

“While you are looking, you might as well also listen, linger and think about what you see.”

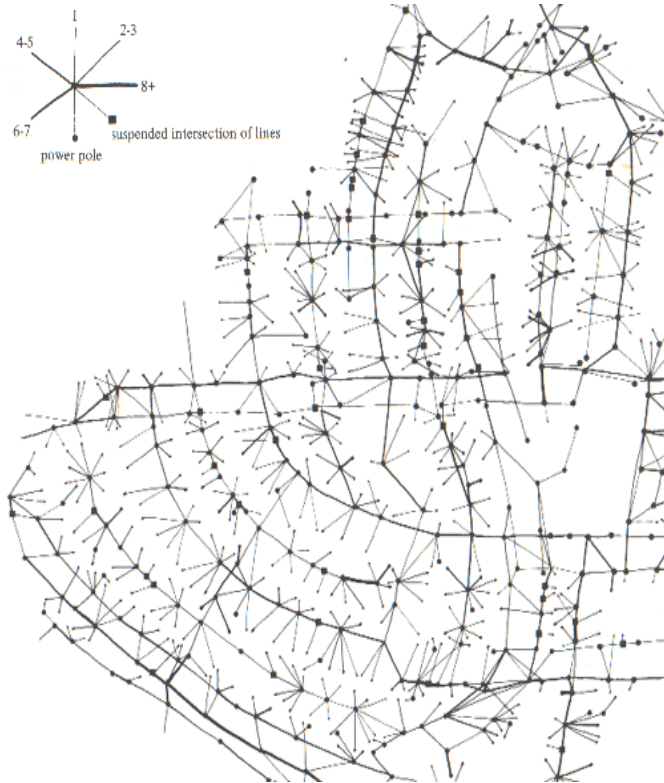
– Jane Jacobs, [The Death and Life of Great American Cities](#)

PREMISE

Architecture should in some way relate to its context. That goal can be accomplished through the McHargian tradition of overlay mapping and site analysis, or through historical detecting of places and policies using HOLC Redlining and Sanborn Insurance Maps. Gordon Cullen and Kevin Lynch have also provided tested methodologies for mapping sequential patterns. Together, these methodologies create an important body of knowledge that students studying architecture should know, even if it comes from a largely patriarchal perspective. But what these rational studies don't do, is leave much room for a sensorial understanding of place, where knowledge can be gained through personal experience. Ways of knowing can come about through both a top-down and bottom-up process. This class will consider and critique both perspectives, acknowledging that both are highly subjective and dependent upon interpretation.

OBJECTIVES

- To **introduce** foundational literature and existing methodologies to inventory/analyze sites/streets/public spaces
- To **consider** sensorial perception and experiential knowledge as a way of investigating site conditions
- To **explore/experiment with/undertake/experience** different ways of mapping
- To **empower** students to create their own holistic/critical/individualized methodology for understanding place



METHOD, CONTENT, EVALUATION & GRADING

Each week, students will create a different map of a Charlotte neighborhood and post it on their personal online gallery. Individual maps will focus on wandering, history, ecology, architectural DNA, spatial sequences, quirky findings, and sensorial (touch, taste and smell) experiences. A tactical urbanism proposal might be required if the mapping reveals challenges needing to be addressed or experiences to be amplified. Accordingly, in the first part of the semester students will master highly rationale mapmaking. In the later part of the course, content will tend to be more poetic and interpretive where the intent is not so much about the “where” of conditions but rather more about recording the phenomenon of experience. Each assignment will be worth 9% of the student's grade with the remaining % given to the quality of the overall course portfolio.

No experience with mapping is expected or required but as in all architecture classes, craft of presentation will matter.

Overhead is a map of a neighborhood's phone, cable, and power lines. From *Everything Sings*, Denis Wood.

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/extras/mapping>

TEXT

All readings will be available on the Class Canvas Site.