

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING & DESIGN

Centre for Modern Architecture Studies in Southeast Asia (MASSA)

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Architecture / (Architecture)

Module: METHODS OF DOCUMENTATION AND MEASURED DRAWINGS
(ARC60305/ARC2323/ARC1215)
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Project 1: Onsite Observation Journal and Video (20%)
Due Date: 13 February 2017

Introduction

This project is an on-site exercise where students have to observe, sketch and document the physical and the immediate context of the site. It can be from an element as broad as the urban planning itself down to the smallest detail of the ornaments used in the building.

Some of the physical aspects may include building or structure such as a bridge; architectural elements such as windows, doors, five foot ways; architectural features such as ornaments, keystone, arches over windows, carvings, tiles layout; construction details such as staircase, roof structure; the physical context – overall urban layout, street furniture; traditional transportation such the trishaw.

The cultural aspects that can be captured also are people of the place doing their daily activities; cultural elements such as clothes, furniture, glass and china, food; traditional trade – incense shop, street side cobbler, other family businesses; urban qualities such as the rhythm created by the repetition of roof volumes, the serial visions and vistas, the circulation nodes.

As a start, it is **COMPULSORY** for all students to manually draw the plans, sections and elevations of the building that the group has measured, as an expression of the students' understanding of the building.

The sketches are to comprise at least 2 each of these categories:

1. The Genius Loci
2. Cultural Attributes
3. Technical /Construction details

A video documenting the measuring exercise and the building is required to provide actual experience of the building.

Objectives of Project

The objectives of this project are as follows:

- To train students to be observant to their surrounding
- To instill the culture of documenting as part of the learning process in architectural education
- To enhance students' graphic communication skills in capturing important details and the spirit of the place

Learning Outcomes of this Project

- Identify architectural historic structure
- Capture the tangible essence that is contained within the architecture realm

Tasks

A. Journal

Students are to produce **10 onsite manual drawing** that give a strong idea of the place that they have carried out the Measured Drawing exercise based on categories specified above.

Students may use any media such as pencil, pen, markers, charcoal or watercolour to express their observations. Exploration of variety of media is highly encouraged, provided that they are not made of perishable base. The use of fixers is allowed to avoid from loss of colours. Students are to add caption for each piece, annotating vital information about what is captured in the sketches.

B. Video

A **3 to 5** minutes video that capture the process of measuring building and is required to contain one of these themes:

1. History and Architecture
2. Culture and Architecture

Submission Requirements

- A **minimum of 10 pages** of manual drawing on A4 art block or good quality papers spiral bound with a transparent cover at the front and black mounting board at the back.
To use the cover page format as provided. However, students have the freedom of either typing or writing manually (using neat and readable handwritings) on the cover page.
- A **3 to 5** minutes video (in a VCD – clearly labelled with building name)

Assessment Criteria

The assessment for this assignment will be based on your

- *Originality, creativity and sensitivity in presenting the essence of the place*
- *Clarity and depth of analytical observational content*
- *Appropriateness of the media and sketching skills being used*
- *Graphic communication skills*

Marking Criteria

Marks shall be distributed as follows:

A. Journal

- Originality, creativity and sensitivity in presenting the essence of the place (10 marks)
 - Images not taken from or shared with others
 - Ability to creatively capture the genius loci, poetic quality and/or cultural attributes
 - Ability to capture detailed content on the architecture, culture, history, constructions, materials etc. through illustrations and annotations
 - Labelling and annotations using architecture handwriting and graphics
 - Appropriateness of the media and sketching skills being used

B. Video

- Relevance and clarity of content (10 marks)
- Verbal and visual presentation / language

Reference

1. Chen, Voon Fee. 2003. *Penang Sketchbook*. Kuala Lumpur. Didier Millet Pte.
2. Norman Crowe and Paul 2011. *Laseau Visual Notes for Architects and Designers*. Wiley.

Example of annotated sketches of on-site observation:



