

AFTER-CITY BALTIMORE

Urban Design Studio: Shrinking Cities

Step Three: Development Strategy

In this third step, students will be asked to select a site of investigation in relation with your research topic. Students will first identify the core issue(s) at hand in relation with their topic/site, then take positions regarding these issues before responding with a Development Strategy solution. Ultimately, each Development Strategy proposal will be evaluated relative to the core positions established earlier.

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.