

4.104/Joel Turkel

M Mar 7

Assignment 8 – *Site and Program for Final Project*

Due: F Mar 11 @ 2pm

Program: Visiting Artists Residences and Workspace

The Arts program at MIT is under-funded and under-recognized by the Institute in general. It has been relegated to the less-than-desirable space in N51-N52 (much like undergraduate architecture...). It has a highly-respected reputation in the art world, but remains largely unknown within our own academic community. The prestige of the program has been fueled by renowned faculty members such as Krzysztof Wodiczko and Julia Scher, and has allowed us to attract a group of highly respected visiting artists. However, these visitors receive very little in terms of financial or living support from the Institute, and many are forced to billet with other artists, faculty, or graduate students while in residence here.

This project aims to establish a place for working and temporary occupation for a small group of visiting artists and scholars.

Successful proposals will consider and respond to these and other questions:

How can an architectural intervention, through its execution and position, raise awareness in the Institute of the need to focus more on art, the creation of art and on the significance of the artist in the community?

How can the needs of artists be met while respecting the ongoing Institute around us?

How can the intervention become woven into the existing fabric of our academic community?

Does the intervention take on social perspective, or alter our current social perspective?

Does the intervention have a component of exhibition, is it highly visible or transparent?

Is the intervention parasitic, pulling from existing fabric and infrastructure for support, or is it self-contained?

What is the manner of deployment? Is it a permanent construction, or a temporary one?

How can an architectural intervention respond to the needs of the program while addressing the political implications such an intervention would have?

Proposals should consider the following spatial needs and requirements and should suggest others that support the student's individual attitude toward site, program, and concept:

- Rooms for 10 visiting artists/scholars
- Working space to support a variety of artistic endeavors
- Capacity for Exhibition
- Communal gathering/living spaces
- Shared eating/food preparation areas
- All ancillary spaces deemed necessary

Designs should limit themselves to a maximum floor area of 4000 sf.

Sites:

Students are encouraged to visit all of the site options and consider each for his/her project. The site should be selected based on the student's own vision of how it may best support the conceptual development of his/her design:

The following choices have been pre-selected for their ability to provide interesting contextual possibility, a high level of visibility, or make for meaningful relations between program and community:

Site 1 - Faculty parking lot between building Buildings 3 and 5.

This site offers a uniquely visual location, in that it is used daily by senior faculty. It also has a close (albeit perhaps not yet explicitly physical connection), to the main buildings and Infinite Corridor. It suggests interventions necessarily above (or somehow critically removed) from the current prescribed use of the space which must be respected.

Site 2 - Slot between the Student Center and Dupont Athletic.

This site offers a very dense fabric to pull from, and is currently an under-utilized area with enormous potential for visibility. In that it is a relatively hidden site along a major route (Mass. Ave.), it is therefore one which could add immense impact to an intervention which properly exploits it.

Site 3 - Current location of the MIT Sailing Pavilion.

Students should consider this a vacant location for the purpose of this exercise. They are encouraged to investigate the nature of a location that is close to both water and zones of vehicular movement. The nature of a strongly linear site and of edge conditions should figure openly in any proposal. The nature of relative separation from the campus should also be explored/challenged by proposals.

Site 4 - Courtyard between MIT Medical and the Media Lab.

This is a highly visible setting, with an established landscaped component and a busy relationship with an outdoor segment of the Infinite Corridor. It allows for an integration of exhibition and use with pedestrian traffic and the nature of surrounding outdoor conditions.

Site 5 – Railway edge of the Metropolitan Storage Warehouse.

The exposed condition of this site offers a strong potential for impact. It benefits from a pronounced linear quality, and the mass and height of the Metropolitan warehouse adds suggestive verticality that could be exploited. The location at the very interface of campus and town, busy street and active rail line should suggest a series of challenging conditions for proposals.

In each case, proposals must aim to use the sites in a manner which will be considered serious interventions, and which do not destroy the current use or qualities of these established spaces, but rather add to them a new dimension of awareness of the art and artists in our midst.

Assignment:

After visiting each site and considering them in light of the building program, select the site you will use in the development of your final project.

Using massing methods and diagrammatic techniques employed in Assignment 7, prepare an analysis/massing study of the site chosen and of the building program.

Consider the programmatic elements on your chosen site, and create 3 options for massing arrangement at a small scale, perhaps 1"=20'.

These massing studies should be positioned in a sketch context model illustrating neighboring buildings, paths of pedestrian and vehicular traffic and any other external influences acting on the site you deem necessary.

Consider the site model as a small display into which your massing studies may be plugged for study, presentation, and critique.

This massing study and programmatic/site analysis should help you begin to develop a firm understanding of how your building will work in a given environment. Models should illustrate the following:

- Site relationships
- Building mass
- Program element organization
- Gross circulation

This assignment should be viewed in light of the next assignment, in which you will be asked to write a concept statement for your project. Use this assignment as an opportunity to consider and explore your conceptual attitudes toward the site and program. They need not be *known* at this stage, but rather should be uncovered/created through this *process* of working.

Sketch site models with 3 massing/organizational building studies are due in studio this Friday, March 11 at 2pm.