# The built field is not a solo act!





# What does it mean that the built field is not a solo act?

# **The built field is the result of distributed work** (All designing is partial)

# The built environment is never finished

(We always add to what is there, and set the stage for others who follow)

# But you may ask, isn't distributed design a subject for schools of management?!



What do these ideas have to do with architecture and studio education?

**1.Studios are central to design education everywhere...** 

2.Studios are where the masterapprentice approach to design special buildings still dominates...



The reason I want to discuss this is because of my view that the quality of the commons - the everyday built environment - is too important to leave to the old model of studio education.





The old studio model is very good ifor some kinds of teaching and learning, and should not be abandoned.

# BUT

The studio model is not good for building transferrable skills.

Unlike in structural design classes...

Or in environmental systems classes...

Where are cooperative design skills taught...skills good for use in many circumstances?

# We need design exercises to help us do a better job making the built field bloom...





# Kinds of Exercises

based on a concept of levels, as for example:

**Urban Structure** Urban Planning Urban Design **Base Building** Infill Furnishings

**Urban** Designer Architect **Interior Architect Product Designer** 



# **Kinds of Exercises**

- **Documenting** environmental themes, patterns and systems
- Taking account of how environment transforms;
- Revealing many actors;
- Designing constraints for others to follow, and to follow constraints set by others;

# **The Street Space Exercises**

Bern, Switzerland

- Studying precedents as one basis for designing;
- Documenting themes
- •Selecting constraints we want to emulate.



## **Kinds of Constraints**

- 1. Ways of building
- 2. Defining Territories
- 3. Sharing territory
- 4. The street façade as part of the urban tissue
- 5. Thinking in section
- 6. Entries



## Themes

Diagrams were Made to capture the basic themes of the Bernese arcade typology



Students were given adjacent sites in a city where we would explore variations on the Bernese theme.

# **Explorations**





Another graduate studio: An urban design studio focuse<mark>d on a new</mark> academic quad on the Ball State campus, using collectiv<mark>ely developed</mark> "form-based codes" to guide each student's scheme.

# The Academic Village

Studies of Form Based Codes and architecture in the University context

# **Goals of the Study**

First, we studied the Ball State Campus for its history, context, patterns and themes - open space, building types, functions and so on.



We also compared the campus with other university campuses.



# We also studied issues of Sustainable and "green" architecture and technology.

#### sustainability

#### greenroofs& green roofs

The cost of installing a greencoof ranges from \$15-540 per square foot, and maintenence costs are usually included in the original budget. The osl substrate and chosen plant types incur the greenset cut. Though the initial greencoof costs are greater than those of a tackfloreal root (the ability of a greencoof to extend the life of the root by at least 20 years and to reduce energy usage cause root lifespen costs of a greenroot to be comparable to those of a conventional root. Additionally, greenroot's control-lister water runoff and reduce carbon decide impact on the environment.



#### church street station evanstan, illinois

multi-family residential roof area: 8,500 sq ft

an "escape" from the builte of the city improved view for neighboring buildings

#### schwab rehab hospital chicago, illinois



healthcare facility roof area: 10,000 sq ft

> accessible for patients horticulture therapy aids patient recovery

#### millenium park - soldier field - chicago, illinois





public-accessible park roof area: 1,067,220 sq ft 239,560 sq ft

covers unsightly parking garage

#### green roofs: white roofs

White roofs, by nature of their color, can reflect up to 80% of the such energy. Traditional black roofs can reach a temperature of 180° Cm a summy windings day - heat which can then be translowed into the building. White and light colored roofs tend to last longer than conventional black roofs at their high reflectinity properties prevent the continuous expansion and contraction that goes with guest temperature shifts.





# **Form Based Codes**

# Next, we developed FORM BASED CODES.

These "CODES" were developed by a consensus process. Ball State University Front/Back Diagram



Building front defines the sides of building which must appropriately address the adjacent space as a building front. Building back provides the frameworkin which one can locate service entries, but is not obligated to.

### The Academic Village Studies of Form Based Codes and

architecture in the University context

A plan and cross section of part of the new campus development area, showing the massing concept for new buildings and public space.

### East Quadrangle Open Space Plan

#### Overall Scheme

rcial and residential spaces.

The new academic guad will have an identity unique from other areas of the Ball State campus. Due to the Integration of classroom, commerical, and research space, it is important for the open space among the proposed structures to facilitate open interaction between differenent unctions within the guad.

still maintaining street level access. This grade change also provides a visual distinction between the academic center of the guad and





#### East Quadrangle Open Space Plan

### The Academic Village Studies of Form Based Codes and architecture in the University context



#### Vertical Transition [1]

The transition space between the business school and the science building is part of a major axis that terminates at the research tower. This space will be a grand entry into the academic plaza at the top of the grade change.

In order to allow all users to equally appreciate this space, a ramp will be incorportated into the sisps to create an interesting merging of the two paths of travel. This type of staircase was accomplished by Rem Koelhaas in the lineis institue off-choology Student Canteg, noted in the photos below.

# details of some of the public spaces...



Aerial view of staircase



Perspective from Martin St.







Images of Koolhaas staircase from University of Waterloo

Cross sections showing maximum and minimum building bulk and the required floor-to-floor dimensions all buildings would follow.





Seven different projects sharing common themes





#### d. Sustainability





 Lighting studies were conducted to ensure the accuracy of sunshading devices of th facade such as louver systems, translucent glass, and neighboring balconies

Operable windows controlled by users of the space allow for natural ventilation to - baccomodate the comforts of the individual resident

 A band of opaque, operable windows is maintaned throughout all windows in each unit

 These windows are located just above head height allowing for wind to enter through lower windows circulate the space and exit the building

- There are green roofs located on top of each building
   Reduces heating and cooling loads due to temperature regulation
   Alleviates storm water draining directly into the system
  - Suppresses carbon in the atmosphere; introduces fresh oxygen

#### e. Facade

- Exterior materials consist of brick on the bottom third of the building and a metal panel system on the top two - thirds

 Anywhere the two aforementioned materials come together the metal panel system overlaps the brick giving sense of "old meets the new" (see band of tim for the windows located above the woman's head in the perspectives)
This overlapping of materials runs congruently with my concept of the site; the idea of many layers merging at this one particular point or inhabiting the in between (i.e. town + gown relationship or university + village overlap)

- High panels of translucent glass filter out harsh sunlight giving adequate daylight no matter the time of year

#### f. Capacity to Accomodate Various Scenarios

 To the right is a possible layout for a dormitory building with the same structural grid and center atrium as an ordering element



### **Another scheme**

Kendall / Teaching Architecture Students to Work with Distributed Design

h. Compliance with "form-based codes



g. The form based codes established an approximate floor to floor height of 12'-14' for a three story structure resulting in a maxmimum building height restrication of 44.

- This rule was broken due to a lack of housing density created on the site due to the orientation of the buildings resulting in a height of 57° from the street level to the top of the corner towers
- The rules established for building footprints compromised in a manner conducive to its overarching goals
  - The general rules for setbacks and sightlines were followed except the 2 large housing chunks were divided into four buildings

These buildings remain joined by sub grade parking as suggested by the rules













## Graduate Student work – a base building for a 1.2 million sq ft project on the University of Chicago Medical Center campus / Fall 2009



Capacity studies of two floors of the base building showing not only capacity for health care functions but other uses as well. I advocate that clients ask their service providers for such studies.



<sup>4</sup>th floor capacity #1 clinical/research

7th floor capacity #1 clinical/research



convention center



Mapping the functions and adjacencies for the OBGYN Department – a part of the fit-out programming exercise, independent of the base building.



### Patient circulation





7Th floor plan, birthing center



The fit-out scheme for the labor and delivery department, done in the last 4 weeks of last semester. This team did their fit-out scheme in the base building designed by another team...

Students do not easily accept the idea that designing constraints for others to use is challenging and creative.

Students understand constraints or rules as things to be pushed or broken, to find their limits, rather than to find out what they offer and enable.



# But eventually, students found that working with constraints did not suppress good design!



At an open building workshop I taught at the University of Pretoria

Constraints are always embedded in socio/political situations.

It's important to find ways to give students opportunities to both **make and use** constraints. That is, to be both leaders and followers,. and to know when to do both...







Because students will find that they cannot always impose their own values on others, they need methods -design methods - that enable them to help those they work with reach agreement under quite variable conditions of practice.

because built environment is about change and transformation as much as about permanence.

## WE NEED DESIGN SKILL EXERISES

because we are not soloists...

LET US RECOGNIZE CHANGE AND DISTRIBUTED CONTROL AND LEARN TO WORK WITH THESE FACTS OF LIFE......





**Built environment results from many actions by many agents over time...** 

