

University of British Columbia

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE TERM 1: 2008-2009**

**LARC 504**                      **Sustainable Urban Design Studio (9)**

*M W F 1400-1700*              *Landscape Architecture Studio*

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### **Assignment 1a - Analysis:**

The class will be divided into five teams evenly divided between architects and landscape architects. The main topics are as follows. In most cases there will be enough sub topics such that one or two people will be able to take responsibility for individual sub sections. However, the group must insure the existence of a central narrative theme or conclusion that joins the individual efforts. Each section must begin with a 100 word introduction which introduces the main themes of the analysis and conclude with a 200 word conclusion that re iterates and pulls together the main conclusions revealed in the analysis. Format templates will be provided. All students must use the same format to insure graphic cohesion at the end of the project.

*Maximum number of words per section: 1000.*

*Maximum number of pages per subsection: 6.*

### **Preliminary table of contents. DRAFT**

#### **Section 1. History**

Cultural Development

What were the original drivers for the development of Burnaby. What cultures and jobs predominated. How did the development of Burnaby here differ from adjacent Vancouver. What were the political developments in the area, unions etc.

Physical development. Chart the development of the industries that did or still occupy the area. Chart the development of the housing, civic, and commercial uses of the area. Chart the development of the road and infrastructure of the area. Identify the natural systems that were altered or used as the site developed.

Historical Building development. Chart the change in the building types and technologies over the decades. How do different buildings reflect different historical and cultural circumstance.

#### **Section 2. Public Policy**

Planning Policy

What are the current and long range plans for the areas in question.

Regional Plans

What is the impact of the regional plans on this district, regional transit plans, major roads network plans, economic development plans.

Provincial Policies

What influence will provincial policies such as the provincial green plan have on this district.

Regulations

What are the constraints and opportunities associated with various regulatory structures such as building codes, zoning restrictions, and

#### **Section 3. People.**

Demographics: age, family type, numbers, growth, income, trends in all these areas.

Work

Where do people work. Trends in job growth for the region for the area. What are the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and what kind of buildings will they be in. How close to arterials will they be. What kind of setting.

Commerce

Where do people shop, eat, hang out. How does existing form work and where are the conflicts. How does transit relate to shopping. What has been the influence both positive and negative of the bus only lane.

Living

Where and how do people live. What is the physical relationship between residential areas and other land uses. Relationship and pattern relative to schools.

#### **Section 4. Movement.**

Cars: How does Hastings street operate as a highway. As a local street. What percentage of trips on Hastings are city to city trips vs. inside Burnaby. Less than 3 KM. What is the long term vision for Hastings from Translink, from the Province. What are the tensions. What are the traffic counts for the street and how fast are they rising.

Walking: What percentage of all movement in the area is by foot and what kind of trip is it. How do school kids get to school and do they cross Hastings. What of elderly in neighbourhood, how and where do they walk. What is the network for walking and how does it differ from one demographic to the next. How does the walking community in Hastings differ from Vancouver, from the suburbs. What is the width and condition of the Hastings street sidewalk. Is it safe, attractive, inviting or disturbing.

Biking: What percentage of trips is by bike. What age groups use bikes. How far are they going. To work? To store? How safe is it. How well does the network accommodate bike trips.

Transit: What percentage of all trips are by transit. Of these how many are long trips, short trips. How many connect to other modes like the sky train or express busses. What is the trend for transit in the neighborhood, increasing use? Declining? What is the long term vision for transit on this corridor and who does it serve.

#### **Section 5. Buildings**

Neighbourhood Structure: How does the larger settlement of the region begin to assume more localized neighbourhood identities? Do neighbourhoods straddle Hastings Street? Are there any apparent enclaves with assertive external boundaries? Are there anomalies within the overall gridiron plan? Why do they exist?

Public Institutions: How are public institutions located in the area? How are issues of accessibility – both literal and symbolic – addressed in situation and form?

Building Typologies: Where specific building uses are found repeatedly, what different forms do they take? How do these forms relate to issues of density? of energy use? to the social aspects of the street and public realm?

Development Increments: What are the increments of property parcels that underlie the various building types observed? How have these changed over time?

Heritage: Are there specific buildings or precincts that have significant heritage value? What would be the criteria for making such an assessment?

#### **Section 6. Land**

##### **Geo Morphology**

What is the topography of the site and how has this influenced habitation. What forces contributed to the shape of the land and the resulting shape of the community. How has morphology shaped patterns of movement and commerce?

##### **Hydrology**

What is the rainfall characteristics of the site and how has this influenced the shape and function of the site. How does soil interact with site to produce drainage and stream form and function. What is the inherent habitat capability of the site and what remains of this capability. What challenges are in the way of restoration?

##### **Species**

What is the natural forest association for the site and what of this association still remains? What flora and fauna are on the site from that association and what has invaded? What is the role of the street tree in mitigating the loss of the forest for habitat, for drainage, for birds and insects?

#### **Section 7. Infrastructure.**

##### **Streets**

What is the basic dimensional diagram for the streets. How can you characterize the form, function and integrity of the street network. How well does it function for cars, busses, trucks, bikes, pedestrians, children, elderly. What paradigm does the street system represent. How are blocks and parcels configured and what does this say about the sustainability, equity and function of the district.

##### **Pipes**

What is the system of water and drainage for the community. Where are the sources and destinations for this system? What can be said about the vulnerability and

sustainability of this system. What plans exist for its upgrading? Does it have a combined sanitary and storm system? Are they slated for reconstruction? How much will it cost. Were alternatives considered? What is the status of the city's policies for green infrastructure, in particular with regard to storm drain systems?

#### Energy

How is energy delivered to the site. What is the predominant way that energy is used in buildings of the site. How has this changed. How might it. What are the demands made by buildings, by transportation, by industry, by commercial buildings. What city policies are in place to reduce energy demand. Where have they been implemented, with what success?