

**11.328J/4.240J: URBAN DESIGN SKILLS  
OBSERVING, INTERPRETING & REPRESENTING THE CITY**

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**ASSIGNMENT THREE  
Representing The City**

**PART A – CASE STUDIES**

Examples of innovative best practices are important learning tools. In preparation for the mixed-use project, groups of three will research and present one such example.

- Purpose:** To research examples of good mixed-use urban housing development. To understand the physical characteristics of best practice cases.
- Task:** Each group will select one urban housing cases and present them to the class. Be sure to include, if applicable:
- 1) Project Type
  - 2) Special Features and General Description
  - 3) Planning Process and Financing
  - 4) Design/Construction
  - 5) Images
  - 6) Site Information, including:
    - a) Site area in acres (% buildings, % roads/parking % open space)  
Total # of dwelling units.  
Density (units per acre).  
Total # of parking spaces (broken into on and off street).
  - 7) What you gained from the experience – for example:
    - a) Relation to natural features, resources, site sensitivity.
    - b) Regional and local context of the development.
    - c) Organization and structure (scale, pattern, density, variety).
    - d) Circulation for vehicles and pedestrians (access, size, traffic volume).
    - e) Building size, type and style.
    - f) Land and building maintenance (upkeep, cost).
    - g) Social equity (diversity, manipulative, safety).
    - h) Cultural and historical impacts.
- Deliverables:** Powerpoint or web presentation (15 minutes).  
One page of written description.

Sources: Urban Land Institute (ULI) case files.  
*Urban Land*, the ULI magazine.  
Actual sites in the Boston area.  
*Builder* magazine.  
HUD examples (<http://www.hud.gov/whatworks/>)  
Public Housing Best Practices (<http://www.uic.edu/aa/cdc/AHDC/website/>)