

No. 2 – Urban Analysis

City of Houston

Due February 9, NOON – Note: Preliminary progress deadlines also apply.

Last assignment, you mapped the city based on template patterns you determined, created and expressed in a graphic format. In this assignment, you will consider your previous evaluation of the city as experience, and you will take on a new form of analysis. This analysis involves a series of method's for city form derived through the work of Kevin Lynch. The area of analysis will be confined to the downtown.

Assignment Objective:

- *To analyze downtown Houston through traditional urban design form as a method to lay a groundwork for the project site analysis.*
- *To develop an understanding of basic traditional methods for analyzing city form as a tool for advanced inquiry into potentially new urban design standards for the City of Houston.*
- *To develop a more advanced understanding of the complexities of a*

You all know of the book, “Image of the City” by Kevin Lynch – his work from five years of studying how users perceive and organize spatial information as they navigate the city. This exercise will ask you to evaluate the city macro – overall city boundaries defined by census data and the downtown as micro through Lynch’s five key elements:

- **Paths** – the streets, sidewalks, paths, trails and other channels by which people travel.
- **Edges** – perceived boundaries such as walks, buildings and shorelines.
- **Districts** – relatively large areas of the city distinguished by some identity or character.
- **Nodes** – focal points, intersections or foci
- **Landmarks** – readily identifiable objects which serve as reference points

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Look over your previous work and determine if this informs the way in which you have naturally viewed the city...your initial perception. Then look specifically at the city through the use of this single format of five key elements noted above.

WHAT YOU WILL TURN IN:

Develop in an 11x17 format (that can also be posted in pdf to your student folder), your analysis of the five key elements as they relate to the macro boundaries and the micro boundaries for the City of Houston. You will present your findings in studio on February 9.

On February 2, you will be divided into two teams. The two teams are as follows:

Team A:

Jason Ashe

Brinn Sustala

Daniel Takahashi

Team B:

William Copeland

Michael Driskill

PRELIMINARY DUE DATE: Friday, February 2, 9:00AM

We will review what you have posted to your folder on January 31 as well as any additional work you have accomplished.

FINAL DUE DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 10AM

The afternoon of this date will be spent at the site enabling you to address your site analysis assignment which will be provided to you on this date.