

California State Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo Architecture Department  
Fifth Year Design 2008 - 2009: Stannard  
*Architecture + Nature*

### **Project Abstracts**

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Here is the information/evidence required for this quarter's series of abstracts. There will be several required. Revised abstracts will be required at all designated due dates AND at all reviews.

#### **Address all of the following questions.....**

**What...** is the project/issue that you would like to pursue?

**Why.....** is it important? It will be important to pick a project/topic/issue/critical position that you are passionate about and that will sustain your interest. Strategically, it also enhances a project if it engages a larger societal issue, is part of a design competition, or similar.

**Where...** is it sited (multiple site possibilities initially may be best so we can consider the possibilities)?

**Who.....** is it serving (which population[s])?

#### ***Abstract Contents***

You will submit a series of serious 500-700 word maximum abstract presenting your thesis proposal. A typical academic abstract includes the following:

- Purpose/rationale for the project. A thesis is more than just another project...there must be some philosophical underpinning.
- Project objectives.....what do you propose to achieve?
- Expected results.
- Conclusions and implications.
- Bibliography of sources. Cast a wide net....books, periodicals, websites, etc. It will not be sufficient to rely on only one source. Look beyond the ordinary; read poetry as well as prose.

Depending upon the quality of the abstract, you may be asked to revise and resubmit.

All abstracts should be illustrated (cite the source of all illustrations).

*Note: do not write abstracts in the first person [see handouts for sample structure and voice].*

### **Essential Issues:**

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#### **Place:**

- Natural and human influenced history.
- Location, context, cultural background information, photos, characteristics, flora and fauna, etc.
- Vicinity context maps, aerial photos, site photos, neighborhood context photos, etc.
- Site/context analysis: climate, topography, patterns of use and movement, sense qualities, existing plans, etc.

#### **People:**

• User/client info. Tell us about the people. Who? How many? How do they get there and move around? Who else lives in the community (social context)?

#### **Program:**

- Sizes, performance goals, adjacencies, materials, code issues, [HOTFEAT], etc.

#### **Precedents:**

- Influencing and inspirational projects etc. (especially useful to illustrate key points).

In each version of your "book," you will be asked to include a specified number of precedents with accompanying illustrations.

#### **Sources:**

- Complete annotated bibliography of references, books, articles, websites, etc.

#### **Illustrations and Graphic Design**

• Communication through the strategic use of images will be essential. The images you choose and use should support your argument (and not get in the way of reading or interpreting the text). Good graphic design has the power to carry subtle messages that, when effectively employed, can be more powerful than words. Caution: don't over-illustrate; be selective; be strategic.