

Assignment 1 – Tunnel System Research/ Street System Research

Due Friday, September 13, 9am

Preliminary, Friday, September 6, 9am

This project will involve your investigation of the relationship between the Houston Downtown Tunnel System and the Downtown Pedestrian Street System. We are asked by Central Houston, Inc. to investigate this relationship and develop strategies in design to enhance both systems. For the first assignment you will:

Primary Assignment Objective:

- *To understand the physical construct of the downtown tunnel system*
- *To enable the student the opportunity to develop first impressions through documentation and initial analysis*
- *To establish a visual vocabulary of existing elements within the downtown district*

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

- 1) Investigate and consider all aspects of these two systems that you can come up with.
- 2) Look closely at the physical environment and use diagrams, sketches and photos to document it.
- 3) Document through a power point presentation (diagrams, sketches, photos, etc.) your interpretation of the two systems.

This is an initial impression. You will spend more time on this area, but are asked to express in graphic format your initial impressions.

Consider, but not limited to:

- Relationships above and below
- Scale
- Contextual issues
- Detailing
- Softscape (vegetation)
- Hardscape (man-made – pavers, street furnishings, etc)
- Existing Streetscape
- Traffic Flow
- Public Transportation
- Existing architectural features
- Underground built forms
- Escalators
- Modes of movement
- Links between spaces
- Edge conditions
- Horizontal and vertical relationships

SWOT Analysis – a SWOT analysis enables you to break down the particular area and analyze it from a specific approach

S – Strengths: those aspects or elements that you consider to contribute to the character of the designated area

W – Weaknesses: those aspects or elements that you consider to be a detriment to the character of the designated area

O – Opportunity: the larger elements that you believe will provide an opportunity for positive change to take place in your designated area

T – Threats: the elements that you believe inhibit the ability for an opportunity to be realized

WHAT YOU WILL TURN IN:

Produce a power point slide show for the studio which includes your visual analysis of the assignment. Look at it from every point of view you can imagine. In addition, use the SWOT analysis as your method of formatting.

FINAL DUE DATE: FRIDAY, September 13, 9am with prelim on Sept 6