



PHASE 3 PROJECT (PARTI): *The House for Sources*

STARTS Monday 19 September

DUE Friday 14 October at 2:15PM (Review with Prem Chandavarkar and guests)

PROGRAM “The House of Sources” is an institution that offers a focused support structure to help people find their vocation through hearing their calling. About half the students will live on the premises in a residency that lasts up to six weeks, and the others live elsewhere and visit on a daily basis. Developing the space program will be a part of the studio effort, and this will determine the mix of residents to day-scholars.

There are three teachers, who do not live on the premises, but live close enough that they can walk to *The House of Sources* at any time of day or night. Each of these teachers is a wise and multi-faceted individual who is capable of doing many things, but each one of them focuses on a specific area of counselling the students. Therefore, these three teachers are respectively known as “the teacher of the senses”, “the teacher of knowing”, and “the teacher of love”.

The overall aim of the design will be to evoke a sense of realms that are beyond the ordinary and terrestrial, and that is how each student will recognize both the source of the voice that calls them, as well as the message the voice is conveying.

The spaces of *The House of Sources* will contain spaces for living and spaces for learning, and will be made up three realms:

- 1) **The Residential Realm:** Each student will get a private room, but bathrooms, cooking spaces, eating spaces and gathering/recreational spaces will be shared by all. The residential realm could also contain gathering spaces for the day-scholars during the time that they are there.
- 2) **The Learning Realm:** This must contain spaces for all types of learning – that is through bodily action, thinking, as well as relationships. Accordingly,

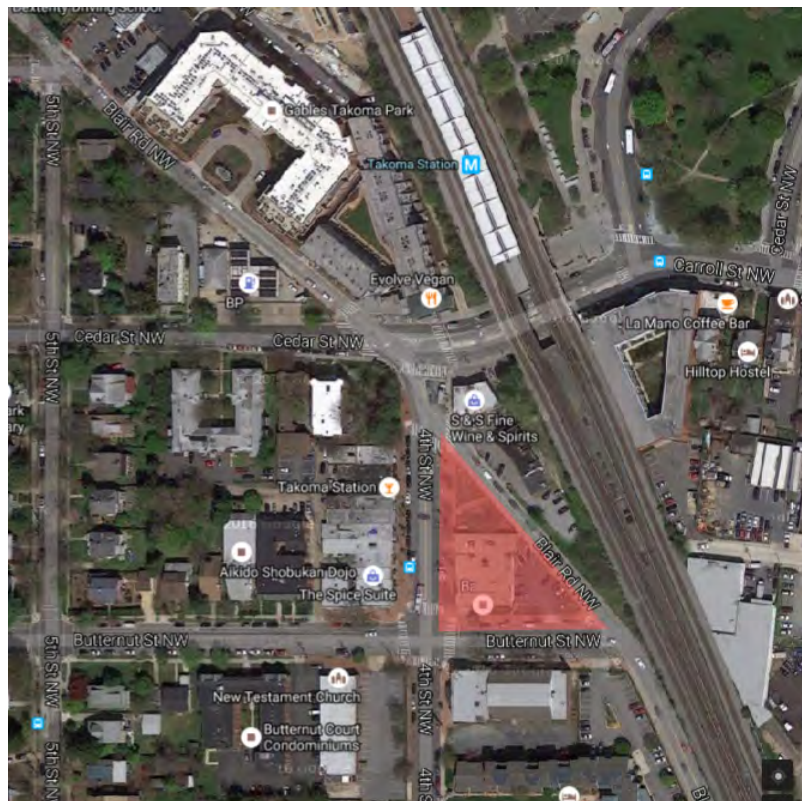
it is made up of three sub-realms (and although the names of these realms coincide with the the description of the teachers, each teacher will spend time in all the realms). Accordingly, these three sub-realms are:

- a) The Realm of the Senses
 - b) The Realm of Knowing
 - c) The Realm of Love
- 3) **The Realm of the Void:** This is the anchor which holds it all together. It is a space of silence and infinity.

Since the core of *The House of Sources* lies in recognizing how one is summoned by another, the project will be done in groups of two, as the way each partner in the pair summons the other will be central to the working methodology. If there is an odd number of students in the studio, there will be one group of three. Each group will develop its own program of spaces for *The House of Sources* using the guidelines listed above. The overall size of the facility should be between 20,000 and 25,000 square feet.

SITE

Urban site in Takoma Park (Washington DC site).





PHASE 3A SITE ANALYSIS

STARTS Wednesday 21 September
DUE 1 Monday 26 October (analysis)
DUE 2 Monday 3 October (site)

PREAMBLE In many traditions of belief, a site that is to be built upon is not an empty vessel that is inertly waiting to be filled up. Every site has an aura, and whatever has to be built upon it must recognize and respect that aura. This means that a site has to be looked at both quantitatively and qualitatively, with the qualitative aspect being largely intangible. A way to phrase the quantitative question is “*What is this site?*”; and a way to phrase the qualitative question is “*Who is this site?*”

METHODOLOGY

Site analysis shall be done in groups of four persons per group (two teams of two people). Work on site model and plans of site context is to be shared by the entire studio.

Quantitative

- Plan of site with dimensions and contained angles, levels at all corners relative to lowest point, major physical features within site boundaries. Scale – 1/8”=1’
- North-South and East-West Sections (including Metro/Railroad and across the street buildings). Scale – 1/8”=1’ (minimum).
- Plan of site context, up to half-mile radius (10-minute walk), with lot boundaries, and zoning of parcels. Scale – 1”=120’ (engineering scale)
- Google Earth site image of site context up to half-mile radius (satellite view)
- Photo-montage of elevations facing all edges of the site. Scale – 1/8”=1’
- For Washington DC plot info and more (all digital) go to:
 - <http://atlasplus.dcgis.dc.gov/>

- Site model at scale 1/16"=1', up to metro line and including first layer of buildings (massing only, with no detail) surrounding the site. There will be only one model for the whole studio. It will be done in bass wood and well crafted. We'll discuss the logistics of this effort in class.

Qualitative

- If the site were a living spirit, how would you describe its personality? Demonstrate your understanding in annotated photographs, plans, sketches, diagrams.
- What are the energies that flow through the site? Describe this specifically in terms of the movement of the sun, climate, and how these change with times of day and seasons.
- Look at the surroundings of the site within a half-mile radius. Imagine each of those sites as a living spirit (where a particular kind of site is repeated, as in individual homes, just pick about three representative examples). What would be the relationship between these spirits and our site? Would it be a relationship of friendship, enmity, or neutrality (remember that relationships are often complex and combine aspects of all three). Describe your understanding with annotated photographs, plans, sketches, diagrams.

SITE

The triangle-shaped block located at **6905 4th ST. NW, Washington DC 20012** [approx.180 ft (E-W) x 200 ft (N-S) = 18,000 sq. ft.]. It is just one block south from the Takoma Metro Station (Red Line)

