

Midterm Essay Questions – History of Landscape Design – ARTH275 FALL 2010

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please note that the 1 hour and 15 minute midterm will consist of three parts. The first will deal with identification of several places on our list of sites; the second will consist of short answers and terms; and the third will be a well written essay done in class dealing with one of the discussion questions listed below. This midterm will deal with the readings and class discussions up to and including chapter 5 of the text. **Be specific or precise in your examples and in your terminology for full credit.**

The form shall include the following format:

1. a thesis spelled out in an introductory paragraph;
2. then five main points of one paragraph each drawing from both
 - a. the sites we have been looking at,
 - b. the terms of reference outlined in the study guides, and
 - c. the basic themes that we have been focused on in the text readings that are organized by chapter; and
3. a final paragraph concluding your argument and spelling out areas for future research or problematic areas of readings to date as you see it.

The questions are as follows (Choose one):

- a. A sense of **site** is a part of landscape design in different ways. From polis to topos to a sense of the infinite are not just philosophical concepts, they have proven to be important to how culture develops and how we express that on site. Develop an essay expressing examples of design in place/space that reflects these shifts in cultural awareness and landscape history to this point in the semester.
- b. **Religion and politics** are fundamental aspects of human life. It has affected how we have laid out sites, cities, and large and small scale gardens. Develop a thesis that helps to explain this phenomenon, explaining with examples. Please note that in early times, formal religion and ritual are for practical effect synonymous in this matter.
- c. **Mathematical principles** whether they relate to the evening sky, an empirical world order, as sense of divine harmonies, or a reflection of control are important elements in the layout of sites, cities, and gardens. Develop a cogent set of examples with accompanying mathematical concepts that clarifies this idea.
- d. **Environmental context** is an important, even a determining element in the way landscapes are designed. Develop a thesis spelling out what role it plays and explicate with examples. It is important to provide details of design within each example especially in this matter.
- e. The line between **architecture and landscape** is frequently not clear. The buildings become part of the landscape in some cases. In other cases, the buildings form the landscape almost totally as in cities. How then do we distinguish what is landscape design. Be sure to include how the arts whether it be poetry, sculpture, architecture, or even the performing arts help this analysis.
- f. A sense of **urban and imperial design** has been informed by the more subtle arts of a more intimate landscape **garden design**, yet the works play out differently over time and place. The result has been the rich and varied, deeply informative landscape designs of various cultures. Demonstrate how garden arts have influenced a larger landscape design with examples from at least three cultural traditions we have been studying.
- g. The landscape design of **urban plazas** developed from medieval to the renaissance in very distinctive ways. Illustrate this development with at least three examples complete with design details, layout, and sense of place.

I would expect that you should be able to split your time based on the value of each section.

Therefore, prepare your thoughts for an essay that will count 50% or that will take you roughly 35-40 minutes to write.