**1\_READING AND EXPLORING THE LANDSCAPE**

(Individual and Group parts)

Step by step

Dear student,

INDIVIDUAL PART

after choosing the point of observation from the department’s terrace[[1]](#footnote-2),

on the first page (oriented vertically or horizontally) you must draw a panoramic-sketch, highlighting the three elements of the landscape you wish-decided to study, analyze and research.

On the second page, insert a photograph taken from the same observation point and indicate its geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude).

For each of the three chosen places (**elements** or **traces**) you have to formulate some functional hypotheses (what are they, what are/were they are used for, what complementarity relationship they have with other elements of the territory).

Carry out an inspection in each of the three places and complete the following table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *From your point of view* | | |
| Name the element you’ve chosen, and describe what it’s made of | Describe its’ hypothetical function/s | Structural connections with other elements of the Landscape |
|  |  |  |
| *After the field research-exploration and further discoveries* | | |
| Give it the proper name and describe carefully the materials and shapes it has | Describe the purpose it was built for and the different uses it had over time (specify when) | Do some desk and field research and describe the real relations-connections with other elements |
|  |  |  |
| Why should someone visit or want to explore it (be a good storyteller) | | |
|  | | |

If the choice proves unsatisfactory or the research hypothesis is unfounded, you can correct the hypothesis based on the discoveries in the field and research carried out. You can also choose another place (element or track) if the first choices do not satisfy you.

GROUP PART

Together (in groups of 2-3 people or individually if you cannot join others) choose a specific place in Macerata or another city where everyone will have to spend time (e.g. school buildings, public places, monuments, squares, bus stations, train stations, urban parks, squares, spherery, roads etc.).

Choose at least 3 themes on which to focus your research, you will work on these themes when you explore and document your analysis of the place space you have identified.

INDIVIDUALLY, spend at least 2-3 hours in that place (in one solution or better on different days and times), “standing there” with a notebook, pens/pencils/colors and a camera. Take notes and take at least 5 different photographs.

On April 4th, we will meet in class and you will have your photos and individual notes ready. We will do a workshop, after which each group will have to carry out a written analysis (1-2 pages, 3 5,000 characters) based on the themes you choose. Only 5 photographs should be included in the report, explaining why you chose them, what they represent and how they are connected or not with the topics studied.

**THEMES**

***CULTURAL landscapes*** Historical sites; tourist maps; museums; souvenir shops; postcards; memorials; historical preservation; demolitions; architectural styles; restorations.

***SENSORY geographies*** Sounds; smells; how that place makes you feel; immerse yourself in the streets of the city; listen to the conversations/accents/dialects/silences of people; note the smells you feel or their lack; birdsong; noise pollution; air pollution; fears and desires associated with that place; urban green.

***INVISIBILITY*** What is hidden/erased from the city of the past; look for a new perspective to observe the city from a panoramic/perspective point and pinpoint what you see/do not see; where do the "rejects" of the city go? Where's the sewer? How is wastewater treated? Where are the animals? What species of animals share the urban space? Challenges for construction and growth; how was the city designed?

***FOOD*** Stroll through markets; for farms; what do you see in markets? Supermarkets? Eat traditional foods and describe the flavors of the city's culinary traditions; drink some local produce. Street food? Where are the bars? Who frequents them? Are there bars of different types for different categories of people? Are there any pastry shops? Are there any historical photos of the bars/clubs and restaurants? Eat something with friends.

***BORDERS*** Are there “natural” boundaries or boundaries created by the inhabitants? How are sidewalks and trails made around buildings and other structures? Where does the city begin and end? Are the boundaries permeable? Are there environmental reasons for their existence? Who has the power or ability to push these boundaries? Explore beyond the city limits. What surrounds the city? What “Feeds” the city? Is it rural? If so, what is being cultivated or bred? Notice some natural elements in the city that surprise you?

***CONTEMPORARY CHANGES*** Read the city skyline; how has it changed over the years? Look around and up; notice the side streets, the high buildings; who keeps the city clean? Who benefits/enjoys this cleaning? What documents/writings do you see on the streets of the city? Do you see ticket offices? Pedestrian crossings? Takeout packages? Shopping bags? Leaves, flowers or pollen? Compare these “documents” with what you can find in places thata have less resources. What’s in the mural posters? Announcements of various types? Events?

***POWER*** Are there signs that define, categorize or divide urban spaces? Language barriers? Are signs and announcements understandable to everyone? Regulations? What are the fines for various violations? Are there rooms/apartments for rent? Are there any closed shops? How much do rentals cost? Who can afford to live in the urban space? Are there parks? Green spaces? How are they structured and who uses them? Are there class markers in the city? What can you say about the social position of the city’s inhabitants?

***FLOWS*** Where does the city flow/flow? Follow people, water sources, borders and get around. Are there key roads with unique features? Is the flow visibly and perceptibly different on the various days and times of the week? Is there an industrial area? How is the city connected to other city centers? How do people travel in and out of urban space? What does travel tells us about the world in which the city was built and changed over time (i.e. its position)?.

***SOCIAL MARKERS: RACE/GENDER/ETHNICITY/RELIGION*** Does your gender, ethnicity, background, nationality, affect how you perceive you experience the city space? Are you going or not going to some places you leave because of your gender, ethnic group? Where do you feel like you belong/don't belong (be at home)? Do you feel safe/insecure? Why? How?

**FEEL FREE** to interview people; visit a museum; hang out in a park; have occasional conversations; have drinks with friends and interview them about their experiences in/of that city.

**BE SURE** to take notes, then bring a notebook, paper, pens, and use them.

**March 21th and 22nd** you will have time to discuss your projects and agree on a plan.

**April 4th** each Group will give a brief presentation of what they have worked on/state of the art and what they intend to do next. Above all, you will have to share photos and any interviews you have done in the places explored.

**Before April 15th 2023 send me via email your final project**

Make sure your name and registration numbers are listed in the file.

For any doubt show up during the office hours

**Characteristics of the final work (no more than 1 .pdf file)**

**1) Individual work: completed table as seen above**

**2) A text written for a blog, based on the analysis/report related to the topics investigated. You need to put your personal notes together and create a shared text that combines your individual analyses**

**3) Five photos chosen collegially from those you have taken individually, must represent your overall experience and connect to the themes you have chosen**

**4) One or two paragraphs that act as a caption for the photos. Why did you choose them? Why are they important or relevant? What do they represent/express in your perspective? Integrate text and images into a single narrative**

**5) Make sure everyone’s name is in the Group file**

Send the complete file before **April 15th 2023**

Some questions to work on today and share:

* 1) How long have you been in Macerata now? First time or have you been here before? Any family/relatives here?
* 2) So far, what have you done and seen in Macerata and outside of the city as well?
* 3) What makes Macerata similar/different from your home country/city/state? What are some things that you like and dislike here compared to where you are from?
* 4) When you travel to a new place, what kind of things do you pay attention to if you are a tourist there? What do you usually want to do and see? Why? What do you pay specific attention to?
* 5) Move on to have a discussion about which specific themes you want to focus on as a group and make a choice on location. Read through the themes together.
* 6) Make a quick plan about next steps.

1. If you didn’t attend class lectures you may agree with the professor (via email) on an elevated point of view in the city where you currently live. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)