

No. 2 – Research Data Gathering & Identification City of Houston

Due September 11, 9am – Note: Preliminary progress shown at Tuesday night crit. Must be posted to student folder by deadline. Bring this with you to Houston for your site visit. You will post this in the crit room on Sunday morning of our site visit.

In this next exercise, you will be gathering information that will be critical to defining the direction we take in our design research.

Tables, graphs, photos, text, relationship diagrams, site diagrams, aerials, sketch up modeling, etc... - All of these are the graphic tools you need to use to represent your collective work.

You will begin with basic research about several major cities in Texas. We want to get a basic understanding of the watersheds throughout the state and the storm drainage systems used and then relate those to the built environment and policies of each city.

PART A: - Matt, Jared R., Phillip, Henry

For each of the following cities: San Antonio, El Paso, Austin and Dallas you will do the following:

(We will divide these up between the studio: Matt, Jared, Phillip(Dallas), Henry).

- 1) Identify the watershed and its location in relation to the overall city.
- 2) Analyze the storm water system – what is it? How does it work? How well does it work? Projected upgrades, etc...
- 3) Identify rainfall amounts throughout the year and historically – try to understand how this relates to particular areas of the city based on current infrastructure.
- 4) Correspond this with topography of the local areas – identify flood prone areas and determine if there are obvious relationships to socio-economic differences, topographic elevations – gravity movement of water.
- 5) Relate flooding history the current built environment – how is it affected, the impact?

PART B: Tyler, Peter, Jarod

Tyler, Peter and Jarod F. will do this for Houston, but you must each send relevant information you have on this to them via the shared folder. And, in addition, the three of you will:

Identify the following:

What are the primary causes of flooding in Houston?

How does flooding relate to the physical development in Houston?

Identify design issues that must be addressed which impact the built environment as it relates to flooding.

Is it possible to see this as a resource? And if so, identify some potential ways in which this might be done.

Look at the city on a macro level and micro level for the following:

Within the context of addressing the issue of growth and flooding, what are the potential issues that need to be addressed? (think about the individual building as a design problem, the downtown and urban dense environment, the suburban environment and the city as a whole).

Consider the potential relationship the city has with water as a resource. How might we accommodate this?

What is the relevance of this as it relates to the making of buildings and the development of open space?

What are the key issues noted by the collective studio? Put these together in a presentation that can be printed out for pin up next week.

Next week, in addition to this assignment printed out, each of you will bring printed out, any relevant information you feel the group needs to consider for the City of Houston.

Remember, you are also graded on your ability to seek out information and bring it forward in our exploration.

PART C: - All Students.

In addition, each student must bring at least one case study from a city outside of Houston, that is a major city and that could be used to help us consider opportunities for addressing the issue in Houston.