

LA 4/589 Winter 2022: The Oregon Sequence

THE FERRY STREET VILLAGE LANDSCAPE MEMORIAL

CRN 22777/22778 - Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00pm-4:50pm in LA 308 Lawrence Hall

Instructor: Ignacio López Busón, ilopezbu@uoregon.edu (Office Lawrence 311)



Storm King Wavefield (2007)
Maya Lin Studio

“I’ve tended to create works on the edges and boundaries of places.... I always knew that I wanted [...] a field that literally, when you were in it, you became lost inside it.”

— Maya Lin

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A memorial site is inherently a complex place that interweaves objectivity and subjectivity. A memorial is built to honor the past (a person, a community, an event, a place) but also to invoke thought and reflection towards the future. When developed as a public space, a memorial should both engage with the collective (aiming for inclusivity and unity) and connect with the individual (respecting diversity and triggering introspection). Furthermore, in an era of climate crisis, a memorial that uses landscape as its primary medium poses a critical opportunity for ecological development and environmental regeneration.

Because of its sensitive nature, the design of a memorial implies the combination of art, science, and design to articulate a diversity of stakeholders, perspectives, and realities that often conflict with each other. For landscape architects to face such a challenge, we need tools and methods from different disciplines to be able to embrace complexity and design for uncertainty.

This studio will focus on designing a memorial site to honor the history of Lane County’s first Black neighborhood, the Ferry Street Village. The students will aim to develop a site-specific and thought-provoking proposal by combining analog modeling techniques and digital design tools to evaluate the environmental, social and ecological performance of their design throughout time.



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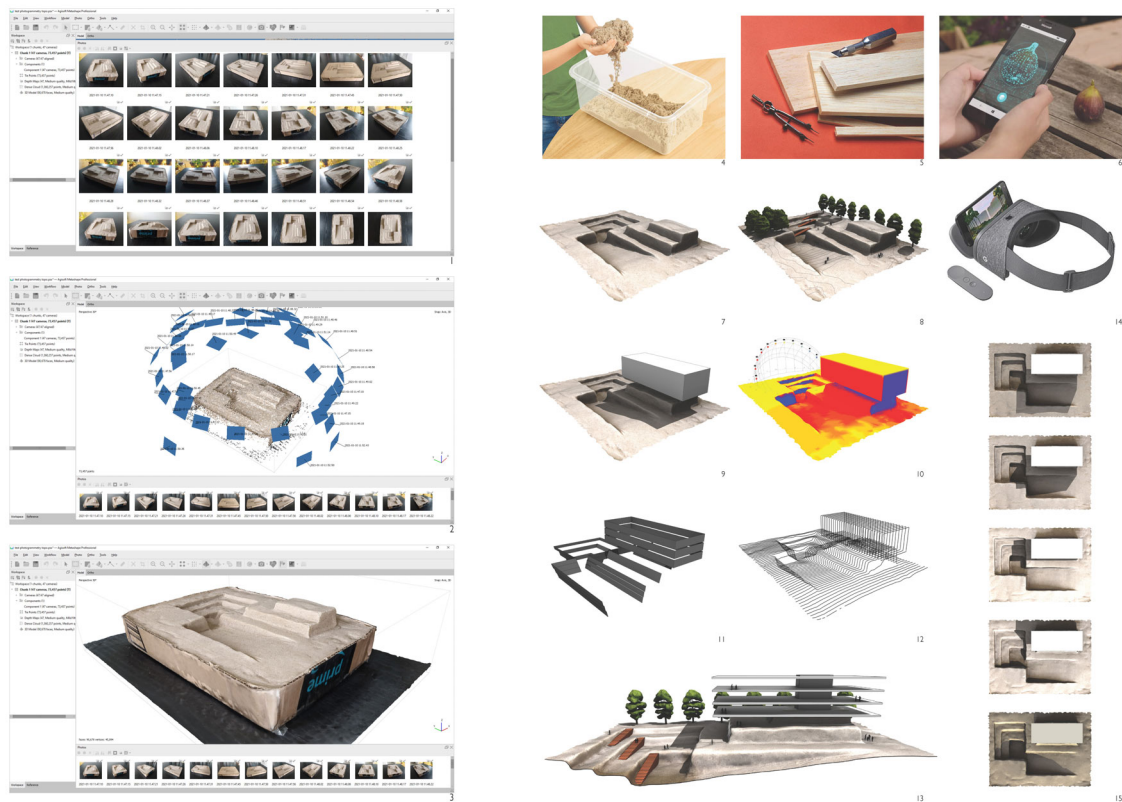
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METHODS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This studio introduces a methodology that combines physical and digital model-making techniques for landscape design. This proposal provides the students with a toolkit to: build quick initial physical models of their projects, use their phones to photo-scan those models and automatically generate 3d "digital twins" in their laptops, use design software to measure and analyze them, and overall create an efficient design back-and-forth between the physical and the digital, thus facilitating creative exploration and experimentation.

The possibilities of this methodology are multi-fold. As teachers, reviewing physical/digital models instead of isolated images gives us a broader perspective of the project's progress. From a student's point of view, they will be exposed to a workflow that covers topics critical to understanding the AEC industry's present and future (3d scanning, BIM, parametric design, environmental simulations), but without missing the creative potential of more intuitive design approaches. Physical and 3d modeling shouldn't cancel each other; they are both means to a common end: meaningful landscape architecture.

The images below illustrate the proposed analog-digital workflow, from scanning the kinetic sand model to the analysis and visualization of the digital 3D model (all images produced by the instructor).



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OREGON SEQUENCE CONTEXT:

This is the second studio of the Oregon Sequence, a three-quarter sequence spanning the 4/589 studio series. Designed to build upon the design skills and techniques introduced in the LA 289 and LA 4/539 series and to prepare students for the advanced LA 4/594 studio as well as their capstone projects, the Oregon Sequence explores a thematic and/or geographic focus for an academic year across a breadth of scales, allowing the student to explore each scale in depth over the course of a quarter. The Fall quarter studio focuses on contextualization; the Winter quarter studio focuses on site design, and the Spring studio focuses on design detailing (replacing and relocating the LA 4/589 Tech Studio). Each studio within the Oregon Sequence will build upon the work in the previous studio, so that information developed in the Fall and Winter studios inform the work in Winter and Spring studios, respectively. The Oregon Sequence is for those students who are interested in pursuing a thematic and/or geographic focus for more than one quarter.

The Winter studio is for those students who want to build their skills in site analysis and site design with greater emphasis on the latter. As the second studio within the Oregon Sequence, this studio will build on the work of the Fall 2021 Studio “Ferry Street Village” to engage with the sites that have been identified as potential landscapes for a memorial design.

Students are not required to have taken the Fall Oregon Sequence studio in order to take the Winter Oregon Sequence studio, nor are students required to take the Spring Oregon Sequence studio after the Winter Oregon Sequence studio.

However, students are advised to take the Winter Oregon Sequence studio if they want to be part of the Spring Oregon Sequence. Please, contact the instructor if you are not taking the Fall and Winter studios and are interested in participating in the Spring course.

STUDIO CONTEXT:

From Mark Eischeid’s OR Sequence Fall Studio syllabus: “The focus of the studio is the Ferry Street Village in Eugene, a primarily African American community extant during the first half of the 20th century. Formal and informal mechanisms of systemic and cultural racism forced African American residents to create their own community outside of Eugene’s city limits. The community was razed by Lane County on August 24, 1949 to construct the Ferry Street Bridge (Coburg Avenue). On Feb. 2, 2021, the Lane County Board of Commissioners resolved to acknowledge the destruction of Lane County’s first Black neighborhood and memorialize the history of the Ferry Street Village. This year’s Oregon Sequence aims to celebrate the Ferry Street Village community and spatialize its history in the landscape.”

While the Fall quarter concentrated on understanding the community’s history, contextualizing it amongst other Black Landscapes (cf Boone), and examining precedents for memorialization, **the Winter quarter will focus on the site analysis and design of the Ferry Street Village’s memorial.**



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COURSE STRUCTURE AND DELIVERABLES:

The course will be structured in five main phases to be detailed in the course calendar:

1. Introduction to Analog and Digital Methods (1 week)
2. Research, Mapping and Site Analysis (2 weeks)
3. Land Forms (2 weeks)
4. Digital Scanning and Evaluation (2 weeks)
5. Emergence and Social Engagement (2 weeks)
6. Documentation and Presentation (2 weeks)

Each phase will start with an introductory lecture to describe the goals, methods and expectations. The rest of the time will be used for specific workflow tutorials and desk-crits. The students are expected to work continuously on their projects and be ready to present their progress on every class. Every tutorial and lecture in class will be recorded and uploaded online to be accessible to all students.

Students will work individually for the entire studio. Each student will generate a presentation at the end of each phase to show their progress. The final presentation and deliverable will consist of three main boards (24"x36") documenting the students' research, design process and final outcome.

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE:

Although the studio's first design phase is related to physical modeling, the use of digital design tools will be a critical part of this course. Agisoft Metashape will be used to digitize the physical models and export them to a 3D modeling software. McNeel Rhinoceros and Grasshopper are the recommended 3D programs for the further editing, analysis and visualization of the proposal. Prior knowledge of Grasshopper is not required and it will be introduced as part of the course. The Adobe Suite will be used for additional diagrams, collages and layouts for the presentations and final boards.

Please, have the following software ready to use before the start of the course:

- **Rhino 6.0 or 7.0**
Free 90-day trial. Download at <https://www.rhino3d.com/>
- **Agisoft Metashape Standard Edition**
Free 30-day trial. **Please, wait until the beginning of the term to install it.**
Download at <https://www.agisoft.com/downloads/installer/>
- **Adobe Suite**
Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign. Subscription model.
Download at: <https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/buy/students.html>



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MATERIAL REQUISITES:

To experiment with a more hands-on approach to the design of the memorial site, this studio will rely on the use of physical models at the beginning of the design process, with an emphasis on kinetic sand for the development of topographic forms. These models will eventually be digitized using photogrammetry and further edited and analyzed in the computer using 3D modeling software (Rhino 6 or 7).

There is a minimum course fee of USD 20 to purchase specific infrastructure related to photogrammetry that will be available in the studio space to all students.

In addition, students should anticipate to cover the cost of all the materials needed to build their physical models (**around USD 80**). The main costs will be related to the purchase of:

- around 15-20 lbs of Kinetic Sand
- the purchase (or construction) of containers to serve as a base for the different iterations of the model
- some balsa wood or foam sheets to recreate the urban context around the site
- physical model figurines of different scales

Please, contact the instructor if you have any questions related to this.



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