow)
- Climate (what can be grown there, kept fresh)
- Some sensations that shape a touch/hapticscape:
 - Texture and composition of the ground/walls/physical objects in the environment (including air)
 - Weather and humidity
 - Social connections (touching other people, other people touching you)

Phenomenology

- What are Phenomena?
- Who are they defined by?
- How are phenomena experienced?
- What is involved in their observation and interpretation?
- How can we study phenomena?
- Difference between subjective and objective