

**No. 2 – Bayou/City Analysis**

**City of Houston**

**Due January 30, 9am – Preliminary deadline on January 23<sup>rd</sup> in studio.**

*Exploring the Bayou system in Houston is critical to understanding the city. There are 22 major watersheds which include the following – Creeks: Spring, Willow, Cypress, & Clear Creeks; Dams – Addicks & Barker Dams, River: San Jacinto River; Bayous: Buffalo, Brays, White Oak, Sims, Cedar, Carpenter, Jackson, Halls, Cow, Taylor, Greens, Vince, & Armond*

*This assignment will be integrated with the Project One Assignment to be distributed on January 23<sup>rd</sup> during your onsite visit to Houston.*

**Assignment Objective:**

- *To develop a general understanding of the bayou system through online resource analysis.*
- *Analyze downtown based on Lynch's five elements of urban form*
- *Begin to develop a 3d model of the bayou system relating to downtown Houston as a means for understanding its potential or existing impact on downtown.*

**WHAT YOU WILL TURN IN:**

**A power point presentation which has two components – Basic Research & Computer Model.**

**Basic Research:**

**Explore information about the watersheds and bayou system in Houston. In particular, develop an understanding of the relationship the bayou(s) has/have to downtown Houston and the potential impact for enhancing the public urban experience.**

**Case Studies:** Include in your presentation, a series of no less than 10 case studies which you feel most closely represent conditions reflective of Houston's conditions. These should be considered as important in helping you to understand potential for these systems.

**Lynch's Elements:**

**Analyze the city based on these five principles as they relate to downtown and the relationship the urban environment has with the bayou(s). Lynch notes, "Although clarity or legibility is by no means the only important property of a beautiful city, it is of special importance when considering environments at the urban scale of size, time and complexity. To understand this, we must consider not just the city as a thing in itself, but the city of being perceived by its inhabitants".<sup>1</sup>**

**As you identify these elements, you must present each within a micro and a macro study. Refer to our class discussion about this. Also, remember that within each element, there are 'scales of intensity' which should be reflected in your diagramming. Refer to the example given in class about the light rail system and the 'scales of intensity' as they vary for each transit stop.**

**Model:**

**Begin to develop a 3d model of the downtown/bayou system which you will use as an analysis tool in Project One and Two.**

**Lynch's:**

<http://www.arch.ttu.edu/courses/2009/spring/5202/>

**You are to work through**

**PRELIMINARY DUE DATES: WED / FRIDAY, JANUARY 21 (6pm) & 23 (10:30am)**

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<sup>1</sup> Lynch, Kevin, The Image of the City, Center for Urban Studies, MIT/Harvard, Cambridge, Ma., 1960, p.3.

The preliminary deadline is intended to serve as a work in progress crit. You must have your work minimized on your screen and prepared for an electronic desk crit. You will have 10 minutes to discuss your program followed by 10 minutes of discussion, then I will move on to the next student.

**FINAL DUE DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 30**

The following internet sites are intended as a general resource and do not cover all areas of research. At this point, you are not able to visit the City of Houston, so you must rely on the experience of the internet and library resources to gain an understanding of the city. This will later be compared to your impressions generated after your site visit.

**NOTE: Any images not created by you must be properly cited on image page. In addition, a resource sheet must be included as your final slide listing all resources cited.**

**Here is the Tip of the Iceberg in information useful to your research:**

<http://www.bayoupreservation.org/>

Non-profit organization promoting the protection of Houston's bayou ways.

<http://www.buffalobayou.org/>

Buffalo Bayou Partnership is responsible for the coordination of all redevelopment of the Buffalo Bayou area and addresses primarily greenbelt issues.

<http://www.buffalobayou.org/parks.html>

proposed for future development

<http://www.runbayou.com/Bayou%20City.htm#Buffalo%20Bayou>

This is actually a running group's website, but it has a quick, concise orientation of the bayous that impact Houston.

[http://backpacking-trips.suite101.com/article.cfm/hiking\\_the\\_bayou\\_trails\\_in\\_houston\\_texas](http://backpacking-trips.suite101.com/article.cfm/hiking_the_bayou_trails_in_houston_texas)

Hiking the bayou in Houston

<http://www.downtownhouston.org/en/art/?8>

Great images after Hurricane Ike of Buffalo Bayou

<http://www.ireport.com/docs/DOC-85051>

Quick video of white oak at buffalo during ike – click on the image.

<http://www.ireport.com/docs/DOC-85051>

Harris County report addressing Buffalo and White Oak bayous – these have the greatest impact on downtown Houston

<http://www.hcfcd.org/trailsnbayous.html>

A must to understanding long term goals for the bayou ways.

[www.houstonarchitecture.info/](http://www.houstonarchitecture.info/)

Houston Architecture – look at the forums section because there is a great deal of dialog here and it is all categorized.

[http://www.uli.org/~media/Documents/ResearchAndPublications/Magazines/UrbanLand/2008/October/UL\\_08\\_10\\_Sheridan3.ashx](http://www.uli.org/~media/Documents/ResearchAndPublications/Magazines/UrbanLand/2008/October/UL_08_10_Sheridan3.ashx)

Downtown Houston Article in Urban Land Institute, 2008