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11.307 Beijing Urban Design Studio
Spring 2008

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Beijing Urban Design Studio
Tsinghua University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
June/July 2008
Assignment #1

The first assignment is to understand the site as thoroughly as possible in a short time. The intention is to know the site as well as you might know your own back yard at home. In order to do this we have selected six areas of the site, and will gather information about each area to share with the other teams. Each team is to study one of these areas and make a presentation Friday starting at 2pm. Presentations should be about 20 minutes, lively, give a lot of information, conclusions, thoughts about how to use the area and not cause anyone to go to sleep!

On Tuesday morning at 8:30 we will leave for the site in a bus and spend the day there gathering information. We will first be shown a film of the history and future ideas for the site by the owners. This is followed by a trip up the mountain to have an overview of the site and then lunch. After lunch we will travel throughout the total site by bus and then separate into teams to study your area. Each team will have a representative from the client to help you understand the area. Please be careful, it is a dangerous site and some areas are not to be visited, including three of the furnaces, the electric plant and the housing area to the south.

For each area, the following topics should be researched and presented. Of course the importance of the topics will be varied for each site.

- A. Automobile streets and intensities
- B. Texture of street patterns ... the framework of the area.
- C. Parking issues
- D. People movement
- E. Railroad lines.
- F. Types of housing and locations
- G. Historic buildings and areas.
- H. Heights of buildings
- I. Conditions
- J. Densities
- K. Types of shopping and locations
- L. Major meeting places

M. Nearby major public buildings, historic structures or monuments
N. Sounds, sights, smells, water, views, trees....

Area 1 Big Hot Lake

This is the south part of the site and also includes a small area to the East.

Area 2 Long Narrow Strip

An area North of the Big Hot Lake of mixed uses.

Area 3 Furnace # 4 and area around structure

One of the largest structures on the site that might be reused

Area 4 Workers Housing

Area of housing and mixed uses

Area 5 Little Hot Lake and area to South

A smaller cooling lake and areas around the lake

Area 6 Temple Mountain

An area of historic temples, buildings to be saved and natural green area.

For each presentation please prepare both Power Point and drawings, diagrams, photos (what ever is needed) which can be viewed on wall. This is not just only presenting information but more importantly, conclusions from what you have seen. At the end of each presentation please prepare three disks to give to Jan, Dennis and Jie.

Presentations will start on time at 2pm in location to be announced.