

## ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STUDIO V

### PHASE I: PRE-DESIGN

#### TASK I: PRECEDENT RESEARCH

[I]t was not 'copying' when Le Corbusier, probably the most inventive of twentieth-century architects, drew on his extensive travels through Greece, Italy and Turkey to develop architectural ideas informed by his analysis of monasteries, ancient villas and troglodyte houses. It is not 'copying' either when Zaha Hadid seeks to subvert orthodoxy by distorting the regular orthogonal geometries by which buildings have been ordered since time immemorial. Both evolutionary development and contradictory revolution depend on understanding what has gone before.

Simon Unwin  
*Analyzing Architecture*, 2014

Your first task is to better understand the nature of the monastery. You will accomplish this assignment in small groups, each of which will be assigned one of the following topics to research.

1: Case Study: **Monastery of Sainte Marie de La Tourette**  
Le Corbusier  
Lyons, France

2: Case Study: **Monastery of Our Lady of Novy Dvur**  
John Pawson  
Czech Republic

Case Study: **Oka Cistercian Monastery**  
Pierre Thibault  
Saint-Jean-de-Matha (north of Montreal), Quebec, Canada

3: Case Study: **Monastery for Cistercian Nuns on Tautra**  
Jensen & Skodvin  
Tautra Island, Norway

Case Study: **Water-Moon Monastery** (along with the architect's other Buddhist monasteries)  
Kris Yao Artech  
Taipei, Taiwan

4: **Study of Daily Ritual**  
What does a monk or nun do on a daily basis? What are their daily rituals? How do they live their lives and use the spaces they inhabit? How has this changed over time?

5: **Study of the Cistercians**  
What sets this monastic group apart from others? Historically, what were the qualities of this order? What did they do within the community? What did they produce? How did they approach spirituality? What was the quality of their architecture?

This process involves **ANALYSIS**. Remember this word. You are not finding information and slapping it on a sheet. You are finding information, breaking it down into useful elements, and recreating these elements graphically to facilitate understanding. Any analysis you do must focus on the critical components of that project or topic; what does it have to teach you? In a typical architectural case study, the lessons to be studied may include formal organization, alternative construction systems, assembly processes, structural systems, materiality and space, means of occupation, programmatic relationships, texture and other non-visual stimuli, incorporation of light and air, relationship to the natural environment and other contextual drivers, relationship to the groundplane, conceptual ideas (partis), ordering systems, circulation and movement, architectural detailing, etc. Which of these are important in your case? What can you learn from this project or topic that will help you to shape your design work later in the semester? How can you draw this information out and not only understand it, but also convey it to your classmates?

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Your research investigation will require you to utilize a variety of available resources. The KSU library system website has an excellent interface for searching for journals or articles. As you begin your research, please keep the following thoughts in mind:

### PAUL WEIGEL LIBRARY

For additional assistance with library research please visit the Paul Weigel Library of Architecture, Planning & Design. Our librarian, if you have not met her already, is Maxine Ganske. Her email address is [mlganske@k-state.edu](mailto:mlganske@k-state.edu) and her hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Maxine is ready and willing to help you with your research, so please do not let the office walls behind the circulation desk stop you from visiting her and asking for her assistance.

- 1: There are a series of tools that could be useful in your search, including the Avery Index, Google Scholar, the library's general search engine, Amazon.com, etc. Please make sure you are using a variety of resources to ensure that you are finding all of the credible sources available. Do not, under any circumstances, just choose the first items you can find. Take a bit of time and find articles/books that interest you the most and that contain the best information possible.
- 2: The most important thing in doing these searches can be putting in the right search phrases, words, etc.
- 3: Web resources can be easy to find and access, but many (most) are not scholarly sources. Anyone can write anything they want on their blog, truthful or not, backed up with research or not. If your bibliography at the end of this project contains primarily web resources, you have likely not researched properly. This lack of effort will be reflected in the evaluation of your work for the semester.
- 4: Keep close track of your sources as everything you have found from external sources will need to be properly cited. It can be very difficult to go back later and try to figure out where a quote came from. Keep good records of your sources from the beginning. It will make your life much easier at the end of the semester when your time will be precious.
- 5: Many sources you find in the library will have to come from other places around the state or country. Therefore, you need to start your search for materials **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** to ensure that you will have the materials you need when the research actually starts.

We will use the Chicago Manual of Style for our citations in this course. All written material utilized from outside sources, either directly as quotations or paraphrased, must be cited properly. All found images and drawings must also be cited properly. In your written sections, you will use end notes for citation. In your presentation, please indicate citations of both text and images as appropriate. **For a basic understanding of the Chicago Manual formatting, please see: <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>.**

Your final presentation of this Task will be an 11x17, landscape formatted, multi-page pdf. You will present digitally in class on the day the assignment is due. You will turn in a hard copy of the presentation in class and will submit a pdf to Canvas by the end of the day on the day it is due. Your presentations should be clear, concise, and graphically sophisticated. The drawings and diagrams used to convey your analysis can be done via computer or by hand, but need to comprehensively explain the lessons offered. In addition to proper citations, you should include at the end of your presentation a reference list of all of your sources, a significant portion of which should be books or journal articles.

### TASK II: SITE, CONTEXT, AND ZONING ANALYSIS

Your second task is to better understand the nature of the place at **the immediate, intermediate, and larger scales**. For this task, you will again work in groups. Each group will be responsible for researching one of the following categories with respect to our project site. All of the same notes about analysis outlined in Task I can be applied in this assignment as well.

Always design a thing by considering it in its next larger context - a chair in a room, a room in a house, a house in an environment, an environment in a city plan.

Eliel Saarinen

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### 1: Zoning and Site Analysis

What are the governmental regulations on our site that will impact how and where you can design your project? How is our project affected by the zoning of the surrounding properties? Draw/diagram the site and document all existing conditions (trees, sidewalks, buildings, utilities, overhead conditions like power lines, low-lying areas, etc.). What is the topographic change on the site? What is the quality and nature of the existing vegetation?

### 2: Contextual Analysis

Clearly outline transportation (road types, public transportation, etc.), program of surrounding properties (out at least two blocks in each direction), the architectural scale and qualities of the neighborhood, and the socio-economic qualities of the neighborhood. What impact do the surrounding programs potentially have on your project? How do people use the existing site? What groups of people are generally on and around the site? What other elements of the context could affect our project? How so?

### 3: Environmental Analysis

What specific impact do sun, wind, light, rain, and other environmental conditions have on this particular piece of land? Be exact in your understanding (i.e. use specific sun angles and calculations). What impact does the primary orientation of the site have on these conditions, especially solar gain? What parts of the site are more ideal than others for different parts of our program? Are there any issues with flooding on the site, or other odd conditions? What are the requirements of this region for insulating buildings and interior spaces from the elements? What are the best practices? Where is the frost line? What is our hardiness region? What passive or active mechanical systems are appropriate for this place?

### 4: Sacred Space Analysis

How does our project fit into the larger contextual systems of religious buildings/sites/projects in and around our site? What are the surrounding religious entities? When were they founded and what is their history? What do they do for the community (outside of the obvious)? What are the potential connections between those programs and ours? Interviews with individuals associated with these institutions could prove to be valuable tools as well.

### 5: Building Code Analysis

What impact will the International Building Code have on our project? Identify all critical areas of the code that will be necessary for our project dealing with occupancy, exiting, construction type, height, plumbing fixtures, etc. and use them to develop a code "cheat sheet" for use in the design phase of the project.

For all of these categories, do not just give us information. You have to tell us the information and then explain how that information has the potential to impact our project. Again, you have to analyze, not just document.

Your final presentation of this Task will be an 11x17, landscape formatted, multi-page pdf. You will present digitally in class on the day the assignment is due. You will turn in a hard copy of the presentation in class and will submit a pdf along with any pertinent digital files to Canvas by the end of the day on the day it is due. Your presentations should be clear, concise, and graphically sophisticated. The drawings, diagrams, maps, etc. used to convey your analysis need to comprehensively explain the lessons offered and should be of high quality. This analysis will be directly used by every member of the class during the design process. Although you will likely have far fewer references than in the first task, make sure you properly cite any found material.