DUE: 3rd Week
1 Essay (3 PG Minimum, APA), 1 Conceptual Model and 1 Drawing

1. Research Mapping, Narrative and Organization

ESSAY: PRE-DESIGN RESEARCH- topic Selection / Critical Position

Develop and use a consistent format throughout the Research Document. Provide references and document sources for all information cited using the American Psychological Association (APA) format…

INTENT: This quarter will amount to the production of a project trajectory and text w/graphic illustrations compiled into a final research document. First, we will work to define a basic direction for your thesis, and then establish a clear research essay for moving into architectural design. Graphic representation and visual thinking are to be seen as integral, critical, and creative extensions of your process (occurring alongside), as well as heuristic devices that help to communicate your work to others. Although many possible design methodologies exist, the integration of previous architectural studies is very important. You will need to start self-organizing and solidify your own project schedule in order to map out the quarter’s deliverables.

DESCRIPTION: The Research Essay will act as a brief history, problem and thesis statement outlining your topic for future readers. Here you will establish a design rationale with clear goals, concise outcomes, and objectives formulated from a well-educated critical position. Imagine this as a framework for containing a philosophical world-view, of which both your research and design project will carry forward. Remember to remain porous, dig deeply into sources, and be aware of both the evolving and subjective nature of a design thesis. Understand, that while your critical position informs an investigative effort based on your personal beliefs, goals, and a clear rationale, that knowledge may also be gained through informal sources and common sense. Developing a strong background for your topic and evidence of it, as being directly acted upon in space, i.e., occurring within the built environment and affecting the study of architectural history … becomes paramount.

FORMAT: 3-page (minimum) written essay containing the following:

- Introduction with a general description and background for the research topic and project. This should be a critical, cited, and a concise history of an issue related to the built environment.
- Rationale or explanation outlining your basic goals and objectives in undertaking this work and why it applies to the study of architecture. This should point towards feasible cases of which you plan to study / apply specifics further.
- Critical position from which you will develop the project, describing your particular view or a perspective you plan to examine. This should begin to unveil your personal interest and anchor clear design ambitions / future professional pursuits.
- Outline of how social, environmental, technical and aesthetic objectives inform your critical position and research methodology. This should include a well-researched perspective that will act as an ever-growing survey of material for shaping your thesis arguments (begin constructing an review of literature here – 5-sources).
- Discussion of evaluation criteria to review your design as well as the research document contents relative to your topic’s core statements (please list in bullets): Problem Statement, Critical Position, Thesis Statement.

MODEL / DRAWING: PRE-DESIGN IMAGE- Visual thinking concerning your Critical Position

What are the visual consequences of your textual research? What actors, agents, vernaculars, materials and spaces are at play?

INTENT: This exercise is meant to expand as well as synthesize your thesis’s system of inquiry as it relates to visual learning. By way of thinking through making, work loosely to explore as well as refine your critical position, problem statement, potential case studies, and much more; the philosophical underpinnings of a specific issue/interest. This is your first chance to employ your design thinking toolkit, so please work to evoke a highly analytic visualization and/or a gestural representation that can help others grasp the nature of your research. Focus directly upon the core issues that have inspired you to start this project, and explore how you might establish a broader way of thinking; promote differing views.

FORMAT: 1- Physical Model & 1-Drawing, which will serve as analogues; depicting events, motifs, actors / agents, issues, materials, structures, etc. . . .