

AFTER-CITY BALTIMORE

Urban Design Studio: Shrinking Cities

Step two: Mapping

In this second step, you will be asked to select a topic to investigate in the context of Baltimore, and propose a series of original mappings. The five issues to be investigated will include both subjects and objects, as well as the linkages between them.

Your presentation to the studio should be 1 30x40 board based on your understanding of the topic, material, argument, and meaning of the work.

1. Energy Space:

Environmental issues/potential re-development of the city. Public Safety/issues of land pollution. Multinational interest/Public interest. Questions of Regeneration. Questions of remediation. Scales of intervention. Natural vs. human environment. Correcting for past mistakes.

2. Vacancy as Value:

Questions of Demolition-centricity. Questions of 'negative space'. Perception and experience of vacancy and value in the city. Questions of Void and the city. Unbuilt and built. Space and appropriation. Questions of 'void strategies.' Agents and agencies confronting vacancy. The house as a vessel of vacancy.

3. Logistic Space:

Spaces of Production: "big boxes" for multinational companies, location and typology. Logistics and connexions. Material / Immaterial Infrastructures and Flows: Roads, Highway, Railway, Airports and Harbors (cargo and passengers), movement and transits of people and goods. Major capital investments and investors.

4. Liminal Space:

Territorial dis-junctures. Liminal zones. Administrative Spaces, mind spaces, social spaces, ethnic spaces, geographic spaces: Divisions, borders, buildings and markers, boundary lines. Perceptions and realities. The structure and space of power. Spatial meaning.

5. Centrality:

Re-definition of notion of centrality, poly-centrality, public space, and communal space: Shopping malls, recreational parks, office parks, thematic parks. Actors and actions reinforcing or diminishing centrality. "Design" and centrality.