

EXERCISE 1: PRECEDENT PROJECT

Studying landscape architecture precedent helps your design development from concept to construction. Using precedent also lends authority to your design by associating your proposal to something else (often something considered successful or compelling).

A precedent may be:

- A person, place, or thing that serves as a role model.
- An idea, process, or design that is established by long practice and agreement.
- Another person's comments and actions that are used to inform and justify your own design decision-making.

You might use Central Park, NY; Main Street Greenville, SC; Table Rock State Park; or your Grandma's back yard for precedent. Almost anything can serve as precedent. When selecting precedent, match your choice in precedent to the goals of your design. You may also select precedent for the purpose of shaping your design intent and goals.

Most designer's have a personal connection or interest in the precedents they choose. This is why precedent doesn't have to be popular or famous, just meaningful. Precedent can consist of ordinary, commonplace examples like the local park or vernacular landscape. Likewise, grand philosophical ideas and built (and unbuilt) award-winning landscapes can serve as precedent.

During design, you may mash-up several precedents into a big idea or apply a single precedent to a specific purpose. Remember, do not copy precedent. Instead, use your precedent(s) as an inspirational design concept or scheme. Also, remember that each place is unique. Therefore, precedent from one place should be translated to fit another place.

Goals:

The purpose of the Precedent Project is:

- to learn about the value of precedent to designers
- to practice studying precedent for the purpose of informing design
- to use precedent to develop design concepts and goals
- to use precedent as means to reaching goals and achieving design resolution
- to use a matrix to compare precedents and develop common themes

Procedures:

Part A

- ☐ **Select as your first precedent a landscape that inspires you.** This landscape can be small or large, personal or popular. It's up to you. It just needs to be personal and meaningful to you. Your selection should:
 - **Be local.** You will need to visit the site safely.
 - **Be different.** Pick a different place than your favorite place.
 - **Be education.** Select a landscape that has an educational component like a school, amphitheater, sports facility, park, or outdoor classroom.
- ☐ **Conduct a precedent study** of your inspirational landscape. Here is a basic process for your study:
 - **Go to the site remotely.** Collect background and inspirational elements. This might include web-based pictures, stories, and such.
 - **Create a digital precedent folder** containing all of your elements and evidence.
 - **Summarize your findings** in your sketchbook.
 - **Go to the site in-person.** Collect evidence and examples of what inspires you. This includes photos, sketches, drawings, poems, and other things you collect or create. Use your sketchbook for field notes and careful observations.
 - **Scan your work and add it** to your digital precedent folder.
 - Review your sketchbook and digital folder. Think about the place and what about it inspires you. How could it serve as precedent for you? **Write your thoughts and reflections in your sketchbook.** As a part of your reflection, **make a list of the most important themes and elements of the landscape.** For example, maybe your site was a private place that emphasized wildlife and water. You should list out 3-5 major themes/elements. *Note: You will use your reflections in Part C below.*

Part B

- ☐ **Spark Page Story.** Turn your reflection, notes, pictures, and other content into a Spark Page story using the templates provided. You will add to this story in the follow parts.
- ☐ **Post** your Spark Page.
- ☐ **Present** according to schedule.

DUE: SEPT. 10 _____

Part C

- ☐ **Select two award-winning projects** to use as precedent. You will be studying these projects remotely.
- ☐ **Your search criteria for these two landscapes include:**

- Your reflections and the major themes/elements from your sketchbook in Part 1. You need to select projects that have some or all of the themes/elements you found in your first precedent above. Using common criteria among precedents will make it easier for you to make comparisons and draw conclusions.
 - Choose a precedent project with an educational element like the ones in your first precedent.
- **The two projects must be selected from the lists of projects featured on these weblinks.**
- You may pick and choose from different websites.
- <https://www.asla.org/individualaward.aspx?id=4244>
 - <https://tclf.org/places/whats-out-there>
 - <https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs>
 - <http://www.sustainablesites.org/projects>
 - <https://www.asla.org/sustainablelandscapes/index.html>
- **Conduct a remote precedent study** for each of your two award winning projects. Here is a basic process to use for your studies:
- **Create a digital precedent folder** for containing all of your elements and evidence.
 - **Collect background and inspirational elements.** Begin with the websites above. These websites will present a lot of information about each project. This will get you started on your precedent study.
 - **Go beyond.** The websites above are a good start but you will need to go beyond these websites to really learn about and from your precedent. Conduct a broader web search on the web for more information and images.
 - **Use the library.** Use the Clemson Library system to search for more information about your two landscapes. Here is the link to the Gunnin Art and Architecture Library <https://libraries.clemson.edu/facility/gunnin/>. Here is a link to a research guide. <https://clemson.libguides.com/landscape> From the guide, go to the Key Article Databases. A good database to use for your precedent studies is the *Avery Index to Architecture Periodicals*.
 - **Visit the designer or firm's homepage.** What more can you learn about your precedent project from the website of the designer...? Browse the website. Pay special attention to the mission statement, values, and portfolio.
 - **Important note:** Makes sure you are consistent with what you look at for both of your two projects. And, what you look at in these two precedents should also relate to your first precedent project in part 1.

Part D

- ☐ **Add to your Spark Page Story.** Turn your reflection, notes, pictures, and other content into a Spark Page story using the templates provided. You will add this to the story you started earlier and complete it in the following parts.
- ☐ **Post** your Spark Page.
- ☐ **Present** according to schedule.

DUE: OCT. 22

Part E

- ☐ **Create a matrix** that has your criteria from earlier parts listed on one side and your three precedent projects on the other side. Use your sketchbook.
- ☐ **Use this matrix to compare your places based upon the themes, elements, and other criteria.**
- ☐ In the margins around the matrix or at the bottom of the page, **include your summary and conclusions.**
- ☐ Finally, **create a list of design suggestions and ideas** based off your matrix and precedent studies.

Part F

- ☐ **Complete your Adobe Spark Page.**
- ☐ Make sure that you **use design to create a rhythm and sense of consistency** between your three precedent studies.
- ☐ Here is **a written outline** for your Spark Page (you do not need to use the headings):
 - Introduction including:
 - What is Design Precedent? Why do designers need precedent?
 - Provide an overview of your three places
 - Discuss your design criteria (themes and elements, common threads).
 - Personal Place Precedent
 - Award Winning Precedent 1
 - Award Winning Precedent 2
 - Matrix and Precedent Comparison including Design Suggestions
 - Conclusion and Lessons Learned

Part G

- ☐ **Post** your Spark Page.
- ☐ **Present** according to schedule.

DUE: NOV. 24

Schedule:

Sept. 10	Parts A-B/Present B
Oct. 22	Parts C-D/Present D
Nov. 24	Parts E-G/Present G