



LARC 1520: Basic Design II

Project 3: Thresholds

Professors Browning and Pearson
Spring 2021

Project Due Date: Monday, March 8th (170 points)

This project is about understanding thresholds and gateways. These elements mark a transition in the landscape, whether subtle or complex. Your goal is to create a threshold experience that incorporates design principles and is suited to the personality of your site, its user, and scale. As part of this project, you will begin to understand to role of context in site design and how to complete a site analysis.

Project Calendar:

Date	Day	Topic Covered	Assignments
Week 7			
15-Feb	Mon.	Project 2 Presentation	
17-Feb	Weds.	Project 3 Introduction	Site Analysis Reading
19-Feb	Fri.		
Week 8			
22-Feb	Mon.		
24-Feb	Weds.		Site Analysis and topographic model complete. Begin precedent study. Threshold Reading and ?s
26-Feb	Fri.		Precedent study complete. Begin conceptual design
Week 9			
1-Mar	Mon.		
3-Mar	Weds.		Laser Cutter Tutorial; Axonometric Drawing Lecture
5-Mar	Fri.		Case Study and Concept Pinups; Begin final drawings and model
Week 10			
8-Mar	Mon.		
10-Mar	Weds.	Project 3 Presentations	
12-Mar	Fri.	Project 3 Presentations	

Step 1: Basemap and Topographic Model Creation

Read Ch 6. "Site Design Process," in *Anatomy of a Park: Essentials of Recreation Area Planning and Design* by Donald Molnar and "Site Data and Analysis," in *Site Planning and Design Handbook* by Thomas Russ.

Watch the tutorial "Creating a Basemap" on canvas. Prepare a basemap of your site at a scale of 1" = 20' on a 24 x 36 sheet of paper. Be sure to include a title, your name, a north arrow, and a graphic scale. Label features as appropriate. Also include an aerial and topo lines.

Create a topo model for your site using the topo lines from your Cad file and a laser cutter. Laser cutters are available for student use in the Digital Design Shop and

Materials lab which is located in Lee Hall 1, Room 264. Watch the laser cutter instructional videos available to you on canvas. The scale of your model should be 1" = 20' as well. The dimensions of your topographical map should be 15" x 25" or 300 x 500 feet.

Step 2: Site Inventory and Analysis

The first step to any planning project is understanding your site and its contextual conditions. As landscape architects, we want to make informed decisions, and this step is critical to making smart choices. For this assignment, you will collect information on the cultural and biological conditions of your site and create a site inventory map along with a user study diagram. You will then use this information to create an opportunities and constraints map that illustrates your findings.

Data that you should collect as part of your site inventory and analysis should include (but is not limited to):

1. Community profile: Who uses the site? List all potential users. What are their needs?
2. Hydrology: How does water move through the site? Are there catch basins on the site? If so, where are they located?
3. Soils: What soil types exist on the site?
4. Topography
5. Microclimate information (wind, sun, shade etc.)
6. Existing Conditions (noise, barriers, ecological etc.)
7. Circulation/Access Points: Create a circulation diagram where you monitor user circulation and traffic at peak periods during the day. How are people moving across the site? What are the major circulation patterns?
8. Surrounding programmatic uses: What are the programmatic elements surrounding your site (buildings and what happens in them)? Look at Clemson planning documents as well. Are there buildings/programmatic elements that are planned for the future that you should be aware of?
9. Views/Areas in need of screening
10. Points of Interest

Final Drawings for this step include:

1. Site Inventory Map
2. User Study Diagram
 - a. This is a field study map where you document how people use the site. Create a map of the space and track people's movement and activity through the space (this can be hand drawn, though I recommend taking a printed aerial of the park with you (it will make your life easier!)). Where are the main circulation routes? What types of seating are available and where do people sit? Where do people stop to converse? How does the design of the space impact people's behavior? Are there any flaws? What recommendations would you make?
3. Opportunities and Constraints Map
 - a. Based on your site inventory map, analyze the information you have gathered and create an opportunities and constraints map. All

elements should be categorized as either an opportunity (pro) or constraint (con).

Step 3: Precedent Study

Read Ch. 6 "Thresholds" from *Form and Fabric in Landscape Architecture: A Visual Introduction* by Catherine Dee. Answer the questions associated with this reading. Submit via canvas.

You will then critique three entry features. On the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) website, go to the Honors and Awards page (<https://www.asla.org/individualaward.aspx?id=4244>) From these projects (you can select any year) choose three projects that include entry features that appeal to you. Create a series of slides that illustrate why you think the entry features you selected are noteworthy and how it can relate to our site/your project. Be sure to include pictures and basic information about the project (e.g. name of design, designer, year awarded etc.).

Step 4: Gateway Conceptual Development

Start by developing three thresholds for your site. You will select one concept to refine.

Final Products

1. Site Inventory
2. User Study Diagram
3. Opportunities and Constraints Map
4. Precedent Study
5. Illustrative Master Plan
6. Section Drawing
7. Axonometric Drawing
8. Topo Model (threshold only, gateway not included)

Step 5: Presentation

**All plans should include a title, labeled features, legend, north arrow, and graphic scale. Plans can either be drafted by hand or created on the computer. Utilize APA style for in-text citations and references.

General Checklist

- Do you have a concept statement?
- Do all of your drawings have a title?
- Does your masterplan have a legend, north arrow, and graphic scale?
- Does your section include a graphic scale?
- Are all program elements and features labeled on your plan and section? If you were not present, would I be able to understand all of the elements of your design? Are there indicators, such as road names, creek names etc. that can provide context and can help me locate your plan? (Label, label, label!)
- Have you checked for spelling and grammar mistakes?