

PRECEDENT STUDIES



Green networks of
Stapleton, Colorado

In this project **graduate students** will conduct precedent studies of significant large parks, greenspaces, urban developments, and green corridors. Through these studies we will zoom in from the city and neighbourhood scale to specific examples of greenspaces that integrate human and ecosystem functions. Our quest to understand greenspace structure and the layered relationships between ecosystem functions and human or urban functions.

WHAT ARE PRECEDENT STUDIES?

Precedent studies in design are the systematic study of built works (typically, not always) to inform design. The objective is to achieve knowledge from prior analogous works, and apply it to current ongoing work. (Its not about copying, which is plagiarism.)

- Precedent studies allow us to apply knowledge gained in past situations to current and ANALOGOUS problems.
- Precedent studies can be used to INFORM potential solutions to a wide variety of pragmatic and theoretical design situations.
- They provide a framework for reference— not literally copied but rather INTERPRETED, ADAPTED, TRANSFORMED, and ENRICHED for new, but analogous situations.

OBJECTIVES

- to research and share examples of designed parks, greenspaces, developments and greenways with the class
- to understand how to find, interpret, critique, represent precedent examples
- to understand urban greenspaces roles in the larger urban context
- to develop an interesting and informative presentation

Through graphic and textual analysis, these precedent studies will answer the questions:

What are the major organizational strategies of the site?

What types of greenspaces exist and in what relationships?

What ecosystem functions are accomodated?

What human or programmatic functions are accomodated?

How do the ecosystem and human functions relate to each other in space?



Bloomingdale Trail, Chicago
Photo by C. Girling

THE ASSIGNMENT

For this project pairs of graduate students (7 groups of 2, one group of 3) will choose a precedent from the list below *or propose an alternative*.

Possible precedent studies:

LARGE PARKS:

Central Park, NYC, Olmsted and Vaux
Landschaftspark, Duisburg-Nord, Latz + Partner
Fresh Kills, New York, James Corner Field Operations
Qunli Stormwater Park, by Turenscape

GREENWAYS:

Promenade Plantée, Paris, (designers unknown)
The High Line, NYC, James Corner Field Operations, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Piet Oudolf
The Bloomingdale Trail (AKA the 606) Chicago, Michael Van Valkenberg Assoc. (MVVA)

DEVELOPMENTS:

Lower Don Lands, Toronto
High Point Housing, Seattle
Stapleton, Denver, Colorado

Please feel free to email Cynthia with proposed alternative precedent studies.

THE PRESENTATION

Each team will prepare a presentation intended for the class, which explains and critiques the precedent from the above perspectives. Please be sure to identify the designers of the space where applicable and credit all images.

Each group will have 10 minutes to present their study to the class and there will be an additional 5 minutes for Q & A.

Final submission: Make a pdf of the presentation to upload to the class Canvas site under Assignments. These files will be uploaded to the blog for reference purposes.

Deadline:

We will prepare a schedule for the presentations. Half of the teams will present on Monday, January 28 and Wednesday, January 30. Teams may propose their preferred presentation date and we will try to accommodate.

Upload your PDF of the presentation to Canvas by midnight Wednesday, January 30.