

ASTRODOME HOUSTON
Redevelopment – Comprehensive Design
Convention Hotel

Project Completion Date: FRIDAY, November 21, 2008
Final Review: December 3, 2008 – IN LUBBOCK

This semester, you are asked to explore the possibilities for the redevelopment of the Houston Astrodome. You have spent the past month exploring the urban context, diagramming a mapping system to help you understand movement, identifying case studies, reviewing the investment tax credit application, analyzing the site opportunities, investigating the context, exploring possibilities for a design parti and engaging the programming. It is now time to move the design process forward aggressively towards your final design solution.

THE QUESTIONS:

- How does the Astrodome serve the city as a structure?
- How does the site establish a connection to the existing city fabric?
- How does the building design establish its role within the site?
- How can the conversion of use contribute to the city? (stadium to convention hotel)
- How will the *new* Astrodome as a hotel attract national and international conventions?
- Is something missing? How does one fully utilize the space so that the new use is economically viable?

The student is evaluated based on completion of the project which represents a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the building. It is not enough to produce the required drawings. These drawings must reflect your understanding.

The building design is derived addressing five critical areas:

- 1) the understanding and representation of the Astrodome as a place within the city fabric.
- 2) the building's relationship to the site
- 3) the building's response to the defined position of historic intent
- 4) the new use and its role in the economic landscape of Houston
- 5) response to sustainable strategies (these strategies should support the building design)

These four areas are represented in a final building, site and context design expressed through the following outcomes:

OUTCOMES:

- An urban design solution with a clear understanding of the building, site and it's role in the urban fabric which includes: (ask yourself what role the Astrodome plays in the City of Houston)
 - Aerial Use Identification Maps (Existing Use and Proposed Use) – this means you are considering the area which surrounds the site and considering the potential changes which could take place based on the proposed building use (convention hotel)
 - Relationship diagrams representing a response to:
 - Connectivity expressed through movement:
 - Transportation – broader understanding along with access to site
 - Paths & Nodes (connectivity through city)
 - Figure Ground Density Studies: present and future projected figure ground study(studies) representing long-term impact of project site redevelopment

- Site Plan - Building/Site Relationship: All buildings clearly identified and labeled (future projected buildings should be included), circulation throughout the site clearly represented, basic site design (how is the space ultimately used? Green space vs. Hardscape), parking (must retain parking allotment required by current user)
 - NOTE: your site plan should be evolved through relationships both on site and beyond – meaning that your understanding of the city and the buildings relationship to it should be represented in your site plan. Include scale and north arrow
- A Comprehensive Building Design solution which is based upon the student's position in addressing the five critical areas noted above (in addition to the above noted urban design responses):
 - NOTE: Historic integrity of building – student determines validity and response to Investment Tax Credit materials provided – Student takes a position based on this information, establishes a design concept from this and the relationship of the building to site (urban relationships). Then based on this concept, develops a comprehensive building design solution.

The student will write the project program based on this position and the physical constraints identified through the existing structural components of the current Astrodome as noted in studio.

Exploration is encouraged. The student's position towards design must always convey intention. All decisions are made from a position of intention.

The building design solution must include:

- parti and conceptual drawings indicating birth and evolution of design ideas
- project statement (written statement which expresses your design intent).
- design objectives – individual design which will result in the accomplishment of the design goal (these may be expressed in written bullet point items) Best noted in bullet point. These objectives should represent your response to your design position
- design influences – (what was it that you learned in your research and conceptual diagramming that influenced your design parti/concept?) these may be represented through a set of words and case studies influenced by context, historical references as they relate to the building and/or city, materials, market influences, etc... - your design must evolve out of intention – without intention, no design exists
- program – identifying building use, space requirements, relationship studies
- pro-forma – based on generalities and intended to have student consider impact of design decisions on construction costs.
- study models – used to assist with design process
- computer models – used to assist with design process and spatial understanding
- floor plans – Schematic for the overall building plan, but from this you should select a segment of the building and establish detailed floor plans that relate to the overall schematic plan drawings. Label spaces and include scale along with north arrow
- elevations (key elevations with a minimum of (2)) – consider that these should include important entry points as well as important design elements.
- building sections (2) transverse and longitudinal at key points defined – must include items to convey sense of scale (people, objects of use, etc...)
- wall section – select two key areas critical to the design
- structural details (3 key elements)
- building structural diagram
- MEP diagram
- perspectives (character sketches) – site and building including interior. These should convey the experience of place – no less than four are required.

Work will be presented in the following formats:

- 1) 8 ½ x 11 inch landscape format booklet, unbound and clipped with binder clips on left edge. The bound document should be compiled in a proposal/presentation format. Consider that you would submit this to GHPA as your proposal without being present. This is typical for proposal submission and requires that you include text which helps to support the graphics provided in the proposal.
- 2) 3 – 24x36inch presentation sheets which will be pinned up during the review and used to support the student's presentation of work during final critique. Student must select from the body of work, which drawings best represent the overall design concept. Not all drawings required will fit on the 3 presentation sheets. The decision of which drawings to present represents the student's ability to determine the best way to present their design ideas.
- 3) 1 – 24x36 presentation sheet presenting student's Site Plan which includes:
 - a. Overall Master Plan of Site and Area including a smaller aerial orientation map identifying the site within the city.
 - b. Detailed Site Plan within site and including direct adjacencies.
- 4) 2 – cds of student drawings as follows:
 - a. 1 cd with all drawings at 150dpi and full size in jpeg format
 - b. 1 cd with drawings at between 3x4 and 6x8 format size in jpeg at 300dpi. These will be reserved for publication use.
 - c. In addition, all semester work must be submitted on a cd (multiple cds accepted) representative of all semester assignments.
- 5) Post to Student folder the following:
 - a. Booklet Proposal

Students name, course and semester must appear on booklet and final pin up materials.

Remember, going beyond the criteria – exploring beyond, representing beyond, expressing beyond are the merits of "A" design work. The "A" project indicates an expression and representation in design that exceeds normal expectations in the design studio. This is the expectation of your work.