

**ASTRODOME HOUSTON
Redevelopment Studies**

**ASSIGNMENT 2 – Site Section Diagrams / Parti Study
Due September 19, 9am**

SITE SECTIONS

Establish two sections through the site extending 5 blocks from the outer edge of the site boundaries. Cut your sections N/S and W/E through the site area. Establish heights through google earth's 3-d layer based on your knowledge of the astrodome height. It is important to get an idea of the scale and height relationships between the site and: Reliant Stadium, Interstate, surrounding context (mostly multi-family housing and light commercial).

PARTI STUDIES

Develop three parti studies. These should be three initial conceptual ideas (you define how you do this but diagramming is a must in a parti). This is the initial point of idea making from pen to paper and concept to design. It is important to establish a basis for your design – this evolves from a parti. You will have an opportunity to re-establish this after you view the site and we will compare the two. The parti diagram is one that sparks your imagination – consider how this project can contribute to the city – think about the relationship between the existing astrodome and the new use. Once you establish three diagrams – then tie them to words – what few words represent the parti? Work to establish three parti's that have little or no relationship to each other. One may spark the idea for another, but it isn't three iterations of the same thing.

After you have established the parti – you need to go back to it and create a series of diagrams that help you to describe it. How this came about and what information you have gathered supports it.

You will essentially have three sets of studies. They are rudimentary in nature – they aren't intense detailed diagrams. They are similar to gesture drawing in art, in that they translate the idea with a few strokes of the pen. All of the great architects understand this well. Alvar Aalto was a master at this. So was Mario Botta. Ghery and Libeskind know it, Johnson knew it, so did Moore, but really if you look at any great designer, the beauty in their design stems from simple diagram – the parti.

PROGRAM STUDY

Gather the information you have at this point and begin to establish a framework for your program. We will work to get more information on space sizes for you, but you will need to use the drawings you have to establish estimated sizes of areas you consider capable of manipulation and those that remain static. This is only a starting point. You will work on a more detailed program following.

PONDERINGS

What is the relationship between Assn 1 and Assn 2?
How can the parti spark inspiration for the design process?
(you don't to answer these – that's why it's a 'pondering')